

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTERS OF S.S. MANN
BEATEN UP IN TARN TARAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on December 3, supporters of the former member of India's Parliament, Simranjit Singh Mann, were beaten up in the town of Tarn Taran in Punjab, which Mr. Mann used to represent in parliament.

Mr. Mann was burned in effigy. He has blamed former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal for the incident. Badal's party is aligned with the Bharatiya Janata Party, BJP, the former ruling party, which is under the umbrella of the fascist, Hindu militant Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh, RSS.

The Hindu extremists attacked Mr. Mann's supporters and Mann's supporters were the ones who got arrested.

Tarn Taran is a central place in Sikhism, built by the fifth of the Sikh gurus, Guru Arjun Dev, and there is a historic Gurdwara—Sikh place of worship—in the town. The fact that supporters of the RSS are able to beat Sikhs in Tarn Taran is distressing. It shows the need for Sikh independence in a sovereign Khalistan.

According to SS News online, at least six people were injured in the clash, which broke out after one of Mann's supporters wrote an article critical of Shiv Sena, one of the militant branches of the RSS.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, president of the Council of Khalistan, has issued an excellent press release on the incident. He notes that a free, sovereign Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987, would help put an end to incidents like this. As long as Sikhs are under Indian subjugation, the RSS and its allies are going to be able to run roughshod over Sikhs and other minorities. Remember that last year, 35 Sikhs were arrested simply for making pro-Khalistan speeches and raising the Khalistani flag. Since when are making speeches and raising a flag crimes in a democracy?

India has killed more than a quarter of a million Sikhs, over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland and tens of thousands of other minorities such as Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others. If India is the democracy that it claims to be, how can it do such things?

America is the beacon of freedom, Mr. Speaker. That is why we need to act. Incidents like this must not be allowed to continue. We should stop our aid to India and end our trade with that country until human rights are respected for all people there. And we should put the Congress on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite on independence in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and wherever else it is sought. That is the best way to help

bring freedom, security, safety, dignity, and prosperity to all the people of South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the Council of Khalistan's press release on the beating of Mann supporters in the RECORD at this time.

WASHINGTON, DC, Dec. 7, 2006.—Supporters of former Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann were beaten up in Tarn Taran by members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Mr. Mann's effigy was burned. Mann has publicly blamed former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, who is allied with the BJP, a branch of the fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), for the beating. Mann was elected to represent Tarn Taran in the Indian Parliament with 95 percent of the vote while he was in jail in 1989.

Tarn Taran is the center of the Sikh religion. Guru Arjun Dev Ji, the fifth Sikh Guru, established Tarn Taran and there is a historic Gurdwara there. Captain Amarinder Singh, the chief minister of Punjab, is establishing a Guru Arjun Dev Ji University there.

"It is outrageous that supporters of Mann could be beaten up and his effigy burned in a place so central for the Sikh Nation as Tarn Taran," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "We hope that Badal is not behind the incident," said Dr. Aulakh. "If he is, shame on him. Ultimately, the Indian government is behind this act and both Badal and Mann are under the control of the Indian government, as their letters published in Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism demonstrate," said Dr. Aulakh. In one letter, Mann pledges, "I reiterate my allegiance to the Constitution and I stand by the integrity of the country." On his trip to the United States in 2000, Mann attended a Sikh event and said, "Close the offices of the Council of Khalistan, headed by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh in Washington DC."

"If the BJP can carry out its nefarious activities in a place as central to the Sikh Nation as Tarn Taran, then the handwriting is on the wall for the future of the Sikh Nation. They cannot protect their respect and honor and they are slaves in India. This shows why we must liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation and oppression," said Dr. Aulakh. "That is the only way for Sikhs to protect ourselves from India's brutality."

After human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa exposed the Indian government's policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated, the police kidnapped him. Khalsa was murdered in police custody. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalsa. Rajiv Singh Randhawa, who was the only witness to the Khalsa kidnapping, has been repeatedly subjected to police harassment. This includes being arrested for trying to hand a piece of paper to then-British Home Secretary Jack Straw in front of the Golden Temple. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him.

In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs. A report by the Movement Against State Re-

pression (MASR) quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

The MASR report states that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, mostly under a repressive law known as the "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984! There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Last year, 35 Sikhs were charged and arrested in Punjab for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. "How can making speeches and raising a flag be considered crimes in a democratic society?" asked Dr. Aulakh.

India is on the verge of disintegration. Kashmir is about to separate from India. As L.K. Advani said, "if Kashmir goes, India goes." History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. "Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. There is nothing in common in the culture of a Hindu living in Bengal and one in Tamil Nadu, let alone between them and the minority nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said.

"Freedom is the God-given right of every nation and every human being," said Dr. Aulakh. Sikhs must be allowed to have a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of Khalistan. In a democracy, you cannot continue to rule against the wishes of the people. As former Senator George Mitchell said about the Palestinians, "the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination." We must reclaim the sovereignty of the Sikh Nation," Dr. Aulakh said. "Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages. A country having 18 official languages cannot hold its people together for very long," he said. "We hope that India's breakup will be peaceful like Czechoslovakia's, not violent like Yugoslavia's," Dr. Aulakh said. "Earlier this year, Montenegro, which has less than a million people, became a sovereign country and a member of the United Nations," he said. "Now it is the time for the Sikh Nation of Punjab, Khalistan to become independent."

Dr. Aulakh stressed his commitment to the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate Khalistan. "The only way that the repression will stop and Sikhs will live in freedom, dignity, and prosperity is to liberate Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh'," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LANE EVANS, MEMBER OF CON-
GRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the service of a highly effective and respected 24-year Member of Congress, on the occasion of his departure. I am grateful that I have been able to serve with Congressman LANE EVANS, who has long been a champion of working people and will always be remembered as a special champion of our Nation's veterans. The American people and our veterans are particularly fortunate indeed that Congressman EVANS served as ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, beginning in 1995.

I associate myself with the remarks of my colleagues, who have spoken of LANE'S many accomplishments during his tenure here. He has adroitly used his legislative skills and concern to the benefit and well-being of the American people during his entire service, but his single-minded concentration on veterans' issues made that in many ways his very own issue. LANE'S experience in the Marine Corps, his service in Vietnam, and the affects of military service on the families of enlisted men and women never left LANE EVANS.

Over the course of his career, Congressman EVANS led a successful effort to pass legislation compensating Vietnam veterans for diseases linked to Agent Orange exposure, secured passage of legislation that provides health and compensation benefits for children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange, and co-sponsored legislation to ban the use of anti-personnel landmines which kill and maim people worldwide. It is no wonder that Congressman EVANS was named the recipient of the Vietnam Veterans of America's first annual Presidents Award for Outstanding Achievement, as well as the prestigious AMVET Silver Helmet Award.

I am pleased and proud to have served with Congressman LANE EVANS. I am certain that constituents and family are especially proud of his many accomplishments. LANE goes home with the best wishes and gratitude of Republicans and Democrats alike in this House.

HONORING CATHERINE LAMY, RE-
CIPIENT OF THE ART PORTFOLIO
SILVER AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Catherine Lamy, an outstanding young artist from my district and recipient of the Art Portfolio Silver Award. This award, presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, recognizes outstanding talent and creativity displayed by young artists and writers.

Under the guidance of her instructor at Stagg High School, Mr. Wesley Gonzalez, Catherine has created a remarkable portfolio, including eight award-winning pieces that are

acclaimed by the Alliance. These pieces clearly demonstrate her incredible ability and potential as an up-and-coming artist. As a recipient of this award, Catherine serves as an example to other young students who aspire to advance their creativity as a life path.

This year, the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers recognized a total of 1,448 students in the organization's Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in New York City. The students were honored by their peers at Carnegie Hall, where they had an opportunity to review the work of other students and meet with professional artists and writers.

It is my honor today to recognize Catherine Lamy as one of the outstanding young creative minds in our country, I am also pleased to acknowledge the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers for their work in encouraging the talent of young people. We must continue to encourage, foster, and recognize the skills and abilities of our Nation's youth not only on special occasions, but on a daily basis.

HONORING HOLLOWAY HIGH
SCHOOL AS A NO CHILD LEFT
BEHIND BLUE RIBBON AWARD
WINNER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students, faculty and staff of Holloway High School for earning a 2006 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Award for academic superiority.

Located in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Holloway High School serves 176 Rutherford County students who have fallen behind academically but have a sincere desire to catch up and graduate. The school was named a Blue Ribbon school by the U.S. Department of Education for scoring in the top 10 percent of all schools in Tennessee for 3 consecutive years.

No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon schools are selected by the U.S. Department of Education as a way to recognize schools across the country that show either high achievement or dramatic improvement.

Principal Ivan Duggin says the school will continue to evolve and do whatever it takes to remain one of the top schools in the state of Tennessee and the country. Mr. Duggin has said, "We will not rest on success. We will constantly be focused and seeking to find the best people, practices and strategies which will yield superior results."

This award is evidence of the hard work put forth by the faculty, students and staff at Holloway High School. I am truly proud of them for their efforts, and I commend them on this achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF RIDGEWOOD
PROPERTY OWNERS AND CIVIC
ASSOCIATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representa-

tives to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association (RPOCA), a not for profit organization committed to the development of a more vibrant place to live, work, and play.

Since its inception, RPOCA has served countless property owners and residents in the Ridgewood community of Queens, New York. This first rate organization has been instrumental in the ongoing restoration of our historically rich community, proactively supporting beautification projects throughout Ridgewood and advocating against redevelopment that threatens the livelihood of our neighborhoods.

RPOCA has taken a leadership role in supporting the revitalization of our neighborhoods, educating homeowners and spearheading initiatives that protect affordable housing for working families in Ridgewood. This unwavering commitment to civic participation in local preservation efforts is commendable and has strengthened the foundation upon which the community continues to grow.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to congratulate the RPOCA, its Board of Directors, membership, and this year's honorees—Angie Tantillo and Frank Cicero—upon celebrating 75 years of service to Ridgewood residents.

TRIBUTE TO THE FELIX FAMILY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Felix Family of Viroqua, Wisconsin. On December 16, 2006, after 100 years and three generations, Felix's Men's and Women's Clothing will be closing. This store has been a pillar of Viroqua's downtown business district and an integral part of the community. Thanks to Felix's and other small businesses, Viroqua continues to have a vibrant downtown.

Steve Felix has owned and operated Ted Felix's since the early 1970s. Steve is a good friend who is not shy in imparting his advice on me during my frequent visits to Felix's. Steve told me once that back when Senator Proxmire served the people of Wisconsin, he would often stop at Felix's and shake Steve's hand. On one of these occasions, Steve scolded the Senator and told him that he needed to start dressing better in order to look like a United States Senator. Senator Proxmire bought a suit from Steve that very day, and during every occasion when he saw Steve he would ask Steve how he looked to ensure his dress was appropriate. As my wife Tawni can attest, Steve has continued this tradition by selling me suits so I am more appropriately dressed.

Small businesses like Felix's are vital to the well-being of rural America because of the unique spirit, personal service, and character they impart on small towns. They are what make shopping on our main streets an enjoyable and personal experience.

Steve's leadership and dedication, along with his wife Betty and their two children Randy and Erica, has made Viroqua and Vernon County a better place to live, work, and raise a family. I commend Steve, the Felix

family, and all of the other small businesses that continue to serve America and drive our economy. I wish them well and Godspeed in their future ventures.

THE MCKINNEY AFFAIR—RAMPAGING RACISM AND A COWARDLY CAUCUS

HON. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

[From the Black Commentator, Apr. 13, 2006]

THE MCKINNEY AFFAIR—RAMPAGING RACISM AND A COWARDLY CAUCUS

(By Glen Ford and Peter Gamble)

There are profound lessons to be learned from the ongoing travails of Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney (D-GA), under siege by white America at large, the leadership of her own party, and the chairman of her own caucus.

In the aftermath of McKinney's run-in with a Capitol Hill police officer, we have witnessed an orgy of unadulterated defamation that is actually directed at Black women in general. In rejecting and denouncing McKinney's defense, her tormentors demonstrate that the very concept of racial profiling was never sincerely accepted among most white Americans, and that 9/11 is just an excuse for undoing decades of legal and political struggles against the abominable practice.

So virulent and shameless have been the attacks on McKinney—spewing caricatures of the six-term lawmaker that reflect whites' own hallucinatory visions of Black people—it leads us to conclude that racists are conducting a kind of ritual, an exorcism to cast the "militant Black" out of the national polity, once and for all. Disgustingly, a number of Black voices have joined mob, in order to prove that they are reasonable and trustworthy Negroes who won't intrude on white folks' illusions of innocence.

Most distressingly, the McKinney affair dramatically demonstrates that the Congressional Black Caucus has been eviscerated as a body. The CBC is revealed as collectively gutless, devoid of any semblance of Black solidarity, without which it has no reason for being.

CBC HITS NEW LOW

We at BC had previously believed that April, 2005, when 37 percent of the 42 Black House members voted for Republican bills, was the lowest point in Congressional Black Caucus history. A year later, the CBC has found a new nadir. On the evening of April 5, undoubtedly on orders from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, CBC chairman Mel Watt gathered twenty or so members to browbeat McKinney into firing her legal team and cease appearing before the media. Watt absented himself from the beat-down, so that it would not appear to be an "official" CBC event.

As congressional aides wandered in and out of the room, some Members dutifully echoed Pelosi's demand that McKinney not frame the March 28 confrontation with the policeman as a "racial" incident, and that she issue an apology on the House floor the following morning. According to several sources who spoke with BC on condition of anonymity, and based on an account given by McKinney staff assistant Faye Coffield to a weekly Atlanta meeting of the Georgia Co-

alition for the People's Agenda, a "consensus" was reached that McKinney would deliver the apology and abandon efforts to defend herself in the media (although not her legal team).

The next morning, at the appointed hour, McKinney was prepared to offer her apology to the House. But Mel Watt had already put the word out that CBC members were to renege on their part of the deal. The Caucus must not stand with McKinney when she stepped to the microphone. Mel Watt, Nancy Pelosi's poodle, attempted to enforce his Mistress's wish that McKinney appear utterly isolated and alone. Nothing should distract from the Democrats' non-strategy of doing and saying nothing until mid-term elections in November. The Republicans must be allowed to self-destruct without interference. McKinney's charge of racial profiling was a distraction from the Democratic non-strategy—so she must be shunned. Mel Watt was the enforcer—the designated shunner-in-chief.

Pelosi appears to harbor a deep hatred for McKinney, whom she cannot control. Most recently, the 51-year-old Georgia lawmaker defied the Leader's orders, voting in favor of a Republican bill, cynically modeled on Democrat John Murtha's measure for a quick exit from Iraq. She was among only three Democrats, and the only CBC member, to do so. McKinney also ignored Pelosi's order that Democrats boycott hearings on Katrina and leave the field to Republicans.

However, Pelosi has been the aggressor all along, bent on bringing the CBC and other progressives to heel as she pursues her spineless non-strategy for victory by default over the GOP—a scenario that by definition requires African Americans to mute their own demands, to be quiet and compliant. When McKinney returned to congress in January 2005 after a two-year hiatus, Pelosi denied her seniority, bumping her down to freshman status despite her previous ten years on The Hill. Not a peep from the CBC, cowed by their Leader and, recent events have shown, packed with members who are themselves fearful that McKinney's militancy will raise the bar of constituent expectations for their own performances on Black people's behalf.

On the House floor, the morning of April 6, Pelosi/Watt had set McKinney up for further humiliation. Not only would she be required to deliver an apology that would be seen as an admission of guilt (by those who had already condemned and defamed her), but the absence of CBC members at her side would mark her as a lone "extremist," a "loon" whose politics could be dismissed out of hand. Why, even McKinney's own colleagues won't stand with her. She's crazy (like the rest of those darkies who cry racism).

According to several congressional sources, McKinney confronted a gaggle of CBC members, reminding them of the consensus agreement of the night before, in which they had promised a display of physical solidarity at the microphone in return for her concessions. White Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), seeing the commotion, hurried over to the Black circle: "I'll stand with you, Cynthia." Others stepped forward to fulfill their pledge, despite CBC chairman Mel Watt's treacherous machinations.

Here is a partial list of those who were videotaped standing with McKinney when she read the words of apology that had been demanded of her:

*Elijah Cummings (MD), *Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (MI), *Barbara Lee (CA), *Alcee Hastings (FL), *Maxine Waters (CA), *Bobby Rush (IL), *Corrine Brown (FL), *Major Owens (NY), *Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX), Marcy Kaptur (OH), Dennis Kucinich (OH), Jose Serrano (NY), Bob Filner (CA), (*CBC members).

Only nine of the 20-plus CBC members who had reached "consensus" on standing with their sister the night before, bucked Pelosi's petty dictatorial edict—and straw-boss Mel Watt's attempt to enforce it.

Once upon a time, the CBC could collectively call itself "the conscience of the congress." No more.

MULTI-PROFILING AND SHEER MALEVOLENCE

By bowing to Pelosi, Black congresspersons reinforce her and other white's belief that they can pick and choose the African American leaders and representatives they deal with, and isolate the rest, while still retaining mass Black support for the Democratic Party. Such Blacks are enablers of racism, and must eventually pay the price at the hands of their constituents, who are no different than the Black Georgia voters who sent McKinney to Washington six times. Worse, in urging McKinney to drop the "racial" aspect of her defense—to pretend that she was not racially profiled, when they know that police profiling is near-universal—they do grave injury to fundamental Black interests.

Days after his attempt to pound McKinney into dust, the duplicitous Mel Watt related to the Charlotte Observer his own scary run-in with Capitol police "a year or so ago":

"I was running to the floor to vote and an officer said, 'Can I see your ID?' and I said, 'No' and kept running. I looked back and he had his hand on his gun. Then another (Capitol) police officer said, 'Member.' He recognized me (as a House member). It just so happened that the first (officer) was white and the other one was black . . . I was probably very rash. In retrospect, I thought to myself, 'You had to be out of your mind.' I was trying to get to a vote and he had a job to do."

Watt understands very well that the Black officer, who didn't go for his gun, but instead called his white partner off, was intervening in a case of racial profiling. Yet Watt's desire to stay in the good graces of his Leader, Pelosi, drives him to conspire against a fellow Black congressperson, Cynthia McKinney, whose recent hair makeover is said to have made her fair game to be accosted by Capitol police. Said McKinney:

"Do I have to contact the police every time I change my hairstyle? How do we account for the fact that when I wore my braids every day for 11 years, I still faced this problem, primarily from certain police officers."

Nobody knows better than Black officers that racism is rampant in the Capitol Police force. Of the 1,200 officers, 29 percent are Black, and many still have racial bias suits outstanding. "You have, basically, a renegade police department up here, that's been operating under the protection of Congress," said Charles J. Ware, an attorney representing the Capitol Black Police Association.

But it's not just race. Police officers, like workers in any organization, spend much of their time talking shop. For Capitol police, the subject of their shop-talk is the members of congress they are hired to protect. Cynthia McKinney is famous—no less so on Capitol Hill. She is the Black woman viciously branded as a friend of "terrorists," the most uppity African American in the federal legislature. The cops are quite aware of what she looks like, new hair-do or not.

A McKinney lawyer got it right when he told a Howard University press conference that his client was targeted for reasons of "sex, race and Ms. McKinney's progressiveness."

The cops know who McKinney is—they have profiled her politically. Michael C. Ruppert, former Los Angeles cop and current honcho of the popular web site From the Wilderness, has felt the police hostility directed at his longtime friend, Cynthia McKinney:

"I have walked the halls of Congress with Cynthia McKinney maybe eight to ten times. I have walked into and out of the Cannon and Longworth house office buildings with her. I have walked to hearings in the Rayburn house office building with her. I have walked the underground tunnels from one of those office buildings directly to the edge of the House floor and its anteroom with her. I can tell you one thing for certain because I have seen it and I have felt it. Cynthia McKinney and her staff get treated differently from just about anyone else on the Hill. It's subtle, but so is the taste of dirt when it's in your mouth."

Although the Capitol police have failed to produce a surveillance tape of McKinney's confrontation with their officer, the congresswoman captured one incident in the movie, "American Blackout," now being screened at sites around the country. The film depicts McKinney's investigation of voting irregularities in the 2000 elections. One segment shows the congresswoman being accosted by police as she and her party approach the Longworth building of the Capitol. McKinney turns to the camera and reports that police subject her to such treatment "all the time."

Does that happen to 535 members of congress "all the time"? Not hardly.

California Rep. Tom Lantos, according to the web reference site Wikipedia, "ran over a teenager in the Capitol parking area and refused to stop despite screams from the crowd. He never apologized for the hit-and-run either." The Boston Globe reported that Lantos was not charged with hit-and-run, but was only fined \$25 for "failure to pay full time and attention." However, a teacher accompanying the student was threatened with arrest by Capitol police when she chased Lantos' car, demanding that he stop.

Apparently Capitol police are quite zealous in protecting their lawmakers—if they are white.

In an otherwise inane, anti-McKinney article, Black columnist Earl Ofari Hutchinson gave some historical perspective to recent events:

"In past years, the Caucus raised heck when a white Republican Congressman punched a black Capitol police officer and a year later Ohio Democratic Representative Louis Stokes was hassled by Capitol police. And the Congressional Black Caucus rushed to their defense."

Not this time, not for Cynthia McKinney. The Congressional Black Caucus is broken.

SEX AND THE FEDERAL CITY

Around midnight on April 8, Saturday Night Live's Kenan Thompson performed a grotesque, bewigged skit in which he conjured up a fat, sloppy, dull-witted, belligerent, loud-talking, no-listening, from-deep-in-the-ghetto character who was supposed to be—Cynthia McKinney. Of course, this TV minstrel's interpretation bore no resemblance to the congressperson—daughter of one of Atlanta's first Black policemen, a former faculty member at Clark Atlanta University, world traveler and sought-after speaker, six-term legislator. But that did not matter. Although SNL does superb work caricaturing public personalities, its usual standards did not apply in McKinney's case. The skit was a dehumanizing assault on Black women as a group, with "Cynthia" standing in for the female gender of her race.

A specific profile of Black women exists in the minds of vast sections of white America. As Dr. Abdul Karim Bangura relates in this issue of BC, in "an analysis of White students" stereotypes of Black women by professor of women's studies and sociology Rose Weitz at Arizona State University and Wakonse fellow Leonard Gordon at the same

university, the students primarily characterize Black women as loud, aggressive, argumentative, stubborn, and bitchy."

White men (and women, and some Black men) on and off Capitol Hill are eager to vilify and diminish McKinney, to call her a "bitch," a "racist," "crazy" and all manner of epithets. This abuse is actually directed against the defamers' twisted idea of who and what Black women are. So diseased are their minds, they see only their sickness-induced delusions. White supremacy allows them to translate their delusions into public policy. September 11 gave them a free pass to run buck wild, with no apologies, under the umbrella of "homeland security."

BLACK VOTERS WILL DECIDE

It can be no consolation to Rep. McKinney, that she is just a convenient target for what we now recognize as a great resurgence of racism in the United States. The South rules a South that is not defined geographically but socio-politically. White Americans have become much more homogenous in the electronic and high-mobility age—to the detriment of sanity. Their never-forsaken dreams of domestic and planetary racial conquest were given a Frankenstein-like jolt and boost by the Bush regime, which spoke directly to the predatory core of American myth and historical practice. Emboldened, they have snared Cynthia McKinney in one of their IRTs: Improvised Racist Traps. She awaits the decision of a grand jury.

The moral and political collapse of the Congressional Black Caucus could not come at a worse time—but it has occurred. Corroded by corporate money dependent on corporate media—with the near extinction of independent Black media—adrift in the gulf between the needs of the Black masses and the narrow aspirations of the minuscule hyper-mobile Black classes and still steeped in rank male chauvinism much of Black "leadership" cannot abide a genuinely progressive, charismatic female in their midst. Many also look on in sulking jealousy at the burgeoning unity and militancy of Latinos, whose grassroots are on the move and whose media support their cause.

The CBC cannot even support each other.

When CBC members urged Cynthia McKinney to forsake the truth, to hide the ugly fact of racial (and political, and sexual) profiling they gave enormous aide and comfort to the enemy. If there was one victory that African Americans had achieved in the post-Civil Rights era it was to make racial profiling legally, politically and socially unacceptable. This victory was the fruit of countless suitor demonstrations—all manner of political struggles—and the legacy of the legions of dead, maimed, jailed and humiliated victims of profiling who became the focus of sustained Black action.

September 11 provided the excuse to undo decades of anti-profiling victories. Profiling is reckoned to be a good thing. Now the racists seek to reestablish arbitrary and capricious white supremacy, with legislation that would de facto deputize every police officer as an agent of "homeland security" who need not respect the constitution in the case of "suspected" undocumented immigrants. At that point, all persons of color become grist for the suspicion mill. Just as the Capitol policeman chose not "recognize" Cynthia McKinney as a congressperson, any cop could willfully fail to recognize his fellow Americans and strip them of their rights. Such a regime already exists in designated "drug zones" in urban America where everyone is suspect.

Yet the CBC allows Republicans and racist Democrats to jeer and bully Cynthia McKinney into a legal cul-de-sac because she dares to cite profiling.

The masses of African Americans know the deal—they are profiled constantly in stores, when observed outside their neighborhoods, on the highways, when breathing while Black. McKinney's version of events does not seem bizarre to them. Although the laughing racist hyenas convince each other—with the tacit help of be chair Mel Watt—that McKinney is on the ropes, it is the Black constituents of Dekalb County who will decide if she is "crazy" for standing up for her (and our) dignity and rights.

When McKinney arrived back in Atlanta shortly after her confrontation with the uniformed profiler, State Representative Tyrone Brooks, president of the Georgia Association of Black Elected officials, was among those to greet and support her: "It's really not about Cynthia McKinney," said Brooks. "It's about African-Americans in America who are victims of racial profiling every day."

Much of the Congressional Black Caucus seem to have lost touch with this reality. As a body, they have lost their moorings, and must be rehabilitated, surgically. A bunch of them have got to go.

BC Co-Publishers Glen Ford and Peter Gamble are writing a book to be titled, Barack Obama and the Crisis in Black Leadership.

HONORING OTTO W. "BILL" MEYER OF MARION, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who is a legend in Kansas journalism and his community, a man not afraid to challenge an issue even if it rocked the boat, man who let his readers know what they needed to know, a man who served his country and community with strong will and strong opinions, and a man who will be missed throughout Kansas. I am here today to honor a respected leader and friend—Bill Meyer.

Bill may best be known as the editor and publisher of the Marion County Record. During his 55 years of service to this weekly paper, he brought a fire to the paper establishing it as a challenge to the status quo. After graduating from the University of Kansas in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in journalism, he began his five and a half decade career. Bill didn't stop at just reporting the news. His active role in civil issues, including the construction of Marion Reservoir and the local football stadium, helped create good news for the city of Marion.

Bill's weekly column, "Mostly Malarkey," gave voice to his strong opinions. These challenging positions often led to productive dialogues, but for others it led to violent reactions. On occasion his property and the newspaper office were vandalized. This past president of the Kansas Press Association has woken to slashed tires, egg-covered vehicles, and even a bullet hole in his office window. It takes a tough man to withstand the attacks he endured defending his fiery positions.

Bill also endured attacks while serving our country in World War II. He earned the Purple Heart for permanent injuries suffered from freezing temperatures during the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of concentration camps in Bavaria. Bill was decorated by several European countries and his own for his

service during the war. He continued to be honored after the war for serving his comrades and their memory by editing Checkerboard, a World War II newspaper, and facilitating tours of European battlefields.

It has been said that Bill was part of a dying breed in journalism—journalists who didn't write for the good of their career, but for the good of their community. Bill enjoyed success in career and community. Among others, he received awards from Kansas State University, the Kansas House of Representatives, and the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors. In 2004, he was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame. In Marion, Bill gave back while serving as school board president, Kiwanis president, and president of the Marion County Hospital District. Bill became even more connected with his neighbors as an ambulance and bus driver.

Despite his many activities, family came first. Bill was a devoted husband to his wife, Joan, and a proud father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Meyer family. May the strength and courage demonstrated in his years of service help inspire us. We will not only remember Bill the way we saw him through our own eyes, but also by the way we saw the world through his eyes. The world is a better place because of him, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to our friend and colleague, Congressman MIKE OXLEY.

When I was first elected to Congress, I really didn't know MIKE, but I had heard about his prowess on the basketball court and on the golf course. But, one of the things that I have come to appreciate over the years has been the depth of knowledge and experience he has in the business and financial services sector. It is because of this that MIKE has earned the respect of financial leaders in the United States and worldwide.

MIKE is leaving us with a legacy that includes his work on the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley bill to bring more accountability and responsibility to the corporate world. In the weeks following the 9/11 attacks, he led the swift response to target terrorist financing by working to pass a new money laundering statute.

I think it's also important to mention that MIKE's leadership in shaping policy over the years has reached beyond the corporate world. He has also made a significant difference in promoting personal savings and investments at the individual level.

Prior to redistricting, I used to represent two counties that are now in MIKE's district. While I was disappointed to lose Champaign and Logan Counties, it has given us an opportunity to work together on issues important to com-

munities in those counties. We also worked together during the most recent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round on behalf of the Ohio National Guard bases located in Mansfield and Springfield.

MIKE and I have also had some fun over the years. In a previous campaign, he has been kidding me about my campaign radio ads. He says they made him gag because they were a bit too warm and fuzzy for his taste, but I tell him that they worked because he remembered them verbatim.

But seriously, we are going to miss MIKE as a friend and as a leader on business and financial issues. He and his team, including his Chief of Staff Jim Conzelman, and his longtime scheduler, Debbi Deimling, will also be greatly missed.

MIKE, I wish you and your wife, Pat, and Elvis all of the best as you begin this new chapter in your lives. And maybe someday, I will be good enough to play golf with you.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE OTHA LEE BIGGS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous amount of pride—and personal pleasure—that I rise today to honor one of the most outstanding public servants south Alabama has ever known, the Honorable Otha Lee Biggs, on the occasion of his retirement after serving his beloved Monroe County for over three decades.

Mr. Speaker, it was just a few years ago that I stood on the House floor to recognize Judge Biggs for being honored by the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association as the recipient of the Dr. R.F. Henry Outstanding Service Award, the highest award this respected organization can give.

For over three decades, Judge Biggs has been the leading advocate on behalf of the critical river system that runs throughout southwest Alabama and for the continued funding of necessary maintenance and dredging along this important artery of commerce.

Without question—and I would suggest that perhaps without equal—Judge Biggs deserves our eternal gratitude for a lifetime of public service. His dedication to the people of Monroe County is truly legendary.

In 1961, Judge Biggs got his first taste of public service when he served as Clerk of the Monroe County Commission following the death of Mr. L.L. Hendrix, who had served in that capacity for a number of years. He served on the commission for ten years. Even as a young man in high school, Judge Biggs worked in both the County Commission and Probate offices. No one will ever serve Monroe County in the future, in either of these two important positions, who came to the job better trained or more experienced than Judge Biggs.

On January 18, 1971, Judge Biggs took the oath of office as Probate Judge and Chairman of the County Commission for the first of what would turn out to be many consecutive six year terms. Immediately following his election to office in 1970, Judge Biggs, along with

members of the County Commission, secured commitments from several large-scale corporations and businesses to build, relocate, and expand existing facilities in Monroe County, including Alabama River Pulp, FDR Plastics, Stayfast, Inc., Vanity Fair Intimates, and B & B Cabinet Doors, LLC.

At the time—and as a direct result of his tireless work and tremendous leadership as well as the support from everyone else involved in the county's economic development programs—Monroe County led the entire state of Alabama in new job creation.

In addition to Monroe County's economic life, Judge Biggs has also been instrumental in helping the area preserve and promote its strong literary and historic heritage.

As the birthplace and home of such internationally known writers as Nelle Harper Lee, Truman Capote and Mark Childress, Monroe County has been firmly established as the "Literary Capital of Alabama."

For his part, Judge Biggs has done yeoman's work to ensure this reputation extends beyond county and state lines to reach an international audience. Recent publicity has brought a significant increase in the number of tourists to the area.

Judge Biggs was also instrumental in the creation of annual performances of the stage adaptation of Miss Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. His work on behalf of the county museum and theater troupe has resulted in the production securing permission to perform on stage at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and at festivals in Great Britain and Israel, as well as a host of other U.S. cities.

Mr. Speaker, to list all of Judge Biggs' many accomplishments would take literally an entire volume of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD unto itself. That said, no list of "accomplishments" would be complete without mentioning three key projects for which Judge Biggs deserves special commendation.

First, he has played a lead role in developing the Monroe County Airport into a 6,000 foot runway which gives it the capability of landing almost any size corporate jet. More recently, he has advocated working with the FAA in formulating a long-range plan for airport growth and development.

Second, Judge Biggs deserves considerable recognition for his efforts at saving the Old Monroe County Courthouse. Working with a committee established in the late 1980s, Judge Biggs oversaw the efforts to obtain state, federal, and private funds to restore this Alabama landmark to its new-found glory and home to a permanent exhibit of celebrated Monroe County authors.

And third, no one in southwest Alabama has been more persistent—or more deserving of credit—for the four-laning of US. Highway 84 from 1-65 westward to the Mississippi line than Judge Biggs. While Senator SESSIONS and I, along with Governor Bob Riley, have been pleased to play a small role in getting the initial funding to begin this massive project, the person who has worked over the past several decades to keep this a regional and state priority is none other than Judge Biggs.

Judge Biggs served for many years on the board of trustees for the University of South Alabama and fought tirelessly for the interests of thousands of students, faculty members, and staff who have been involved in the life of that institution since its founding in the early

1960s. In addition, he has been an active member of the Monroeville Civitan Club, the Monroe County Cattleman's Association and the Monroe County Conservation Club, to name just a few of the other groups that have benefited from his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I have met few public servants as committed and dedicated to the well-being of their community as Judge Otha Lee Biggs.

His tenacity and work ethic are matched only by his kindness and generosity. It goes without saying but I am proud and deeply honored to have developed a strong friendship with him, as did my predecessors, Congressman Jack Edwards and Sonny Callahan.

Monroe County and, indeed, all of south Alabama have benefited greatly from his experience and wisdom. He is a true friend to many people, and it is a pleasure for me to ask my colleagues to join me in praising Judge Otha Lee Biggs for his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District and the state of Alabama.

WATAUGA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I want to pay tribute to the Watauga High School football team of 2006. The Pioneers of Watauga High School in Boone, North Carolina set out with modest expectations and ended up just one game away from the state championship for 4A football. Along the way, they won 12 games and lost 3, and they set an example of character and perseverance that made a lasting impression on their school and their community.

This team frequently came from behind in the second half to win their games. Three times in the playoffs for the state championship, they won by one point. By scores of 20–19, 24–23, and 15–14, they advanced further toward that championship than any team from Watauga County in 28 years.

Watauga County, home to the Pioneers of Watauga High School, is a place that is used to taking pride in the academic quality of its schools but that has not often enjoyed similar success in team sports. On the academic side, the Watauga County School system is one of just three school systems in the state where all schools made Adequate Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind last year. At Watauga High School, students achieve proficiency levels that are better than over 92 percent of high schools in the state, and average SAT scores are consistently well above the state and national average.

The football team, however, had not enjoyed a winning season in several years. They won just 4 games the previous season and only 2 the year before that. Success on the football field had to be built from the ground level. And as the success of the team gained momentum in this special season, it brought a new spirit and energy to Watauga High School and indeed to the whole community.

At the school, art students and teachers created designs for giant "W's" on the football

field, and the w's appeared on every door at the school. The local Touchdown Club—which is not affiliated with the high school—fed the players and their families each Thursday night. Local businesses announced their support for the Pioneers on the marquees outside restaurants and hotels. In churches and stores, you could hear excited conversations about the team's success.

In the end, they did not capture the state championship, but they did achieve something of greater and more lasting importance: they demonstrated the values of determination, hard work, and courage in the face of adversity. They showed that a past of limited success does not stand in the way of a bright future. In proving that history does not have to be destiny, they provided a very real example of the best of the American dream and they lived at the heart of the American experience. Their school and their community are the better for it.

PROFESSOR EXPOSES FAKE SIKH SCRIPTURES, HINDU PLAN TO DESTROY SIKH RELIGION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Professor Gurtej Singh JAS is a Professor of Sikhism and a very widely respected intellectual leader in the Sikh community. Recently, he wrote an article exposing the Dasam Granth, which is alleged by some Hindus to be a Sikh scripture. What apparently was done was to take a few of the writings of Guru Gobind Singh, the last of the Sikh gurus, and combine it with some sexually explicit material from a Hindu sect known as Shakat. The aim is to discredit Guru Gobind Singh and bring the Sikhs into the Hindu fold, according to Professor Gurtej Singh.

The authors of the Dasam Granth identify themselves within the text, yet many insist that the work was written by Guru Gobind Singh and should be equal to the Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib.

Professor Gurtej Singh commented that a leader of the militant Hindu fascist operation known as the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), which was formed in support of the Fascists, had commented that all the Sikh "high priests" including Akal Takht Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti are on the RSS payroll. Thus, they are cooperating in this effort by the Brahmins to destroy the Sikh religion. Nice trick in a supposedly secular country!

Also cooperating in this effort is former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, who led the most corrupt government in the history of Punjab. These are the kinds of people with whom the Brahmins choose to ally themselves.

This kind of control over the leadership of the Sikhs is one reason that they need their independence, to protect their identity and their safety before the Indians wipe them out, as they seek to do. Over a quarter of a million Sikhs killed since 1984 proves that. In addition, the Indian regime has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir and 2,000 to 5,000 in Gujarat, as well as Christians and Muslims elsewhere in the country and Tamils, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, Assamese, and other minorities.

Tens of thousands of people are held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. The Movement Against State Repression reported that India acknowledged holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. Many of these have been in illegal detention since 1984.

These political prisoners must be released at once and those who violate human rights must be brought to justice or we should stop all of our aid and trade with India. And we should put the U.S. Congress on record in support of freedom everywhere in South Asia in the form of a plebiscite on the subject of independence, under international supervision to ensure its fairness. Isn't that the democratic way to do things?

While Professor Gurtej Singh's article is too long to put in the RECORD, the Council of Khalistan did an excellent press release on it. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that press release on the Dasam Granth fraud to the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

PROFESSOR GURTEJ SINGH EXPOSES DASAM GRANTH FRAUD

WASHINGTON, DC, DECEMBER 7, 2006—Professor Gurtej Singh, a leading Sikh scholar, Professor of Sikhism, and an advisor to the International Journal of Sikh Affairs, has published an extensive article exposing how Hindu fundamentalists have promoted the Dasam Granth, which contains very little of the work of Guru Gobind Singh, as his writing and as genuine Sikh scripture, parallel to the Guru Granth Sahib. He exposes the fact that "the Hindu plan to drag the Sikhs back to the Hindu fold" requires promoting the Dasam Granth and that this plan has received the support of such allegedly Sikh leaders as former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and the high Sikh "high priests" led by Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti. Badal led the most corrupt government in Punjab's history, selling jobs for money, and regularly visits Hindu and other anti-Sikh places of worship, according to Professor Gurtej Singh.

Professor Gurtej Singh writes that Jathedar Vedanti "was given the task of actually dragging the Sikh panth into the fold of Hinduism." He notes that Jathedar Vedanti, like Mr. Badal, succumbed to the temptations of money. In order to carry out this nefarious plan, Professor Gurtej Singh writes, Vedanti embraced the Dasam Granth as genuine Sikh scripture, claiming that it was written by Guru Gobind Singh and was to be treated as scripture and canon. The Dasam Granth includes vivid, lewd descriptions of sex acts and other pornographic and obscene references that were added to Guru Gobind Singh's writing to make him look bad.

Professor Gurtej Singh notes that the authors of the Dasam Granth identified themselves in the text. Yet the Hindus insist that Guru Gobind Singh is the author and that the book is Sikh scripture. According to Professor Gurtej Singh, it is a scripture of the Shakat sect, who are worshippers of the Hindu goddess Shiva, as it reflects their mode of worship and their practices. "It has been a long standing Hindu desire to bring the Sikhs under the umbrella of the Shakat sect," he writes. "This involves getting them to accept some of the rituals of that sect as modes of worship." He goes on to write, "To propagate the dasam granth as Sikh scripture at par with Guru Granth, has been the aim of a section of the Hindu zealots and a section of the Media mostly controlled by such Hindus."

According to Professor Gurtej Singh, Mr. Sudarshan of the fascist, Hindu militant

Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), parent organization of the Hindu fundamentalist BJP, stated that all of the Sikh "high priests" including Vedanti are on the payroll of his organization.

"We appreciate and commend Professor Gurtej Singh for doing this outstanding work for the Sikh Nation," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "He is doing his job as Professor of Sikhism. The Sikh Nation commends him," Dr. Aulakh said. "Only about 60 pages of the Dasam Granth is the writing of Guru Gobind Singh," he noted. "The rest is later writings that were added and changed. Guru Gobind Singh gave guruship to the Guru Granth Sahib and ordered Sikhs to consider the Guru Granth Sahib as the living Guru," Dr. Aulakh noted. "The Guru Granth Sahib is the living Guru which Sikhs accept with reverence and respect. Recitation of the Dasam Granth should not take place in any Gurdwara," he said. "Sikhs should practice Rehat Maryada which was published in the 1940s by the SGPC after a long review and discussion by the Khalsa Panth."

Dr. Aulakh said that it is very disturbing that most of the Sikh leadership is under the control of the Indian government. "This campaign to destroy Sikhism by means of the Dasam Granth could not be taking place if we had our own homeland. We could more effectively stand up to India's ongoing effort to destroy the Sikh religion," he said. "Without political power, nations perish and religions are destroyed," he said.

India is on the verge of disintegration. Kashmir is about to separate from India. As L.K. Advani said, "if Kashmir goes, India goes." History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. "Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. There is nothing in common in the culture of a Hindu living in Bengal and one in Tamil Nadu, let alone between them and the minority nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said.

"Freedom is the God-given right of every nation and every human being," said Dr. Aulakh. Sikhs must be allowed to have a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of Khalistan. In a democracy, you cannot continue to rule against the wishes of the people. As former Senator George Mitchell said about the Palestinians, "the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination." We must reclaim the sovereignty of the Sikh Nation," Dr. Aulakh said. "Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages. A country having 18 official languages cannot hold its people together for very long," he said. "We hope that India's breakup will be peaceful like Czechoslovakia's, not violent like Yugoslavia's," Dr. Aulakh said. "Earlier this year, Montenegro, which has less than a million people, became a sovereign country and a member of the United Nations," he said. "Now it is the time for the Sikh Nation of Punjab, Khalistan to become independent."

Dr. Aulakh stressed his commitment to the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate Khalistan. "The only way that the repression will stop and Sikhs will live in freedom, dignity, and prosperity is to liberate Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREEN-POINT YMCA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor in honor of the Greenpoint YMCA as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. This first rate organization enriches the lives of Brooklyn residents every day, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize its efforts on this momentous occasion.

The Greenpoint Branch stands as the second oldest YMCA building in Brooklyn and boasts a strong history of upholding its admirable mission—to promote positive values through programs that build spirit, mind, and body, welcoming all people with a focus on youth. This unwavering commitment to the tenets of community service and outreach sustains an engaged, more active citizenry, facilitating a culture of civic participation that will surely define our neighborhoods for generations to come.

Thanks to the leadership of the YMCA—its Founders, Board Members, Executive Director, staff, and supporters—local residents have access to a variety of educational and recreational activities that enable them to lead more fulfilled lives. From after-school programs to various health and wellness initiatives, the YMCA plays an integral role in the development of a more vibrant place to live. I commend its countless contributions toward the betterment of Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express hearty congratulations to the Greenpoint YMCA in commemoration of its 100th anniversary and express best wishes for a successful future.

HONORING GERALD W. TOMANEK OF HAYS, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Gerald W. Tomanek of Hays, Kansas, and honor his accomplishments and character.

Jerry was many things to many people—an educator, a comrade, a scientific expert, a husband and a parent. To me, Jerry was foremost a trusted friend.

Jerry and I met when I was a college student at Fort Hays State University. From the beginning, I was struck by his humble spirit and the genuine care he showed in his interaction with me. Not too many years after we first met, Jerry became President of Fort Hays State University. Years earlier, Jerry had attended the same institution when it was Fort Hays Kansas State College. As President, in 1977, he successfully led the effort to change the school's status to that of university. Today, thanks in large part to his vision, Fort Hays State University is one of the leading academic institutions in the Midwest.

In addition to serving as university president, Jerry was extensively involved in research and instruction. Growing up on the

Great Plains, he was familiar, as all Kansans are, with the prairie. First as a student and then as a professor, Jerry learned more and more about this ecosystem and became one of the most renowned experts in the world on prairies. His expertise was sought by foreign governments and leading U.S. news organizations. The intimate knowledge and love he had of the prairie helped others appreciate and understand this unique landscape.

Since our first meeting, Jerry and I stayed in contact and developed a friendship. In our many conversations, I was always impressed with his knowledge, wisdom and kindness. I valued his advice. When my family and I decided I would run for the Kansas State Senate, I asked Jerry to be my campaign chairman. He kindly accepted and helped guide me to victory, despite a close race.

Jerry was not only a friend to me, but to most everyone who met him. He was one of those rare individuals whose warm personality and authentic care for others left all who met him better off. He had a way of affirming the worth of others that inspired them to achieve their best. Despite all of his academic and professional achievements, when friends share stories of Jerry, their message is the same: he was a good man who put others before himself.

It is this example of a life well lived that is his greatest contribution. I can think of nothing more honoring than to say that Jerry lived a life that called me and those who knew him to be better people.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. WILLIAM N. YEAGER, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

William N. Yeager, Jr., known simply as "Bill" to his many friends and family, was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his entire life. At the time of his death, he was the president of Timbes and Yeager, Inc., one of the most respected names in advertising in the entire State of Alabama.

Bill's company, although small in size, was both experienced and highly successful in all areas of advertising, public relations and marketing. Using his 50-plus years in the industry, Bill Yeager was one of those rare masters of his trade who, as the old saying goes, could truly sell ice to an Eskimo. And in so doing, Bill quickly earned the reputation as the "go to" man both in the world of business and the world of politics, especially throughout southwest Alabama.

To know Bill Yeager was to like Bill and to like him was to respect him, even if, on occasion, you found yourself on the opposite side of his talent and genius.

But make no mistake, Bill was also a teacher in every sense of the word and those who worked with him learned much. Moreover, the more you were around Bill the more you found him to be a kind, generous person who, while strong in his personal views and convictions,

was also willing to make room for other thoughts and ideas that were not his own.

Those who worked with Bill, as I had the pleasure of doing for more than 22 years, came to know him as a man who wore many different hats. He had his hand in everything, and he was constantly in motion because he simply didn't have time to slow down; he had too many things yet to accomplish, too many friends yet to help.

And help he did.

Over the years, Bill served as president of Sales and Marketing Executives of Mobile, Junior Achievement, and Mobile Toastmaster Club. He was also a past board member and senior member of the Mobile Kiwanis Club.

But perhaps few things in life meant more to Bill Yeager than his beloved University of Alabama. Without a doubt, Bill was crimson and white through and through. He was one of the real leaders in the Red Elephant Club, as well as serving as president of the Mobile Chapter and district vice president of the University's National Alumni Association. Bill was also a member of the President's Cabinet.

This past football season was the first time in memory that Bill was not up in the stands of Bryant-Denny Stadium, pulling the Crimson Tide through to another victory.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "The greatest gift is a portion of thyself."

Well, Bill Yeager was constantly giving . . . giving of his energy, his ideas and his talents to the people—and the things—that he loved.

First and foremost, Bill loved his work. He loved the people with whom he worked in his trade, and he considered both his clients, and the associates with whom he came in contact every day, a part of his extended family.

And Bill worked his heart out—every day he was at his office—trying to think of some new way, some better way he could help his friends succeed.

Fortunately, for those of us who knew Bill professionally, we also knew he was a master of his art, the best of the best. Without question, Bill Yeager was truly an institution, the likes of which we may never see again. And make no mistake, Bill's legacy of success—and goodness—will most certainly stand the test of time.

Bill Yeager loved Mobile; he loved Alabama; and he loved his Country. He was as patriotic a man as I ever knew and he was never ashamed to tear up when Old Glory was presented or the Star Spangled Banner was played.

Finally, there is not a person who ever sought public office in south Alabama not one—whether they were the beneficiary of Bill's brilliant mind or on the "receiving end" of his considerable talents—who loved Mobile—or was willing to do more to help Mobile and south Alabama move forward—more than Bill Yeager. That list includes congressmen, senators, mayors, governors and practically every other elected position on the ballot.

In life, there are always the givers and the takers.

Well, without a doubt, Bill Yeager was a giver.

But not only was he generous in spirit and good to the core, he had an unmistakable quality that is, sadly, becoming more and more rare with each passing day.

You see, Bill treated each and every person equally—with the same degree of courtesy and respect—from the people who sweep the floors, to the president of the company.

Moreover, he made everyone feel that their contribution—be it large or small had value and worth.

Finally, Bill Yeager loved his friends, his church and his family, and not necessarily in that order.

He was grounded in the faith of his salvation, and he had a twinkle in his eye whenever he talked about his beloved Betty and their children and grandchildren.

That, Mr. Speaker, is what made Bill Yeager so special and it is why I am using this opportunity to honor him today. In the end, he was a great teacher, a man with an endless amount of energy, one who had an amazing mind and an awesome spirit and finally, a man who was the epitome of a true friend.

Mr. Speaker, one of Bill's many admirers, Chip Drago, a longtime writer with the Press-Register and currently the editor of the Mobile Bay Times, penned the following tribute to Bill shortly after his death. With your permission, I would like to add Chip's piece to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

BILL YEAGER, R.I.P.

(By Chip Drago)

"Many, many times at one political gathering or another, the scene was identical. Bill Yeager was easy to spot. Tall, thin guy. Dark suit. Red tie. Eyeglasses. Every hair in place. Standing on the fringe of the crowd. Right arm across his chest, hand tucked under the armpit, other hand against his left cheek, Jack Benny-like.

'Where's Rochester?', I'd say.

It got to be a standing joke. For a quarter of a century, half my life, a third of his.

Yeager positioned himself on the periphery purposely, usually on the highest ground available. To see, not to be seen. He perched like a bird of prey surveying a field or a river. He wanted to see it all while his client/candidate was being seen. His production, not his performance.

Yeager could be forceful and he could dominate a scene but rarely in public. He had enthusiasm, confidence and energy which were the byproducts of his success over more than 50 years in advertising and political consulting. As a consequence, he held strong opinions about campaign strategy. Most candidates gladly followed his advice. Others gradually adopted it. Some resisted. Yeager strove mightily to win them over to his view, not because his ego required him to be the boss but because he wanted the candidate to win. He wanted it for the candidate, for his family, for his friends and supporters and, yes, for himself. Sometimes, not often, the candidate could not be persuaded and Yeager accepted it, reluctantly because he knew he was right but also willingly because he never forgot that it was the candidate's campaign, not the consultant's.

He lost some. He won most.

Yeager was probably as or more competitive than any candidate he ever represented. And that list is truly breathtaking. From U.S. Rep. Jack Edwards in the 1960s to City Councilman Ben Brooks' state Senate District 35 campaign this fall. What fell in between and Yeager touched in one way or another represents the history of politics and government in the Mobile area since the closing of Brookley Field.

Yeager had one quality that some thought endearing and others found amusing. He could have a dubious view of one elected official or another, particularly if the person was causing problems for another official who was a Yeager client. But let time pass and the suspect official become a Yeager client, well, the transformation was remarkable. What was once tawdry and dull suddenly shone.

As seriously as he took the needs of his clients, Yeager could laugh at himself a little bit, especially as he got older. But make no mistake; if you were a media person, Yeager was all about advancing the best interests of his clients. He believed that what he saw and what he heard filtered through the knowledge gained over the years was ultimately what gave weight to whatever he might say or recommend. Two eyes, two ears, one mouth. Use them in that proportion, in that order.

So there he is on the edge of the crowd, arm across his chest, hand captured under the armpit, other hand pressed to his cheek, eyes intent on the flow of folks in and out, here and there, who's with whom, sometimes leaning in to the person standing next to him, half listening, his eyes not leaving the crowd. But say something worth hearing and there were subtle changes. His neck craned in a little closer. His eyes left the crowd and focused on the speaker. His lower lip jutted out. You had his attention.

Time will pass. Candidates will come and candidates will go. Campaigns will be run. There will be fundraisers, receptions, kickoff announcements, press conferences and election nights. It is hard to imagine that Yeager won't be there just outside the frame taking it all in.

"Where's Rochester?"

Mr. Speaker, William N. Yeager, Jr. is survived by his wonderful wife, Betty; three daughters, Sherry Yeager, Susan Coffey and Cynthia Hilburn; one brother, Dr. Charles Yeager; six grandchildren and countless other relatives and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2006

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our colleagues who will be sorely missed next year in the United States House of Representatives, the gentleman from the Buckeye State, Mr. OXLEY.

MIKE OXLEY has been a good friend, and we will miss his leadership in this House and in Ohio. For the last 25 years, MIKE has represented the Fourth District of Ohio with honor and integrity.

In 1981, when he arrived, he brought with him a belief in the hope offered by Ronald Reagan—a hope of economic prosperity guided by the expansion of free enterprise and open markets. MIKE OXLEY has spent every day of his Congressional career spreading that hope.

As Chairman of the Financial Services Committee for the last 6 years, MIKE saw our economy through some of its toughest tests. It is a testament not only to the resilience of our economy, but to the leadership provided by Chairman OXLEY that our economy and our financial sector have not only endured, but prospered.

Ox has been our captain and our coach. He stuck firm to his core beliefs, while never sacrificing civility. We can all learn from MIKE OXLEY's leadership: When it comes to the

well-being of our country, bipartisanship can carry the day. And if and when we do disagree, we should openly and honestly discuss our differences, like statesmen.

We have not seen the last of MIKE OXLEY. Be it in a boardroom or at a Buckeye game, his presence will surely be known.

It is an honor to call MIKE OXLEY a friend, and we wish him Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO "USS HYMAN G.
RICKOVER" SSN 709

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the crews, past and present, of the Submarine USS *Hyman G. Rickover* (SSN 709). On the 14th of December, this vessel will be inactivated, and its name struck from the rolls of U.S. warships. The contribution of this vessel to the defense of this Nation has been second to none, yet somewhat unheralded. From the Cold War through the current War on Terrorism, she and her crew have stood the watch. The *Rickover* served as a testament to the standards of excellence inspired by her namesake, the late Admiral Rickover. The father of the nuclear Navy, Admiral Rickover instilled a culture of technical excellence and individual responsibility in the Navy Nuclear Propulsion Program that continues to this day.

I would also like to commend the sponsor of this ship—Mrs. Eleonore Rickover, for her years of faithful support to the crew. She struck a chord at the ship's christening, when she said, "In the name of the United States, I christen thee *Hyman G. Rickover*. May God bless her and all who sail in her, and may God bless their families and loved ones, for they also serve who only stand and wait." Mrs. Rickover lived up to those words in the years since that day with generous and heartfelt support of the sailors and families of *Rickover*. Going far beyond an occasional appearance, she embraced the ship and her crew—interested, involved and caring. Her service was a fitting testament to the legacy of pride and service left by her husband, ADM Rickover, to the Naval nuclear power program, and the entire U.S. Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this exceptional Naval warship; her crew and their families; their sponsor, Mrs. Eleonore Rickover, and the man who brought our Navy nuclear propulsion, Admiral Hyman G. Rickover.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND WILLIAM AND MARJORIE BUEHLER

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize 50 years spent together by Rev. William and Marjorie Buehler in marriage and in service to those in need.

Since their marriage to each other began, the Buehlers have shown complete dedication

not only to themselves but to several communities of central Mexico. As Presbyterian missionaries, William and Marjorie worked tirelessly to bring schools, running water, and inoculation centers to those who previously had absolutely no access to these resources, living in isolated villages in the State of Oaxaca.

Upon their return to the United States, the Buehlers established themselves close to the heart of Arizona, in Superior, where they soon became favored residents of the area. Reverend Buehler worked admirably as the pastor of two churches in the community, and for his efforts to improve the health of residents and the local environment, was honored with Superior's Man of the Year award. Marjorie Buehler also served Superior at that time as an elementary educator.

Even after retirement, the list of achievements accumulated by the Buehlers continued to grow and bring optimism and hope to those they served. Recognizing critical issues rising along the border of Arizona and Mexico, the Buehlers endeavored to establish border missionaries to address the needs of workers facing tragic conditions in maquiladora factories located in the dangerous region.

To this day, they continue to do volunteer work at Tucson's Primavera Homeless Shelter, and the Tucson Historical Society. It is a fitting tribute to honor these two lives dedicated to the less fortunate of the world, while cultivating a lasting marriage and family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 528: waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, and for other purposes, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

WILLIAM GREEN NOTES VITAL IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on November 23, William D. Green, chairman and CEO of Accenture, published a very important article in the Boston Globe on the vital role of two-year colleges. As Mr. Green notes, "America's system of junior and community colleges has proved to be powerful and very effective in preparing students for success at 4-year colleges and beyond." Mr. Green speaks from very relevant experience, both as someone who himself attended Dean College, a 2-year school in Franklin, Massachusetts, and as a leader in American business. He thus understands the importance of community colleges both as one who benefited from a community college education and one who now draws on community college graduates, among others, to staff his important company.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Green does note one trend that I think we should all be trying to overcome—namely, that "state support (of community colleges and junior colleges) continues to decline." Many people with whom I have discussed the problem of inequality in America have noted that the most important thing to do to help close that gap is to increase educational opportunity. I profess to be somewhat skeptical that this is going to do as much as many argue, but that is no reason not to go forward with increased educational opportunity as much as we can. And this will not happen if we allow "state support (to) continue to decline" for these schools. They are an essential avenue for young people from families that are not affluent to begin achieving a college education.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will read Mr. Green's words and accept the relevance of what he says to our job of increasing public support for higher education. I am grateful to Mr. Green for sharing his experiences with us on this important point.

[From the Boston Globe, Nov. 23, 2006]

THE VITAL ROLE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

(By William D. Green)

Americans finally have an issue on which they can all agree. If the country hopes to sharpen its competitive edge, it will take a significant investment in education, especially math and science. America must also boost their analytical thinking to address challenges and innovate in business and society.

Often overlooked and under appreciated, not unlike the people who attend them, these colleges can help enhance the Nation's competitiveness, improve the skills of the workforce, and contribute to a more fulfilling life for millions of citizens.

The son of a plumber and a school secretary in western Massachusetts, I had the good fortune to attend Dean College, a two-year residential college in Franklin. My two years at Dean focused me, taught me to appreciate the value of continuing my education, and provided me with the foundation for building a career in global business.

America's system of junior and community colleges has proved to be powerful and very effective in preparing students for success at four-year colleges and beyond. The potential of these institutions to raise the game of those who attend and to enhance our Nation's competitiveness is clear.

The challenge is to keep community colleges and junior colleges strong at a time when State support continues to decline. Many who have chosen to attend a junior or community college have found that the experience can lead to exciting places. Graduates can be found in Congress and on the judicial bench. They've flown aboard the space shuttle, commanded troops, and written for major publications. Some, like me, run large corporations.

These colleges mirror the communities they serve. They enable students to continue their education at an affordable cost, develop careers in a range of fields that is expanding all the time, and, more frequently nowadays, change careers to find greater job satisfaction and fulfillment.

In healthcare alone, nearly two-thirds of the industry's new workers have studied at community colleges. As the number of baby boomers who are near or at retirement age swells and the need for healthcare services grows, community colleges will fill an important gap in the workforce.

In addition to teaching people new skills, junior and community colleges often help students learn how to learn—to gain the

kind of solid footing it takes to continue their education. Research shows that students who transfer from a two-year institution to a four-year college or university are often more successful than those who start at a four-year institution.

As a society we need to applaud the accomplishments of two-year college graduates and encourage baccalaureate institutions to accept transfer students who have proved they can be successful students.

In the long run, junior and community colleges not only help students gain confidence in their ability to learn, but they also provide them a foundation for achieving better jobs.

The potential ripple effect on the economy is obvious. As the world becomes flatter and we're faced with new global competition, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that future generations of Americans enjoy a standard of living that matches or surpasses our own.

A strong system of junior and community colleges with stepped-up support—financial or otherwise—from business leaders, legislators, and educators can go a long way toward making that goal achievable.

If junior and community colleges win, we all win.

TRIBUTE TO DEMARIS MARSH

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of DeMaris Marsh of Brandon, Florida, a tireless advocate for America's seniors. Dee's passing last week is a tremendous loss to our community.

Dee devoted countless hours to helping improve the lives of seniors. She was an extremely dedicated volunteer for the AARP, serving the organization and its members in numerous ways. She volunteered as State Director of the AARP in Arkansas and served on the AARP National Legislative Council and the Florida State AARP Legislative Council.

As a Member of Congress, Dee was an invaluable resource to me because she was a strong voice for Florida's seniors. As a member of my Long Term Care Advisory Board, Dee provided important insight into many of the issues and federal programs affecting seniors. I know she advised numerous other legislative and political officials as well.

Dee was also committed to providing direct assistance to her fellow seniors. She taught AARP Driver Safety courses and volunteered as an AARP Tax-Aide counselor, helping seniors complete their federal tax forms. Jeff Johnson, AARP Florida's Grassroots and Community Outreach Manager said it best, "Dee Marsh was a wonderful human being, an impassioned advocate for Floridians 50 and older, and a devoted volunteer for AARP. Through her many years of advocacy efforts, she was a part of helping improve the lives of millions of older Americans. We at AARP Florida will miss her kind heart, sharp mind and gracious Southern charm."

I too will miss Dee and her devotion to helping legislators, like me, better serve the needs of our community. On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Dee's family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on December 5 and 6, 2006, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 524, 525, 526 and 527. The votes I missed included a motion to suspend the rules and agree to as amended, H. Res. 1070; a motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 1176; a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6099; and a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1082.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 524 and 527, and "nay" on rollcall votes 525 and 526.

CONGRATULATING HASBROUCK HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ON RECEIVING A PACEMAKER AWARD

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the dedicated students and faculty at Hasbrouck Heights High School who have made The Pilot's Log an award-winning and exemplary newspaper year after year.

This November, students earned top honors from the National Scholastic Press Association by capturing a Pacemaker Award—the third in four years. Widely considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism, this award is a testament to the outstanding writing, photography, layout, and management skills that students learn at Hasbrouck Heights High School. Journalism is a difficult profession and learning to meet deadlines and juggle priorities is challenging at any age.

I am extremely proud of the 2006 Pilot's Log editorial staff: Matthew Connors, Wade Friedel, Harvir Kaur, Brielle Marino, Joseph Marino, Kaitlin Olcott, Russell Piazza, Prachi Prachi, Nishit Raval, Robert Spindler, Caitlyn J. Walsh, and Nicole Weingartner. I also applaud their teachers and families, who encouraged and helped them along the way. Pilot's Log advisers Lora Gefic and Gary Pankiewicz deserve special recognition for the quality of their teaching.

It is an honor to represent so many individuals dedicated to the values and ideals of journalism. I am especially pleased that a Pacemaker Award has gone to a student newspaper written, printed, and distributed in my own Congressional District. I again offer my congratulations to the award-winning students and teachers at Hasbrouck Heights High School for the consistent, first-rate reporting in The Pilot's Log. Keep up the good work!

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor MIKE OXLEY, a man who will be greatly missed in this House. Not only does he have more friends in this chamber than nearly anyone else, he has compiled one of the most distinguished legislative records in this body.

I have had the privilege of knowing MIKE for more than thirty years going back to when we served together in the Ohio Legislature and he has been a good friend to have over that entire period of time.

In Congress, MIKE has not only been involved in the issues of the day, he has been a good athlete and has led his colleagues in pursuing healthful activities. He was Chairman of the Gym Committee. In College, we used to think that anyone who became a three letter man was something special. MIKE has been a three letter man here and much more. He was the manager of the Republican Congressional Baseball, Basketball and Golf teams and compiled a great record of victories.

His record of legislative accomplishments is a long one. With a great ability to reach across the aisle, MIKE OXLEY helped calm the financial markets during a period of great turmoil. Sarbanes-Oxley was the most sweeping reform to our securities laws in 70 years and helped bring an era of corporate scandal to an end. Other successes during MIKE's tenure at the helm of the Financial Services Committee include deposit insurance reform, regulatory relief for banks and thrifts, tireless work on reforms for the government sponsored enterprises, and tremendous work on providing opportunities for increased homeownership.

As MIKE OXLEY leaves to enter another phase of his life, we wish both he and his wonderful wife Pat the very best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON SCHOOL

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to congratulate the Lyndon Baines Johnson Public School 151K, located in Brooklyn, New York, on its centennial anniversary. Since its inception, Lyndon Baines Johnson School has maintained a standard of academic excellence, thereby enriching the lives of elementary schoolchildren throughout Bushwick.

Originally known as Public School 151K, Lyndon Baines Johnson School exemplifies Bushwick's historical dedication to establishing a community-oriented school system. Its name honors the significant achievements of President Lyndon Baines Johnson—from fighting poverty and promoting urban renewal to investing in education and social programs. It is ultimately through upholding the legacy of its

namesake that this institution has fostered the personal progress of countless students and, moreover, the growth of a more vibrant place to live, work, and play.

Lyndon Baines Johnson School is a community public school with a dedicated staff that continues to nurture the intellectual development of hundreds of students. Its partnerships with the private and public sectors have strengthened this institution's programs thereby enabling comprehensive support services, encouraging parent participation, and connecting families. Additionally, through the exceptional leadership of Principal Jeanette Sosa and Assistant Principal Stuart Spector, this award-winning school has effectively advanced a culture of civic, socially-minded students devoted to the interests of Bushwick—and our Nation.

This unwavering commitment to advocacy and respect for individuals has been the cornerstone of this remarkable learning institution throughout its 100-year existence. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students, faculty, and parents of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Public School 151K on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING ALABAMA STATE
SENATOR GARY TANNER FOR
HIS DEDICATED, FAITHFUL PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize Alabama State Senator Gary Tanner for his dedicated, faithful public service to the citizens of Mobile County.

Senator Tanner is a distinguished member of the Mobile, Alabama, community and a tremendous advocate for all of south Alabama. He began his public service career as a Mobile County Commissioner in 1992 and was elected to the Alabama State Senate in 2002.

During his career in the Alabama State Legislature, Senator Tanner worked tirelessly on behalf of south Alabama and served as chairperson of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Of particular significance, Gary was awarded the Tillman's Corner Citizen of the Year award in 1980 by the Tillman's Corner Area Chamber of Commerce. In 1989, he was selected as Business Associate of the Year by the Mobile Bay Chapter of the American Business Women's Association. He has also received the Able Helmsman Award in 2000 by the Mobile Labor Council, the State Employee's Rusty Hook Award in 2002, and the Mobile Democratic Executive Committee's Award of Distinction in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, the faithful service of outstanding Americans like Gary Tanner has aided in an immeasurable way to the well being of our community. I would like to offer my congratulations for his many personal and professional achievements. I know his daughters, Bonita Tanner and Dawn Tanner-Smith; his grandchildren, Benjamin, Sarah, Will, and Drew; and his other family and many friends join with me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts on

behalf of the people of Mobile and the entire State of Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I have the honor to recognize a fellow colleague from the Great State of Ohio, Chairman MICHAEL OXLEY. Chairman OXLEY has served with distinction in this House for 25 years and is retiring at the end of the 109th Congress.

Many people know Chairman OXLEY either from his work on the Financial Services Committee, his tireless work for the constituents of the Fourth District of Ohio, or his years of participation as a player and manager of the Republican Baseball Team. Chairman OXLEY is also a tireless advocate of the military and especially the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center—Lima, formerly known as the Lima Army Tank Plant.

The Joint Systems Manufacturing Center—Lima traces its history back to WWII when it prepared and processed more than 100,000 combat vehicles. The plant today is the sole producer of the M-1 Abrams tank.

Chairman OXLEY worked with the Department of Defense over the years to encourage the utilization of the workforce and available space at the facility. Through his efforts, the plant has grown beyond its original mission, providing a wide variety of cutting-edge military vehicles for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

Most recently, Rep. OXLEY was successful in working with Task Force LIMA during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure to ensure the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center remained a strong and continued asset for the Nation, the State of Ohio and the greater Lima community. Chairman OXLEY was also able to restore funding for the modernization of the M-1 tank, further ensuring our men and women in uniform remain the best equipped fighting force in the world.

Chairman OXLEY is a distinguished member of the Ohio Delegation and of this House. He has made his mark on this Nation not only through his ardent support of the financial service industry, but also his unwavering support of the military. His tireless support of the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center—Lima has placed it in a strong position for the future. As Chairman OXLEY sometimes quotes former President Reagan's farewell address, "My friends, we did it. We weren't just marking time. We made a difference." For 25 years, Chairman OXLEY has made a difference not only for Ohioans but for all Americans. The House of Representatives has benefited from his ideas and leadership.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE GREG BRASHEAR

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and all of my colleagues to pause for a moment to listen to a story about an everyday American who died before we could thank him for his selfless service to others.

Police homicide detective Greg Brashear, is like so many who walk among us each day. They quietly protect and defend us and are rarely noticed or thanked before they are gone.

Detective Greg Brashear was such a man. Just months ago, he lost his life. But his legacy lives. His story continues to touch others as it is spread by those who only learned of it while he lay in a hospital fighting for his life.

Baltimore, Maryland Police Department Homicide Detective Greg Brashear had a full life of his own. Last January, off-duty and en route to a celebration with a loved one, he stopped on the side of a highway to help a woman with a flat tire.

He was struck by another car while aiding a woman he'd never met. Detective Brashear spent the next 7 months hospitalized in intensive care trying to recover and return to those he loved.

He never left the hospital. But while he was there . . . his name, and the kind of selfless man he was, became known to hundreds and thousands more, as his struggle began to touch more lives each day, moving beyond the hospital walls—even beyond state lines.

Greg had not followed his father and brother into their family's law practice in Texas. He chose the less compensated and lower profile path of fighting for those who could not defend themselves when he became a detective in the Violent Crime Child Abuse Section of Houston's Police Department.

He moved to the Baltimore Police force saying he wanted to continue to "do something that mattered; to help people by keeping the world safer", which is what he did for the last 26 years until the day he noticed one more person in need of his help—someone stopped on the side of the highway hoping someone would notice her despair.

And that's why we stop what we're doing right now and reflect on Detective Greg Brashear. Because he and thousands of other Americans like him, notice every day the people around them who are wounded or helpless. They do not turn their backs on them. And they do not ask for pats on their own backs.

Today, may we give back to Detective Brashear what he did not ask for or get in life: his country's recognition of his service, of his humility, and his invaluable role in our society. We give him our deepest thanks.

I ask you to join me in offering that same recognition to all the "Greg Brashears" who daily walk unheralded among us. We do not know your names, but we know you are there.

If no one has thanked you, if no one has noticed the depth of your personal commitment or sacrifice—consider it noticed today. And consider that our thanks to you, and to Greg, will never be enough for all you have done.

TRIBUTE TO MGM BRAKES ON ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor MGM Brakes, headquartered in Charlotte, NC, on its 50th anniversary.

MGM Brakes is a division of Indian Head Industries, Inc., also headquartered in Charlotte, NC, and maintains manufacturing facilities in Cloverdale, CA and Murphy, NC.

MGM Brakes was founded in 1956 and is a leading U.S. manufacturer of spring parking brakes and actuators for vehicles with air brakes. Fifty years ago the company's founders (Miller, Gummer and Meyers) invented the spring brake actuator to prevent air braking failures in heavy, over-the-road vehicles that usually resulted in runaway vehicles. MGM Brakes is now a leading world-wide supplier to the commercial vehicle industry and its actuator products have become standard equipment on more than 125 makes of commercial vehicles currently manufactured in over 40 countries.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to MGM Brakes and its employees for 50 years of pioneering technology and innovative products that have helped increase the safety of commercial vehicles, transit buses and school buses across the states and around the country.

HONORING JEANETTE L. STERNER
OF HOLLY LAKE RANCH

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding contributions of COL Jeanette L. Sterner of Holly Lake Ranch in Wood County, Texas. Colonel Sterner has spent a lifetime in service to her country in the United States military and in the process has earned a multitude of honors including: the Meritorious Service Medal; an Army Commendation Medal; an Army Achievement Medal; an Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; a National Defense Service Medal; a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; an Armed Forces Reserve Medal; an Army Service Ribbon; and a Sharpshooter Badge.

During her years of service to the United States, she also earned five State awards: the Oklahoma Meritorious Service Medal; the Iowa Achievement Medal; the Iowa Commendation Medal; the State of Texas Medal of Merit; and the Texas Adjutant General Individual Award.

Jeanette's service to her country does not end with her military heroism. She has also served her local community in a variety of ways including youth involvement. She has worked as a school psychologist for Sacred Heart Catholic School, for Mount Saint Mary's High School, for Christ the King School, and has even managed to find time to serve as a youth director for her church.

She has earned numerous civilian awards and memberships for her efforts, including

Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Biographee for the Directory of Distinguished Americans, and Personalities of the South.

Jeanette currently serves as president of the Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas, working diligently to obtain single residence housing for homeless veterans. In addition, she serves as president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Greater Hawkins Veterans Association, maintaining a memorial in honor of local veterans.

Without a doubt, Jeanette's service to her community is extensive, and on behalf of the people living in the 5th District of Texas, I applaud her for her commitment to both her community and her country.

THANKING MR. WILLIAM CHAMP
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement this month, we rise to thank Mr. William Champ for his long career of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

William Champ has been an employee of the Furniture Division, Cabinet Shop of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House for 30 years. During that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow co-workers. Bill is a person of great character and will leave behind a legacy of professionalism, hard work and dedication to the institution. His list of accomplishments is far too lengthy to include in this tribute, but includes the lecterns in the House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol Building that every Member of Congress uses during each session, a key fixture seen by millions of people all over the world. Bill was a key member of the team that designed and constructed the lecterns. He was also instrumental in the renovation of the audio/video upgrade of the Ways and Means Committee Room.

Bill's retirement is bittersweet; the House will lose an individual who from day one of his employment made a long term commitment to excellence. His performance has always been exceptional and above and beyond expectations. His legacy will live on in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives as we wish him many wonderful years of happy retirement.

GOODBYE TO COLLEAGUES

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, as our colleague, the Honorable gentleman from New York, SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, prepares to retire from the Congress, I want to join the entire New York delegation in wishing SHERRY a fond farewell and in commending him for a job very well done.

SHERRY BOEHLERT has served the people of the 24th Congressional District, which includes all or parts of Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Oneida, Ontario, Otsego, Tioga, Tompkins, and Seneca counties, for 12 consecutive terms. He has been my congressional neighbor to the west for as long as I have been in Congress. We have had the opportunity to work together on many issues, such as the Tech Valley initiative in upstate New York, the FAIR Alliance for transportation funding, and, of course, rooting on our beloved New York Yankees.

With expertise and leadership in so many different fields, from the environment and the sciences, to transportation and homeland security, SHERRY has not only capably served the people of his district, but also every citizen of New York and the United States.

SHERRY has earned the opportunity to spend more time with his wife, Marianne, their four grown children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call SHERRY BOEHLERT a respected colleague and a dear friend. His presence and strong voice will be missed during the coming debates. There is no doubt, however, that his proud legacy of committed public service and bipartisan achievement, will live on for generations.

PRAISING THE GOALS OF THE 2006
NATIONAL RAIL SYMPOSIUM

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, on November 15, 2006, I had the opportunity to address the 2006 National Rail Symposium, presented by Citizens for Rail Safety, Inc. at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

Attended by rail worker union representatives, rail industry experts, transportation scholars, and local and Federal political leaders, the symposium served to further highlight the glaring gaps in America's rail security and specifically, bring attention to the lack of basic emergency and antiterrorism training for our Nation's rail workers.

Notably, the symposium marked the release of a key rail security study prepared by the National Labor College (NLC) entitled: "Training in Hazmat and Rail Security: Current Status and Future Needs of Rail Workers and Community Members." As noted by the NLC, our Nation's rail workers currently lack basic and necessary emergency prevention and response training, particularly with respect to Hazmat incidents, and must work in rail cars and on rail tracks, yards, and basic infrastructure that are poorly secured.

The NLC's study comes on the heels of a 2005 rail worker safety report prepared by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Rail Security Conference, entitled "High Alert: Workers Warn of Security Gaps on Nation's Railroads." Based on over 4,000 surveys completed by members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division, the report reveals that 84 percent of the rail workers surveyed indicated that they had not received any or additional terrorism prevention and response training within the last year and that 64 percent indicated that

they had not been trained on their role in their railroad's Emergency Action or Emergency Response Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with these reports, as well as the goals of the National Rail Symposium, given the importance of providing our rail workers with adequate emergency, anti-terrorism, and security training. For this reason, I have also urged my colleagues to adopt H.R. 4372, the Rail Worker Emergency Training Act, which I have introduced in the 109th Congress. This bill would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop comprehensive rail worker training guidelines that address several key areas, including critical infrastructure and equipment security inspection, hazardous material storage, transport, and monitoring, and evacuation procedures. In addition, the bill would require rail carriers to develop a rail worker training program based on the Secretary's guidelines and to train all of their workers within 1 year.

In closing, I would like to commend Citizens for Rail Safety, Inc. and the National Labor College for their efforts to heighten security and preparedness on our Nation's railways.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN WHITEFIELD

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Justin Whitefield, successful attorney, dedicated father, tremendous leader, and tireless advocate for agricultural development throughout Oklahoma and the Nation.

A native of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, Justin Whitefield attended Oklahoma State University, earning a degree in Business, excelling in his studies and regularly recognized for his campus-wide leadership. Later attending the University of Oklahoma Law School, Justin Whitefield earned his Jurist Doctorate, repeating his academic excellence and class leadership.

Throughout his career Justin Whitefield was a forward thinking individual, helping better the community through his dedication to helping others and his commitment to youth and agriculture. Examples of his initiatives and contributions are the growth of scholarship programs through the Oklahoma Youth Expo to young people, the development and implementation of collegiate programs such as the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Encounter program, and the Oklahoma Youth Expo College 101 and the Academic All State Scholarship Program. While his primary focus was to bring recognition to others by honoring individuals through the Oklahoma Youth Expo Exhibitor Hall of Fame, he was also progressive in his ideas for events such as the Western Art Exhibition, the Master Showmanship Contest and the Cattle Fitting Contest.

In his most recent assignment as Executive Director of Oklahoma Youth Expo, Justin Whitefield's accomplishments were far-reaching. Prior to joining Oklahoma Youth Expo, he served as General Counsel for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, served as an Attorney specializing in Government Relations for Derryberry, Quigley, Solomon and Naifeh Law Firm and served as President and Chief Lobbyist for Capital Resource Group.

As a result of an airplane accident, Justin Whitefield lost his life on November 4, 2006. He was not only a leader in Oklahoma, but he was my friend. We worked together during my service in the Oklahoma Legislature. I always found him to be a man of character, faith, and honor. We will truly miss him.

I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to thank him for his contributions to others, specifically the young people of Oklahoma.

USS "OKLAHOMA"

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the groundbreaking of a memorial to the USS *Oklahoma*, which sank 65 years ago today in the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Commissioned in 1916, the 583-foot USS *Oklahoma* escorted President Woodrow Wilson to and from France at the conclusion of World War I. She served in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets through the 1920s and 1930s, and when the Spanish Civil War erupted in 1936, she steamed to Bilbao to ferry American citizens to safety in Gibraltar and French ports. One year and a day before the Japanese attack, the *Oklahoma* was assigned to Pearl Harbor.

The casualties aboard the USS *Oklahoma* represent the second-largest loss of life aboard any Pearl Harbor ship. Yet neither memorial nor marker exists to commemorate her and her crew. With today's groundbreaking at Pearl Harbor, we mark a significant step toward the creation of a lasting memorial to honor the 429 sailors, officers and Marines who perished on the "Okie," many of whom until 2002 rested in unmarked mass graves.

I am proud to have worked with Congressman COLE and the other members of the Armed Services Committee to pass language in the 2005 Defense Authorization Act providing a site for the memorial. But the real credit for making this project a reality goes to the *Oklahoma's* remaining survivors, the people of the State of *Oklahoma* and the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Committee, which is raising private funds for the memorial.

I hope that this long-overdue tribute provides some comfort to the *Oklahoma's* survivors and their families, knowing that their sacrifices that day will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise to add my voice in tribute to retiring Chairman MIKE OXLEY.

Today is a sad day for me. Though I haven't known him nearly as long as my fellow colleagues from Ohio, I, too, will miss our Coach.

I use that word not just as a tribute to his years of Congressional baseball and basket-

ball dominance. I call Chairman OXLEY my Coach because that is what he has been to so many of us. Chairman OXLEY has been a model of public service since graduating from the Ohio State University School of Law in 1969. Coach OXLEY has been legislating for over 30 years and he has always been kind enough to help others learn the ropes. He has taken me and literally hundreds like me by the hand and guided us through the legislative process.

A kindness that I will never be able to repay.

Coach OXLEY, we will miss you in the halls of this great institution. I will miss your counsel and will be forever disappointed that you retired before the long hotly debated issue over which Member from Ohio has the lowest handicap was completely resolved. However, I trust that future coaching sessions will be available by phone.

Congratulations, Mr. Chairman, to you and your family.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY SGT. FIRST CLASS WILLIAM R. BROWN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. November 6, 2006, Army Sgt. First Class William R. Brown (1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group) was killed in the line of duty when a roadside improvised bomb exploded near his Humvee vehicle in Sperwan-Gar, Afghanistan, which is part of the Panjwayi District of Kandahar. He was in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brown enlisted in the Army in June 1994, 2 weeks after graduating high school.

Sgt. Brown's family and friends remember him as a person with integrity and a strong desire to service his country through a career in the military. He is also remembered for his devotion to his wife, Audra, and two children.

A native of White Settlement, Texas, Sgt. Brown graduated from Brewer High School and began Army basic training 2 weeks later at Fort Benning, Georgia. His first assignment was with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. With that unit, he rose to the rank of squad leader and operations sergeant. After serving 7 years with the 75th Ranger Regiment, Sgt. Brown was transferred to Dallas, Texas, where he was an Army recruiter for 2 years.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Sgt. Brown decided to join the Army's elite Special Forces. In 2004, he completed the rigorous Special Forces Qualification Course and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Air Borne) which is based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After becoming a Special Forces member, he served with great distinction and valor one tour of duty in Iraq and was on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan when he was killed. Sgt. Brown volunteered for both tours of duty in Afghanistan.

During his career, Sgt. Brown earned the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Meritorious Service

Medal, an Army Accommodation Medal, an Army Achievement Medal and a National Defense Service Medal.

It is the qualities of incredible courage, strength, and pride in service of country which we see in young heroes like William R. Brown that makes us appreciate the freedoms we have here at home. I am proud to honor Sergeant Brown's service to the State of Texas, where he entered the service, and to the United States of America. He will not be forgotten.

ON THE CENTENNIAL OF TRINITY
BAPTIST CHURCH IN RICHMOND,
VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an institution in the City of Richmond, VA. This year, Trinity Baptist Church is celebrating its centennial and I would like to take some time to recognize its history of service as a house of worship in Richmond during the last 100 years.

The church that we know as Trinity Baptist began in 1906 as the Sixth Mount Zion Sunday School class, which met at the home of Marcellus Waller, Sr., and Nannie Waller at 1007 West Leigh Street in Richmond. As this faith community grew, the idea was put forth to formally organize a church, and Brother Charles Thompkin suggested they call it Trinity. After a consultation with a representative from the Baptist Churches, Trinity Baptist Church was established on August 6, 1906, with Rev. James Williams as its first Pastor.

Under Pastor George Carrington, who led Trinity from 1915–1919, a new sanctuary was built at 1630 Rose Avenue. In 1960, Trinity had again outgrown its building, and Pastor King David Turner appointed a Planning Committee to find a new home for the church. Pastor Turner's work was continued by Pastor Welford David Adkins, who led the church through the purchase of land and construction of a new 1,000 seat sanctuary in 1972.

For the last 26 years, Trinity Baptist has been ably led by Rev. A. Lincoln James. Under his stewardship, Trinity has increased its staff to include Ministers of Fine Arts, Economic Development, Christian Education, and Children and Youth. Trinity's daily bag lunch feeding program and clothes closet literally feed the hungry and clothe the poor. The church's work with Caritas Charities Prose Ministry helps the homeless, and its Angel Tree program ministers to prisoners. Rev. James has also licensed or ordained over 60 sons and daughters of Trinity into the gospel ministry, and he oversaw the ordination of the church's first female deacons in 2004.

I would like to once again congratulate Rev. James and the members of Trinity Baptist on their centennial and wish them another century of continued service to their community.

HONORING THE DECENNIAL
SEASON OF THEATRE HUNTSVILLE

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members, staff, volunteers, and patrons of the Theatre Huntsville during their decennial season. The 2006–2007 season will include performances of Noises Off, Proof, Romeo and Juliet, Crossing Delancy, To Kill a Mockingbird, Nunsense, and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Theatre Huntsville is the second-oldest performance organization in the city of Huntsville, presenting its first performance in 1950 as the Huntsville Little Theatre. In 1979, the Huntsville Little Theatre merged with the Twickenham Repertory Company to form today's performance group.

Mr. Speaker, Theatre Huntsville strives to foster, encourage, and strengthen interest in the dramatic arts. In addition to its yearly performances, the Theatre's volunteers mentor others in the community in areas of acting, directing, and all other aspects of community theater through discussions, lectures, workshops, apprenticeships, and tutorials.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the 2006–2007 season, Theatre Huntsville will celebrate their decennial season. I rise today to join in their celebration.

GOODBYE TO COLLEAGUES

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor four of my distinguished colleagues and to pay tribute to their dedicated work on behalf of the people of New York.

I have been honored throughout my time in Congress to call SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, MAJOR OWENS, JOHN SWEENEY and SUE KELLY my colleagues and my friends, and their hard work and passion will be sorely missed by our great institution.

SHERRY BOEHLERT has been fighting for the people of the Mohawk Valley and Central New York since 1964, first as chief of staff to Congressman Alexander Pirnie and his successor Donald Mitchell and, for the last 24 years, as the representative of the 24th Congressional District of New York. SHERRY has been a staunch advocate for environmental and science priorities including the space program, protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and research into global warming and cyberterror issues, and he has fought on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to secure New York's fair share of Federal funds.

SHERRY BOEHLERT epitomizes what a Member of Congress should strive to be—an independent, bipartisan consensus builder with loyalty not to outside interest groups or to party leadership, but to the constituents who sent him to Congress for over two decades.

New York and the U.S. Congress have benefited for nearly as long from the service of MAJOR OWENS. Since succeeding the late

Shirley Chisholm in 1982, MAJOR OWENS has successfully fought in Congress for increased educational opportunities, a higher minimum wage, equal opportunity for those with disabilities, and aid for historical black colleges. MAJOR's voice will be missed, but his New York colleagues will remember him as we carry forward these important initiatives.

It has also been my privilege to work with JOHN SWEENEY since his election to the House in 1998. As my colleague on the Appropriations Committee, as my co-chair of the Hudson River Caucus and as a leading voice for a risk-based approach to distribute Homeland Security funds, JOHN SWEENEY has proven himself not only dedicated to the people of his district, but to all the citizens of New York.

We will miss Mr. SWEENEY's lively spirit and the passion and expertise he displayed throughout his tenure.

The New York delegation also wishes our colleague SUE KELLY well as she leaves the U.S. Congress. Through her roles on the Small Business and Financial Services Committees, SUE KELLY has successfully pushed to increase small business access to capital. As the chair of the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee, she has paid careful attention to the efforts of law enforcement to crack down on terrorist financing and money laundering.

SUE and I have stood united on many issues affecting our region, including Hudson River preservation activities and the proposed shift in services away from the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Montrose Campus of the VA Hudson Valley Healthcare System which serves veterans in both of our districts.

Mr. Speaker, while SHERRY, MAJOR, JOHN and SUE may not know yet what the future holds for them, there are two things I know for sure—the people of New York will miss them, and the House of Representatives is better for their service.

I wish them all success and happiness in the days and years to come and am thankful for the opportunity to work with them and call them my friends.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR TIM
LESLIE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tim Leslie, Mayor of Aubrey, in the 26th District of Texas. Mr. Leslie was a courageous leader devoted to the best interests of his community.

Mayor Leslie dedicated his life's work to the citizens of Aubrey. During the 1980's, he was elected to two terms as Mayor. Mr. Leslie's commitment to local children led him to serve on the school board for over a decade. When Mr. Leslie was elected Mayor again in 2003, he championed modern improvements to community and school facilities, and promoted cooperation between the city and schools of Aubrey.

As Mayor, Tim Leslie directed projects for the building of a new library and a water treatment facility. After being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year and enduring intensive chemotherapy treatments, Mr. Leslie courageously continued to fulfill his obligations as Mayor.

In addition to his career in local government, Mr. Leslie served as editor and publisher of the City of Aubrey's weekly newspaper, The Town Charter. As a founding member of the Aubrey Lions Club, he was also active in the Aubrey Chamber of Commerce and Aubrey Education Foundation. His legacy of public service will long benefit the City of Aubrey.

Mayor Leslie is survived by his wife, Allison, and their three children.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the memory of such a courageous individual. Mayor Tim Leslie was a dedicated public servant, and serves as a role model to all citizens. I extend my sincerest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service to his community will always be greatly appreciated.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEARBORN, MICHIGAN MAYOR MICHAEL A. GUIDO

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of a great friend and wonderful public servant, Dearborn Mayor Michael A. Guido, who passed away December 5, 2006 after losing his battle with cancer.

Mayor Guido was elected the youngest person to ever serve on the Dearborn City Council, and then became the youngest mayor in the City's history in 1986. While Michael's 52 years on this earth were far too short, he did much of which to be proud. He exhibited great passion in a job he considered to be the greatest in the world.

To many, Dearborn is renowned for the great services offered by the City. It is to Michael's credit that these services were provided with great fiscal responsibility. It should be noted that the state of the art \$43-million Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, the largest municipally owned recreation center in North America, was the crowning achievement of an impressive career.

Our Nation will also feel the loss of Mayor Guido's leadership as he was the 64th President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. I am glad that mayors around the nation had the opportunity to witness the passion he had for the people he served, and the competence he exhibited in carrying out his duties. I know he was very proud to be a member, and serve as President, of this fine organization.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our "friendly Mayor." The prosperous years he stood at the helm of Dearborn will remain his enduring legacy, but he will also always be remembered for his sense of humor, vigor for life, passionate leadership and charismatic demeanor. Michael Guido wasn't a man who bragged about the great things he did, he just went out and did them. Dearborn will miss its Mayor and I will miss a friend and a wonderful partner. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in remembering the life of this wonderful man, and extend our condolences to his wife Kari, and sons Michael and Anthony.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. CLYDE STEPHENS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stephens as they celebrate 50 years of marriage. This is a tremendous milestone that embodies the enduring love and profound commitment they have for one another. For those of us who know the Stephens, their marriage is a celebration of life and an inspiration to us all.

On December 12, 1957, Clyde and Nellie were married in Corinth, MS. Clyde and Nellie were blessed with three wonderful children, Pam Stephens Kelly, David Stephens and Gary Stephens, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Tonight their family and friends are gathering in Middle Tennessee to celebrate this occasion.

Mr. Speaker, a 50th wedding anniversary is truly worth commemorating, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Clyde and Nellie Stephens.

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER MONTGOMERY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Heather Montgomery upon her retirement as District Director for the Eighth Congressional District of Texas.

I've had the privilege of working alongside Heather for many years as co-workers at the South Montgomery County Woodlands Chamber of Commerce, as colleagues while she led the North Houston-Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce, and re-united again in 1998 in service to the constituents of the 8th Congressional District of Texas.

Heather brought to my district offices her wealth of knowledge and experience from leading communities and helping small businesses, as mother of three children, a grandmother, and devoted leader and volunteer of many volunteer efforts in The Woodlands, Montgomery County and north Houston area.

For the past nine years Heather has managed an extensive district staff, day to day operations of three offices, and served as direct extension of myself throughout the community. Heather always manages to find a personal connection with each of our constituents and the challenges they face.

Extremely hard-working, painstakingly fair, exceedingly knowledgeable—these are qualities Heather has not only honed, but also put at the disposal of constituents. She is gracious at all times and simply a class act.

Heather's retirement comes at a time when she and her husband Gary are the proud grandparents of nine grandchildren. I know her family is eager to have more of her time.

In the years I have worked with Heather, I have come to know a civic minded leader and a woman of broad and varied interests which I hope she will pursue in the time afforded by retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" and "job well done" to Heather Montgomery for her years of loyal service to myself, but most of all, to the people of Southeast Texas whom she has served with distinction. She is one of my closest friends.

IN HONOR OF SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE MARK L. LOWERY, U.S. SECRET SERVICE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional career of Mark L. Lowery, Special Agent in Charge of the United States Secret Service Dallas Field Office.

Special Agent Lowery began his career with the Secret Service in 1983 in the St. Louis Field Office, following a 6 year tenure with the St. Louis County Police Department. With the U.S. Secret Service, he served in the Washington Field Office, the Presidential Protection Division, Special Investigations and Security Division, and the Financial Crimes Division.

Under the leadership of Special Agent Lowery, the Dallas Field Office tackled many complex issues plaguing the Dallas community including identity theft, counterfeiting of currency and cyber crimes. Special Agent Lowery's leadership in these cases was instrumental, leading to the successful arrest and prosecution of many criminals in the Dallas area.

Special Agent Lowery has received numerous awards and commendations during his twenty-three year career, including the highest Secret Service award, the Medal of Valor in 1985. The legacy he leaves will speak loudly of the impact he made on our community and his peers and his devotion to the betterment of our community. His tenure at the U.S. Secret Service Dallas Field Office is marked by his dedication, work ethic and public service.

I am grateful for Special Agent Lowery's service to our nation, and I wish him all the best on the occasion of his retirement.

UNBORN CHILD PAIN AWARENESS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this inflammatory and misleading piece of legislation.

The bill before us requires that women seeking abortions be given a brochure written by Congress regarding the capability of a developing fetus to feel pain. It requires physicians to provide this script to their patients even if the doctor does not believe it to be accurate or in the patient's best interest.

The text of this brochure was not written by or in consultation with the nation's leading physicians. In fact, the sponsor's attempt to impose his values on every woman seeking an abortion in this country is opposed by many physician organizations, including the

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the American Public Health Association, and the National Association of Nurse Practitioners.

This bill is one last attempt in this Congress to use the emotional, complicated subject of abortion as a cloak for what the sponsors of this bill consistently do: manipulate medical practice and scientific research to conform to their own beliefs and moral agenda.

And when science doesn't support their rhetoric, instead of opening their minds and acting from a place of compassion, they attack physicians who disagree with them, demonize women and families who make the decision about abortion, and deny evidence-based medicine.

It is just this kind of extreme interference in Americans' lives and their medical care that voters around the nation rejected—decisively—on Election Day.

Americans look to us to examine issues thoroughly and with great care, befitting the high honor it is to serve in this body. Passing this bill won't do a single thing to advance the cause we should all share: to create a country, a society and a culture where every pregnancy is intended and every child is wanted, prepared for and cherished.

Congress has no right to legislate how doctors care for their patients, to substitute ideology for scientific evidence, or to penalize physicians for legal and responsible patient care.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and this approach to an issue that's difficult for many of us. There is another way and, I would suggest, a better way to help the families of this country have healthy pregnancies and strong families.

THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPROMISE LEGISLATION TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNDER THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS, POPs, THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT, PIC, AND THE AARHUS POPs PROTOCOL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTION ON LONG RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION, LRTAP

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to join Chairman BARTON and Chairman BOEHLERT in introducing H.R. _____, compromise, consensus legislation to fully implement the legal obligations of the United States of America under the Stockholm, or POPs, Convention; the Rotterdam, or PIC, Convention; and the Aarhus POPs Protocol to the Geneva LRTAP Convention. This is solid public policy that I urge my colleagues to support because it reasonably implements the POPs and PIC Conventions and the LRTAP Protocol.

Over the past 4 years, and even as recently as a few months ago, I have heard people ask

many questions about this bill. Why is it necessary for this legislation to become law? If the United States is already attending these meetings, isn't that enough—why do we need to move on this bill? What does being a full partner mean to these agreements and what does it give the United States Government and its people in terms of rights and opportunities that we do not already have? These are all good questions, but persistent repetition of these inquiries shows a fatal misunderstanding of these agreements and exactly why it is in the interest of the United States to become a party with "full" rights under these accords.

At a minimum, the failure of Congress to pass implementing legislation—thus securing Senate ratification of these treaties—leaves the United States Government in the position of defending its interests and sharing its expertise only when other countries welcome it, not when we wish and need, for our own national purposes, to offer it. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has testified before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials that it has been forced to wait long periods of time to be recognized because the leaders of the treaty-related meetings did not consider our delegation important enough to be recognized sooner. This situation presents a radical departure from the leadership role our country took in building the consensus for these pacts to exist. Our delegations should not be welcomed at the receptions for these international meetings, but barred from being integral players in the technological discussions and final decision-making processes in these treaties. Failure to support this legislation is a clear signal that Congress misunderstands the sophistication of our nation's chemical knowledge base and regulatory experience and instead wishes the United States to cede its traditional leadership role in international toxic chemicals management.

Mr. Speaker, in 2001 the Bush administration pledged the commitment of the United States of America to join the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. That date marked the culmination of 10 years of bipartisan cooperation and leadership concerning global protection of the environment and public health. These efforts included not just POPs, but the Aarhus Protocol on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, LRTAP, of POPs, and the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent, PIC. These were not the triumphs of Republican or Democrat White Houses, they were the victories premised on the various needs and hopes of all Americans. Sadly, the benefits of these agreements have not been actualized because of the policy and political agendas of the interested stakeholders as they relate to chemical management. It is unacceptable that those private parties that are subsets of the interests in our country, whether they are businesses or non-profits, have as much, if not more, input than our own Government officials at these meetings. We must put these matters behind us and focus solely on making the U.S. a full partner.

Before I go into the specifics of this legislation and address some of its broader themes, I want to briefly further explain why this legislation is being introduced and why it is different from my bill, H.R. 4591, which also would totally implement and make the United States a full partner in these agreements.

First, this bill is being introduced as a consensus position of the majority of stakeholders who have testified before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials that they want the United States to pass implementing legislation. Second, this legislation is different from H.R. 4591, as introduced, because it represents a good-faith compromise among Members of Congress who actively sought to sit down with me and work out mutually acceptable provisions. I have always been willing to work with any Member of Congress on compromise provisions despite the fact that some Members' delay in getting back to me on whether they wanted to work out a compromise made enactment of this legislation nearly impossible. Finally, this legislation is a collaborative work of elected officials with input from others. Some people think that this kind of legislation needs to be delegated to interest groups to forge. Not only am I dubious about punting our constitutional responsibility to legislate to unelected persons, but history has shown that the same people who have called for a consensus stakeholder process have twice killed the resulting bills.

Regarding the specifics of this bill:

First, this bill is a targeted legislative fix that fills the existing legal gaps and only does what is important for us to become a full partner in these agreements. It does not repeal any part of Federal environmental law, but rather adds a new section to the Toxic Substances Control Act to ban the manufacture, processing, distribution in commerce, use, and disposal of agreed upon POPs and LRTAP POPs chemical substances and mixtures. This new section also grants separate, new authority for the United States to enact new regulations for future additions of POPs chemical substances or mixtures to the Stockholm Convention or LRTAP POPs Protocol. Because there has been concern from a number of persons about the difficulty existing TSCA provisions present in the way of regulating existing chemicals, this bill creates a distinct and different process within TSCA that couples similarly rigorous and sound scientific analyses, but with a more deferential regulatory standard and the elimination of procedural hurdles that many argue have hindered EPA from taking action regarding chemical protection. This is not the TSCA overhaul that many critics of the chemical manufacturing world have wanted, but it is a solid middle ground that relies on science rather than emotion to address these very insidious chemicals, while also keeping these treaties out of governing American manufacturing processes and decisions.

In addition, while many political opponents of past POPs legislative efforts have argued that the language in this legislation makes regulation of POPs more difficult and places profits of chemical companies over the protection of human health, a reading of the plain language of this legislation would prove how wrong and intentionally inflammatory they are to insist on this interpretation. Specifically, this legislation sets its regulatory standard at "protecting human health and the environment" and intends that while exercising this legal authority, the EPA Administrator, in choosing the means to provide that protection, is to balance costs and benefits. In other words, costs and benefits are to be taken into consideration in determining how to regulate a substance, not whether to regulate a substance.

Lastly, on this point, and to further buttress the point that this bill is a deliberately different way of handling chemicals than the way they are now treated under existing Federal environmental law, the sponsors of this bill and I recognize that implementation legislation for these international agreements is a distinct context in which to amend U.S. law. Recognizing that the underlying statutes being amended address the very broad and powerful reach of the Federal Government into U.S. manufacturing, this legislation is solely intended to allow the United States to be able to participate fully in these agreements to the extent that it wishes. The sponsors and I do not intend for the regulatory standards outlined in this bill, whether singularly or as a package, to be a blanket precedent for other environmental legislation. Future Congresses should be very careful in assessing the environmental, public health, and other social and economic needs of the country before copying this standard because of the unique circumstances and purposes to which this legislation is tied.

Second, consistent with the structures and rules of the POPs Convention, this legislation, places U.S. officials, laws, and standards—not those of an unelected and unaccountable international body—in charge of determining what specific control measures the United States should take. Treaties—just like allies—change and it is hard to predict their future. As the newly elected vice president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, I see countries use environmental and safety laws as non-tariff trade barriers. In fact, we need not look any further than the World Trade Organization case involving Genetically Modified Organisms, or GMO, crops for an example of how the European Union tried to use its laws to bar market access for our farmers. I believe it is reasonable to suggest that in the same way that environmental and labor groups argued that added environment and labor considerations must not be divorced from trade agreements, such as NAFTA and GATT, you also cannot ignore that economic and labor issues need to play a role when countries enact environmental laws.

A minority of stakeholders in this country are unhappy with the chemicals policy of the present administration and support using a legal standard in this country that flows straight from these treaties and has the control measures also directed by the international treaty parties, not the United States. This type of effort not only removes the executive branch from involvement—the State Department has testified in opposition to this type of regime—but also the legislative branch from the process of considering the impact on U.S. interests and laws. Ultimately, in this construct, the judicial branch becomes the sole arbiter of rights and interpreter of obligations under these agreements—a place the framers of the U.S. Constitution never intended. In addition, these same persons want to use a judicial review standard that merely ratifies rather than questions the regulatory decisions of the executive branch. This circular argument on their part not only diminishes judicial review—which their proposals pose as the supreme avenue to set and resolve policy—but further reinforces a desire to have U.S. environmental and manufacturing policy set in foreign capitals. The legislation I am introducing today rightfully recognizes that these agreements will

be law long after the current president is out of office and Congress should not and cannot pass reactionary legislation simply to hem in one leader. It is our obligation to pass the best legislation that will serve our country and its interests under every leader; this bill does that.

Third, the public should be fully informed about actions being taken under these agreements and Congress should be informed when conflicts with existing environmental statutes occur. Neither the public nor Congress should be prevented from providing input to our Government about structures that are going to affect our lives simply because it is inconvenient. History will show that cooperation between parties has allowed our treaties to function more successfully than when either Congress or the public is cut out. This contains public notice and comment throughout the entire treaty process, including the regulation of chemicals as part of our country's desire to "opt-in."

Fourth, this legislation preserves the existing public petition process under the Administrative Procedure Act and provides certainty to all Americans as to what rights and obligations they would have. We must not forget that we have both a mature chemical industry and a well-established set of legal rights and responsibilities that are the envy of most countries. This bill draws on—not adds to—the well-founded petition processes in all environmental laws and maintains—unamended—the current Federal-State dynamic in all environmental laws. Most importantly, nothing in this bill affects any other environmental statute, or State delegated programs under those other statutes, or any other environmental board constituted outside of TSCA.

Fifth, sound, objective, peer-reviewed science should be at the core of any decisions made by the United States under these treaties. I believe we need to focus our finite resources on the most pressing problems, not disproportionately or fully on every problem we face without regard to context. Currently, an assessment of "risks and effects" is called for in other environmental statutes and is not unprecedented.

In addition, the legislation being introduced today amends a provision contained in section 2 of H.R. 4591 that created a new TSCA section 503(e)(4) that relied on a determination by the EPA Administrator of the "weight of the evidence" when making a regulatory determination regarding restrictions on newly added POPs chemicals. It requires the EPA Administrator to use sound and objective scientific practices, the best available science, and to describe in the rulemaking record the quality of the scientific information on which the Administrator based a decision to take action against a POPs or LRATP POPs chemical substance or mixture.

Sixth, this legislation alters no existing rights and responsibilities of the States under Federal chemicals laws. First, every right, obligation, and opportunity of the States that exists under TSCA are still available to the States. Some, including several Democrat State attorneys general who were up for reelection, have argued that States would be precluded from legislating or litigating around the Federal Government in a way that they can do now. Nothing could be further from the truth. Second, even if one were to accept the argument that States should be able to act any way they

want, we should not forget that this is a treaty and that States should not unwittingly put the United States out of compliance with its obligations under these agreements through their own enactments and the State Department has written to me that we should not allow that to happen. Finally, to clarify concerns raised about potential pre-emption possibilities in the face of long-standing State Department practice—that the United States not agree to new treaty obligations unless our country has the legal authorities in place to comply with those obligations, section 6(e) of this legislation provides that any Federal pre-emption of State laws cannot occur unless a rule or order implementing our obligation has been issued under this act and has gone final or become effective. Concurrently, section 2 of this bill requires, in new TSCA section 506, that no regulation issued under this authority can become effective unless the United States consents to be bound to a treaty obligation regarding that chemical substance or mixture.

Seventh, and finally, while this legislation is careful to ensure that only U.S. officials are the drivers of decisions affecting our Nation and its citizens—a feature expressly guaranteed by these treaties—I also want to point out that this legislation also recognizes the global nature of this treaty and the important contributions that other countries may make to inform our decisions. Section 2 of this legislation establishes a new TSCA section 503(e)(2)(B) that allows the EPA Administrator to use internationally generated information or scientific studies, so long as they meet the scientific soundness and objectivity criteria in this legislation, in assessing the statutory considerations regarding the domestic regulation of a new POPs or LRATP POPs chemical substance or mixture.

Furthermore, new TSCA section 503(e)(2)(v) of section 2, requires domestic consideration of "national and international consequences that are likely to arise as a result of domestic regulatory action (including the possible consequences of using alternative products or processes)." In doing so, this provision's use of the word "consequences" is not meant to automatically imply negative connotations, but rather that the EPA Administrator is to look at the national and international positive and negative benefits that would flow from domestic regulatory action. That being said, the inclusion of this provision is in no way meant to give new legal rights or standing to foreign-based entities in U.S. courts regarding U.S. domestic regulatory actions under this legislation or the international environmental accords that this legislation implements.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a true compromise that represents the middle ground on treaty implementation legislation and a place where most Americans believe our policy should be. If the United States is to remain a leader in the global environmental debate it must have legislation that fully implements these treaties. The time has come for us to make a difference in global environmental protection from the most toxic of chemical substances and mixtures. I urge Congress to pass this legislation as soon as is practicable and make a strong statement of our national resolve to tackle these matters rather than place mere words behind our commitments.

THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPROMISE LEGISLATION TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNDER THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS, POPS, THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT, PIC, AND THE AARHUS POPS PROTOCOL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTION ON LONG RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION, LRTAP

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Mr. BARTON and Mr. GILLMOR in introducing this compromise version of treaty implementation legislation, which reflects many long hours of serious negotiation between our staffs.

I entered into those negotiations because I believe it is important for the U.S. to be a party to these important treaties to help protect the global environment. This is a view shared by both the environmental community and the chemical industry. The U.S. ought to maintain its traditional leadership role in this area, first, to protect our own national interests and to protect our citizens from hazardous pollutants that circulate globally, but also to improve health and the environment around the world.

The bill we are introducing today is a genuine compromise. It's not what I would write if I were drafting a bill alone, and it reflects movement by Mr. BARTON and Mr. GILLMOR away from their original vehicle, H.R. 4591. No doubt further improvements could be made to it, but it should serve as a marker to show the way in the next Congress. This bill should demonstrate that it is possible to write worthy implementation language without opening the "can of worms" involved in rewriting all of the Toxic Substances Control Act, TSCA. But the regulatory mechanisms created by this bill should not be seen as a precedent for other environmental statutes.

Let me make one more general point before getting into the interpretation of specific sections: I am cosponsoring this bill because I believe it will enable and facilitate the regulation of pollutants, not stymie that regulation. Quite properly under this bill, the U.S. cannot be forced to regulate a chemical by any international body. But the bill should pave the way for the U.S. to regulate additional dangerous pollutants. If the processes set out in this bill are used primarily as barriers to regulation, then that will mean that the bill is being misinterpreted or abused. The bill does require thoughtful and thorough analysis, but that is not intended to prevent any regulation from moving forward.

With that general precept in mind, let me focus on the important language in the new section 503(e)(1) of TSCA. The language calls for regulation "to the extent necessary to protect human health and the environment in a manner that achieves a reasonable balance of social, environmental, and economic costs and benefits." There are two distinct ideas and

processes encapsulated in that language. First, the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, is to determine whether a substance needs to be regulated "to protect human health and the environment." Then, separately, it needs to determine precisely how to regulate that substance—i.e., the "manner" of regulation—taking into account "social, environmental and economic costs and benefits." I want to say this directly here to clarify language that was intended to make the same point in the Committee report that was filed on H.R. 4591.

The sponsors also want to make clear that the consideration described in the new section 503(e)(2)(A)(v) of TSCA is meant to direct EPA to consider, among other things, both the domestic and international benefits that would flow from U.S. regulation of a substance.

Now let me turn to two important differences between this bill and H.R. 4591. First, we have entirely rewritten the new section 503(e)(4) of TSCA to clarify its intent, to drop the controversial and contested notion of "weight of the evidence," and to remove any implication that that paragraph was creating a new legal or scientific standard of review. Language in the committee report on paragraph (4) does not apply to this bill.

The paragraph (4) in this bill is designed primarily to ensure transparency by requiring EPA to describe the information that was used in its decision-making and the quality of the information on which the agency based its decision.

Second, this bill clarifies when State preemption occurs. Section 6(e) now makes clear that no State preemption occurs unless and until a regulation that has been promulgated under the new section 503 of TSCA has gone into effect. No action short of that and no action under any statute other than TSCA can trigger preemption under this bill.

I greatly appreciate the openness the Energy and Commerce Committee has demonstrated during the negotiations on this bill and the courtesy they have extended to me and my staff. I hope this bill paves the way to U.S. full participation in the important treaties covered by this bill.

THE INTRODUCTION OF CONSENSUS LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNDER THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS), THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT (PIC), AND THE AARHUS POPS PROTOCOL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTION ON LONG RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION (LRTAP)

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to join Chairman GILLMOR and Chairman BOEHLERT in introducing H.R. _____, consensus legislation to implement the legal obligations of the United States of America under the Stockholm, or POPS, Convention; the Rot-

terdam, or PIC, Convention; and the Aarhus POPs Protocol to the Geneva LRTAP Convention.

This legislation represents an enormous effort that started in the Energy and Commerce Committee over 2 years ago to bring the United States into compliance with 3 multilateral chemical agreements that have already gone into effect. It is vitally important that the United States be full-fledged participants at these Conventions and this legislation, along with ratification by the Senate, enables us to be a full and active party. More importantly, it allows our country to contribute its vast database of knowledge on chemical substances and mixtures as new chemicals are added to these agreements. Without implementing legislation, the United States government participates at a level akin to that of an NGO: permitted as "outside lobbyists," but not permitted to vote on important decisions where our expertise and scientific knowledge will be critical.

How is this bill different from H.R. 4591, the bill that was reported favorably by the Energy and Commerce Committee on Wednesday, July 12, 2006? While both bills give full, legal consideration to costs and benefits through a strong and transparent rulemaking procedure characterized by rigorous scientific analysis, the consensus bill eliminates the requirement to utilize a "weight of the evidence" approach in assessing risks and effects.

This bill also clarifies concerns raised about potential state preemption possibilities. In accord with long-standing U.S. practice to not agree to new treaty obligations unless our country has the legal authorities in place to comply with those obligations, section 6(e) of this legislation provides that any Federal preemption of state laws cannot occur unless a rule or order implementing our obligation has been issued under this Act and has gone final or become effective. Additionally, section 2 of this bill provides that no regulation issued under this authority may become effective unless the United States consents to be bound to a treaty obligation regarding that chemical substance or mixture. This modification will end the misguided criticism of H.R. 4591 on preemption issues, while preserving and codifying State Department practice.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation does not represent an overhaul to the Toxic Substances Control Act, which could take years to debate. Instead it represents a broad consensus to enact the limited legislative fixes to bring the United States into full compliance with its obligations under these agreements, and authorizes discretion to the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate additional chemicals that combines a deferential regulatory standard with rigorous and practical sound scientific analysis. As decisions are currently being made that affect American interests, the legislation represents the responsible thing to do and I would urge our colleagues in both bodies to pass it as soon as practicable.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note it's my pleasure to offer our colleague from New York, Mr. BOEHLERT, my best wishes as he leaves this body to pursue new endeavors. His collaboration on this bill, and others, has had a real impact.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID HERMANCÉ

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker I rise today in remembrance of a talented Californian, David Hermance, who passed away on November 25, 2006 at the age of 59. David was both an innovator of technology and an admired friend of the environment.

Although best known for his recent work with hybrids, David championed advanced-technology vehicles throughout his four decades in the auto industry. After 26 years of dedicated service to General Motors, David joined Toyota in 1991 to become the North American Executive Engineer for Advanced Technology Vehicles.

Through his dedicated work, he became known as the "father of the American Prius." His efforts have educated Americans and Congress alike on the enormous potential of advanced technology vehicles, such as hybrids. David's unique ability to explain the inner workings of complex technologies to all audiences made him the most respected American voice on hybrid technology. Today, consumers and environmentalists alike laud the products he has advocated for years.

On this day, Congress should remember David Hermance's vision for a better tomorrow. May God bring peace to David's family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO MY COLLEAGUES OF
THE 109TH CONGRESS**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to my colleagues. In the waning days of the 109th Congress, it is a time of reflection and reminiscing. We will miss our colleagues, who will not be returning in January as Members of the 110th.

I have many fond memories of the heady early days of the 104th Congress. My colleagues GIL GUTKNECHT, J.D. HAYWORTH, and JOHN HOSTETTLER helped keep the spirit of 1994 alive, and I will never forget their steadfast commitment to serve and, above all, their friendship.

I have enjoyed working with my colleague ERNEST ISTOOK on the House Appropriations Committee. He is a good friend and I admire his hard work on behalf of American families.

Other fellow colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee are ANNE NORTHRUP and CHARLES TAYLOR. I had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with these fine Members and their absence will be felt throughout the halls of Congress.

MARK GREEN and BOB BEAUPREZ worked hard for their constituents each and every day. Their dedication to the constituents they represented was unparalleled.

SUE KELLY, NANCY JOHNSON, and ROB SIMMONS have each played an important role in supporting our Republican principles. They have served their districts impeccably and will be missed.

My colleague, CHRIS CHOCOLA, fought each and every day for the American people. He worked diligently on behalf of American values and used his business knowledge to help keep and create jobs in the United States. He is a true patriot.

And finally, my good friend, MELISSA HART, with her bright smile and tremendous energy, she worked tirelessly on behalf of her district. She fought each day for the conservative cause and she will be sorely missed. I look forward to seeing her again in Congress.

CELEBRATING THE ABINGTON
TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Abington Township Police Department on an important milestone—its 100th anniversary. Since 1906, the officers of Abington Police Department have proudly served and protected our community, and I am honored to represent them in Congress.

Beginning with only four patrolmen and a handful of bicycles, the Abington Police Department has blossomed into a modern, diverse and professional police agency. Under the leadership of Chief William J. Kelly, the Department now counts 163 law enforcement professionals, including an undercover drug investigation unit and SWAT team in its ranks.

Over the last century, the Department accomplished many significant achievements. In 1906, it established the first fingerprint laboratory in the region. Later that year, it used this facility to close the first criminal case in Pennsylvania using only fingerprint evidence. Ten years later, the Department traded in its bicycles and horses to become the first fully-motorized police department in the United States—an achievement that was motivated by the need to patrol a region that was originally very rural, but is now a fully-developed suburban community.

In recent years, Abington became the first police department to achieve statewide accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission and one of three municipal police departments in Pennsylvania to achieve international accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Abington Police Department's record of excellence has been recognized by its peers, who have paid tribute to many of its law enforcement initiatives and appointed it to serve on a number of regional taskforces.

While successfully fulfilling its mission to serve and protect, the Department has also successfully established strong community ties. It has partnered with Abington residents to implement innovative programs like D.A.R.E., the Police Athletic League, Kids in Safety Seats, and Town Watch—demonstrating its commitment to building a strong community that is free of crime, violence, and substance abuse.

Mr. Speaker, once again I congratulate Chief Kelly and all of the men and women of

the Abington Police Department for their service, dedication, sacrifice and accomplishment. I look forward to continuing our work together and ensuring another 100 years of success, safety, and security for all Abington residents.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LAKE
ORION REVIEW**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of the Lake Orion Review newspaper on the occasion of its 125th anniversary of service to the Oakland County community of Lake Orion, Michigan. The Lake Orion Review is also the oldest surviving business in Lake Orion.

The Review was established on December 24, 1881, known simply as the Orion Review with the original slogan: "Independent in Everything—Neutral in Nothing."

At that time, the community was home to only 400 citizens. Today, the Review circulates to about 35,000 readers and the community continues to grow and prosper, with numerous new businesses and families calling Lake Orion home.

The weekly newspaper was originally published by John Neal, Joseph Patterson and Frank Sutton, in the rear of Lou Warner's store on North Broadway Street. When hard times hit during the Great Depression, the newspaper's demise seemed written on the wall.

Apparently someone erased the premature obituary, because today the Lake Orion Review, published by Sherman Publications, is regarded as a beacon and trusted friend of the community. The Review has received multiple honors from the Michigan Press Association over the years, and enjoys a positive relationship with its readers and local news sources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Lake Orion Review on its 125th anniversary and congratulating the staff for its continuing dedication to integrity, fairness and balanced news coverage for the community and its people. They are truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MAUREEN KEATING TSUCHIYA**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of my constituent and good friend Maureen Keating Tsuchiya of Chappaqua, NY, an extraordinary community activist and advocate for the disabled.

Maureen was born in Atkinson, Nebraska, the second of eight children of John and Dolores Keating. As a toddler, she survived a severe strain of polio. Her lifelong disability, which worsened over time, was a focus of her advocacy efforts on behalf of persons with physical challenges. With each cause she championed, she used an unstoppable blend of passion, energy, dignity, perseverance,

forcefulness, honesty and wit to accomplish her goals.

While in college in Minnesota, Maureen started a campaign to get the city of Minneapolis to lengthen the time of the green traffic lights so that she and other persons with disabilities could cross the streets safely. Later, she worked tirelessly for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and attended the signing ceremony at the White House.

After living in New York City and Tokyo, Maureen, her husband Takashi, and their daughter Hannah moved to Chappaqua in 1997. She quickly became involved in civic and political organizations, often accompanied by her young daughter to whom she was totally devoted. Maureen Keating Tsuchiya worked with Westchester Disabled on the Move on a voting rights lawsuit by testing polling places for their accessibility. She also spearheaded an effort to increase access to the Chappaqua train station.

Maureen Keating Tsuchiya, although taken from us and her valiant causes prematurely, leaves a rich legacy of principled activism and involvement for all of us to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in offering condolences to her husband, her daughter, and her entire family.

HONORING JACK FINNEY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my friend Jack Finney. Jack recently celebrated his 90th birthday by donating more than \$1 million to the Hunt Memorial Hospital District Charitable Health Foundation. Jack's generous donation will ultimately enhance the soon-to-be-built cancer center on the campus of Presbyterian Hospital of Greenville.

Jack has a long history of making generous gifts to the community, having donated land, money, and his time to a variety of institutions such as Texas A&M University at College Station, Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum, Greenville YMCA, Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Paris Junior College, Texas A&M University-Commerce, the Greenville schools and many others. Other institutions that have benefited from his leadership include the local Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, and Board of Development as well as Texas A&M University, the Texas Baptist Foundation, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Jack's efforts have led to multiple honors from Texas A&M, including his selection as a Distinguished Alumnus and election to the Hall of Honor of the A&M Corps of Cadets. Jack has also been honored with Greenville's "Worthy Citizen" Award, for which he donated \$50,000 establishing an endowment to maintain the annual award in perpetuity.

In appreciation of Jack's latest gift, the Hospital District's Board of Directors have decided to name the new cancer center the Lou and Jack Finney Cancer Center in honor of Jack and his late wife, Lou House Finney. Lou and Jack were married for 68 years prior to her death in 2005.

During the reception honoring Jack's gift, Mayor Tom Oliver of Greenville proclaimed

August 15th Jack Finney Day in the City of Greenville.

It has been speculated that Jack's gift is the largest single gift that an individual has ever made to a non-profit organization in Hunt County, and that certainly speaks volumes about Jack's generosity. Having given his time, money, and energy to so many worthy causes it is not surprising for Jack to have celebrated his 90th birthday with so large and charitable a gift. The community is fortunate indeed to have so generous a benefactor. Jack has spent his life serving and enriching the community, and his latest gift only further reinforces this legacy.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in appreciation of the benevolence of this fine man and my friend—Jack Finney.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, Congressman Mike Oxley served the 4th district of Ohio for 25 years with great distinction. Much can be said about a man who dedicates himself to the People's House for a quarter-century. Perhaps the most telling example of his magnetism and leadership can be seen in the number of staff members who dedicated themselves to serving Mr. OXLEY during his distinguished tenure.

The longstanding members of Mr. OXLEY's staff—Jim Conzelman, Debi Deimling, Bonnie Dunbar, Bob Foster, Phil Holloway, Tim Johnson, Kelly Kirk and Peggy Peterson—have served the chairman a combined 250 years among them. This is an amazing feat, given the fact that Capitol Hill is synonymous with high turnover rates and the frequent shuffling of staff members. I believe this speaks to the statesmanship Mike OXLEY exhibited over his congressional career. His colleagues—just like his staffers—recognize his character, which inspires loyalty and perseverance.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 1106

HON. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I come before this body today as a proud American and as a servant of the American people, sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

Throughout my tenure, I've always tried to speak the truth. It is that commitment that brings me here today.

We have a President who has misgoverned and a Congress that has refused to hold him accountable. It is a grave situation and I believe the stakes for our country are high.

No American is above the law, and if we allow a President to violate, at the most basic and fundamental level, the trust of the people and then continue to govern, without a proc-

ess for holding him accountable—what does that say about our commitment to the truth? To the Constitution? To our democracy?

The trust of the American people has been broken. And a process must be undertaken to repair this trust. This process must begin with honesty and accountability.

Leading up to our invasion of Iraq, the American people supported this Administration's actions because they believed in our President. They believed he was acting in good faith. They believed that American laws and American values would be respected. That in the weightiness of everything being considered, two values were rock solid—trust and truth.

From mushroom clouds to African yellow cake to aluminum tubes, the American people and this Congress were not presented the facts, but rather were presented a string of untruths, to justify the invasion of Iraq.

President Bush, along with Vice President CHENEY and then-National Security Advisor Rice, portrayed to the Congress and to the American people that Iraq represented an imminent threat, culminating with President Bush's claim that Iraq was six months away from developing a nuclear weapon. Having used false fear to buy consent—the President then took our country to war.

This has grave consequences for the health of our democracy, for our standing with our allies, and most of all, for the lives of our men and women in the military and their families—who have been asked to make sacrifices—including the ultimate sacrifice—to keep us safe.

Just as we expect our leaders to be truthful, we expect them to abide by the law and respect our courts and judges. Here again, the President failed the American people.

When President Bush signed an executive order authorizing unlawful spying on American citizens, he circumvented the courts and the law, and he violated the separation of powers provided by the Constitution. Once the program was revealed, he then tried to hide the scope of his offense from the American people by making contradictory, untrue statements.

President George W. Bush has failed to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States; he has failed to ensure that senior members of his administration do the same; and he has betrayed the trust of the American people.

With a heavy heart and in the deepest spirit of patriotism, I exercise my duty and responsibility to speak truthfully about what is before us. To shy away from this responsibility would be easier. But I have not been one to travel the easy road. I believe in this country, and in the power of our democracy. I feel the steely conviction of one who will not let the country I love descend into shame; for the fabric of our democracy is at stake.

Some will call this a partisan vendetta, others will say this is an unimportant distraction to the plans of the incoming Congress. But this is not about political gamesmanship.

I am not willing to put any political party before my principles.

This, instead, is about beginning the long road back to regaining the high standards of truth and democracy upon which our great country was founded.

Mr. Speaker, under the standards set by the United States Constitution, President Bush—along with Vice President CHENEY, and Secretary of State Rice—should be subject to the

process of impeachment, and I have filed H. Res. 1106 in the House of Representatives.

To my fellow Americans, as I leave this Congress, it is in your hands—to hold your representatives accountable, and to show those with the courage to stand for what is right, that they do not stand alone.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN MIKE SODREL

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor and privilege to serve with MIKE SODREL during his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives. Plain spoken and determined, MIKE spent his time in Congress working hard for Indiana's Ninth Congressional District.

MIKE's success in the trucking industry was brilliantly translated into a multitude of valuable contributions during his tenure on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. His vast knowledge of transportation issues served him well to promote needed for roadway improvements and expansion throughout the district and the Nation.

MIKE SODREL's expertise and service was not limited to transportation, but extended to three other committees—befitting not only his past experiences but the interests of Indiana—Agriculture, Science, and Small Business. MIKE played a crucial role as a member of each committee, using his keen insight to promote issues important to Indiana, such as research and development projects, alternative energy sources such as E-85, and hosting two successful job fairs with me in Bloomington.

Although his time in Congress was short, MIKE SODREL's imprint on the 20 counties comprising the Ninth District will be felt for years to come. His heart and mind were always in tune with the Hoosiers back home and in concert with the welfare of this great Nation that he had the great honor and responsibility of representing.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER A. ANDERSON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a very heavy heart and I wish to ask the Members in this Chamber to join me before we end the 109th session of Congress tonight in honoring a fallen sailor from Longmont, Colorado.

This week, Hospitalman Christopher A. Anderson was killed in action while serving our Nation in Iraq. He was a patriot that believed strongly in the freedoms we enjoy here in America and he joined the Navy to help defend the rights of citizens in Iraq.

I have contacted his family, and they are heartbroken about their loss, undoubtedly. They are to be admired for their courage and continued dedication to America's military forces who are fighting terrorists in the Middle East. As a mother of an enlisted sailor, my heart goes out to Christopher's family.

I would like to take a solemn moment to reflect on the life of Christopher and share the thoughts of his parents Rick and Debra Anderson. They released the following statement:

Christopher was a son of which any parent would be proud. He was a natural leader in the truest sense: warm, giving, thoughtful and caring. He went well out of his way to assist family, friends and neighbors with everything from the sweat of his brow to sound advice that many commented held wisdom beyond his years. He was consistently elevated to leadership positions by his actions.

This same thought process was at work when he chose to join the U.S. Navy. Chris comes from generations of Navy men and women. I myself am retired Navy. The Navy is, in general, an exciting career, however Christopher was not content to settle for anything less than being at the tip of the spear. He chose the career path of Hospital Corpsman (the Navy equivalent to a Medic in the other services). He requested the additional training of a Combat Medic, and to be assigned to the front lines with the United States Marine Corps. The Marine Corps does not have their own medical personnel, and Navy Sailors fill that role on a voluntary basis.

He was an "encourager", and "uplifter" with a truly unique ability to empower others to rise to success they themselves did not think possible. He attracted many, many close friends into his circle. These are fine young men and women, who I was proud to be introduced to and invite into my home.

In August of 2005, Christopher joined the Navy. While in Longmont awaiting his formal Navy school start date, he aggressively pursued high visibility leadership positions within his group of peers attached to the Longmont Navy Recruiting Office. Chris was already a good athlete, but chose to compete with the Navy SEAL candidates for even greater athletic excellence. He additionally excelled in his Navy-oriented academics, and was ultimately promoted from E-1 to E-3 before ever leaving for the Recruit Training Center (Boot Camp).

Once at Boot Camp he again excelled in academics, athletics and leadership, completing the program as the "Honor Graduate" the number one person in his class, as voted on by both his peers and the senior staff. He then attended his actual Hospital Corpsman medical training, "A" School, followed by Advanced Combat Medical Training, "C" School. Working with experienced combat veterans, he reaffirmed his desire to provide a critical service to those in harms way. He knew full well that he too would be at the forefront of the action.

Christopher deployed to Iraq in September of this year. The moment his aircraft's door opened to the 120 degree heat, he knew this would be the start of his greatest challenge. He loved the people of this country, however he began to see immediate action, and was soon credited by senior medical staff for saving the life of a Marine sergeant seriously wounded on patrol by an improvised explosive device (IED).

Christopher earned the affectionate title of "Doc." This title is only given to Navy Hospital Corpsmen who have impressed their U.S. Marine Corps counterparts with medical excellence under field combat conditions. His colonel also credited him with the compliment, "The most squared away 'Marine' we have in this Unit."

Christopher gave his life in the defense of his nation, his local community, his Marine brethren and his family. Christopher wanted all his life to make a difference in this world and in his short 24 years accomplished more than most will ever accomplish in a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in this great country where free-

dom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed to live in a country that honors citizens for their spirit, their ideas, their individuality, and their courage. We can maintain the blessings of our freedoms only because we have citizens like Hospitalman Christopher A. Anderson who are willing to fight to defend them for us. My most sincere condolences go out to Rick and Debra and the entire Anderson family for loss of their beloved son.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MITCH FOX

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Mitch Fox for his outstanding career and innovative contributions in broadcast and print journalism.

Mitch began his broadcasting career at KABC-TV Los Angeles as an intern and later apprenticed there as a cameraman. Less than 2 years later in 1976, Mitch relocated to Las Vegas where he began his first on-air reporting position with KTNV Channel 13. During his tenure in Las Vegas he has also served as a freelance writer for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, the Las Vegas Sun, Newsweek and Nevada Magazine.

Mitch began covering the Nevada State Legislature in 1979 and currently produces a weekly series entitled "Capitol Issues" during Nevada's biannual legislative session. He has also moderated several candidates' debates, some of which air nationally on C-SPAN. Mitch initiated collaboration with the Las Vegas Review-Journal where RJ readers were able to post candidate questions on the newspaper's website for use during Channel 10's election debates and since 1996, he has brought KLVX and the NBC affiliate KVBC together to produce prime-time election coverage.

It was 1978 when Mitch embarked on his long broadcast career in public television at KLVX Channel 10. He began as senior news and public affairs producer and was later promoted to news and public affairs manager in November 1997. Five years later, in June 2002, Mitch was further promoted as director of production services at KLVX where he supervised the entire programming department, including the oversight of 30 full-time and part-time employees. In this position he has also managed oversight of Channel 10 and Cox Cable Channel 70 programming schedules. In July of 2005, Mitch became director of programming at KLVX and has helped to ensure that the station remains well-versed in use of digital media such as video-on-demand, multicasting, podcasting and online streaming.

For 11 years Mitch produced the award-winning documentary series called "Real to Reel" and won an Emmy nomination in 1993 for a documentary on nuclear waste. And now for nearly 20 years Mitch has been host and producer of the popular public affairs talk show, "Nevada Week in Review" providing viewers with insightful debate, discussion, and analysis of the most important Nevada news stories of

the week. One of his goals in serving as a leader in public television has been to creatively provide a quality alternative to commercial television. Not only has Mitch Fox worked to build bridges within the broadcast community, but he has also helped lower the high school drop-out rate over the past 20 years by assisting the Clark County School District in developing distance learning programs for K-12 students.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to my friend Mitch Fox for his longstanding service and dedication to the public broadcasting system and to the communities of Nevada. I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING ALBERT RANDEL
HENDRIX

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, an enduring member of Mississippi's healthcare community will soon be retiring from his position as Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. Dr. Albert Randel Hendrix has contributed decades of time, energy, and passion into serving his community, State, and individuals with mental health needs. Mississippi will miss his service.

Dr. Randy Hendrix is a native Mississippian, born and educated in Panola County. He served in our armed forces in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Following his Army discharge, Dr. Hendrix returned to Mississippi to complete graduate studies at the University of Mississippi, where he completed his Master's Degree in 1971, and at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he completed his doctoral degree in 1979. Dr. Hendrix has completed the Executive Education Program at Duke University, the Executive Development Institute of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, and the Certified Public Managers Program.

He began his professional career with the Department of Mental Health at Ellisville State School in 1971. In 1975, Dr. Hendrix was appointed Director of the North Mississippi Regional Center in Oxford, Mississippi. At the age of 28, he was the youngest director of a major facility in the Nation. While in Oxford, he was also a professor of Special Education and an adjunct professor in Healthcare Administration at the University of Mississippi. In November of 1986, Dr. Hendrix assumed responsibilities as Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, the State's largest agency. Dr. Hendrix is the longest serving Executive Director of Mental Health services in the Nation and will be retiring soon.

During his career with the Department of Mental Health, Dr. Hendrix has served on many Boards and Commissions including Chairman of the Mississippi Developmental Disabilities Council, member on the Governor's Council on Aging, and is currently the chairman and longest serving member of the Mississippi Board of Rehabilitative Services, past chairman and member of the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Children and Youth with Severe Emotional Problems, Member of the Mississippi Disability Resource

Commission, Children's Trust Fund Advisory Council and Statewide CDC Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Planning Advisory Committee. He is a member and former officer of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, Board Member of the Association of Mental Health Administrators since 1987, and has served as Executive Director for the Mississippi Arts Fair for the Handicapped since 1980.

Dr. Hendrix was selected as State Administrator of the Year, Herman C. Glazier Award Winner in 1990, recipient of the Agency Leadership Award of the National Association of Superintendents of Public Residential Facilities for the Mentally Retarded in 1992, recipient of the Governor's Stennis Award for Excellence in Government in 1994, and selected for Honorary Membership in Pi Alpha Alpha in 1997. Dr. Hendrix is also a member of the Honorary Scholastic Organization of Phi Theta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Delta Kappa.

Dr. Hendrix and his wife, Sandy, are the parents of 4 children, Jo Ellen Hendrix Townsend, Sarah, Randel, and Sandra and the grandparents of Grace, Jessica and Jeffrey Townsend.

For over 30 years, Dr. Hendrix has used his talent, knowledge, and skills to make Mississippi a better place and enhance the care of individuals with mental health concerns. We thank him for his service and know that even after his retirement, he will continue to be a pillar of his community and his State.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LANE EVANS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Congressman LANE EVANS, who is retiring after serving this institution honorably for 24 years.

As Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Rep. EVANS has served not only his 17th District constituents, but he has also been the voice for veterans nationwide. As a Marine and Vietnam veteran, Rep. EVANS had a deep and abiding understanding of veterans' issues and a keen sense of the unique issues affecting Vietnam veterans, like Agent Orange. He has been a tireless advocate for improving veterans' health care and benefits and was not afraid to challenge the Veterans Administration if he thought they were short-changing veterans' programs, particularly VA services for homeless veterans.

He shone a bright light on the horrific problems of antipersonnel land mines and authored the first law prohibiting the export of landmines which ultimately led to the awarding of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines. His legacy on landmines has saved countless lives around the globe.

It is with a heavy heart that I bid farewell to Rep. LANE EVANS, one of the most dedicated and principled public servants that I have ever had the privilege to serve with. Semper Fi.

HONORING DR. PATRICK
MCKIERNAN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Patrick McKiernan, a remarkable public servant and advocate from my home State of Kentucky. Dr. McKiernan presently serves as Outreach Coordinator to Homeless Veterans for the Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs.

Tragically, more than 1,000 veterans will be sleeping on the streets of Kentucky tonight. Dr. McKiernan recognizes that there is something fundamentally wrong when individuals who once wore the uniform of the United States are forced by circumstances to live on the streets. Under his compassionate leadership, the Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs continues to work to establish special assistance programs to help get veterans off the streets and into housing or treatment facilities.

Dr. McKiernan represents his agency on the Kentucky Council on Homeless Policy, advising the Governor and his staff on homelessness and housing issues across the state. He also represents Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs at the annual conference of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in Washington, DC, and the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky.

In addition to his current work and responsibilities, Dr. McKiernan is developing plans to establish the Homeless Veterans Coordination Committee to provide additional guidance and support to help homeless veterans.

Dr. McKiernan's colleagues, and countless veterans touched by his exemplary work, note his unique ability to navigate bureaucracy and successfully resolve casework with unusual expedience. Recently, Dr. McKiernan intervened in a case involving a veteran afflicted with esophageal cancer who nearly became homeless due to the financial challenges of his illness. Because of his efforts, an American hero is receiving the care and assistance that he deserves. This is but one example in a long career of helping others.

It is my great honor to recognize Dr. Patrick McKiernan today before my assembled colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives. His leadership and service make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

RECOGNIZING MARK CLEMONS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a business in my district that is taking a positive step forward to assist families and our troops overseas.

Mark Clemons operates the PakMail facility in my district in Newnan, and he has taken up a special project for our troops and their families overseas. Any time anyone wants to send a package to Iraq to a soldier, Mark makes sure that they do not have to pay for it.

Mark has taken it as a special project to ensure our heroes overseas receive the care

packages and support they so desperately need. Our men and women in combat need the touch of home, and Mark is doing something amazing to ensure that they are able to hear from all of us who support them here.

Mark sets an example that everyone should follow—doing what they can to help and support our men and women. Everyone has a way they can help, and Mark has found that way and is implementing it.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful for all of our men and women, and those who “hold the ropes” for them back home, and we are grateful for Mark’s service.

CERCLA

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my regret that the 109th Congress was unable to address an issue of importance to hard-working Americans across the country. Some groups are misinterpreting the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, also called “CERCLA,” by seeking to apply Superfund liability to traditional agriculture as it relates to the use of animal manure as a fertilizer and soil conditioner. I was in Congress when CERCLA was passed, and I assure you that this is a misapplication of that law.

Congress did not intend this law to apply to animal manure returned to the soil as a fertilizer and did not intend this law to make every farm a hazardous waste site.

This misuse of CERCLA attracted attention from the Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, which held a hearing in November 2005. That hearing prompted me to introduce a bipartisan bill, H.R. 4341, along with distinguished co-sponsors, to specifically clarify CERCLA’s definition of “hazardous waste” to make clear that animal manure is not included. This became necessary because some have lost sight of CERCLA’s purpose. CERCLA was designed to fund the cleanup of dangerous abandoned industrial sites and chemical landfills, such as the infamous Love Canal site in New York. It was not written to cover ongoing agricultural operations.

I am very proud that 191 of my House colleagues have signed on as cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation. This level of support is a testament to the strength of our arguments and the threat that a misapplication of CERCLA poses to America’s farmers. H.R. 4341’s cosponsors represent all regions of this great country. The common thread is a dedication to U.S. agriculture.

Critics of farming claim that CERCLA has always applied to animal manure and should be broadly interpreted to fill gaps in the environmental laws. But, CERCLA was never intended to cover farming and agriculture, and it specifically excludes the normal application of fertilizers, such as animal manure. American farms already are subject to many federal and state environmental laws. Applying CERCLA to manure expands it beyond anything its drafters imagined. Critics believe that by targeting so-called “factory farms” their disregard for the law’s language is legitimate. Unfortu-

nately, these critics fail to understand modern agriculture. Today, integrated farming techniques allow large companies to work together with small, family farmers—they rely on each other. Driving these large companies out of business, as some seem intent on doing by misinterpreting CERCLA, will devastate the family farmers working closely with them. And, all have seen how an exaggerated interpretation of CERCLA liability can doom small businesses. Interpreting the law to include animal manure creates liability for every farmer in the country, big or small.

Mr. Speaker, for generations, animal manure has been used as a healthy, natural, organic fertilizer. It is not waste, but a commodity that is bought, sold and bartered for in small farming communities across America. Partly because of the use of this organic fertilizer, farmers have an outstanding track record as environmental stewards. They do not deserve to be treated like polluters or criminals. H.R. 4341 will remedy this situation and I look forward to returning to this issue in the 110th Congress.

H.R. 6344, OFFICE OF NATIONAL
DRUG CONTROL POLICY REAU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, yesterday, before we passed H.R. 6344, I took the opportunity to thank the various members of the House and Senate, without whom we could not have passed this important and long-overdue legislation. As a point of personal privilege, I want to take this opportunity to thank the many staff members who worked so long and so hard for us.

First, I must thank the Staff director of our Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources. Marc Wheat has been with us for over three years, and he has been relentless and energetic in pursuing this daunting project. There is no other staffer on the House or Senate side who deserves more credit.

Subcommittee counsel Dennis Kilcoyne, who joined our staff in February, has led the negotiations with the Senate for months and skillfully steered this legislation through the demands and critiques of the many competing parties in Congress, the Administration and private sector. It was a huge task requiring patience, skill and diplomacy, without which the effort would not have succeeded.

The bipartisan nature of this negotiation has been an inspiration, and that is represented on the House side by Tony Haywood, counsel to the minority staff of the Government Reform Committee, who has ably represented the interests of our ranking Subcommittee member, ELIJAH CUMMINGS. He has been a team player with our staff.

I cannot forget the role played by our former Staff Director Chris Donesá—now with the House Intelligence Committee—and our former Subcommittee counsel Nick Coleman. These men brought great insight and skill that has contributed much to this legislation.

And I would be remiss if I didn’t thank Susie Schulte of the Government Reform Committee

and Matt Miller of the Speaker’s Drug Task Force, as well as his predecessor Andy Tiongson. All of these people have been enthusiastic and resourceful partners in this fight.

Finally, I must mention all those staff members on the Senate side who responded so well to the hard work of our House Staff. First, I must thank Gavin Young—who represents Chairman SPECTER on the Judiciary Committee—and his predecessor Matt McPhillips, who just left last week to take up his FBI assignment in Denver. These two proved every bit as skillful in shepherding the bill in the last few weeks of maneuvering in that mysterious body we call the United States Senate.

Also we thank Jeremy Mischler and Melissa Sundberg of the Senate Drug Caucus. They have worked long on behalf of Senator GRASSLEY to help us finally reach the elusive goal of passing this bill.

Jackie Parker of Senator LEVIN’s staff and Reagan Taylor of Senator BIDEN’s staff have been working this issue for a long time, and my staff have nothing but high praise for their team efforts. Roscoe Jones of Senator LEAHY’s staff worked hard and in good faith in recent weeks with my staff to hammer out the last few wrinkles in the negotiations, and we thank him for his efforts also.

I also want to salute John Mackey of the House International Relations Committee, Janice O’Connell of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Tim Rieser of the Senate Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee, who did so much in the drafting of the provisions to ensure that the Director of ONDCP carries out a study on the use of mycoherbicides as a way to kill off coca and opium poppy plants in an environmentally safe manner. Their efforts may succeed where thousands of tons of chemical spraying has failed.

Among the private sector groups, we are especially grateful to Sue Thau of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, Marcia Lee Taylor of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, and Ron Brooks of the National Narcotics Officers Associations Coalitions. From the treatment, prevention and law enforcement sides—respectively—they have been indispensable partners in our efforts to enact this law. Additionally, I must thank Professor Charles O’Keeffe of Virginia Commonwealth University, who gave us such helpful guidance on provisions to allow doctors to treat more heroin addicts who needs drugs like buprenorphine for treatment.

Finally, I am particularly proud that this Act to be signed by the President takes the first step to prevent what C. S. Lewis referred to as “the abolition of Man.” In the section authorizing the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, it explicitly bans from athletic competition anyone who has been genetically modified for performance enhancement. This technology of “gene-doping” is not yet viable in humans, but it is widely anticipated to be on the horizon. To that end, it is critical to anticipate the problem and explicitly address it.

The protocol set by the U.S. Anti Doping Agency, which follows the World Anti-Doping Agency, is also the standard followed by the International Olympic Committee. These standards state that “The non-therapeutic use of cells, genes, genetic elements, or of the

modulation of gene expression, having the capacity to enhance athletic performance, is prohibited." Although the U.S. Anti Doping Agency and the World Anti-Doping Agency presently prohibit gene-doping, there is no guarantee that gene-doping will remain on the prohibited list. The prohibition of gene-doping by statute and further public dialogue is critical. I salute my House and Senate colleagues for their foresighted efforts in this regard.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN
HOSTETTLER

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, for 12 years, JOHN HOSTETTLER served the people of southwest and west central Indiana with an abiding faith and determination to do that which is right. Defeating an incumbent in 1994, he carried with him to Congress his steadfast belief that this nation must ever stray from the Constitution for its governing principles.

Holding to his convictions, JOHN served with distinction on both the House Armed Services and Judiciary Committees. His ideological values guided him through difficult decisions. From legislation on gun control, to abortion and fiscal restraint, JOHN never wavered from his convictions. His principled leadership and dedication to service will always be referenced as an example to his colleagues and countrymen.

JOHN's strength of character led him throughout his years in Congress, often being the lone voice speaking out on an issue. It was this commitment that made him a valuable and esteemed member of Indiana's delegation. This nation should boast the patriotic efforts of this great Hoosier. His selfless dedication to service and continued demonstration of leadership while helping to govern this country is to be applauded. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KASEY M. FEAUTO

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotism and military service of Specialist Kasey M. Feauto of Norfolk, NE.

Kasey was born in Sioux City, Iowa on September 9, 1982. He is the son of Michael Feauto and Joy Kleinberg and the brother of Amy.

Kasey graduated from Westwood Community High School in Sloan, Iowa in 2002 where he was an honor roll student and played on the football team. After graduation he joined the Army National Guard in 2003.

Mr. Feauto was deployed to Iraq on October 7, 2005, with the Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery. On December 4, 2005, Kasey was driving the lead truck of a three vehicle convoy when a roadside bomb exploded and hit the second truck in the convoy causing the truck to cross oncoming traffic and crash into a concrete wall. After realizing what had

happened, Kasey turned his truck around to go help. The third truck was called to lend medical assistance but was hit by another roadside bomb.

SFC Richard Schild, the gunner in the second truck, was killed instantly. SGT Allen Kokesh, the driver of the second truck, was seriously injured. Kasey pulled Kokesh out of the truck and performed life-saving medical attention, putting a tourniquet on his wounded arm and leg. This medical care saved Kokesh's life long enough for him to return home and see his family. SGT Kokesh passed away in February 2006 from other wounds sustained that day. SSG Daniel Cuka, the truck commander in the third truck, was also killed from the explosion. SPC Corey Briest, the gunner in the third truck, was wounded.

Private First Class Kasey M. Feauto, of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for exceptionally meritorious heroism in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the life-saving aide he performed on SGT Allen Kokesh. His exemplary selfless service and outstanding dedication to duty during combat operations in Iraq contributed to the overwhelming success of the Command's mission. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

Through this entire trauma Kasey has maintained his heart and sense of humor and his ability to be there for his family and friends in their time of need. He maintains that the real heroes are those who have given their lives for this country. Specifically the men of Charlie Battery who gave their lives: SGT Allen Kokesh Jr., SSG Daniel Cuka, SFC Richard Schild, and SSG Greg Wagner.

Home from Iraq, Kasey is living in Norfolk, NE with his fiancée Maria Vandersnick.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Feauto's selfless service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Specialist Kasey M. Feauto.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL
AND VALORIE ODETTE WILLIAMS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael and Valorie Williams in celebration of their 25th anniversary on December 18, 2006.

Michael and Valorie, both native Nevadans, were married in Las Vegas, Nevada, at Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ by the late Bishop E.N. Webb. Since that time, they raised their blended family of four children—Jason, Shawn, Jamaal, and Courtney—with unending love and support and have taught them to have respect for God and their country.

Valorie, a graduate of Rancho High School and veteran of the United States Army and Michael, a graduate of Valley High School and retired employee from the Department of Energy, share a view of life that makes their union special—God is first in everything that they do and everything they are and from that realization, true love exists. They translate this view either to the children they minister to as

youth pastors and advisors for their church or with the children they work with on a daily basis as employees of the Clark County School District.

Their home is a place of peace and refuge for the families they have adopted, fed, or cared for as their own and it can never be said that when you enter their home that you did not feel love and happiness from the many laughs and fellowships they have shared with so many throughout the years. Some come to them for advice. Others come to them for support. But all recognize that their marriage is one to admire—for it is built upon a foundation of mutual respect, truth, love, admiration, laughter and faith in God.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to celebrate Michael and Valorie today as they prepare to celebrate their anniversary of 25 years. I wish them all the best this year and hope they are able to celebrate another twenty-five.

BELARUS DEMOCRACY
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge passage of H.R. 5948, the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006, to provide sustained support for the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the Republic of Belarus, as well as encourage the consolidation and strengthening of Belarus' sovereignty and independence. Mr. Speaker, I especially thank you for your commitment to bring this legislation before this Congress. Your deep personal interest in the cause of freedom in Belarus, as demonstrated by your recent meetings in Vilnius with the leaders of the democratic opposition, has been particularly appreciated by those struggling for the rule of law and basic human freedoms. This legislation enjoys bipartisan support, and I want to recognize and thank the tremendous collaboration of Rep. Tom Lantos, an original cosponsor of this bill.

As one who has followed developments in Belarus over many years through my work on the Helsinki Commission, I remain deeply concerned that the Belarusian people continue to be subjected to the arbitrary and self-serving whims of a corrupt and anti-democratic regime headed by Aleksandr Lukashenka. Since the blatantly fraudulent March 19 presidential elections, which the OSCE condemned as having failed to meet international democratic standards, the pattern of repression and gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. While those who would dare oppose the regime are especially targeted, the reality is that all in Belarus outside Lukashenka's inner circle pay a price.

RECENT NEWS REGARDING LUKASHENKA'S REGIME

Last week in Riga, President Bush pledged to help the people of Belarus in the face of the "cruel regime" led by President Lukashenka. "The existence of such oppression in our midst offends the conscience of Europe and the conscience of America," Bush said, adding that "we have a message for the people of Belarus: the vision of a Europe whole, free

and at peace includes you, and we stand with you in your struggle for freedom." Mr. Speaker, this legislation would be a concrete expression of Congress' commitment to the Belarusian people and would show that we stand as one in supporting freedom for Belarus.

Just within the last few months, we have witnessed a series of patently political trials designed to further stifle peaceful, democratic opposition. In October, 60-year-old human rights activist Katerina Sadouskaya was sentenced to 2 years in a penal colony. Her "crime"? "insulting the honor and dignity of the Belarusian leader." Mr. Speaker, if this isn't reminiscent of the Soviet Union, I don't know what is. And just a few weeks ago, in a closed trial, Belarusian youth activist Zmitser Dashkevich received a 1½ year sentence for "activities on behalf of an unregistered organization."

A report mandated by the Belarus Democracy Act and finally issued this past March reveals Lukashenka's links with rogue regimes such as Iran, Sudan and Syria, and his cronies' corrupt activities. According to an October 9, 2006, International Herald Tribune op-ed: "Alarming, over the last 6 years, Belarus has intensified its illegal arms shipment activities to the point of becoming the leading supplier of lethal military equipment to Islamic state sponsors of terrorism."

I guess we shouldn't be all that surprised that in July, Lukashenka warmly welcomed to Minsk Venezuela's Hugo Chavez. In keeping with their bent, both pledged cooperation and denounced the West. More recently, Belarusian Foreign Minister Martynov traveled to Iran where President Ahmadinejad pledged further cooperation in the energy and defense industries. Not long ago, a member of Belarus' bogus parliament asserted on state-controlled radio that Belarus has the right to develop its own nuclear weapons. Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, Belarus is truly an anomaly in Europe, swimming against the rising tide of greater freedom, democracy and economic prosperity.

THE LEGISLATION

Three years ago, I introduced the Belarus Democracy Act which passed the House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Bush in October 2004. At that time, the situation in Belarus with respect to democracy and human rights was already abysmal. The need for a sustained U.S. commitment to foster democracy and respect for human rights and to sanction Aleksandr Lukashenka and his cronies, is clear from the intensified anti-democratic policies pursued by the current leadership in Minsk. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that countries throughout Europe have joined in a truly trans-Atlantic effort to bring the promise of freedom to the beleaguered people of Belarus. Prompt passage of the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006 will help maintain this momentum aimed at upholding the democratic aspirations of the Belarusian people. With the continuing decline on the ground in Belarus since the fraudulent March elections, this bill is needed now more than ever.

This reauthorization bill demonstrates the sustained U.S. support for Belarus' independence. We seek to encourage those struggling for democracy and respect for human rights in the face of the formidable pressures and per-

sonal risks from the anti-democratic regime. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary in assistance for each of fiscal years 2007 and 2008 for democracy-building activities such as support for non-governmental organizations, including youth groups, independent trade unions and entrepreneurs, human rights defenders, independent media, democratic political parties, and international exchanges.

The bill further authorizes monies for both radio and television broadcasting to the people of Belarus. While I am encouraged by the recent U.S. and EU initiatives with respect to radio broadcasting, much more needs to be done to penetrate Lukashenka's stifling information blockade. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Administration will make this a priority.

In addition, H.R. 5948 calls for selective sanctions against the Lukashenka regime, and the denial of entry into the United States for senior officials of the regime—as well as those engaged in human rights and electoral abuses. In this context, I welcome the punitive sanctions imposed by both the Administration and the EU which are targeted against officials—including judges and prosecutors—involved in electoral fraud and other human rights abuses.

The bill expresses the sense of the Congress that strategic exports to the Government of Belarus should be prohibited, except for those intended for democracy building or humanitarian purposes, as well as U.S. Government financing and other foreign assistance. Of course, we would not want the exports to affect humanitarian goods and agricultural or medical products. The U.S. Executive Directors of the international financial institutions are encouraged to vote against financial assistance to the Government of Belarus except for loans and assistance that serve humanitarian needs. Furthermore, we would encourage the blocking of the assets (in the United States) of members of the Belarus Government as well as the senior leadership and their surrogates. To this end, I welcome the Treasury Department's April 10 advisory to U.S. financial institutions to guard against potential money laundering by Lukashenka and his cronies and strongly applaud President Bush's June 19 "Executive Order Blocking Property of Certain Persons Undermining Democratic Processes or Institutions in Belarus."

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it crystal clear that these sanctions are aimed not at the people of Belarus, but at a regime that displays contempt for the dignity and rights of its citizens even as the corrupt leadership moves to further enrich itself at the expense of all Belarusians.

ONGOING ANTI-DEMOCRATIC BEHAVIOR

To chronicle the full litany of repression over the course of Lukashenka's 12-year misrule would go well beyond the bounds of time available here. Let me cite several more recent illustrations of anti-democratic behavior which testify to the true nature of the regime.

Belarus' March 19 presidential elections can only be described as a farce, and were met with condemnation by the United States, the OSCE, the European Union and others. The Lukashenka regime's wholesale arrests of more than one thousand opposition activists and dozens of Belarusian and foreign journalists, before and after the elections, and violent suppression of peaceful post-election protests

underscore the contempt of the Belarusian authorities toward their countrymen.

Illegitimate parliamentary elections in 2004 and the recently held presidential "elections" in Belarus brazenly flaunted democratic standards. As a result of these elections, Belarus has the distinction of lacking legitimate presidential and parliamentary leadership, which contributes to that country's self-imposed isolation. Albeit safely ensconced in power, Lukashenka has not let up on the democratic opposition. Almost daily repressions constitute a profound abuse of power by a regime that has blatantly manipulated the system to remain in power.

In the last few months, the regime continues to show its true colors, punishing those who would dare to challenge the tinpot dictator. Former presidential candidate Aleksandr Kozulin was sentenced to a politically-motivated 5½ years' term of imprisonment for alleged "hooliganism" and disturbing the peace. His health is precarious as he is now well into his second month of a hunger strike.

In early August, authorities sentenced four activists of the non-partisan domestic election monitoring initiative "Partnerstva". In a patent attempt to discourage domestic observation of the fraudulent March 19 presidential elections, the four had been kept in custody since February 21. Two were released, having served their 6-month sentences. Two others—Tsimafei Dranchuk and Mikalay Astreyka—received stiffer sentences, although Astreyka has been released from a medium security colony and is now in "correctional labor". Other political prisoners, including Artur Finkevich, Mikalay Autukhovich, Andrey Klimau, Ivan Kruk, Yuri Lyavonau, Mikalay Razumau, Pavel Sevyarynets, Mikalay Statkevich also continue to have their freedom denied, languishing in prison or in so-called correctional labor camps.

Administrative detentions of 10 or 15 days against democratic opposition activists are almost a daily occurrence. Moreover, the Lukashenka regime continued to stifle religious expression. It refuses to register churches, temporarily detains pastors, threatens to expel foreign clergy, and refuses religious groups the use of premises to hold services. Despite the repressions, Protestant and Catholic congregations have increasingly become more active in their pursuit of religious freedom. I am also concerned about the recent explosion at a Holocaust memorial in western Belarus, the sixth act of vandalism against the monument in 14 years. Unfortunately, the local authorities have reportedly refused to open a criminal investigation. Lukashenka's minions have closed down independent think tanks, further tightened the noose around what remains of the independent media, suspended the activities of a political party, shut down the prominent literary journal *Arche*, and evicted the Union of Belarusian Writers from its headquarters. Of course, Lukashenka's pattern of contempt for human rights is nothing new—it has merely intensified with the passage of time.

Moreover, we have seen no progress on the investigation of the disappearances of political opponents—perhaps not surprisingly, as credible evidence points at the involvement of the Lukashenka regime in their murders.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006 will help end to the pattern of violations of OSCE

human rights and democracy commitments by the Lukashenka regime and loosen its unhealthy monopoly on political and economic power. I hope our efforts here today will facilitate independent Belarus' integration into democratic Europe in which the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law are respected. The beleaguered Belarusian people have suffered so much over the course of the last century and deserve better than to live under a regime frighteningly reminiscent of the Soviet Union. The struggle of the people of Belarus for dignity and freedom deserves our unyielding and consistent support.

This legislation is important and timely because Belarus, which now borders on NATO and the EU, continues to have the worst human rights and democracy record of any European state—bar none.

HONORING LLOYD C. HILLARD, JR.

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Lloyd C. Hillard, Jr., an exemplary community leader, businessman and citizen from my congressional district. Lloyd received this year's Hardin County Distinguished Citizen Award from the Boy Scouts of America during ceremonies earlier this month.

A native of Kentucky, Lloyd grew up on a farm in Pine Grove and earned college degrees from the University of Kentucky and the University of Wisconsin. Lloyd has distinguished himself as a business leader, serving as President and CEO of First Citizens Bank, and a good neighbor, through his active involvement in many community and charitable organizations.

Though never a scout himself, Lloyd's life-long example of honesty and devotion to his family and community parallel ideals championed by the Boy Scouts. He first became involved with the Scouts as a young adult, running a school recruitment program.

Lloyd has been an especially active member of our community, having served as past president and director of the Bluegrass Council Boy Scouts of America, past chairman of the North Central Kentucky Education Foundation, and former treasurer and director of the Cavalry Armor Foundation.

Lloyd was also past chairman of the Hardin County Community Foundation, Helping Hand of the Heartland, and the Hardin County Fund for the Arts. He remains an active member of the local United Way and the Elizabethtown Rotary Club.

It is my great privilege to recognize Lloyd C. Hillard, Jr. today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his example of leadership and service. His unique achievements make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF BOB POYDASHEFF

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a veteran and mayor in my district, Bob Poydasheff, the former Mayor of Columbus, Georgia.

Bob Poydasheff knows what service to our Nation means. He served our Nation in the Army during a combat tour in Vietnam, along with service as counsel for the Secretary of the Army and other officers. He retired with the rank of colonel and many awards, including the Bronze Star.

Bob Poydasheff began serving in the community in the city of Columbus through a variety of non-profit organizations, including the Columbus Symphony, and he worked to help ensure the right direction for our young people through his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. He has served as the mayor since 2003 and served on the Columbus Council for 6 years prior to his election as mayor.

Bob is also committed to his family, raising two children with his wife Stacy, and enjoying his time with his five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we are all grateful for the service Bob Poydasheff has rendered to our Nation through his time in the military and to our state through his service as mayor of Columbus. We wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILL" BRADFORD

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Bill Bradford of Sulphur Springs, TX, whose distinguished work in radio recently earned him the dedication of a city street in Sulphur Springs in his honor. In recognition of his many years as a radio owner, operator, and pioneer, Radio Road was recently renamed Bill Bradford Road.

Outgoing Sulphur Springs Mayor Clay Walker began pursuing the renaming of Radio Road at the suggestion of long-time Sulphur Springs resident, Jeff Massey. The idea for this change was well-received by the City Manager and members of the City Council who unanimously voted for the change. Indeed, the idea was so popular that many community leaders expressed surprise that the idea had not been thought of before.

As incoming Sulphur Springs Mayor Freddie Taylor's first official act, a framed city resolution changing the name from Radio Road to Bill Bradford Road was presented to Bill along with the first street sign to bear the name "Bill Bradford Road." Sixty days later street signs were erected on August 2nd and 3rd making the name change effective.

Bill began his radio career as a radio operator in the military during World War II and afterward became owner of radio station KSST in Sulphur Springs. In 1992 he was named Texas Association of Broadcasters'

"Pioneer of the Year," and he was installed into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame's "Hall of Honor" in 2005.

Bill has contributed his time and talent to the radio industry and to the residents of Sulphur Springs. Having lived in Sulphur Springs for nearly 60 years, Bill has been a pivotal and influential voice in chronicling the city's growth. Today I am proud to recognize a beloved and legendary citizen of Sulphur Springs, TX—Bill Bradford.

NONPROFIT ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, the following letter from American University, Washington College of Law Professor Andrew F. Popper outlines the problems and concerns with this legislation.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY,
WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN CONYERS,
Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CONYERS, I recently learned that the House of Representative is considering H.R. 1176, a bill that would immunize major non-profits in the university sport/entertainment field and all non-profits involved in children's activities generally. I have testified against this bill in its earlier form and have seen the current version. I very much hope this current version will be rejected. It is an awful bill, as discussed below.

The specific question posed to me was whether this bill would carve out an exception for state tort common law claims against organizations and officials who engaged in behaviors that devastated children, athletes, and others who place their trust in the non-profits that are the subject of this bill. There is reason to think actions will not be possible if this bill becomes law.

State tort law holds out the promise of a real incentive to exercise due care in precisely the kinds of programs this bill describes in its opening sections. The tragedy is, this bill would eliminate those state common law tort claims required to produce those incentives.

The argument has been made that while this bill provides explicitly comprehensive immunity for non-profit organizations in the sports/athletics and related fields, somehow it preserves the necessary state common law tort claims required to secure relief when organizations and their employees and volunteers have failed to exercise that requisite level of care required and a child or young adult has been injured as a result. If the legislation stated directly that it excluded from its unconscionable sweep of liability all State common law tort claims, that argument would have some validity. In fact, the bill does just the opposite, listing precise fields where the immunity would be inapplicable—and in that list, state common law tort claims for negligence is nowhere to be found.

Preservation of state common law tort claims for who those who have been harmed, for children, families, athletes and others swept into this bill, could occur either by direct exclusion from the legislation such as

that which is set out in 4(d) of the bill or by a preemption analysis in which a court concludes that the overall meaning of the federal law and its plain text do not preclude state common law tort claims. That is unlikely for two reasons. First, the plain meaning if the bill (congressional intention) is the elimination of liability, and second, the list of those areas that are "preserved" or carved out does not include state common law tort claims.

On the question of preemption, listed at the end of this letter are citations to three fairly recent cases in which federal courts have struggled with the question of whether a federal bill has a preemptive effect on state tort claims. I inserted footnote 14 from the *Welding Fume Products Liability* case directly below to give you an idea of the complexity of this field. The short of it is, as Richard Ausness said in note 14: "[T]he Court's preemption jurisprudence appears to be bereft of any coherent theory or methodology" and "is in a terrible state. . . ." Therefore, one would not want to leave to subsequent judicial interpretation whether state common law tort claims for failure to exercise due care in hiring coaches, investigating backgrounds, or overseeing inappropriate activity would be actionable.

If it is the intention of the drafters of this legislation to exempt State common law tort claims from liability, they must say so, or the obvious effect of the bill—what will be seen as the clear intent of congress—will dominate.

H.R. 1176 has only one purpose: limitation of liability. It is hard to see any other purpose. As the case law makes clear, the dominant analytical factor in exclusion (carve-out) and preemption cases is congressional intent. The more elaborate interpretations, such as those in the cases below, are required when the purpose of the legislation is regulation of a field and the open question is the extent to which that regulation and a state law can co-exist. Sadly, will not be a question if this bill passes and becomes law.

After reading the bill, I see no language that exempts state common law tort claims. To the contrary, the specific areas exempted (e.g. labor law, antitrust law, statutory claims, etc.) suggest that Congress intends to exempt very specific areas only. Given that list in 4(d), unless the bill were amended to include an exemption for all state common law tort claims, the bill will be seen as a bar to cases involving negligent hiring, failure to assess background, negligent oversight of individuals who may well do great harm to children, to athletes, to those most in need of protection.

A plain reading of Section 4(d) and Section 5 suggests that those claims would be barred—and that is really quite horrendous. Cutting off liability, arbitrarily, undermines the incentives for better products and services. From the perspective of children who might be victimized by adults, treated in ways that are patently destructive from an emotional or psychological vantage point, what possible reason could there be to pass this bill?

During the earlier debates regarding the Volunteer Immunity ACT, supporters contended that while the legislation liberated coaches and volunteers from the risk of liability, even when they were negligent, it left the organizations as viable defendants in the event a plaintiff could fashion a respondent superior theory or a general vicarious liability claim under State law. H.R. 1176 would destroy that protection.

Although the three cases listed below hold out hope that a State common law tort claim might survive, H.R. 1176 is not a bill that regulates a field. Therefore, it would not give rise to the question of whether the

federal regulation can co-exist with State law, or whether state law creates obligation "in addition to and different from" federal requirements.

This is exactly the kind of tort reform that has been proposed for the last 25 years: a limitation on liability, blocking those who most need protection from access to the civil justice system. It is clear to see why large nonprofits want to limit liability. It is very hard to see why Congress would give in to that demand when the consequence would be to eviscerate an important set of incentives that protect those likely to be victimized.

Tort reform has always been an unfair fight. Think about the alignment of forces. On the side of those seeking to limit liability is the entire GNP. All of U.S. manufacturing, all of retailing, the health care industry, the pharmaceuticals, the insurance companies (who have as yet produced a coherent reason why this protection is badly needed based on anything resembling a juried study, comprehensive payout or case list, or other credible source), and, in this bill, all of U.S. higher education—every college and university, every athletic program, indeed, every non-profit involved in orchestrating sports and entertainment for tens of millions of children and young adults, and finally, much of the press who have abandoned consumers on this issue, with the hope of never having to pay punitive damages when they defame into reputational oblivion a private citizen.

On the other side, opposing these limits on accountability, are the defenders of the tort system—under-funded and often fragmented consumer groups, a few victims rights groups, some of whom have been mocked as shameless seekers of undeserved damage awards and, of course, trial lawyers. Trial lawyers—the architects of the consumer rights movement, the advocates for you and me when we are injured, the lawyers who represent the consumer perspective—who have been horribly vilified by a decades long comprehensive campaign to undermine their credibility, and in the shadow of this outrageous legislation, student groups (who have a voice, presumably, but are as yet unheard).

This is hardly a fair fight.

And then there is the term "tort reform." Laws that provide the protection for consumers, no incentive for greater safety, and limit the rights of those who lack power are hardly the stuff of reform.

And the data—or lack thereof—regarding the current civil justice system. From the CRS report forward, no credible juried study documents a crisis in the tort or insurance system or in the non-profit world that could conceivably justify legislation that limits arbitrarily consumer rights, as docs H.R. 1172.

This is tort reform as I have come to understand it—a series of bills that have but one meaning: reducing accountability and giving consumers nothing in exchange. It is not that it is incomprehensible. In fact, the reasoning is all too understandable. Who would not like to be excused of responsibility after they engaged in misconduct? The fact that the reasoning underlying this bill is understandable, however, does not mean that it is right, proper, just and fair. It is none of those things.

Let me know if you are interested in discussing this further.

Sincerely,

ANDREW F. POPPER,
Professor of Law.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN CHRIS CHOCOLA

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, my colleague CHRIS CHOCOLA of Indiana will be leaving Congress at the end of this session. I was impressed by the dedicated service offered during his tenure in the House of Representatives. His background as a lawyer and successful businessman was instrumental as a constant champion of fiscal restraint by the Federal Government. His extensive experience of managing a large public corporation proved invaluable to his vision of how the Federal Government should operate. It inspired his advocacy that government should be run like a business, efficient and effective, always with the customer and our fellow citizens.

As a member of both the Ways and Means and Budget Committees, he introduced legislation to streamline the budget process with the hope of reining in excessive and unfocused spending. CHRIS sought a reformation of the tax code so that hard working Americans could keep more of their paycheck. He introduced legislation so that families could continue to make tax free withdrawals from an education savings plan, as well as legislation to allow individuals to make tax free deductions of medical expenses without a gross income limitation. His boundless leadership and bold initiatives will always be looked upon as an asset to a grateful nation.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he secured \$12 million in Federal funding needed to make historic improvements to U.S. 31, a roadway connecting South Bend to Indianapolis. In addition, his work on the committee also helped to complete the Hoosier Heartland Corridor, a transportation project that after over a decade is in its final stage of construction.

CHRIS CHOCOLA's service to this Nation and to Indiana's Second Congressional District will leave an indelible mark for years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GEORGE ANN RICE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Dr. George Ann Rice, for her outstanding service and continued contributions to our society.

Dr. Rice has been an invaluable asset to the Las Vegas community throughout the years. Throughout her many years of service, she has committed herself to improving our schools as the Associate Superintendent of the Clark County School District. Her responsibilities included recruiting and selecting licensed teachers, administrators and support staff as well as securing changes in Nevada Law and Nevada Administrative Codes related to employment and licensure issues. Dr. Rice served on the Clark County School District Investment Committee for 15 years and as Executive Board Director to the Silver State

Schools Credit Union for 9 years. She has also judged regional and state debates for We The People, a national high school government competition promoting civic competence and responsibility.

Dr. Rice received the Council of Great City Schools Annual Award for Distinguished Service in February of this year. She chairs the Nevada Governor's Commission on Educational Excellence, serves as a member of the Nevada Teacher Quality Task Force and as a member of the Workforce Housing Taskforce Subcommittee. She implemented the first national Board for Professional Teaching Standards effort in Nevada as well as created a special department of the Strategic Plan called Human Resources Development Department, which focuses upon pre-service development for teachers, administrators, and support staff as well as provides support and in-service development opportunities.

Dr. Rice has also aided the U.S. House of Representatives in passing H.R. 2649, Schools Safely Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act, a bill which I sponsored that prohibits the Secretary of Education from making funds available to a State under any educational program unless the Secretary determines that the State has in place a criminal information sharing system. It aims to make public the identity of any individual in an educational setting who has been arrested, charged, or convicted of a felony involving violence, statutory rape, or any type of sexual abuse. Dr. Rice participated in a hearing held by the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness under the Committee of House Education and the Workforce.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor my friend, Dr. George Ann Rice, for her years of dedication and hard work. Her commitment and energy will be missed after her forthcoming retirement. I thank her for all her service and I wish her luck with all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ARMANDO DE LA CRUZ

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, Armando de la Cruz has been inducted into the Starkville Education Hall of Fame and was recognized for his education, community leadership, and national academic achievements at a recent event in Starkville. De la Cruz taught 15 different undergraduate and graduate courses at Mississippi State University for 30 years and remains professor emeritus of biological sciences at MSU. He has received 26 research and educational competitive grants, published four laboratory manuals, seven study guides and more than 100 research papers. He has earned 12 scholarships and fellowships including the Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships and was presented with 15 professional awards at MSU.

His research and teaching have taken him to about 70 countries but, his time and attention continued to focus on his local community where he founded the Sustainable Future

Roundtable and wrote a column for the Starkville Daily News entitled "Focus on the Environment."

He has served on the Board of Directors for Helping Hands Ministries, the Red Cross, the Starkville Community Theater, and Habitat for Humanity. He served on the board and as president of the Starkville Area Arts Council in 2004, and served as chairman of the Cotton District Arts Festival in 2003 and 2004.

He is the recipient of the Southwire Community Environmental Award in 1999 and the T.E. Veitch Community Service Award in 2004.

I hope this Congress joins me in recognizing Armando de la Cruz as he adds the Starkville Education Hall of Fame membership to his long list of achievements and honors.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF POSITIVE RESPONSE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a wonderful organization in my district, Positive Response, and their work in the continuing battle against HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS is an epidemic that has run rampant in our Nation since its discovery in the U.S. in 1981. Today, over a million people in our Nation live with HIV/AIDS, with more than 40,000 people each year learning they have the virus.

On December 1, 2006, we all recognized World AIDS Day, to bring attention to the threat facing many individuals, and to continue to promote efforts at preventing and ending the spread of the AIDS virus.

Organizations like Positive Response have taken positive steps to do just that—in my district, Positive Response helps prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS both through education and testing. Of the million people who have HIV/AIDS today, up to a quarter of them still do not know they have the virus. Education and testing are necessary to help stop the spread of this virus.

But the efforts do not end when someone contracts HIV/AIDS. Positive Response works hard to provide human and compassionate support for people living with HIV/AIDS, helping them understand their disease, and how they can continue their life. The abundance of treatments today help those with HIV/AIDS maintain a normal life, and Positive Response helps ensure they are able to continue to live a healthy and full life.

Mr. Speaker, we need more organizations like Positive Response. On the somber note that is World AIDS Day, we are grateful for the dedication and commitment of Positive Response to fighting HIV/AIDS and helping those who are so much in need.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. STANLEY E. MONROE, SR.

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to remember the life of my friend Dr. Stanley E.

Monroe, Sr., longtime physician from Sherman, TX, whose passing last year was mourned by family and his many friends.

Dr. Monroe was the first specialist in Internal Medicine to settle in Grayson County, where he joined the Essin Clinic with Dr. E.M. Essin, and, later, Dr. Harry Shytles. Dr. Monroe joined the staff of the Wilson N. Jones and St. Vincent's Hospitals, where he remained active for 35 years. He also donated the first ECG machine to Wilson N. Jones Hospital and started their first medical library.

Dr. Monroe was President of the Grayson County Medical Society the year Medicare started and was a life member of the American Medical Association. He volunteered his services treating students at the Adams Health Center of Austin College five days a week for eight years after coming to Sherman. He was known for making house calls to patients in Sherman, other towns, and in the country. After closing his office, he served as Medical Administrator of Shady Oaks and Chapel of Care Nursing Homes for 10 years.

A sports enthusiast, Dr. Monroe participated in track, basketball, softball, tennis, and golf and had the opportunity to play at some of the best courses in the world. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church since 1948.

He also was an avid amateur photographer and 16-mm filmmaker. After his parents died, he organized reunions with his siblings every spring, and in 2002 he published his autobiography, which included 48 pages of pictures as well as genealogical facts and important historical and medical events.

Dr. Monroe studied at the University of Missouri Medical School, and after achieving a Bachelor of Science in Medicine, transferred to the University of Arkansas Medical School, where he received his MD degree in 1943. He spent five years after Medical School in specialized medical training and research. As an intern and resident at the University of Arkansas Hospital, he was a part of a national experiment on the value of Penicillin. Dr. Monroe gave the first dose of Penicillin in Arkansas to a "hopeless" patient who survived, and he contributed two scientific papers before accepting a three-year Fellowship at Lahey Clinic in Boston, where he contributed two additional papers.

Dr. Monroe is survived by his wife, Minnie; son, Stanley, Jr. and wife Jeani; son, Alan and wife Baceliza; son, Ronald and wife Nancy; daughter, Kathie Buchanan and husband John; daughter, Elizabeth (Betsy) Woodard; sister, Geraldine McCurry; 13 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and other family members.

Dr. Monroe's long life was spent as a pioneer in medicine and a respected physician and member of the community. He was a loving husband for over 68 years and a doting father who insisted on education. He leaves behind many colleagues and a loving family who will miss him, and I will miss him, too. I am honored to pay tribute to this great American—Dr. Stanley Monroe.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALTOONA CURVE
BASEBALL CLUB

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Altoona Curve Baseball Club of Altoona, Pennsylvania, for winning the Minor League Baseball's 2006 John H. Johnson President's Trophy. This award, given annually since 1974, is the highest honor given by Minor League Baseball each year to one of their 176 member clubs for being the top franchise in the league. This award is Minor League Baseball's equivalent of college football's Heisman Trophy. The President's Trophy was presented to the Altoona Curve on December 7, at Minor League Baseball's annual awards banquet.

The presentation of the John H. Johnson President's Trophy marks the third occasion that the Altoona Curve Baseball Club has received one of Minor League Baseball's most important awards. In the last two years, the Altoona Curve has also received the Larry MacPhail Promotional Trophy, as well as Baseball America's Bob Freitas Award. The Curve Club is just the 11th franchise to have received all 3 awards, and is also the first team to receive these awards in just 3 year's time.

The Altoona Curve's commitment to the communities of central and western Pennsylvania has been impressive from day one. In the short 8 years since their establishment in 1999, The Altoona Curve has certainly become a significant and positive part of our region's identity. Living up to their slogan as "Everybody's Hometown Team", the Altoona Curve's accomplishments will surely make them a great part of the memories of the three million fans who have cheered for them at the Blair County Ballpark. Next year, the Altoona Curve will open their season on April 12, 2007, to do what they do best—play ball.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AP-
PRaisal INSTITUTE ON ITS 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAY LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice congratulations to the Appraisal Institute on its 75th Anniversary and for its advancement of the real estate appraisal profession. Established in 1932 to bring clarity to the real estate appraisal and valuation process in those turbulent times, the Appraisal Institute, with its national office in Chicago, Illinois, is the largest professional association of real estate appraisers, representing more than 21,000 real estate appraisal practitioners in the United States and abroad.

Serving as an impartial third party in real estate transactions, members of the Appraisal Institute play an important role in maintaining integrity in the real estate market. Their unbiased and professional opinions are used everyday by builders, developers and financiers of commercial, industrial and residential prop-

erties. Armed with extensive knowledge and expertise, members of the Appraisal Institute assist federal, state and local governmental agencies that acquire, manage and dispose of real property throughout the country.

Founded on the premise that superior education and adherence to high ethical standards are central to the profession, the Appraisal Institute established professional designation programs to recognize achievement in these areas. Today more than 11,000 members of the Appraisal Institute hold its prestigious MAI, SRA and SRPA designations. They have demonstrated their knowledge, skill and ethical performance through a stringent program of examinations and work product review. Through its education, publishing and membership designation programs, the Appraisal Institute positions its members as the preferred choice for real estate solutions.

The Appraisal Institute has a long history of supporting initiatives consistent with the public good that promote the use of competent appraisers, including the licensing and certification of appraisers. The organization was instrumental in the development of national uniform appraisal standards recognized by Congress in 1989. The Appraisal Institute continues to advocate for important public policy issues affecting consumers and homebuyers, including laws that would strengthen oversight and enforcement mechanisms designed to prevent mortgage fraud.

The Appraisal Institute supports equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in the appraisal profession and is committed to promoting diversity within its membership and throughout the real estate profession. Through scholarships, training and advocacy the Appraisal Institute's diversity program seeks to enhance opportunities for minorities, women and those individuals new to the profession.

For 75 years the Appraisal Institute has been a beacon of integrity for the real estate appraisal profession and for those it serves. In recognition of its theme for 2007, Celebrating Our Past, Valuing the Future, I congratulate the Appraisal Institute and its members for their years of service, and I wish them continued success in their mission.

RECOGNIZING M. HOLLIS CURL ON
A LIFETIME ON ACHIEVEMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and a great Alabamian, M. Hollis Curl, in recognition of his lifetime of achievement and service to the profession of journalism and the people of Alabama.

Hollis, a native of Red Bay, Alabama, is the long-time editor and publisher of The Wilcox Progressive Era in my hometown of Camden, Alabama.

He began his career in—as he calls it—“newspapering,” by selling copies of The Red Bay News from his shoeshine stand outside the hotel in Red Bay.

During World War II, his family moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, which did not have a newspaper at the time. However, Hollis was able to get a paper route carrying the Knox-

ville News Sentinel. He has often recounted the day the WWII ended, and his customers crowded around his “drop spot” so they could get their papers without waiting for him to walk his route to their house.

It was also in Tennessee that a young Hollis Curl began his career in journalism. He started his own neighborhood publication—in the form of a single sheet—which he sold for five cents a copy.

In the late 1940s, Oak Ridge began its own newspaper, and Hollis became one of the first with a paper route for The Oak Ridger. As he became older, he was given various jobs at the paper, but in 1949, Hollis took a break from “newspapering” to serve as a congressional page for the late Congressman Albert Gore, D-Tennessee.

Hollis attended Ole Miss and while there, he worked at the student newspaper. Following college, he returned to The Oak Ridger, and in 1958, he became the advertising manager for the Clinton Courier-News in Clinton, Tennessee.

He returned to Alabama in 1960 to work in the advertising department at The Dothan Eagle. From there, he moved to Butler, where he served as publisher for The Choctaw Advocate and quickly began winning awards from the Alabama Press Association (APA) in various categories. He purchased The Choctaw Advocate in 1968, and later, he and John Jones purchased The Demopolis Times.

In 1969, he and his wife, Glenda, bought The Wilcox Progressive Era in Camden, which is where they reside to this day. Hollis and Glenda recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Throughout the years, Hollis Curl has owned newspapers in Butler, Demopolis, Montevallo and Marion, but today his sole paper is the award-winning Progressive Era.

Of particular significance, Hollis gained national recognition in 1997 when he was selected by Sigma Delta Chi as recipient of the Ethics in Journalism Award. He was the first weekly newspaper editor to receive the award presented at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. In addition, the Alabama Press Association awarded Hollis with their first Lifetime Achievement Award—in addition to awarding him virtually every other award APA gives.

He has also won the Troy State University's Hector Award four times and served from 1975–1976 as the Hall School of Journalism's Grover C. Hall Fellow and Editor-in-Residence teaching editorial writing and press law.

Mr. Speaker, Hollis Curl is a very special person to many of us throughout the State of Alabama, and I rise today to honor and publicly thank him for his many years of service, loyalty, and dedication to the people of Camden and Wilcox County.

As a young boy growing up in Camden, I spent many an afternoon after school in “Mr. Hollis's” house. At the time, I was hoping my elementary school crush on his daughter, Julie, might lead to our being family one day. Such was not meant to be. Regardless, he was then—and has certainly remained—always interested in the wellbeing of the young people of Wilcox County.

While he has taken more than a few politicians to task on his editorial page and in his award-winning, weekly column, “For What It's Worth,” he has always been more than fair to me and to those people in the political arena with whom I have been associated.

And when I first became a candidate for the position I am so honored to hold today, it was my dear friend, "Mr. Hollis," who penned the very first editorial endorsement for my candidacy, even though I was running as a Republican in a congressional district different from his.

Several years ago, "Mr. Hollis" began featuring someone from our community who had made a positive difference in the lives of others. One week, he chose my father's twin brother, Uncle James, to be in the spotlight.

Some months later, when Uncle James had passed away, I wrote "Mr. Hollis" a letter and thanked him for taking the time to recognize someone who had long since been out of the limelight but who so appreciated the attention and recognition that came from the pages of his newspaper.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is the real reason I rise today—to pause and pay tribute to a man who has spent almost all of his adult life writing about others, telling of their joys and sorrows—good times and bad—and for once, I want him to realize how truly special he is to all of us.

In some ways, I guess, I looked at this like when George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart in the 1946 hit, *It's a Wonderful Life*, realized that with the help of an angel named Clarence, it had been a wonderful life after all.

I know an entire community of friends and admirers join me in saluting M. Hollis Curl and wishing him many more years of editorials and commentaries. And to his wonderful wife, Glenda, their children, Mark and Julie, and their grandchildren—thank you for sharing this extraordinary person with us for all these years. May God continue to bless them all with good health and happiness.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICK HARLOW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rick Harlow in recognition of his heroic act in 2001 of saving a neighbor who was being attacked by three dogs.

During the harrowing 2001 incident, Rick was injured and subsequently spent 3 years in a care center. Mr. Harlow made the best of his tenure in the care center by playing his guitar for the elderly and even playing at an in-house wedding for a couple who met and married in the nursing home.

Mr. Harlow was born and raised in Washington State and initially came to Nevada in 1990 on assignment to construct architectural aerial maps of the Hoover Dam area. What originally began as a mere job appointment has evolved into a long term living arrangement, as Rick has been a proud Nevada resident for 16 years now.

Mr. Harlow has always been active and held a love for nature and the outdoors. In 1994 he suffered an unfortunate rock climbing accident where he fell 35–40 feet and sustained a compression fracture to his back in addition to a lacerated liver and ruptured spleen. Mr. Harlow underwent 3 years of recuperation and physical therapy to walk again. He is a proven fighter both for himself and others as he quite

valiantly demonstrated by rescuing his neighbor from that brutal dog attack 5 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Rick Harlow. His passion for life is inspirational. I applaud him for his heroism and wish him the best with his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JACK RODGERS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extensive public service of one of Columbus, Georgia's finest residents, Jack Rodgers.

Jack is retiring from the Columbus Council this year after more than 20 years of service. Jack first came to Columbus in 1961, when it was a very different place. He has worked for Ford Motor Company, and also served as the chairman and CEO of his own mortgage company.

But serving in the corporate world was not enough for Jack—he began his service in the realm of government as well, winning election to the Columbus Council and then being elected as Mayor Pro Tem in January of 1999. Through his service on the Columbus Council, Jack has served as Budget Committee chairman and Ethics Committee chairman. He has been a delegate to the National League of Cities, and has been heavily involved in the Georgia Municipal Association, including service as a Finance Committee Member.

Jack has also served in a number of community organizations, including Rotary, and taught at Chattahoochee Valley Community College for 7 years.

Jack loves his family, and has been married to his wife, Barbara, for 43 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Although we hate to see Jack finish his service in the government arena, we are grateful that he will continue to be involved in the community as he moves into retirement.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Rodgers provides a role model to us all of service to others, and we are extremely grateful for his dedication.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HONORABLE RICHARD A. BOSWORTH, SR.

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of Retired Senior District Judge Richard A. Bosworth, Sr. who passed away last year following a courageous battle with cancer. Judge Bosworth was born in Birmingham, Alabama on December 26, 1922. The Great Depression prompted his family to move to the South Plains of West Texas, where his father worked as a share cropper during the dust bowl years of the mid 30s.

Richard graduated from high school in 1939 and paid his way through Texas Tech College by working in the cotton fields during the summer months and working part-time jobs during

the school year. After graduating from Tech in December 1942, he was immediately called to active duty as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps. Richard obtained his pilot wings and commission as a 2nd Lt., and went on to fly 50 combat missions over Europe as a B-24 pilot. Richard's service was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters among other decorations.

Richard later applied for and received a regular commission in the U.S. Air Force where he spent the next 30 years of his life holding assignments including Wing Commander of the 97th Bomb Wing (B-52s and KC-135 tankers). It was in the service that he met his future wife, Carolyn, who was working as a Red Cross nurse in Montgomery, Alabama. The two were married in 1959 in Sylacauga, Alabama, and had three sons, Rick, Brian, and Greg.

In 1972 he retired from the Air Force as a Colonel and enrolled in law school at Texas Tech University. Upon receiving his JD in 1974, he began practicing law in the Greenville area until he was appointed Judge of the Hunt County Court at Law in 1983. In 1985, he became judge of the newly created 354th District Court which covered Hunt, Rains, and, later, Rockwall Counties. Judge Bosworth served in the 354th until his retirement in January of 1996, after which he continued his work as a visiting judge throughout Northeast Texas. The Judge was an inspiration and a great source of encouragement to two of my sons who practiced in his court. One, Brett, has been honored to succeed Judge Bosworth and is just finishing his second 4 year term. Blakeley is practicing and doing well.

Judge Bosworth dedicated his life to serving his country, first as a member of the military community and later as a member of the judiciary. His dedication to strengthening this nation spanned more than six decades and included service in two branches of government. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of this wonderful patriot—Judge Richard Bosworth.

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS AT SUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize the students, teachers and administrators at Sun Valley High School located in Indian Trail, North Carolina. Over the past two weeks, Sun Valley students have given more than \$23,000 out of their pockets to help the less fortunate in their area. This money will go to a program called the Sun Valley Children's Christmas Party, which will help needy elementary children in their area who won't have a Christmas.

The Sun Valley Children's Christmas Party has been helping impoverished children for more than three decades. It began as a small project to help a handful of needy families experience the joy of Christmas. Today, thanks to the generosity of the Sun Valley community, 30 to 35 needy elementary children, and their families, will have a Happy Christmas this year.

I am most impressed by this effort because it is student driven. Not only do Sun Valley students raise the money, but on December 14th, a group of students will actually pick up the children at school and take them to Monroe Mall where they will purchase them new clothes, shoes, and coats. They take the children to visit Santa, have lunch at Chick-Fil-A, and end their visit by taking the kids to get ice cream. Later, Sun Valley students will shop for essential items, food, and new school supplies for the children, as well as toys and gifts for their brothers and sisters. Then on December 16th, the students will deliver all the gifts to the family as well as food for a Christmas feast.

Leading this student driven program are the co-chairs of the Children's Christmas Party, Student Council President Alexandra Knight Efrid, and Student Council Vice-President Paige Lillia Donham. Their hard work has not gone unnoticed. Likewise, the Student Council faculty advisors, James P. Wall IV and Christopher Martin, have also worked countless hours to help the students in their effort. I would like to recognize the efforts of students in the classes of Mr. Wall, Mr. Reynolds, and Mr. Faulkner. They raised the most money out of all the classes at Sun Valley, and Mr. Reynolds class alone raised over \$2,000 for this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to say that I represent Sun Valley High School. In a day and age where people tend to think only of themselves, here is a shining example of a group of young people who know what Christmas is really all about. I commend them for their efforts to make their community a better place by helping the less fortunate during this holiday season. I hope that this wonderful effort will continue at Sun Valley for many years to come.

THANKING CINDY FOX VON GOGH
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on January 2, 2007, we rise to thank Ms. Cindy Fox von Gogh for over thirty-two years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives.

Cindy began serving the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974 as the office Manager for John Dent (D-PA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor Standards. In 1978 she embraced the role of Committee Archivist for Carl D. Perkins (D-KY), Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor. While serving in this capacity Cindy was instrumental in expanding the use of computers in Committee office operations.

Milestones during her career at the House include; managing a Micro VAX computer system supporting the Full Committee and eight Subcommittees, implementation of a Novell Network and authoring a Personal Computer Reference Guide for staff. Cindy also created one of the first web sites in the House and was recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation with an award for one of the best web sites on Capitol Hill setting the standard of excellence in web design.

Cindy's contributions to Committee operations were achieved while she maintained her commitment to publish into the archives the Committee Legislative Calendar chronicling Committee proceedings as an official historical document of the House.

Kindhearted, professional and dedicated are words used by her colleagues to describe Cindy. She is known throughout the House as a person you can rely on to do what's right. She has earned the reputation as a person with a calm demeanor and respect for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, Cindy is truly an inspiration in nonpartisan service to the Committee and the House. She served six Chairmen irrespective of which party was the majority. We are grateful for all Cindy has done during the past thirty-two years serving the Committee, this institution and the citizens of our country. Her service to the House is respected by the Chairmen, Members and staff that have benefited from her expertise, institutional knowledge and unwavering disposition.

On behalf of the Committee and the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Cindy for her many years of dedication and outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Cindy many wonderful years fulfilling her retirement dreams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical treatment, I was unable to attend votes on Friday, December 8, 2006. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

H.R. 6406—"Nay". To modify temporarily certain rates of duty and make other technical amendments to the trade laws, to extend certain trade preference programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6111—"Yea". Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. I was particularly interested in a provision of this bill that provides an increase in payments to Medicare physician payments. I am concerned with the reimbursement rates and the Gross Domestic Product-based formula known as the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) used to calculate healthcare services rendered. Using the SGR formula, without this fix, Medicare was scheduled to cut physician payments by nearly 5 percent effective January 1, 2007. I believe that we need to reform our reimbursement structure to keep physicians participating in both Medicare and TRICARE. The constituents in my district, both the doctors and patients, have called my office to let me know this is particularly important to them, especially as the number of enrollees in both programs is increasing. I was very pleased this provision was included in H.R. 6111.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICE OF FIVE FEDERAL FIREFIGHTERS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the heroism and devotion to duty of five U.S. Forest Service firefighters, who gave their lives in the line of duty protecting families and homes from the ravages of a ferocious wildfire that overwhelmed their truck.

The 41st Congressional District includes a series of rugged mountain ranges with thousands of acres of national forest, but also thousands of homes and families. They include some of the most beautiful scenery in Southern California, but they are also home to some of the most dangerous wind-driven wildfires during our annual season of Santa Ana Winds.

I have come to know and deeply respect the firefighters who protect these homes and fight these fires. They are among the most professional and resourceful in the nation. Their heroism and tenacity have made the mountains a safer place to live.

So it is with the deepest sorrow that I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of five of these brave federal firefighters during the Esperanza Fire in the mountains east of San Bernardino. Those who gave their lives in the line of duty were Engine Captain Mark Loutzenhiser, Fire Engine Operator Jess McLean, Assistant Fire Engine Operator Jason McKay, Firefighter Daniel Hoover-Najera, and Firefighter Pablo Cerda.

Mark Loutzenhiser, a father of three, was a vital member of his hometown of Idyllwild, California. He coached youth sports and was considered a friend by nearly everyone in town. He had 21 years of firefighting service and was a certified emergency management technician. He had previously worked as a hotshot crewman for the Vista Grande Hot Shots and also as a volunteer firefighter for Riverside County. He is survived by his children and his wife Maria Loutzenhiser, a Forest Service employee who joined Mark on the firelines until the birth of their children.

Jess McLean had seven years of firefighting service and had been a hotshot for three years with the Vista Grande Hot Shots. He was a hometown hero—graduating from Banning High School in 1997 and attending fire science classes at Crafton Hills College. He was a resident of Beaumont, CA. He is survived by his wife Karen McLean and his mother Cecelia McLean.

Jason McKay spent four years as a volunteer firefighter in the High Desert town of Adelanto before joining the Forest Service five years ago. He also served on the Mojave Greens Type II crew. He was a certified EMT and earned an associate's degree in fire science. He was a resident of Phelan, also in the High Desert. He is survived by his mother Bonnie J. McKay and his father Robert McKay.

Daniel Hoover-Najera began his firefighting career with the Tahquitz Type II crew in 2005 and was serving as a seasonal Forest Service employee this year. He worked on the Tahquitz Type II crew in 2005 and was a seasonal employee in 2006. Just 20 years old, he

graduated from San Jacinto Mountain View High School in 2004. He is survived by his mother Gloria Ayala and his father Timothy Hoover.

Pablo Cerda was also in his second season with the Forest Service. He graduated from Los Amigos High School in Santa Ana in 2001 and attended Fire Academy of Riverside Community College. He is survived by his father Pablo Cerda, Sr.

These five U.S. Forest Service firefighters on Engine Crew 57 on the San Jacinto Ranger District were dispatched early on the morning of Thursday, October 26 to fight the Esperanza fire. Taking a stand atop a ridge to protect a home, the crew and their engine were overcome when the fire raced up the slope.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a little more than a month since the loss of these brave firefighters, and their neighbors have overwhelmingly shown their support through donations and help for their families. They are sorely missed by their communities, and by the greater community of federal firefighters. I ask my colleagues to please join in sending their families our condolences, as well as our sense of deep pride for those who dedicate themselves to such selfless public service.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF "THE NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER PROJECTS ACT"

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act. This legislation, which was also introduced in the Senate by my colleague from New Mexico Senator Bingaman, will ratify the historic San Juan River Settlement Agreement. This agreement, signed by the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico, will provide for the development of a rural water system to address the water needs of numerous New Mexicans, many of them members of the Navajo Nation.

The settlement agreement, once ratified, will resolve the Navajo Nation's water rights without litigation. It will also provide a water supply for Gallup, New Mexico, and recognize authorized and existing uses of San Juan River basin water. In exchange for relinquishing some of their claims to water from the San Juan River basin, the Navajo Nation will benefit from water development projects which include the Navajo-Gallup project and the Navajo Nation Municipal pipeline. The pipeline will convey water from the Animas-La Plata project from the city of Farmington, New Mexico, to numerous Navajo communities and the city of Shiprock.

The Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico and many other residents of northwestern New Mexico put a tremendous amount of work into reaching an agreement that will provide a more secure future for many vulnerable communities. I am proud to be able to contribute today to their efforts by introducing the House companion bill and starting it down the path of

Congressional approval. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation to move these important water projects forward.

REMEMBERING BILLY EARL HIBBS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to honor the life of a dear friend, Billy Earl Hibbs, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 67. Billy was a native Texan, born on September 25th, 1938, in Quitman. He graduated from Quitman High School and married his high school sweetheart, Eugenia Stroud in 1957. Eugenia and Billy had one child, Billy Earl Hibbs, Jr.

Starting with a small, three-person insurance agency, Billy grew his business into Heartland Security Insurance Group, one of the largest insurance holding companies in the Southwest. Heartland is one of the largest providers of claims services to the Federal government, including all branches of the military as well as non-military personnel injured in Afghanistan and Iraq. Despite its size, Heartland maintains its Texas roots with its headquarters in Tyler and continues to serve almost half the school districts in Texas.

The Texas Legislature recognized Billy's accomplishments in 1981 for his success in handling the John Tyler High School fire loss. In 1990, he led the passage of a bond measure to provide upgrades to the City of Tyler's infrastructure. A patron of the arts, Billy served as President of the East Texas Symphony Association and worked to relocate performances to the Cowan Center at U.T. Tyler. Billy also served as President of the Tyler Civic Theatre where he oversaw construction of the Braithwaite Theater and the opening of the Rogers Children's Theatre. As President of the Tyler Rotary Club he became a Paul Harris Fellow. Billy was a member of the Henry Bell Masonic Lodge, and a founding board member of the Better Business Bureau of Central East Texas. He served as a board member for Leadership Tyler, the Tyler Independent School District Foundation, and the Tyler Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Order of the Rose. He was a member of the Pairs and Parents Sunday School class, an usher, and a past trustee of Marvin United Methodist Church. Billy also remained active in the Independent Insurance Agents at local, state, and national levels throughout his life.

In 2004, Billy was inducted into the Junior Achievement "Business Hall of Fame," and made a member of the honor business fraternity, Beta Gamma Sigma, at the University of Texas at Tyler. In 2005, Hibbs-Hallmark & Company was honored with the Better Business Bureau's "Torch Award" for demonstrating a commendable ethical record over the years, and recently, the Tyler Rotary Club honored Hibbs by distinguishing all present and future donors of \$1,000 as "Billy Hibbs Fellows."

Billy is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Eugenia "Jeannie" Hibbs, his son Billy E. Hibbs, Jr., and daughter-in law Tisa Weiss

Hibbs, two grandchildren Stratton Weiss Hibbs and London Elizabeth Hibbs, and two sisters Dorna Shields and Betty Cassels of Quitman, as well as other relatives.

Billy was always generous with his time and leadership, and he shared his many blessings with his community and his country. Mr. Speaker, Billy Hibbs was a valuable member of the community whose years of service will provide a legacy for many years to come.

"THE JOURNEY FOR HUMANITY" MARCH IN WASHINGTON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a group of young individuals from Journey for Humanity, of which I, along with my Armenian Caucus Co-Chair, the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, had the opportunity to meet with last month. Their goal is to raise awareness and recognition of the Armenian Genocide, as well as other human rights atrocities occurring around the world today.

Last month the group arrived in Washington, having walked across the country. The 3,000-mile Journey for Humanity walk began approximately 5 months ago in Los Angeles, CA with the support of the Armenian Assembly of America. Since then, the marchers have crossed a dozen states and held rallies in eleven major U.S. cities to honor the victims and survivors of all genocidal acts and advance the cause of genocide prevention.

The group marched twenty miles a day until it reached the Nation's capital. Although the walk officially concluded, the Journey continues with hopes for a documentary and a book to archive their efforts at genocide awareness and prevention. They also have plans for a series of lectures across college campuses to promote this important human rights message.

For decades we've all heard the words "never again," yet we continue to see the same type of horrors happening today. With the death toll in the Darfur region of the Sudan nearing 400,000, these young people hope to show the importance of learning from the past and to prevent future genocides.

As descendants of genocide survivors, these young men and women carry the memory and live in the reality of the consequences of genocide. As Americans, it is our collective responsibility to inform our country about atrocious crimes against humanity, in an attempt to prevent future episodes.

I commend their courage and passion, as well as the Armenian Assembly, for their efforts in raising public awareness and affirmation of these crimes against humanity. I heartily support their endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, next Congress I, along with my Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Joe Knollenberg and my fellow Caucus colleagues ADAM SCHIFF and GEORGE RADANOVICH, plan to reintroduce a resolution affirming the Armenian Genocide. The truth of the past must be told and acknowledged as a first step to genocide prevention. I encourage all Members of this body to cosponsor this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. THELMA
GIBSON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mrs. Thelma Gibson who will celebrate her 80th birthday on December 17th with friends, families and well wishers.

Mrs. Gibson is a South Florida institution, a woman who has dedicated herself to a lifelong pursuit of education, while focusing on improving public healthcare in our community and instilling the virtues of community service and volunteerism in all people who are graced by her presence.

Mrs. Gibson is the sixth of fourteen children and was born on December 17, 1926 to Sweetlon Counts Albury Anderson and Thomas Theodore Anderson. Mrs. Gibson is the mother of 2 children, Charles Gibson and Deveniece Gibson. She has 7 sisters and brothers—Joyce, Doris, Percy, Donald, Hubert, Alvin and Herma—and has a host of loving nieces and nephews. Mrs. Gibson is a native Miamian and the widow of the late Reverend Canon Theodore Roosevelt Gibson.

Mrs. Gibson received her formative education at Coconut Grove Training School for Colored Elementary School, Coconut Grove Junior High School, and George Washington Carver High School, from which she graduated in February 1944. After graduation, Mrs. Gibson attended Saint Agnes School of Nursing at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina and graduated in August 1947 as a Registered Nurse with a specialty in operating room techniques. She then returned home to work at Jackson Memorial Hospital in the operating room, where she had been approved for a position. Her employer, however, upon realizing that she was of Color, assigned her to work on the Colored wards.

Mrs. Gibson continued her education in nursing by taking an advanced course from Florida A & M University taught by Dr. Mary Carnegie, Dean of Nursing, in a classroom provided by Jackson Memorial Hospital. In the summers of 1954 and 1955, while preparing to work in Public Health Nursing, Mrs. Gibson took advanced courses at Catholic University in Washington, DC. During the summers of 1956 and 1957, she attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she enrolled in courses on cancer and communicable disease nursing. From there, she attended courses given through the University of Miami in 1957 and 1958 out of the home of an instructor who lived in Coconut Grove at the corner of Main Highway and Lennox Avenue. A course was also provided at Booker T. Washington Senior High School. Finally, in 1959, Mrs. Gibson attended Teachers College at Columbia University, New York and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing education.

For more than 50 years, Mrs. Gibson has been a trailblazer in education, mental and physical health programs, and a community leader who served her church and family. In August of 1997, she was appointed as Interim City Commissioner and served on the City of Miami Commission through November 1997.

Mrs. Gibson holds memberships on numerous boards, committees, and panels, and has

received many honors, awards, recognitions, and certificates. The most recent accomplishment to Mrs. Gibson's credit is authoring her autobiography, *Forbearance: Thelma Vernell Anderson Gibson, The Life Story of a Coconut Grove Native* that was released in the Fall of 2000. Mrs. Gibson also sponsors the Thelma Gibson Health Initiative, housed at the Theodore R. Gibson Building, that provides free testing and assistance for HIV and AIDS infected persons. Her latest project is the Theodore and Thelma School of the Performing Arts located on Grand Avenue in Coconut Grove where the students receive academic training with a focus on the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, I know all my colleagues join me in honoring Mrs. Gibson, a truly great lady, as she celebrates her 80th birthday. We can only wonder and marvel at the achievements that are still before her.

PRESIDENT YUSCHENKO'S
EDITORIAL

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, the following is an op-ed written by President Victor Yushenko of Ukraine, which appeared in the Washington Post on November 29, 2006. As a strong supporter of United States-Ukrainian bilateral relations and Ukraine's further integration into the trans-Atlantic community, I believe it is imperative that the upcoming 110th Congress play a greater role in fostering cooperation between our two nations. To do so, we must be prepared to reach out to President Yushenko, Prime Minister Yanukovych and all the Ukrainian people as they take the sometimes difficult steps to further democratize. It is essential that Ukraine continues to have the support of the United States and our European allies during this period of transition, so that the ideals of freedom and democracy developed and echoed during the Orange Revolution come to bear.

The text of President Yushenko's editorial follows:

Two years ago an authoritarian regime's attempt to hijack the presidential election in Ukraine failed. As official results were announced, disbelief provoked millions of citizens to pour into the streets in protest. They took a stand against those discredited officials who hid behind law enforcement bodies in an attempt to prolong their corrupt hold on power. Those days and weeks are known as Ukraine's Orange Revolution.

In the time since, my main goal as president has been to institutionalize democracy and guarantee that it is irreversible. Many of the wrongs in my country have been corrected. We are maintaining our unwavering commitment to the principles of freedom. We agreed to shift constitutional powers from an authoritarian presidency to a coalition government formed by parliament to end the country's political impasse. And we abolished state censorship of the media, while also forbidding interference in news reporting.

This year free and fair elections were held at national, regional and local levels. Overseeing the peaceful and democratic transition of power was my unique test, as it brought back to office my former political opponents.

But along with our national successes and economic achievements under two "orange" prime ministers, there have been disappointments and miscalculations. Infighting among my political allies has been the biggest disappointment. Some "orange" politicians have ignored their fundamental duty to deliver results for the public good. Instead, gaining political power and seeking the limelight have become their goal. As our country's democracy continues to mature, I am convinced that a young cadre of leaders will rise through the ranks of Ukraine's democratic parties to create a political renewal.

On my watch, the corruption that has historically emanated from the president's office ceased. Thousands of election officials, tax collectors, foot patrols, road police and customs agents were brought to justice for petty corruption. Yet the biggest abusers of public office remain at large because of unreformed prosecutors and corruption in the courts. I have recently initiated a number of anti-corruption bills to reform the criminal justice system and the courts, and I will continue to press parliament for speedy action.

Because we were preoccupied with domestic political reforms this year, we failed to communicate effectively with our international partners. I want to explain where Ukraine stands and where we are heading. Democracy and stability—two interdependent principles—form the basis of my agenda. To this end, I will continue constitutional reforms that facilitate the effective work of government and prevent a return to authoritarianism or the usurpation of power.

Today there is a balance of political power between two directly elected democratic bodies: the president and parliament. The prime minister, although not directly elected, represents a majority of the parliamentarians. Bills specifying the role of the governing coalition and the opposition have yet to be passed. But let there be no mistake: Together we share responsibility for shaping, executing and controlling laws and state policies.

Second, constitutional reforms are incomplete, and as a result there is a political asymmetry. We will continue refining a reliable system of checks and balances between the presidency, parliament and coalition government to expedite policy decision making. To meet these objectives, I have commissioned a group of constitutional experts to recommend amendments to strengthen our nascent democratic institutions.

Third, our law on national security promotes participation and membership in pan-European and regional systems of collective security. Membership in the European Union and NATO, as well as good relations and strategic partnerships with Russia and other countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States, are not romantic ideas of the Orange Revolution—they are founded in Ukrainian law. The president, coalition government and parliament determine the speed with which these goals are reached.

Most important, the democratic debates in Kiev's halls of power are now centered on ideas about competing economic theories, values and worldviews. Our current system of checks and balances requires policy coordination, party coexistence and political compromise for us to move forward. Not everyone likes the new rules of the game, and some are having trouble playing in this new reality—but Ukraine's democracy is here to stay.

As president, my historic mission is to guarantee that Ukraine's national goals are reached not through political dictates but through an institutionalized democratic

process that brings together governing bodies and citizen groups. I am convinced an inclusive democracy is one of the most significant and lasting achievements of the Orange Revolution.

TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY TALLY HICKEY—MILITARY FAMILY ADVOCATE, NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sydney Tally Hickey, military family advocate and member of the Board of Governors of the National Military Family Association (NMFA)—in recognition of her distinguished service to her country. From 1983, when she joined the NMFA Government Relations staff, until her death on December 1, 2006, she taught an entire generation of NMFA members to be consummate advocates and better the lives of hundreds of thousands of active duty, National Guard, Reserve and retired service members, their families, and survivors. She did this by being smart, detailed, and persistent—armed with the facts, an unblinking perseverance, and a luminous passion.

I had the honor of knowing Ms. Hickey personally. She was a military family member all her life as an Air Force daughter and Navy spouse. She was married to Capt. Dennis J. Hickey IV, who is retired from the U.S. Navy, and has her two daughters and a grandson.

In 1983, she joined the NMFA Government Relations staff and served as the Vice President of the Department from 1987 to 1990. On January 1, 1990, she was selected to become the Association's first paid professional staff member and served as Director of Government Relations until her retirement in October 1999. Mrs. Hickey continued her work with the Government Relations Department as a volunteer consultant on health care issues. She also served on the NMFA's Board of Governors.

Over the years, military families everywhere benefited from Sydney's hard work and foresight. She was the driving force behind the set of transition benefits Congress put in place for service members and families during the drawdown following the first Gulf War. Recognizing that military families overseas deserved the same access to federal safety net programs as those living in the United States, Sydney and NMFA worked aggressively for several years to secure the legislation creating the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program overseas. Thanks to her work, military families stationed overseas also became eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit and Supplemental Security Income.

Frequently invited to provide testimony before Congressional Committees on issues facing military families, she also helped guide the development of many of today's family readiness programs. Thanks in part to her foresight in anticipating the needs of families and her skill in articulating these needs, Congress and the Department of Defense established many vital enhancements to the quality of life of military families.

Sydney Hickey helped to take the voice of the military family from a whisper to a giant

roar, forevermore to hold a significant place in any pertinent discussion. She brought stories of military families' everyday experiences to the policy makers and now military family members are routinely represented on Congressionally-mandated advisory panels and DoD working groups and councils that develop and oversee programs and benefits applicable to them. She was one of the pioneers who taught and encouraged family members to get involved in the representative process, by sitting on boards and councils and teaching them how to work with legislators. She helped military family members become their own best advocates.

Sydney's work brought her many awards and recognitions, including the 1992 National Citizenship Award from the Military Chaplains Association, the 1993 Defense Transition Services Award from the University of Central Florida, the 1998 "Champion for Children" award from the Military Impacted Schools Association, and the 1999 Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

In that same year, NMFA established an award for exceptional service to uniformed service families, presented it to Mrs. Hickey, and named it in her honor. She also received the Military Coalition's Award of Merit and recognition by the Defense Commissary Agency for her work as a "legendary champion for the causes of military life."

Sydney Hickey's legacy is greater than a list of awards. Her legacy is seen every day in the dedication and accomplishments of the people she mentored over the years: NMFA volunteers and employees, military family members, leaders of military associations, and countless others. It is in the increased awareness of military families that Members of Congress, their staffs, DoD civilians, contractors, and others gained, thanks to their interactions with Mrs. Hickey. Military families who may never know the name of Sydney Tally Hickey have benefited from her body of work and have an enhanced quality of life due to her efforts. Today, we honor the memory of this tireless advocate, whose life was a tribute to the military families she served.

IN TRIBUTE TO SAM ROWLAND

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to a good friend, great Texan, and wonderful individual, Sam Rowland, who passed away recently, leaving a legacy of accomplishments and good will that will last for generations to come. Sam was devoted to God, his family, friends, and the Law, and he applied the principles of his faith to his career and his many civic and humanitarian affiliations.

Sam came from a family of educators. He graduated from Highland Park High School in Dallas, attended Texas A&M University on a baseball scholarship, earned an accounting degree from Texas A&M in 1955, and graduated from SMU School of Law in 1960. Sam had a long and interesting business career. He began his corporate experience at Texas Instruments in Dallas and went on to form a publicly held company in the early days of microchips.

In 1972 Sam opened his own law firm in Houston. He loved the practice of law and was a member of the Texas Bar for 46 years. He was the senior partner of Rowland and Keim for 18 years, and in 1990 opened his own firm in Bryan/College Station, where he practiced until his death. At the same time, he taught a course at Texas A&M College of Business, where he shared his wealth of corporate experience and knowledge teaching young Aggies about starting their own business.

Sam was a member of the Corp of Cadets at Texas A&M, the 12th Man Foundation Executive Board, and Past President of the A&M Letterman's Association. He was a member of the Bryan Rotary Club, the Silver Haired Supper Club of Highland Park, and the Texas A&M Past Presidents Club of Houston and San Antonio. He was a member of the Houston Bar Association and the Brazos County Bar Association. Sam's faith was premiere in his life, and he was a member of the First Baptist Church in Bryan for 20 years and a member of the Little River Baptist Church in Jones Prairie.

Sam will be greatly missed by his family, his wife of 25 years, Betsy Kay Rowland of Bryan, daughters Melinda Rowland of Lafayette, LA, and Michele Hanlon of San Antonio, sons Stuart Rowland of Arlington and Sean Ryan and wife Glenda of Tyler, brother-in-law Bill Vorlop of Dallas, two nephews and their families, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Scott, his parents, Wordna Reed Rowland and Ray Davis Rowland, and his sister, Wanda Vorlop.

Sam Rowland was a friend, mentor, and role model for so many whose lives he touched and influenced, and his memory will be kept alive in the hearts of those who loved and admired him. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of this outstanding American—Sam E. Rowland.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the staff members of the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) who were named recipients of the Governor's Minnesota Government Reaching Environmental Achievements Together (MnGREAT) Award for superior environmental achievement by Minnesota's public agencies. The award represents the highest level of environmental achievement within the State of Minnesota.

The five UMD staff members who received the environmental achievement award are Erik Larson (UMD Facilities Management, Engineer/Project Manager), Wade Lawrence (Director of Glensheen), and Peggy Dahlberg, Sheryl Lind, and Dan McClelland (UMD Facilities Management Grounds Department).

The award recognizes the low impact development and shoreline bank stabilization projects constructed at the Glensheen Historic Estate in Duluth. The goals of the projects were: to improve water quality of storm water from Glensheen's parking lots into Lake Superior; to stabilize the clay bank in order to reduce wave, rain, and surface flow erosion during large storms; and to provide a location

where the general public can see low impact development practices in place and functioning.

The Glensheen projects are important because shoreline conditions are rapidly changing along Lake Superior's North Shore due to increased tourism, business, and private development taking place. Innovative methods of treating the runoff from these changed conditions are imperative to maintaining the health of the lake.

The project was done as a joint effort with Southern St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, Minnesota Board of Soil and Water, Wisconsin Sea Grant and the Carlton, Cook, Lake North and South St. Louis Joint Powers Board of Soil and Waters Conservation Districts.

I am proud and honored to share with my colleagues this well-deserved tribute for the hardworking staff of the University of Minnesota Duluth and their innovative efforts to improve the environment in the Duluth area.

AMBASSADOR JEANE J.
KIRKPATRICK

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I join those who mourn the death of former United Nations Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick. Ambassador Kirkpatrick was a great American patriot and champion of liberty for those living under Communist or other totalitarian regimes.

Like President Reagan, who appointed her to the U.N. post, Ambassador Kirkpatrick was an American original. She became a Republican when she found that the Democratic Party no longer reflected her values, just as Reagan did. She was Reagan's first female cabinet level appointee, and was his point person at the U.N., where she was a brilliant advocate for her country's interests.

If Ambassador Kirkpatrick did not originate the phrase "Blame America First," she certainly brought it to the attention of the American people with her use of the words in defending President Reagan's foreign policy at the 1984 Republican convention. She pointed out that Democrats and other critics were quick to place the responsibility for all the world's problems at the feet of their own country. Somehow, Ambassador Kirkpatrick said, they always blame America first. Unfortunately, those words too often still apply today.

Ambassador Kirkpatrick deserves a large share of the credit for helping the U.S. win the Cold War. Her efforts brought freedom to many around the globe who otherwise may not have been able to enjoy it. She remained a passionate spokesperson for her country's interests until her death. Her voice has been silenced now, and it will be missed.

OUR SOUTH ASIAN ALLY, SRI
LANKA

HON. SCOTT GARRETT
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in my time in Congress, I have had the oppor-

tunity to visit our South Asian ally, Sri Lanka. This small island nation has directly suffered both the devastating effects of the 2004 tsunami and the continuing threat of homegrown terrorism, which has experienced a recent resurgence.

Many years before the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Sri Lanka was confronting the grim specter of suicide terrorism. In fact, many of the suicide tactics utilized by terrorists in the Middle East originated with the Tamils. Because of this and because of their ties with other international terrorist groups, the Tamils pose a threat to Americans around the globe as well.

Despite the fact that a cease-fire remains in effect, over the past year, the Liberation Tigers of Tam Eelam (LTTE) have continued to commit acts of violence against the legitimate Government of Sri Lanka. The recent spate of violence began in August of last year with the assassination of Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar. In a further attempt to damage the democratic process, the LTTE prevented the Tamil population in the Wanni region from voting in the Presidential election last November. Since the Inauguration of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, the LTTE has stepped up attacks on unarmed civilians including the use of fragmentation bombs against a bus killing 64 and injuring 80. Additionally, they have carried out assassinations of the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army and the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army and attacked a convoy of off-duty sailors, killing 94 and injuring many more. In all of these cases, the attacks were carried out by suicide bombers.

The LTTE has cultivated a worldwide network of weapons suppliers. Here in the United States, the FBI was able to apprehend Tamil agents who attempted to purchase surface-to-air missiles in New York and Maryland. Tamil agents have been arrested here for attempting to bribe customs agents and funnel illicit funds through charities. While the Tamils continue their attempts to operate in the United States, Federal authorities are vigorously investigating and prosecuting those who are recruiting support for terrorism in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan Government gives every indication that it is committed to a peaceful settlement to this conflict within their nation's borders. Even after an attempt on the life of Defense Secretary Rajapakse, the President's brother, the government refuses to institute an outright ban on the Tamil Tigers. Norwegian peace negotiators, who had presided over the current cease-fire agreements, continue their efforts to bring the LTTE to the peace table but, unfortunately, Tiger leader Prabhakaran has called for a full resumption of hostilities. The government is ready to except the Tigers as a peaceful political party but not as a purveyor of violence.

Sri Lanka is a beautiful nation filled with hopeful people who wish to live in peace, and I am hopeful that they will soon see a resolution to these dangerous difficulties.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my praise for the heroic actions of several law enforcement agencies in Colorado. Authorities from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Park County Sheriff's Office and Colorado State Patrol acted in a swift and competent manner during the hostage standoff at Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Colorado on September 27, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, these men and women risked their lives to help save students that had been taken hostage by an adult gunman. The situation sparked strong reminders of Columbine High School from April 20, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, that day a young woman lost her life. As Emily Keyes escaped her captor, he shot and fatally wounded her. Her family has requested that this tribute be made to law enforcement. In my conversation with the family, they thankfully praised the Jefferson County Special Weapons and Tactics Regional Team for their actions. The family has since been in consistent communication with them and thankful for the role that they have played in the community.

The Keyes family has also expressed gratefulness for Park County Sheriff Fred Wegener. He was the man who gave the go ahead that day to storm the classroom in an effort to save the lives of the remaining hostages. The Keyes' family has continued to honor their daughter since her tragic death. Her memorial and a charity bike ride have attracted thousands of supporters; a testament to what I'm certain was a wonderful and bright young woman.

Mr. Speaker, while the events at Platte Canyon are tragic, the Keyes family has carried the memory of their daughter and support the actions made by law enforcement that day.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WELDON'S
SADDLE SHOP AND WESTERN
WEAR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Weldon Burgoon and his business, Weldon's Saddle Shop and Western Wear, for 50 years of outstanding service in the Denton community.

Weldon Burgoon began hand-tooling leather goods during his teenage years while attending a class at Sanger High School, in the 26th District of Texas. There he met and later married his wife, Joy. His own business evolved after hand-tooling leather belts as a side job to working in his father's plumbing business. After opening its doors on the outskirts of Denton in 1957, today Mr. Burgoon's saddles are known worldwide for their quality and craftsmanship.

Mr. Burgoon's generosity and commitment to the Denton community has remained strong during the past 50 years. His shop is a principal supporter of the Denton County Livestock Association's Annual Youth Fair and

Rodeo. Weldon's Saddle Shop is a family affair and will continue its successes under the capable assistance of his daughter Kippie Wilkerson, and her two sons.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today and congratulate the 50th year of business for Weldon's Saddle Shop and Western Wear. I am honored to serve Mr. Weldon Burgoon in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LT. TOM BROWN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Lt. Tom Brown, my high school classmate, who died in service to his country on the 20th day of November, 1944, during combat in World War II. Having recently celebrated Veterans Day, we remember and honor the brave men and women who have sacrificed for this country. These veterans, such as Lt. Brown, gave their lives in the defense of those freedoms that we enjoy today.

On the 19th of November, 1944, American forces were attacking positions in and around Schleiden, Germany. Part of Company "K" became pinned down under heavy enemy fire and was in danger of suffering heavy casualties. Lt. Brown, a platoon leader at the time, recognized the gravity of the situation and leapt to his feet. Shouting words of encouragement to his men, he charged the enemy, firing as he ran. Upon seeing this courageous example set by their leader in the face of the enemy, the rest of the men followed his lead and took up the assault. So surprised was the enemy that a large number were either destroyed or taken prisoner. Led by Lt. Brown, the platoon moved into its' sector of the town with a minimum of casualties. On the basis of these heroic actions, Lt. Brown was recommended for the Silver Star.

Tragically, the following day, while attacking Neidermer, Lt. Brown, leading his men, was moving through the left side of the town when an enemy machine gun opened fire from a basement window and killed him instantly. Although his men immediately destroyed the enemy position, his loss was a great blow to the Battalion and was keenly felt by the men.

In a letter to his family, Lt. Col. Roger S. Whiteford noted, "The courage, initiative, leadership, and indomitable fortitude displayed by Lt. Brown at the time definitely saved the lives of some of his men and materially aided in the successful continuation of the attack. By his outstanding devotion to duty in accomplishing these heroic deeds, Lt. Brown gained the greatest respect and admiration of all the officers and men and the Battalion mourns his loss not only as that of a highly capable and exceptional leader but also as a true friend."

Lt. Tom Brown reminds us of the great sacrifices made by the many men and women of our armed services who regard the safety of this nation more highly than their own personal comfort and safety. I ask my colleagues to honor the service of one who gave his life in service to our Nation—Lt. Tom Brown.

RECOGNIZING UNC'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN WOMEN'S SOCCER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Women's Soccer Team. Under the leadership of Head Coach Anson Dorrance, the team won its 18th National Championship on Sunday, December 3, defeating Notre Dame 2-1.

The Lady Tar Heels won 27 games in a row on their way to claiming the championship trophy. Led by senior Heather O'Reilly and freshman Casey Nogueira, this outstanding group of athletes was the embodiment of tenacity, determination, and teamwork. Their passion, talent, and success have inspired us all, and they have been the perfect role models for younger female athletes all across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize Coach Anson Dorrance. In the 27 years that women's soccer has been an official NCAA Division 1 collegiate sport, Coach Dorrance has led the UNC women's soccer team to an astounding 18 National Championships. To put this number in perspective, John Wooden, legendary coach of the UCLA men's basketball team and one of the greatest coaches of all time in any sport, coached his team to 10 National Championships. Coach Anson Dorrance's success is truly unprecedented, and it is a testament to his remarkable leadership, vision, and skills.

The women's soccer program at UNC-Chapel Hill has a long and distinguished history of winning and producing some of the best soccer talent in the world. Mia Hamm, Cindy Parlow, Lori Chalupny, and a host of other players started at UNC before going on to excel in national and international competitions like the FIFA World Cup. The players on the 2006 team are no exception. Today, I officially congratulate the Lady Tar Heels for winning the 2006 NCAA Championship, and I wish them the best as they continue to be leaders of women's collegiate soccer.

REMEMBERING AMBASSADOR JEANE J. KIRKPATRICK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, we learned some sad news this morning. Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, the first woman appointed to serve as permanent representative of the United States to the United Nations and as a member of President Reagan's cabinet and National Security Council, passed away yesterday at age 80. At the time of her death, Ambassador Kirkpatrick was a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) for Public Policy Research.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues the following statement posted today on the Web site of AEI:

IN MEMORIAM: JEANE J. KIRKPATRICK, 1926-2006

AEI senior fellow Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, who joined the Institute in 1978, died yesterday.

As a young political scientist at Georgetown University, Kirkpatrick wrote the first major study of the role of women in modern politics, *Political Woman*, which was published in 1974. Her work on the McGovern-Fraser Commission, which was formed in the aftermath of the Democratic Party's tumultuous 1968 convention and changed the way party delegates were chosen, led to *Dismantling the Parties: Reflections on Party Reform and Party Decomposition*, which AEI published in 1978.

Yet it was an essay written for *Commentary* magazine in 1979, "Dictatorships and Double Standards" (later expanded into a full-length book), that launched her into the political limelight. In the article, Kirkpatrick chronicled the failures of the Carter administration's foreign policy and argued for a clearer understanding of the American national interest. Her essay matched Ronald Reagan's instincts and convictions, and when he became president, he appointed her to represent the United States at the United Nations. Ambassador Kirkpatrick was a member of the president's cabinet and the National Security Council. The United States has lost a great patriot and champion of freedom, and AEI mourns our beloved colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I also submit for the record a short biography of Ambassador Kirkpatrick published by AEI:

[From the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research]

JEANE J. KIRKPATRICK, SENIOR FELLOW

Jeane J. Kirkpatrick was the first woman appointed to serve as permanent representative of the United States to the United Nations and as a member of Ronald Reagan's Cabinet and National Security Council. She served as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (1985-1990) and the Defense Policy Review Board (1985-1993), and she also chaired the Secretary of Defense Commission on Fail Safe and Risk Reduction of the Nuclear Command and Control System (1992). Dr. Kirkpatrick headed the U.S. delegation to the Human Rights Commission in 2003.

For this and related government service, Dr. Kirkpatrick was awarded the Medal of Freedom—the Nation's highest civilian honor—in May 1985 and received her second Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal—the highest civilian honor of the Department of Defense—in December 1992. In 2002, the Council on Foreign Relations established the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Chair in National Security, and in 1999 the Kennedy School at Harvard University established the Kirkpatrick Chair in International Affairs. She has held the Leavey Chair of Government at Georgetown University from 1978.

For her work on NATO enlargement, Vaclav Havel, president of the Czech Republic, awarded her the Tomas Garrigue Masaryk Order, the Czech Republic State Decoration (1998), and H.E. Arpad Göncz, president of Hungary, presented her with the Hungarian Presidential Gold Medal (1999). For other work, she received the 50th Anniversary Friend of Zion Award from the prime minister of Israel (1998); the Casey Medal of Honor from the Center for Security Studies (1998); the Grand Officier Du Wissam Al Alaoui Medal from the king of Morocco (2000); and the Living Legends Medal from the librarian of the Library of Congress (2000).

Dr. Kirkpatrick has received many other awards and decorations, including: the Award of the Commonwealth Fund; the Gold Medal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; the Hubert H. Humphrey Award of the American

Political Science Association; the Christian A. Herter Award of the Boston World Affairs Association; the Morgenthau Award of the American Council on Foreign Policy; the Humanitarian Award of B'nai B'rith; the Defender of Jerusalem Award; and honorary degrees from more than a dozen and a half universities.

After her service in the U.S. government, she returned to her previous positions as Leavey Professor of Government at Georgetown University and as senior fellow at AEI. Dr. Kirkpatrick also writes and speaks on a range of issues concerning foreign policy and security affairs and participates in the ongoing dialogue on public issues.

Dr. Kirkpatrick's published works include: *Good Intentions* (2003); *The Withering Away of the Totalitarian State*; *Legitimacy and Force* (2 vols.); *The Reagan Phenomenon*; *Dictatorships & Double Standards*; *Dismantling the Parties: Reflections on Party Reform and Party Decomposition*; *The New Presidential Elite*; *Political Woman*; and *Leader and Vanguard in Mass Society: A Study of Peronist Argentina*. She is also the author of numerous monographs and articles.

Dr. Kirkpatrick received an A.B. from Barnard College, M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University, and studied at the Institut de Science Politique in Paris.

IN HONOR OF MARY PITTMAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a well-known and respected Grayson County citizen, businesswoman and politician, Mary Pittman, who passed away on September 30 at her Van Alstyne home.

Mary was active in the Grayson County Republican Party. A participant at all levels, she hosted numerous Republican events at her home. She was a friend and advisor to me and many others who sought her assistance in their political campaigns and in their performance of official duties.

Mary was born in Commerce, Texas, and moved to Van Alstyne in 1967 where she established Greenbriar Charolais Farms and Mary Pittman's Tea House. She was an active and dedicated member of her community, including membership in the Hurricane Creek Rotary Club, the Grayson County Republican Party and Daughters of the American Revolution. Mary's many contributions to these and other endeavors will be long remembered and appreciated.

Survivors include her daughters, DeeAnn Cummings, Robin Reynolds Burns and husband Bill, and Janet Cooley and husband James, ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. As a lasting memorial to this wonderful mother and grandmother, the family established a Mary Pittman Scholarship Fund benefiting students at Grayson County College.

As the 109th Congress comes to a close, let us remember those Americans who contribute so much of their time and talent to their communities and to our democracy—Americans such as Mary Pittman whose efforts help keep America strong.

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF GEORGE GOULD

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, through rain, sleet, and snow George Gould has been a Voice of reason in a complex and significant area of American life—the delivery of our mail.

George's professionalism, integrity, and expertise have been real assets to both the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service. It is no coincidence that in the 27 years George has served NALC, relations between the 300,000 employees represented by NALC and the USPS have been harmonious. George's contributions to making the USPS the most efficient and reliable public postal service in the world have been significant.

In fact, George is the longest-serving lobbyist in NALC's history, and served two NALC presidents as Assistant for Legislative and Political Affairs. Before joining the union in 1979, he worked for 15 years on Capitol Hill, the last three as the staff director of the House Subcommittee on Postal Operations and Services.

Over the years, George served as chairman of the FAIR Coalition (the Fund for Assuring an Independent Retirement), a postal-federal employee grouping that fought to protect and enhance federal employee pensions and other benefits.

George's work for NALC helped bring about greater political freedom for federal workers through the reform of the Hatch Act in 1993 and has advanced the cause of postal reform legislation. Indeed, it is a fitting tribute to George that Congress on this very day stands ready to complete its work on this critical legislation.

"America's letter carriers have benefitted tremendously from George's many years of service as NALC's chief lobbyist on Capitol Hill," said NALC President William H. Young.

I wish George, my friend for almost three decades, and his wife Diane, nothing but happiness and success as they enter the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING JEAN JUSKE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions that my constituent, Ms. Jean Juske, has made to her community. For more than 25 years, she has served as an officer with the Brickyard Seniors Club, and for the past few years she has served as that organization's President.

The Brickyard is an important organization for seniors in northwest Chicago that provides opportunities for socializing, community activism, and education. As President for the past several years, Jean Juske made sure that Brickyard members had lively meetings on the first and third Monday of the month that featured not only bingo games and other activities, but also included guest speakers and visits from elected officials.

Ms. Juske also arranged holiday dinners, special events, and day trips to regional points of interest. During her tenure at the Brickyard, Ms. Juske developed an expertise in a variety of programs and benefits designed for senior citizens, and served as a first point of contact for members who needed assistance.

Ms. Juske has provided a valuable service as a President of the Brickyard Seniors Club, and I would like to express my deep appreciation to her.

IN HONOR OF MARTIN GOLD

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and reflect on the passing of Martin Gold of the Bronx, New York. He was 90 years old.

On October 3, 2006, Martin left us for a better place, leaving behind his wife Helen, a son Robert Mariconi, many friends and admirers, and a far better Bronx thanks to his tireless advocacy.

Martin Gold was a passionate advocate of senior citizens, veterans, and the overall beautification of the Bronx.

He was the longtime Legislative Chairman for the Aging in America Community Services, Senior Center in the Bronx.

He fought against the privatization of Social Security, the prescription drug plan that created a donut-hole and left millions of seniors without coverage, cuts to Medicare and other senior services programs.

Martin was also a leader in fighting for additional benefits and better and more respectful treatment for veterans, including greater access to health care and ensuring waiting lists at VA hospitals disappeared.

He himself served our Nation proudly in the United States Navy for 8 years aboard the *Valley Forge*.

He would often write to me, organize petition drives and speak to myself and my staff about important bills and the need to look out for seniors and veterans in Congress.

Additionally, he was a true champion for a greater Bronx, himself organizing anti-graffiti campaigns to beautify the borough—a campaign he launched in 1994, when he was 78 years old.

In the neighborhoods around Pelham Parkway North, he would monitor 50 mailboxes to keep them clean. The Post Office gives him the specific shades of blue and green paints for the boxes, and a local neighborhood association donates the brushes and other supplies.

It was these efforts that led our former Bronx Borough President to award him the "Quality of Life Award".

He was one of the great Bronx residents who is changing the minds of America about what type of place the Bronx is. The Bronx that Howard Cosell referenced is not the Bronx that Martin Gold left us.

We have the second largest public park in the City, Pelham Park, and serve as home to the Bronx Zoo and the Bronx Botanical Garden.

The Bronx is also home to over 1.4 million people and so many lovely communities from City Island to Throggs Neck to Co-op City.

The local news channel New York One once dubbed him "New Yorker of the Week". Well, I think that could be an understatement.

Martin Gold was a Bronx Man for Life.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
WILBERT BLACK

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the life of Wilbert Black. It seems like Mr. Black has always been a part of my life—not true. I started frequenting his place of business 20 years ago. Back then his chair is where Darryl's chair is now.

At that time you could not make an appointment—it was first come, first served. My sister Barbara would come home from Connecticut and we would race to be first at the salon, sometime as early as 5:00 or 6:00 in the morning.

He was known as "The Curl King," in all of his regalia—tuxedos, three-piece suits, Gator shoes and his hair always in place. He kept an immaculate salon with tasty treats like coffee, cookies, wine, cheese and champagne.

Mr. Black not only was my hairstylist, he was my friend. He was never too busy for me. He always made himself available, offering constructive criticism and encouraging words. He was my political ally. He had a wall in his shop dedicated to me and my accomplishments. Everyone knew how much he respected and adored me and how much I loved him.

He loved the city of East Cleveland. From Euclid Avenue to Hayden Road to Noble Road, he was involved in every political campaign for candidates and issues. He worked the polls and did whatever it took to ensure that the people of East Cleveland exercised their right to vote.

Once President Bill Clinton came to Cleveland and Mr. Black agreed to drive a van as part of the President's caravan. He enjoyed it so much and talked about it constantly. My only regret was that the photo taken by the official photographer never reached Mr. Black though I tried my damndest to get it.

Sometimes getting my hair done was an all day experience! People used to say, "... what do you do all day, or what does Mr. Black do to your hair that takes all day?" Well let me take you through the day. You arrived and you were greeted with a huge smile and a big hug. He would ask about my family and then we would discuss current events in the city, the country and around the world. Then he would seat me in the main chair. There he would check my hair for any new growth and its condition. Then he would ask, "... when was your last service," "... what are we going to do today," or "... do you want to do something different?" Then it was on to the sink for a vigorous washing and conditioning. Then he would have me sit under the dryer for about 20 minutes. Then it was back to the main chair for styling.

I was so looking forward to my visit to Mr. Black's salon on November 8th the day after the election. I was scheduled for a trim, wash and condition. But more importantly I was

looking forward to our discussions of the elections. Mr. Black wanted the Democrats to be in the majority in the House and Senate as much as I did. He wanted Strickland to beat Blackwell, wanted gaming in Ohio, wanted the minimum wage increased, wanted our children to have a better education, wanted business, particularly in black communities to thrive, and wanted the best for his city, the city of East Cleveland.

I can just hear him saying, "Miss Jones, Miss Jones, what about these Democrats . . . Miss Jones, Miss Jones I am so glad Rumsfeld is gone . . . Miss Jones, President Bush is in trouble now!" His television was always on CNN, and I can remember vividly having spirited political conversations in his salon with him and Mrs. Black, and Darryl.

The Black Family was a strong one. Often when I arrived at the salon they would show me their pictures from their numerous trips across the country. I especially remember the ones from the fights in Atlantic City and Las Vegas. We did attend one fight together in Atlantic City. That photo now hangs on my wall of fame in the salon.

I always wanted to travel with him, but I was afraid that my wardrobe could not compete with Mr. Black's impeccable sense of style. When the expression "sharp as a tack" was coined, they must have been talking about Mr. Black. He was always immaculately dressed—suit, shirts, shoes, tie, cuff links, all meticulously selected. Each hair on his head would be in place. He was often known to do hair in his tuxedo! He took great pride in his appearance and I always admired that.

I had the privilege of nominating Mr. Black for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Unsung Heroes award. I remember him being so proud receiving his award. We had a wonderful time that day. He is truly an unsung hero. With more than 30 years in business, he is an institution, an icon, a beacon on the corner of Noble Road.

He was a wonderful husband. He and Odessa were a model of success in marriage, friendship, business and parenting. Nothing was more fun that to hear them go back and forth with each other. They were a couple who loved each, their profession and their children and grandchildren. His sons Darryl and Petey could not have had a better role model. He set the example for his sons and shared his knowledge with them.

We at Bethany Baptist Church were happy when the Black family joined our church, but no more happy than his sister Charlotte Blue one of our longtime members.

When Mr. Black found out he had cancer he got ready to fight. He handled his illness with such dignity. He kept going and going. I recall I tried to cancel my last appointment but he would not let me. He insisted that he would do my hair. He took his time and I refused to rush him. I wanted more than anything to just say "Rest, Mr. Black," but he would not hear it. He was going to finish no matter what.

Mr. Black, I am sure you are in heaven with the rest of your family, probably doing hair in your salon. I can imagine the immaculate decorations, the flowers, the seating, the stations, the cheerful greeting, and the broad smile. Rest well, my friend, my ally, my hero extraordinaire.

TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF LYNN L.
SKERPON

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the contributions of my friend and an excellent, committed public servant for Prince George's County and the State of Maryland, Lynn Skerpon of Upper Marlboro.

For six years, Lynn served as the very effective, efficient and competent Register of Wills in Prince George's County. She was appointed to this position on August 1, 2000, and then was elected to a four-year term in November 2002.

As the Washington Post noted in an editorial this past September: "The register of wills is not, as some have suggested, a mere court clerk but a significant job that in a given year administers some 4,000 estates, collects millions in taxes and fees and sorts through increasingly complicated legal issues." In fact, one of Lynn's proudest moments was assisting families of the September 11th victims and working with the federal government and other agencies in expediting aid to the those families.

Lynn is an accomplished, successful lawyer, who also has great experience in the legislative arena. She graduated from Princeton University in 1975, and then acquired her law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law three years later.

Early in her career, Lynn practiced as a sole practitioner and in firms, focusing on estates and trusts. She was an assistant legislative officer in the Office of the Governor from 1982 to 1984, and a hearing examiner with the Maryland Tax Court from 1984 to 1986. She also served as sessions counsel to Prince George's County Senators in 1997-98, and in the legislative office of the County Executive in 1999-2000.

In addition to her professional service and achievements, Lynn also is active in her church, schools and civic and community associations, including the Board of Trustees of Capital Hospice, the Board of Trustees of Prince George's Community College, and United Way of Prince George's County.

As Lynn moves to a new phase of her already successful career, I wish her and her family nothing but the best and know that she will continue to serve the community that she has called home for more than 20 years.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN LANE
EVANS

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and colleague, Congressman LANE EVANS, for his service in the House of Representatives and his dedication to the people of the 17th district of Illinois and veterans around the nation.

Congressman EVANS has served honorably in this chamber for eleven terms, and leaves

with a long record of unwavering advocacy for his constituency and the welfare of the American public.

Throughout his tenure, Congressman EVANS has been a staunch supporter of our Nation's servicemen and women, serving on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee since 1983. His ten years as ranking member have earned him the admiration and respect of every major veteran service organization.

A former Marine, Congressman EVANS is acutely aware to the needs of our men and women in uniform, and has advanced several important pieces of legislation which provide our servicemen and women with the proper care they are due.

Acting as one of the strongest voices for Desert Storm veterans, Congressman EVANS succeeded in raising awareness of the important specialized treatment returning veterans required, and ultimately enabled them to receive this life-saving care.

Congressman EVANS has also provided dedicated service to the troops currently serving our Nation in harms way, providing vigorous oversight of our military's spending and readiness as a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Speaker, LANE EVANS has provided twenty four years of steadfast and honorable service to this great Nation, and I am proud to call him my colleague and friend. I would like to thank him for his career of service, and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING CHAIRMAN MIKE OXLEY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute my friend and colleague from Findlay, Ohio, MIKE OXLEY. I think I can honestly say MIKE OXLEY is the most famous name to come out of Findlay since the original square hamburger. And MIKE is so well liked around here, even the square hamburger could well fall behind MIKE in popularity.

I got to know MIKE OXLEY from our days playing basketball when he brought the Congressional team to New York to play the New York State Assembly where I served at the time. Although we beat him twice, he never let me forget it!

He was always a good friend of my predecessor, Tom Manton. Tom, who recently passed away, developed a strong and lasting friendship with MIKE OXLEY; and as I came to Congress, Tom—my friend and mentor—told me to seek out MIKE. He told me MIKE was a straight shooter and someone who I should get to know. Tom was right.

And then, I had the pleasure of working with Chairman OXLEY during the 6 years I served as a member of the House Financial Services Committee, which he has chaired since its creation. Our Committee has had a long record of accomplishment, but he will be best known for the act that bears his name, Sarbanes-Oxley.

Created during the corporate scandals of Enron, Worldcom, Waste Management Inc.

and others, this law helped restore confidence to our nation's investors, who were questioning the safety of their funds in our country's capital markets. But he has had a hand in so many other laws as well, including tough new identity theft and anti-money laundering laws, as well as guiding our capital markets during a time of mergers, globalization and modernization. While these are the things he will be remembered for in the newspapers, and in the history books, it may not be the exactly what we all—those who know him remember him for.

We know him for his friendship, his great stories and his good nature. And of course, his great record on the baseball diamond—the only place I think he should have tried to be more bipartisan. But he was a great coach, and possibly the one area where a lot of us on this side won't miss him. But in an era of politics of personal destruction and "take no prisoners", MIKE succeeded here both professionally and personally as someone who worked with and listened to everybody. Friends were friends, not Democrats or Republicans.

MIKE is a solid conservative and a good Republican, but that never stopped him from working with Democrats to pass legislation, or to work to find common ground. If more members were like MIKE OXLEY, we wouldn't all be lamenting the partisan gridlock and meanness in Washington. MIKE, we will miss seeing you every day in the chamber but I know that this is not the last time we will see you. So as your career in Congress ends, and you start new adventures, I look forward to working with you again, albeit in your new capacity. So tonight, I wish you and Pat my best as you end one chapter and open another.

HONORING COLBERT KING ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL PAGE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Colbert (Colby) I. King, the Washington Post's Pulitzer Prize winning columnist and Deputy Editorial Page Editor. In a recent column, Mr. King informed his readers that he soon will cease writing editorials. However, Colby King's informal and spontaneous Saturday morning reading club takes some comfort in knowing that Colby King will continue to write his weekly column.

For 16 years, the Post, our city, and the region have benefited from reading a man who learned to write by doing it, not by going to journalism school. Colby went to school right here in the District, native born and native educated in the D.C. Public Schools and at Howard University.

Colby King's preparation for the career for which he will be best remembered came from the life he has lived—a childhood bereft of privilege, even equality, but rich in family love and upbringing. His pre-Post eclectic career ranged from the U.S. Army and VISTA to Treasury Department official and international banker.

Colby wrote about any and everything, but he was in his special element when he wrote

about his hometown. Most of what the Post editorial page has had to say about this city came from Colby King—sometimes sizzling with pride or indignation at shabby treatment by Congress and the like, even more often, hot with criticism of local officials and citizens alike, whose actions he thought unworthy of the city on a hill Colby wanted his hometown to become. Colbert King's role in writing the Home Rule Act, his special feel for the city of his birth, his wit and ability to laugh and to cry about this city, all contributed to the authority with which his views were received throughout the District and the region.

Colbert King has a way with words, a mark of pure talent, but talent alone won't win you a Pulitzer in his tough and competitive business. Colby's Pulitzer was his alone, the fruit of his columns. He used them to speak his mind on an unpredictable variety of subjects—too much crime and too little punishment; forgotten children and star-crossed residents, often remembered only in his Saturday columns; national and local politics and politicians scored without fear, favor or mercy; and the beloved family that reared him and the family that he and his wife, Gwendolyn, raised.

Colby King will be remembered also for his remarkable range. His contributions to the editorial page covered the page's territory, as Members know well from watching him on foreign and domestic affairs as a television opinion show panelist. His unusual set of talents and his judgment took him to editorial leadership on one of the world's most important papers. His contributions came during troubling times in our country and in this city. A failing war at home and an insolvent hometown, for example, badly needed unadulterated self-criticism and tough love. Colby King had the credibility, the talent, and the wisdom to offer both, to make us shake our heads up and down in agreement, and then to try again to reach his high expectations.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I note a personal regret as well that Colby is ending one part of his career. His 16 years on the editorial page and my 16 years in Congress overlap. I will miss not only reading Colby. I will miss having someone at the Post with whom I personally identify in so many ways—a friend who remembers the District as it was when we both were born in a segregated city and when we went to Dunbar High School, and a city that is both the same and very different today. I wish the Post good luck in finding such invaluable, institutional and personal experience for its editorial page.

Colbert King has decided to no longer write editorials, but he has certainly left his signature in indelible ink on the Washington Post. I ask my colleagues to join me in both honoring and thanking Colbert King for using his craft in service to the public.

NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November's celebration of National Epilepsy Awareness Month.

Almost 3 million Americans have epilepsy, a neurological condition that makes people susceptible to seizures. Ten percent of Americans

will experience a seizure in their lifetime, and each year, more than 181,000 develop seizures and epilepsy for the first time. Epilepsy affects people of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds. The condition can develop at any age, but epilepsy most often occurs in early childhood and old age.

It is also important to note that ten percent of all injuries to U.S. soldiers in Iraq are head injuries. Severe head injuries like those incurred during battle and roadside bombings carry a high risk of seizures and epilepsy that, in many cases, can develop months after the initial trauma.

Although advances in medical treatment have allowed some individuals with epilepsy to control their illness, more than 40 percent still have persistent seizures, despite all available treatments today. Epilepsy remains a formidable barrier to normal life, affecting educational opportunities, employment, and personal fulfillment.

Furthermore, epilepsy continues to be poorly understood by many Americans. Individuals with epilepsy are often misdiagnosed, cannot access the specialists they need, or are the subject of discrimination and prejudice. This cannot continue.

National Epilepsy Awareness Month aims to dispel common myths about individuals with epilepsy, increase public awareness and understanding about this serious condition, improve education to ensure faster diagnosis and treatment, and inform people about the services and informational resources available nationwide.

Many years ago, my life was turned upside down. Something was wrong with me but my doctor could not identify the cause. Finally, I was diagnosed with epilepsy. This diagnosis brought many challenges, but in my current position as a legislator, it has also brought opportunity. I hope I can be of some influence in directing attention and research to a disorder that has been ignored and misunderstood for too long.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of Congress to join all Americans with epilepsy, their families, friends, and supporters to do all we can to improve the lives of individuals with epilepsy.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. SHELVIN J. HALL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, to work until one is 90 years old is unusual; and to work effectively is almost unbelievable. However, to do both for Rev. Shelvin Jerome Hall is nothing more than expectation. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to this extraordinary man. When a young Shelvin Jerome Hall came to Chicago from Texas, he brought with him intellect, wisdom, wit, good up-bringing, determination, a strong belief in God and a recognition that he was destined to follow in the footsteps of Moses and lead his people towards a promised land.

When Rev. Hall took over the pastorate of the Friendship Baptist Church in 1955, it is reported that the church had only 87 cents in its treasury. However, without a great deal of fan-

fare, he developed an institution whose membership were solid citizens who themselves were growing as the church did, and he and Friendship became anchors of the North Lawndale Community.

Always conscious of the social, political and economic plight of African Americans and other minorities, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. came to Chicago in the 1960's, Rev. Hall opened the doors of Friendship to him and was not intimidated by City Hall and other factions opposed to the King movement.

During and after the riots in the '60's, Rev. Hall had a presence and played a significant role in fostering better police/community as well as Black-White relations in Chicago. Along the way Rev. Hall was married to an intelligent, professional, gracious and graceful woman, Mrs. Lucy Hall, who retired as one of Chicago's best public school teachers. They produced three children, Priscilla Hall who sits on the New York Supreme Court, Shelvin Louise Hall, an Appellate Court Justice in Cook County, Illinois and a son, Lewis J. Hall, Supervisor of Higher Education for the State of New York.

Rev. Hall has held every office on the Baptist Church's organizational chart. Pastor, Moderator, Dean at the Baptist Institute, President of the State Association and has provided leadership to many interfaith and interdenominational groups as well. Outside the religious arena, Rev. Hall has been chairman of many not-for-profit organizations and businesses . . . e.g. the Lawndale People's Planning and Action Conference, the Community Bank of Lawndale and a Blue Ribbon Commission to plan the re-opening of the Jackson Square Nursing Home across the street and in front of Friendship. Perhaps Rev. Hall's most pleasing achievement was the building of the new Friendship, commonly and fondly called the African Hut at 5200 W. Jackson Boulevard with wood imported from Mozambique. The church still sits in the heart of the Austin Community of Chicago which is more than 90% Black. It is a testament to the connection of African Roots to a large urban inner city community. It was also Rev. Hall, who along with some of his fellow clergy persons declared to Mayor Richard J. Daley and other Democratic Party leaders that it was time to elect a person of color to represent what is now the 7th Congressional District thereby, paving the way for Congressman George W. Collins to be elected, followed by his wife Congresswoman Cardiss Collins and finally, myself in 1996.

Rev. Hall, it is indeed a pleasure to salute you as you retire after having been pastor of Friendship Baptist Church for fifty one years. You've been effective and you've made a difference. We thank God for the Rev. Dr. Shelvin Jerome Hall.

TRIBUTE TO YVONNE SCARLETT-GOLDEN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 5th, 2006, the people of Daytona Beach, Florida and the United States suffered a great loss with the passing of Yvonne Scarlett-Golden. Yvonne Scarlett-Golden was a strong

leader, a passionate educator, and a devoted public servant. As the first African-American Mayor of Daytona Beach, she was never afraid of controversy; she was a true advocate for peace, racial justice, and social equality.

Born and raised in Daytona Beach, Yvonne grew up amid institutional segregation and discrimination. Despite growing up in a city of divisions, Yvonne would later be known as someone who brought the people of Daytona Beach together.

After High School, Yvonne decided to pursue a career in education. She received her Master's degree in education from Boston University, and began her teaching career in Florida public schools. She later taught in the San Francisco Unified School District, and served as the principal of Alamo Park High School for 20 years. After her long career to education, Yvonne returned to Daytona Beach to begin a career in politics, first as a city commissioner and later as the city's first African-American Mayor.

As Mayor, Yvonne helped unite the racially divided communities of Daytona Beach through determination and perseverance. She brought together the beachside and the mainland, black and white together through a city campaign pushing for respect and equality.

I remember very well attending peace conferences with Yvonne, the late Alameda County Supervisor John George, former Berkeley Mayor Gus Newport, former Berkeley City Councilmember Maudelle Shirek, and the late Carlton Goodlett, publisher of the Sun Reporter Newspaper, all of whose lives were totally committed to peace and justice.

Yvonne was a friend to me and an inspiration to many. Yvonne left us a legacy of fighting oppression and hatred with compassion and mutual respect. Her fight for justice and equality should not, can not, and will not be forgotten.

On behalf of the many friends of our beloved Yvonne from Northern California including her close friend, 95 year old former Vice Mayor of Berkeley Maudelle Shirek, we salute Yvonne Golden's life. We will keep her in our memories and we will honor her life by continuing her work for a better world. Her spirit will live on in the lives of those she touched in so many magnificent ways.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of a great woman, a brilliant human being who will be deeply missed, Yvonne Scarlett-Golden.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR TIM RUSSELL FOR 12 YEARS OF SERVICE AS MAYOR OF FOLEY, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and personal pleasure that I rise today to honor Mayor Tim Russell for his many years of leadership and service to the City of Foley, not to mention all he has done to promote and advance the entire First Congressional District of Alabama.

Mayor Russell has been a vital member of the Foley community his entire life. He was born and reared in Foley and is a graduate of

Foley High School, as well as The University of Alabama. As a young boy in high school and as a young man in college, he was constantly looking for ways to serve those around him. This has been a characteristic and quality that he has carried with him all his life; not a day has passed since he became Mayor of Foley that he wasn't working to make his hometown a better place to live.

Mayor Russell is also a veteran, having served his country in the Vietnam War where he was awarded the U.S. Army Commendation Medal. Mr. Speaker, I know of no one who is more patriotic or loves his country more than Tim Russell.

Tim and his lovely wife, Sandy, are the proud parents of two outstanding sons, Kevin and Kenton, a beautiful daughter, Karen, and a very handsome new grandson, Timothy. Not only has he been a wonderful father and husband, but Tim Russell is a great role model and someone we all respect.

Throughout his illustrious 12 years as mayor, Tim has been a dedicated, faithful public servant. In fact, if you were to look up the definition of a "servant leader" in Webster's Dictionary, you would very likely see Tim Russell's picture.

His list of accomplishments is long enough to fill an entire volume of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Among the highlights, he was the person most responsible for developing the main hurricane evacuation route away from South Alabama's beaches during a time of emergency. Today, this heavily-traveled highway is known around the state and throughout the Southeast as the "Foley Beach Express."

He also provided crucial leadership to the people of Foley in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Ivan. Tim's experience and guidance proved crucial to the entire region, especially during the rebuilding process that followed this devastating storm. Because of his steady hand, the recovery in South Baldwin County was much better than expected.

Mayor Russell also played a lead role in helping to develop what is now known as the Tanger Outlet Mall in Foley. This retail center is one of the largest attractions in the entire state of Alabama. In addition to being one of the area's largest employers, the Tanger Outlet Mall in Foley provides one of the largest streams of revenue to the entire state.

Last month, Mayor Russell chose to resign from the office of mayor—an office he so dearly loved—in order to better serve the people of South Alabama in the wake of an insurance crisis following three major hurricane seasons throughout the central Gulf Coast. Tim returns to his position as president of Baldwin Mutual Insurance Company, where he is fast becoming one of the leading experts in the nation on affordable and accessible insurance coverage. He resigned the office of mayor so as to not even suggest at a possible conflict of interest; that is simply the kind of man he is.

Tim's lifetime of service has certainly not gone unnoticed. He has been recognized by Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Outstanding Young Men of America, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, the 1991 Free Enterprise Person of the Year, Who's Who in the World, and the Sam Walton Leadership Award. He has also been commended by the U.S. Senate and received the NAMIC Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, the faithful service of outstanding Americans like Mayor Tim Russell

has aided in an immeasurable way to the wellbeing of our community. I would like to offer my congratulations to Tim for his many personal and professional achievements and offer a heartfelt "thank you" for a job well done.

I know his family and many friends join with me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts on behalf of the people of Foley and the entire State of Alabama.

MIRIAM RUTH GUTMAN
BRAVERMAN GREAT POINT-OF-
LIGHT

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Miriam Braverman as a Great Point-of-Light for all Americans. Dr. Braverman was a great humanitarian as well as a Librarian specializing in literature for youth. She had a soul and mind that could absorb the essence of the entire sweep of our civilization. Her encyclopedic approach to the world produced insights which catapulted her into the moral leadership of her profession. "Claims of respect for human life are rhetoric if librarians continue as merely neutral disseminators of information."

Dr. Braverman clearly understood that the power of information was continually escalating. That our culture could experience a dangerous overload bloated with trivia was a major concern. She advocated a selectivity focused on human rights advocacy as a guide for the preparation and dissemination of materials for youth. In her dissertation she criticized a generation of librarians who were obviously preoccupied with shielding youth from matters related to sex while ignoring great amounts of violence in the literature targeted for boys.

Miriam Braverman was an advocate in the classroom and a fighter on the street with the demonstrators against war and injustice. In Brownsville, one of New York's poorest communities, she inspired large numbers of young women to go on to college through her leadership of a Career and College Club. At the national level she was a leader in the movement which culminated in the American Library Association's condemnation of the war in Vietnam. Constantly she pushed for greater library involvement in the practical utilization of information and retrieval services. She was also an astute political observer and an enthusiastic advisor who supported many progressive candidates including the first campaign of MAJOR OWENS for the New York State Senate and the MAJOR OWENS for Congress campaigns. To block the triumph of evil she felt that participation in electoral politics was a necessary chore.

Miriam Braverman, without hesitation, as a college professor rallied to assist her students with any problem, academic or personal. As a neighbor and friend she responded to any emergency. Loving the whole world and being concerned with mankind began with a single individual. In her honor the Progressive Librarian: A Journal for Critical Studies and Progressive Politics in Librarianship has established a Miriam Braverman Prize Essay Contest. Today I am joined by a band of dedicated fol-

lowers as I salute Dr. Miriam Braverman as a Great Point-of-Light for all Americans.

THE NORTHERN BORDER TRAVEL FACILITATION ACT

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my strong support for the Northern Border Travel Facilitation Act. As Chairman of the Small Business Committee, I held a November 17, 2005, hearing on the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). WHTI may mandate the use of a passport for all travel between the United States and Canada as early as January 1, 2008. In 2003 alone, there were 34.5 million visits by Canadians to the U.S., which had a \$10.9 billion impact on our economy. Thus, if handled incorrectly, the WHTI travel document requirements could have serious detrimental effect on the United States economy.

Because of the cost and lack of speed in using a passport for frequent travelers across the U.S.-Canadian Border, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has approved other forms of travel documents for U.S. citizens to comply with WHTI that are not available to Canadian citizens. This means that Canadian citizens have no current options other than to use a passport at border crossings to comply with WHTI requirements.

I believe that, in certain circumstances, Canadian provincial driver's licenses and U.S. state driver's licenses should be accepted as border crossing documents. I also believe that when children accompany a legal guardian across the United States-Canadian border, they should not have to provide separate travel documents from their guardian. After all, a parent should not have to suffer economic loss to verify that their three year old is not a terrorist. The Northern Border Travel Facilitation Act will accomplish both of these objectives.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS

SPEECH OF

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to a great American, a colleague and most importantly, a friend. LANE EVANS has served this body with his full heart and soul for the past 24 years and for his service and friendship I thank him so much.

LANE is an amazing man in every sense of the word. His tireless work as Ranking Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee has set the bar for which future Chairmen should strive to achieve. As a young Marine serving in Vietnam, he saw firsthand the rigors of war and it helped him to realize that our soldiers must be treated for all the symptoms of war and that some of the worst battle scars are visible but below the surface. His fight to get fair treatment for those suffering from Agent

Orange in Vietnam ensured he would be one of the first to recognize and push for treatment of Gulf War Syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Physical and mental health were not the only fights that he entered into on behalf of Veterans. He also led the battle to get equitable treatment for female veterans and worked tirelessly to combat the plight of homeless veterans across America. His work to ensure a high quality of life for those who have served us with honor will be one of his most noted legacies in this body.

LANE, I thank you for your friendship, your leadership and all of your service to our Nation. I know you have forever left your mark on your Nation, the House of Representatives, and all the veterans who have received better treatment because of your work.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to enclose with my statement the remarks of my predecessor and friend who also served this body with his full heart and soul, the Honorable Andy Jacobs, former Congressman for the 10th Congressional District of Indiana.

DECEMBER 8, 2006.

Hon. LANE EVANS, MC,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LANE: The time has come for me to put on paper what I have fervently entertained in my mind through the years of our acquaintance.

To begin, you are one of my authentic heroes. British Lord Chesterton said, "Sometimes it takes less courage to die for one's country than to tell her the truth." On many more than one occasion you have displayed that greater courage in the profoundly patriotic performance of your chores as a member of Congress, service quite literally "above and beyond the call of duty."

In your effective opposition to the mindless, gratuitous and vicarious militarism of some national leaders, you have helped save the lives of hapless public spirited young Americans. Thus, you have done God's work most nobly.

For the young Americans who have been forced into unnecessary permanent combat disability, you have been a major national factor in achieving justice in terms of veterans' benefits.

You have also given our Nation bright lessons of prudence with the public purse. Thank you for being my friend and friend to all peace-loving freedom-loving Americans.

Sincerely,

ANDY JACOBS, JR.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PAGE PROGRAM

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following commentary by Jason Ackerman, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, which is in my congressional district. Jason was a House page in 2003–2004 and is now a student at New York University.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PAGE PROGRAM (By Jason Ackerman)

New York Times columnist John Tierney argues that the congressional page program should be eliminated because it serves no purpose for pages or for the country ("A page, M'Lord, at your service," Oct. 4).

Well John Tierney was obviously never a page.

I served as a page from August 2003 to January 2004. These months were some of the most special moments of my life—months in which I not only learned how Congress operates, but also months in which I made some of the greatest friends of my life.

A day in the life of a page is not easy. It starts at 6:45 in the morning when we all walk from our dorm a couple of blocks from the Capitol to the Library of Congress's Jefferson Building where school is held. Full-time teachers teach the same subjects that we would otherwise have been taking back at our home schools.

The school is not a piece of cake either. The courses are very challenging, so challenging in fact that when I came back to my high school I was way ahead in most subjects.

After school, which lasted until the House of Representatives commenced, we would head over to the Floor of the House of Representatives where we would start our daily tasks. There are many different page jobs, most of which are rotated around so everyone gets an opportunity to experience different areas of the House.

Some pages are runners, which involved taking documents from one place in the Capitol to another. Others are cloakroom pages, where we worked in the cloakroom answering phones about floor proceedings. Still others are in charge of the bell system and of raising and lowering the flag every day on the top of the House of Representatives to declare that the House is in session.

The day ends when the House goes out of session. This can be anywhere from 5:00 in the afternoon to 7:00 in the morning. Then we head home, do homework, socialize, clean our rooms (which are checked three times a week), and then go to bed at mandatory curfew hour, which was 10:00 on weekdays and 12:00 on weekends.

Some of my most memorable and enjoyable moments as a page were getting to interact with members of the House. Some would come by and tell us jokes, and others would take the time to help us identify someone we were trying to find or to explain to us what was going on at that moment in the complicated proceedings of the House.

Yes there were some unfriendly ones, but by and large most members are very kind and generous. There was not a single time in which I felt insecure or unsafe while on the Floor or at any other time while I was a page.

The lifelong friendships that I made because of the page program are some of the most amazing friendships of my life. Former pages are some of my closest friends, and I keep in touch with a lot of them on a daily or weekly basis. I now have friends in California and Wyoming that I would never have had the chance to make without this experience.

The page experience is something that I would not trade for anything, and it was one of the greatest times of my life. I witnessed history first hand, and made a ton of friends in the process. The experience also sparked my interest in public service, government, and the political process. I would not hesitate one moment to send my child to be a page.

These views are also shared with every one of my classmates that I have spoken to since the Foley scandal has erupted. My roommate, who was actually sponsored by Congressman Foley, stressed the importance of continuing the program because of how the program changed his life as well.

The only people who do not want the program to continue are people who know nothing about the program and have never talked to a page.

Congressman Foley made a mistake, and should be punished to the full extent of the law, but to punish the page program for his mistake is not only unfortunate but also unjust.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE HENRY J. HYDE OF ILLINOIS

SPEECH OF

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 32 years of service from the distinguished gentleman from Illinois, my friend and colleague, Chairman HENRY J. HYDE. I am humbled to say that I have served the American people alongside a truly great American.

Though I have only served for a little over a year with him, I have grown to admire him for his unwavering commitment to protecting innocent life. Mr. HYDE has fought vigorously to protect those who cannot protect themselves most notably with the Hyde Amendment in 1976. Before taking office, I was President of Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati and admired his leadership and guided wisdom.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for his commitment to principle rather than expediency. He stood up for American values and during the Cold War, worked to ensure that America remain that shining city on a hill. I am honored and proud to say that I am his colleague.

The gentleman and his leadership and wisdom will be missed. This institution has certainly been blessed by his service. Mr. Chairman, congratulations on your retirement and congratulations to you and your new bride.

CONGRATULATING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF KAZAKHSTAN ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the Government and the people of Kazakhstan on the 15th anniversary of their independence. I am encouraged by how far this Central Asian country has come since its independence in 1991, both in terms of economic and democratic progress. Kazakhstan has overcome numerous obstacles and challenges and today is a well recognized leader in promotion of economic and political freedoms in a region of great and growing importance to the security of the United States.

This year we also mark the 15th anniversary of the U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship. Kazakhstan has become not only a strategic partner, but a true friend of the United States. Kazakhstan has been a valuable ally to the

United States both before and after the tragic events of September 11. We are grateful to Kazakhstan for its unwavering commitment to strengthening stability in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Proudly, we share friendship based on common values of freedom and democracy. This fall we warmly welcomed to the United States the President of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Nursultan Nazarbayev, the architect of Kazakhstan's success and growing U.S.-Kazakhstan partnership.

Our cooperation has notably resulted in the elimination of weapons of mass destruction which Kazakhstan inherited from the Soviet Union, including hundreds of nuclear missiles aimed at the United States. President "Nazarbayev was instrumental in ridding his nation of this lethal legacy thus greatly enhancing global security.

In addition to supporting our arms control objectives, Kazakhstan has played a key role in promoting peace and stability in the region by initiating the summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia. This forum of 18 nations, including Russia, China, India, Pakistan, our NATO ally Turkey, Afghanistan and others provide a timely opportunity for Asian nations to address current challenges to international peace and stability and establish a framework to resolve them. I believe we should commend Kazakhstan for its vision and enormous efforts to bring about this new security forum for Asia.

Mr. Speaker, Kazakhstan is Central Asia's most progressive nation, positioned to set the example for democratic reform in this most important region. I cannot agree more with the Joint Statement by our two Presidents adopted during the recent visit of President Nazarbayev that "an enhanced strategic partnership between our countries will promote security and prosperity and foster democracy in the 21st Century."

THE LIFE OF JEANNE KIRKPATRICK

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick. Yesterday, the woman who worked diligently to bring peace to the world passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 80.

Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick was one of America's foremost authorities on international relations. She was the first female U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and represented our nation honorably. She had unwavering moral convictions and stood up to the world's bullies. Her thoughts on communism through Iraq and Islamic terrorism were firm and clear, just as she was.

My wife Vicki was in the same bible study as Ambassador Kirkpatrick and I had the privilege of meeting her on several occasions. She was an elegant woman with a quiet confidence. This country has lost a great patriot.

The world is a better place because of Jeanne Kirkpatrick. Her work will continue to live on in all those she touched and in those they have touched. God Bless Jeanne Kirkpatrick and her family.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS DESIGNATED AS EMERGENCIES, CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS, OR UNANTICIPATED DEFENSE-RELATED OPERATIONS

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of House Concurrent Resolution 376, I am transmitting this document titled "Guidelines for the Application of Provisions Designated as Emergencies, Contingency Operations, or Unanticipated Defense-related Operations." It sets forth an explicit explanation of the characteristics of spending that is appropriately exempted from the enforcement controls of the Congressional Budget Act.

This report is required under the terms of House Concurrent Resolution 376, which is currently in effect as a concurrent resolution on the budget in the House for fiscal year 2007, deemed in force under the provisions of House Resolution 818.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS DESIGNATED AS EMERGENCIES, CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS, OR UNANTICIPATED DEFENSE- RELATED OPERATIONS

SUMMARY

The fiscal year 2007 budget resolution, H. Con. Res. 376, sets forth three categories of spending that are treated by Congress under special procedures outside the normal budget process: domestic emergencies, defense-related emergencies, and contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism. The first of these, domestic emergencies, has a special reserve fund to finance emergency spending priorities, such as unforeseen natural disasters that tend to occur nearly every year. The remaining two categories—defense-related emergencies and terror-related response contingency operations—are exempted from normal controls due to the special nature of each.

Although Congress did not reach a conference agreement on the budget resolution, the House did deem the House-passed resolution to be in force for all purposes of the Congressional Budget Act. The general definition of an emergency, as spelled out in the budget resolution, is not new: its terms have long been employed by the administration's Office of Management and Budget [OMB], and have been carried in previous budget resolutions. What is new is the enhanced discipline, called for by the resolution, in applying these terms to the three special categories of spending cited above. Section 503 of the resolution includes the following mandate:

"In the House, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this resolution, the chairman of the Committee on the Budget shall, after consultation with the chairmen of the applicable committees, and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, prepare guidelines for application of the definition of an emergency and publish such guidelines in the Congressional Record, and may issue any committee print from the Committee on the Budget for this or other purposes."

This discussion, therefore, provides guidelines for the application of these spending categories.

DEFINITION AND GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR EMERGENCY SPENDING

Section 502 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007 estab-

lishes in general terms the definition of spending that is appropriately designated as an emergency. Although these guidelines may be used to apply to "unanticipated" defense-related emergencies, they aim principally to help determine what domestic priorities are eligible to be funded through the reserve fund established by the budget resolution, and to define an "emergency" in general.

The term "emergency" is important because any spending so designated escapes the regular controls applicable to all other spending. But the definition, and the guidelines below, are not intended to judge the policy importance of any given emergency spending; that is for the Appropriations Committee and the Congress in general to determine. It is rather to identify general characteristics of such spending that identifies it as meriting special procedures exempting it from the normal congressional budget process.

There are two essential components to the application of this designation: that an "emergency" concerns a threat to life, property, or national security; and that the event was "unanticipated." The definition also asserts that funding in response to an emergency should be temporary in nature.

The applicable text in the resolution fleshes out these terms, and is largely self-explanatory. It reads as follows:

"(1) The term 'emergency' means a situation that—

"(A) requires new budget authority and outlays (or new budget authority and the outlays flowing therefrom) for the prevention or mitigation of, or response to, loss of life or property, or a threat to national security; and

"(B) is unanticipated.

"(2) The term 'unanticipated' means that the underlying situation is—

"(A) Sudden, which means quickly coming into being or not building up over time;

"(B) Urgent, which means a pressing and compelling need requiring immediate action;

"(C) Unforeseen, which means not predicted or anticipated as an emerging need; and

"(D) Temporary, which means not of a permanent duration."

An example of "emergency" spending that was "unanticipated" was the major California earthquake of January 1993. The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-211, 12 February 1994). The measure provided \$376.1 million to programs of the Department of Agriculture, such as for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations. In contrast, there were attempts to declare the funding for the 2000 Census required by the Constitution as an emergency. This clearly would have been an abuse of the designation: The census has been required every ten years for over two centuries.

An example of "urgent" funding needs appeared in the response to Hurricanes Fran and Hortense and other disasters, Public Law 104-208. The measure provided \$88 million for U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] flood assistance programs, including \$63 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations, and \$25 million for the Emergency Conservation Program. Had the funding been delayed until the next budget cycle, the consequences of the hurricanes would have been irreparable, in Congress's judgment.

The term "unforeseen" applies to funding for activities that could not be anticipated as an emerging need and are over and above the aggregate level of anticipated emergencies that are normally estimated in advance. A good example of an unforeseen emergency is the terrorist attacks against New York and Washington, D.C. on 11 September 2001.

The term “temporary” means that emergency spending should not in general be for multiple fiscal years or in general be for permanent new entitlements. For example, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–234, 15 June 2006) included \$55 million for USDA to repair its own damaged facilities. Such spending was to respond to Hurricane Katrina and was for a purpose that was not recurring—and was directly related to the property destruction caused by the hurricane.

Emergencies are divided into three categories: nondefense-related, defense-related, and spending related to the Global War on Terrorism. These categories are described at length below, but a general summary is as follows:

Nondefense-related emergencies are chiefly, but not always, associated with natural disasters such as hurricanes, droughts, or earthquakes. The resolution creates a new reserve fund to anticipate such events. The fund and its application are further discussed below.

Defense-related spending, if unanticipated, is, in effect, excepted from the Congressional budget process. This is established in section 402 of H. Con. Res. 376.

Budget authority needed for the “Global War on Terrorism” includes spending for the security of the United States and for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The emergency designation should only be used as follows:

The designation should be used when preparing appropriations language and should be specific to each appropriation account for which the designation will be used. If not designated specifically as emergency under Section 402 or 501 of the Budget Resolution, the appropriation will be scored against the subcommittee’s 302(b) discretionary budget totals for the year.

The designation is not to be used as a relief valve for regular appropriations to circumvent 302 allocations. In other words, this designation should not be used to artificially deflate regular budget requests. It is to be used for unknowns. If a known program requires known funding at the time of the regular appropriations, it should not be treated as an emergency.

The appropriations subcommittee will designate funding as emergency when identifying the appropriation. The President may request the funds as emergency or as contingent emergency, but that request is non-binding and the subcommittees may appropriate funds with or without the designation as is appropriate. The Office of Management and Budget is the arbiter of what is or is not designated as an emergency in the request. OMB’s guidance in its Circular A–11 to the Agencies on this matter is fairly loose and mentions emergencies only in the context of supplemental requests. The guidance lists an “emergency” as one of the rationales for a supplemental stating that a supplemental is appropriate when: An unforeseen emergency situation occurs (e.g., natural disaster requiring expenditures for the preservation of life or property).

The emergency designation is legislative language that falls within the primary jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget. In addition, the Budget Committee enforces the allocation of spending authority given to each Congressional Committee. If the Appropriations Committee includes language designating a provision of spending as an emergency, the Budget Committee adjusts this general allocation by an equal amount. Be-

cause this does not automatically cause a corresponding increase in the suballocations that the Appropriations Committee distributes to each of its subcommittees (and which must equal the general allocation), it must act to revise that suballocation for a bill or amendment to escape a point of order under 302(f) of the Budget Act which prohibits the consideration of measures breaching the permissible levels of spending.

The Budget Committee does not, as a matter of course, validate that all funds designated emergency meet the criteria outlined above for amounts within the non-defense reserve fund—the adjustments are automatic once the designation is placed in the legislative text. Once the reserve fund is exhausted, and adjustments are required above the amount set aside for nondefense emergencies (\$6.45 billion for fiscal year 2007), the committee must meet in open session to consider whether the additional amounts designated should be accommodated by an additional adjustment in the allocation to the Appropriations Committee. In the meeting, the amount by which the allocation should be raised is open for amendment—though it is not in order to raise the amount above the level designated as an emergency in the bill to be considered on the floor of the House.

NONDEFENSE EMERGENCY RESERVE FUND

Section 501 of the budget resolution creates an emergency reserve fund that effectively caps the overall amount that can be used for nondefense domestic emergencies (such as natural disasters). Funding beyond the reserve amount may be provided only if the Budget Committee meets and approves an increase in the cap.

The concept of the emergency reserve fund is not unlike a colloquial “rainy-day fund.” It does not attempt to predict any specific natural disaster. Instead, it recognizes that natural disasters of some kind—whether hurricanes, forest fires, floods, or others—occur in the United States nearly every year; the reserve sets aside an amount of funding in advance to address such needs, should they arise. The amount in the fund is based on historical experience. It does not assume to anticipate extraordinary disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina; it would be impractical and impracticable to set aside funds of that magnitude for events that are so rare.

GUIDELINES FOR BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

This section (section 402) exempts from the Congressional Budget Act and its enforcement provisions only those spending provisions that meet the following definitions:

(a) General contingency operation: A provision designated as a contingency operation related to the global war on terrorism may be either:

Defense-related; or
Nondefense-related.

(b) Defense-related contingency operation: A provision designated as a defense-related contingency operation:

May be for spending directly related to an immediate response to a terrorist attack by the Department of Defense, whether domestic or international;

May be for spending directly related to the costs of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom;

May be for spending that also meets the definition of an “unanticipated defense-related operation” described in this committee print;

May not be for spending for routine military expenditures not specifically caused by

or directly related to Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. It is not appropriate to use the designation to fund special interest projects that could be addressed in the normal appropriation process.

(c) Nondefense-related contingency operation: A spending provision designated as a nondefense-related contingency operation:

May be for any immediate nondefense response to a terrorist attack, whether domestic or international;

May not be for nondefense-related spending predominantly required to respond to unanticipated criminal law enforcement needs, except for nondefense terrorism-related spending;

May not be used to offset spending on projects or earmarks that are anticipated and should be in regular spending bills.

(d) Terrorism-related spending: Both defense and nondefense “terrorism-related spending” includes, but is not limited to, immediate responses to terrorist attacks carried out by individual terrorists or terrorist organizations to either domestic or international interests of the United States [or other applicable nation-states or international organizations]. Terrorism-related spending does not include legislative or appropriations provisions intended to reduce, prevent or mitigate future terrorist attacks that could adequately be addressed in the normal authorizing and appropriations process (that is unless the measure in question is in response to a need that has arisen subsequent to the passage of the budget resolution).

(f) Terrorist attack: A “terrorist attack” is the use or threatened use of force or violence to civilian or military persons, buildings, installations or other property [people or property] carried out by an individual or organization; and

Is not carried out by an internationally recognized nation-state;

May be the result of state-sponsored terrorism.

FURTHER GUIDELINES FOR THE DESIGNATION OF UNANTICIPATED DEFENSE-RELATED OPERATIONS

Unanticipated Defense-related spending may be:

For defense facilities damaged by natural disasters, or

For a response to natural disasters that entails the use of military resources; or

For all costs associated with the national defense that can not be accommodated through the normal appropriations process.

OTHER GENERAL DEFINITIONS

(a) Defense-related spending: “Defense-related” means spending from provisions from accounts within function 050—National Defense.

(b) Nondefense-related spending: “Non-defense-related” means spending from provisions from accounts not within function 050—National Defense.

(c) Directly related: “Directly related” means the direct relation between the spending designated under this section and the response to an activity that would not be necessary were general contingency operations as described in this committee print not required. For instance crop and livestock disaster assistance should not be available to those not directly affected by the disaster but who happen to live in the same geographic region that was generally impacted.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LANE EVANS, MEMBER OF CON-
GRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague and treasured friend, LANE EVANS. As the 109th Congress comes to an end so, too, does the remarkable 24-year tenure in the House of Representatives of one of the bravest and most decent members to have served in this body.

I had the privilege of working in LANE EVANS' first campaign in 1982. At the time LANE declared his candidacy, he was considered a sacrificial lamb running against a well-entrenched Republican incumbent. His was a pipe dream—except to the many labor union workers, consumer and civil rights activists, and ordinary residents of this western Illinois district who saw something special in this young, legal assistance attorney.

When the incumbent lost his primary election to a State Representative from the far right wing of the party, LANE EVANS' campaign gained momentum and this young Democrat became the Congressman, the first Democrat to do so since the Civil War.

In the first campaign, LANE spent lots of time with his young volunteers. After all, he wasn't much older than they. He sported a Beatle-like bowl hair cut that he maintained until rather recently, resisting all good-natured recommendations for a style update. He was modest, unassuming, friendly, and also inspiring. He showed a humble respect for each and every voter, addressing them in the soft-spoken, sincere manner that he never lost. The quiet strength that came from being a United States Marine during the Vietnam era always shone through.

From the first day and throughout his career in the House, LANE EVANS remained true to his core progressive beliefs. The working and retired men and women of his district and the veterans throughout the nation could always count on LANE EVANS being there for them—no excuses, no exceptions. Environmentalists named him an "Environmental Hero."

There were those who encouraged LANE to trim his positions in order to ensure his reelection. In the end, his consistency proved to be a great asset, appreciated by his constituents who always knew exactly where he stood and who trusted that LANE would not bend with the changes in the polls.

As the Ranking Democrat of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, LANE EVANS is recognized as the leading advocate of veterans in Congress, responsible for legislation to compensate veterans and their families for the effects of Agent Orange, help Persian Gulf and women veterans, and those now returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The veterans' service organizations have honored Lane with their highest awards.

LANE EVANS has always been a leader in the fight for universal health care. Parkinson's disease has forced him to end his productive service in the House. Even now, however, he acknowledges how fortunate he is to be able to afford the best care, while so many Americans are not. He has become an advocate for

expanding funding for research into the cure for Parkinson's and many other diseases that might benefit from government-funded embryonic stem cell research. As in all things at all times, LANE EVANS is handling this newest challenge with courage and dignity.

On a personal note, LANE EVANS has been a close and dear friend to me and my husband, Bob Creamer, since that very first campaign in 1982. That friendship, through thick and thin, has been and will always be so precious to us. We are grateful to LANE for being such an important part of our lives. We love him very much.

LANE EVANS will be sorely missed on a day-to-day basis in this House of Representatives, but his legacy will ever be reflected in the improved lives of the veterans of the United States and all the working families who will continue to benefit from his outstanding service.

TRIBUTE TO THE MENOMINEE
MAROONS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Menominee Maroons, my hometown high school football team that has demonstrated tenacity, courage and skill. Two weeks ago, the Maroons brought the Division 5 state football championship home to Menominee. The team qualified for the state championship after going undefeated in the regular season with a record of 9–0. Equally impressive, in five playoff games, the Menominee Maroons allowed only one touchdown, outscoring their opponents 201 to 6! The Maroons enjoy the distinction of being just the third team to shut out four playoff opponents. Also notable: this year's Menominee Maroons broke the school's previous single-season scoring record of 539 points in a season.

Head Coach Ken Hofer deserves much of the credit for shepherding his team to such success. Coach Hofer has the tenth winningest record in the state of Michigan: 266–122–2. This is the second championship that his teams have brought back to Menominee, having also won the Class BB title in 1998.

In some ways, Coach Hofer and his style of football harken back to an earlier era. Coach Hofer has been at the helm of the Menominee team for 38 years and during that time he has run the unique, "single-wing" offense that is reminiscent of 1940s football. Under this offense, no one player on Menominee's offensive backfield is a "traditional quarterback" as each of the four "backs" may run or pass the ball. This unique formation has successfully confused opponents around the state and allowed Menominee to achieve its solid winning record. Under the single-wing offense, the center makes a direct snap on each play to a player in the backfield. Unlike under the more commonly seen shotgun formation, the center snaps the football to a player who may not be directly behind him. Despite this irregular technique, Menominee saw hardly any turnovers throughout the season, which can be attributed to the team's unrelenting practice. Ultimately, the single-wing formation relies more heavily on teamwork than other formations.

Menominee's single wing offense is taught throughout the Menominee area public school system, starting in 9th grade by Coaches Jeff Bayerl, Mark Bayerl and Jim Anderla. Maroons Junior Varsity is coached by Greg Langlois and Dave Mathieu. These freshman and junior varsity coaches are also part of the "scouting team," which traveled over 5,000 miles this past season to see and learn opponents' strengths and weaknesses in preparation for each Maroon victory.

I would be remiss if I did not discuss the defense of the Maroons and their shutout performance through the playoffs and their efforts to hold Madison Heights, their state final opponents, to six points. Equally important, the Maroons held their opponents to just 38 points during the entire regular season. In the 9 games of the regular season, the Menominee Maroons outscored their opponents 332–38, truly an astonishing feat. Menominee's performance in the championship game built upon this strong showing. The Maroons outgained Madison Heights 442 yards to 232, despite Madison controlling the clock by almost 10 more minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting the 2006 Menominee Maroons football team of Brian Boye, Tom Janson, Ethan Shaver, Nathan Shaver, David Oczus, Matt LaCanne, Dustin Kovar, Austin Fernstrum, Jacob McMahon, Bryan Colvin, Matt Eisenzoph, Robert Forgette, Mike Hansen, Derek Rye, Blake Chouinard, Scott Demars, Aaron Thomsen, Ryan Paliewicz, Anthony Polazzo, Josh Johnson, Tom Carriveau, Zac Robertson, Sam Piche, Ian Rider, Brian Smith, Tyler Blom, Donald Jones, Steve Busick, Josh Blavat, Andrew Whipp, Nathan Linsmeier, Justin Ketchum, Brian Busick, Joe Klitze, Kert Roubal, Trevor Powell, Jacob Pedersen and Cody Woods. I would also ask that you join me in honoring the Assistant Coaches "Satch" Englund, Joe Noha and Jamie Schomer who helped drive this team to victory as well as Managers Jared Thiesen and Bobby Olsen. Athletic Trainers Derek Butler and Dr. Michael Karkkainen and Athletic Director Dale Van Duinen should also be recognized for their contributions to the Maroons' success.

Of course, Head Coach Ken Hofer has earned the thanks, respect and admiration of all of Menominee, not only for this season, but for the 38 that preceded it. Coach Hofer has done great work in bringing out the best in his players. Coach Hofer said of this year's Menominee Maroons, "These young men came to practice every day, and I don't mean just show up. They came to practice hard. And in every game they went all out."

The 2006 Menominee Maroons football team members are also champions off the field. Menominee football is more than just passing, punting, running, kicking and tackling; it is about developing the "inner athlete". Coach Hofer and his entire staff know that the lessons of life can be learned on the gridiron. Coach Hofer often talked about the team's "focus". This team's dedication, commitment and focus are why so many Maroon fans followed, supported and believed in their team. The 2006 state champion Menominee Maroons have clearly learned the lessons of life embodied in what another well respected Menominee County coach, the late Dale Fountain, often stated:

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

"Never lose track of what really matters. It does not matter how many points you earn, medals you win or trophies you take home. What really matters is what kind of competitor you are, what kind of son or daughter you are, what kind of student you are, and what kind of adult you will become!"

Mr. Speaker, my wife, Laurie, and I know many of these championship football players and recognize that each of them is a champion in our community. Menominee and the people of the Upper Peninsula know that when we proudly chant "U.P. Power", it is a reflection of our pride in our Menominee Maroon football tradition and the fine young men who brought home another football championship to our fine community. It is with great pride that I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating and honoring these football champions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately as the result of a death in the family and my need to return to Illinois by Saturday morning for the funeral services, I was unable to cast my votes on the following pieces of legislation. I request that the RECORD state my intentions on these votes had I been present to vote.

I would have voted "aye" for H. Res. 1100, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 6406, to modify temporarily certain rates of duty and make other technical amendments to the trade laws, to extend certain trade preference programs, and for other purposes.

I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 5948, the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006. Passage of the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act supports Belarus as an emerging democracy with U.S. assistance by strengthening democratic institutions and processes within the country. Our country has a long history of promoting democracy worldwide and this bill will assist the people of Belarus with foreign aid and the risk of U.S. sanctions should the recent political upheavals and the repression of democratic groups in the country continue.

I would have voted "present" in response to the Call of the House. I am sorry to have missed Speaker J. DENNIS HASTERT's farewell speech. I respect and admire him, and am proud to serve with him in the Illinois congressional delegation. His long tenure as the Speaker of the House is historic, and he will be celebrated as an esteemed statesman.

I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 6406, to modify temporarily certain rates of duty and make other technical amendments to the trade laws, to extend certain trade preference programs, and for other purposes. This package contains trade provisions I have supported in the past and will continue to do so in the future. These provisions will help expand the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers and exporters within the global marketplace.

I would have voted "aye" on the Conference Report on H.R. 5682, the Henry J. Hyde U.S.-

India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act of 2006. India has been a longtime and important ally to the U.S. and U.S. assistance in the development of a civilian nuclear energy program will only cement the strategic partnership between our two countries. With the passage of the cooperation agreement with India the U.S. can be assured the peaceful sharing of nuclear energy technologies under international safeguards while preventing the spread of nuclear weapon information to rogue countries, such as North Korea and Iran.

I would have voted "aye" on H.J. Res. 102, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2007. While I am disappointed that we were not able to pass the remaining appropriations bills under regular order, I feel that it is important that we continue to fund our government program at adequate levels until we can address the appropriations bills in the next session of Congress.

Finally, I would have voted "aye" on the following bills, considered under suspension of the rules:

1. H.R. 6407—Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act

2. H. Res. 1104—Providing for a severance payment for employees of leadership offices and committees of the House of Representatives who are separated from employment solely and directly as a result of a change in the party holding the majority of the membership in the House

3. H.R. 6060—Department of State Authorities Act of 2006

4. S. 4050—Sergeant First Class Robert Lee 'Bobby' Hollar, Jr. Post Office Building Designation Act

5. S. 4093—A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend a suspension of limitation on the period for which certain borrowers are eligible for guaranteed assistance

6. H.R. 5304—Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement Act

7. S. 3821—COMPETE Act of 2006

8. S. 4042—A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit disruptions of funerals of members or former members of the Armed Forces

9. H.R. 6427—To increase the amount in certain funding agreements relating to patents and nonprofit organizations to be used for scientific research, development, and education, and for other purposes

10. H.R. 6428—To authorize the Secretary of the Army to carry out certain elements of the project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana

11. S. 2735—Dam Safety Act of 2006

12. S. Con. Res. 123—A concurrent resolution providing for correction to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5946

13. H.R. 5946—Stevens-Inouye International Fisheries Monitoring and Compliance Legacy Act of 2006

14. H.R. 4075—Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 2006

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRIAN J. HARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight, our final night of the 109th Congress,

to express my gratitude to and appreciation for a very good friend of mine, Mr. Brian J. Hard. I've had the honor of counting on Brian's exemplary service to my office and the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District for the past 8 years, and at the end of this month Brian will conclude his service in the United States House of Representatives as he returns home to the great State of Oregon with his lovely bride, Laura. This occasion will cap 12 years of outstanding public service by Brian in the Congress, and this distinguished institution will be losing one of its finest staff members.

I first got to know Brian when I was the Majority Leader of the Oregon House of Representatives and he was fresh out of Oregon State University and had begun his service to our state in the Oregon Capitol. He succeeded in numerous professional capacities in Oregon and eventually accepted a key staff position in 1995 with one of my predecessors in the Oregon congressional delegation in Washington, DC. Brian and I renewed our ties in 1998 when I first ran for election to Congress and he was working for the honorable Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Bob Smith, whom I succeeded. I was very fortunate when Brian accepted my offer to work in my office upon my election, thus beginning a harmonious and successful relationship.

As my Legislative Director for the vast majority of my service in the House, Brian has played a pivotal role in so many accomplishments we've worked hard to achieve for the people of Oregon. He has been a highly effective point person for numerous key issues over the years, from commerce, telecommunications and health care, to transportation, agriculture, trade matters and many other issues that have arisen and quickly needed a steady hand to manage. In addition to the legislative issues that consume much of our focus in the Congress, Brian has recruited and led a strong team of legislative staff in my office. He's also fostered extensive relationships with a great number of citizens, leaders and public officials in the Pacific Northwest and Washington, DC. And when the sheer overload of activity has heightened stress levels, we've always been able to count on Brian's fantastic sense of humor to bring a much-needed dose of comic relief.

Brian's professional attributes have been a tremendous resource for me and those I represent. For his public service and dedication, I'm grateful. As important to me as the constant hard work Brian has exerted in our effort to deliver to Oregonians is the strong friendship I share with him. Brian is simply one of the most sincere and likable persons one can have the good fortune of knowing well. This goes for Laura Hard too. They're a wonderful couple, and I'm very proud to count them as close friends.

As Brian and Laura begin their journey homeward bound, I ask my colleagues to join me in bidding them a heartfelt official farewell, with significant thanks to Brian for 12 years of outstanding service to Oregon and our Nation. You will be sorely missed.

Go Ducks!

CONDEMNING IRAN'S COMMIT-
MENT TO HOLD INTERNATIONAL
HOLOCAUST DENIAL CON-
FERENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1091, which condemns in the strongest terms Iran's commitment to hold an international Holocaust denial conference on December 11–12, 2006. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important resolution.

I have the honor of representing one of the world's largest communities of Holocaust survivors in the United States. It is on their behalf, and on behalf of all of their friends and family who perished at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II, that I make this statement today.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's current intent to host an international Holocaust denial conference is only the latest abominable act he has taken in a series of anti-Semitic Holocaust denial statements and actions since he rose to power.

Those of us who understand history and humanity will not let President Ahmadinejad's efforts to diminish what was one of mankind's worst disasters go unanswered. No rational person can deny the systematic state-sponsored murder of 6,000,000 Jews and other targeted groups by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during World War II. The Holocaust happened. It was the worst crime and the largest mass murder of the last century. It is a fact.

President Ahmadinejad's past and present declarations and actions—spewing outrageous anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric, remaining a primary source of funding, training, and support for terrorist groups, and openly threatening Israel and the United States—prove President Ahmadinejad is on a crusade of hatred and are deeply troubling acts.

I hope other governments, especially those in Middle East and Islamic world, and those on the UN Security Council will join me in speaking out against this hateful and untruthful rhetoric. President Ahmadinejad's assault on the truth is an insult to all.

After the Holocaust the Jewish people vowed to "Never Forget." We will never forget. And the world must never forget. And we will never bow to the ignorance, threats, bigotry and fanaticism of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad—a man whose actions and words are an insult to the great Persian people.

I thank my colleagues who will vote unanimously to pass H. Res. 1091.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
DEARBORN MAYOR MICHAEL
GUIDO

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the passing and commemorate the life

of Dearborn, Michigan's Mayor Michael Guido. Mayor Guido, 52, passed away last night at his home surrounded by his family.

The son of Italian immigrants, Michael Guido got his start in politics 1978 when he was elected as the youngest Councilman in Dearborn history. Eight years later, in 1986, Councilman Guido followed up this historic first by being the youngest person in Dearborn history to be elected mayor—a capacity in which he served until his last days.

Despite being diagnosed with cancer in February 2006, Mayor Guido remained on the job every day, continuing to work long hours at City Hall and around town, attending public events throughout his outpatient treatment. He even found the strength to serve as 64th President of the United States Conference of Mayors, proving himself many times over as the leader of this bipartisan force for our Nation's mayors.

Mayor Guido initiated outstanding improvements to City services, especially in public safety areas, directed the construction or renovation of notable city facilities, and oversaw the completion of dramatic private developments that improved the city's tax base and long term viability.

He was serious about his commitment to exceptional public service. He set high standards, and initiated many programs that were innovative upon their implementation. Among those are curbside recycling and composting, loose leaf collection, and a myriad of public safety initiatives—advanced life support, an emergency warning system, and an automated notification system. As a believer in technology to provide efficient public service, he knew that there is no replacement for personal contact and required employees to not just follow-up with residents, but to solve their problems.

During his tenure as Mayor, he changed the facade of Dearborn by initiating development projects that revived the critical downtown areas, including West Village and West Village Commons in the west end, and Georgetown Commons in the east end. His drive to keep Dearborn attractive for families and young professionals in the face of competition from newer communities culminated in the construction of the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in 2001.

Other significant projects included the expansion of the Dearborn Ice Skating Center, the construction of a new Police Headquarters, the expansion of the Robert Herndon Dearborn Hills Golf Course, the redesign of Ford Woods Park, improvements to Camp Dearborn and neighborhood pools and parks, and expansion of Esper Branch Library.

While he will be remembered for his accomplishments, he will also be remembered for his humor and ability to relate to people. As an accomplished speaker, he adeptly incorporated jokes into formal presentations, and his conversation was pointed yet entertaining with quips and impersonations.

Mayor Guido's impact upon the City of Dearborn will continue to be recognized within his community and nationally. During an interview years ago, he said he wanted his epitaph to be "He loved the people of Dearborn, and they loved him . . ." We will all miss his leadership and will remember his legacy in the City of Dearborn.

TRIBUTE TO THE AIR WAR
COLLEGE CLASS OF 2006

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to call attention to a very special and noteworthy group—the Air War College Class of 2006. This class graduated on May 25, 2006. These men and women, not only from our own Armed Forces, but those of 46 other countries have distinguished themselves, their school, their communities, and their nations.

The Air War College Class of 2006 had a remarkable year and I believe these men and women deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. By any measure, the class of 2006 has not only blazed new trails, but established new standards of excellence.

This was the first class to execute the Professional Military Education (PME) phase II curriculum, thus producing joint service qualified officers. It was the first class to have mid-year students join the class and complete the demanding academic curriculum. It was also the first class to have 46 international fellows, and the first class to send students, as part of its premiere regional studies, to the country of Turkmenistan. More importantly, it was the first class to have State Week, a full week dedicated to the interaction between DOS/DOD that will facilitate future cooperation and more efficient interaction between these future leaders.

Established in 1946, this is the 60th year of the Air War College. The Air War College mission is to be "the foremost center for air and space education and thought—preparing the world's best strategic leaders." Students must meet rigorous academic requirements, take responsibility for academic progress, behavior, and attendance, and they are expected to participate in school and community activities. They have not only met those rigorous demands but far exceeded them. The class of 2006 and their faculty have consistently shown not only leadership, but generosity. Together they donated 67 pints of blood, raised almost \$100,000 for several charities; and members of the class generously gave their time to travel to Biloxi, MS, to aid in the recovery after Hurricane Katrina. Notably, other members opened their homes to displaced military personnel during that tragic time.

I would like to extend my enthusiastic congratulations to the Air War College Class of 2006, "Warriors, Leaders, and Statesmen" upon their graduation. I wish them Godspeed as they move to their next assignments, some directly into harm's way, as they become tomorrow's strategic leaders in the global war on terror.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 5th, 2006, I was unavoidably detained, and I was unable to cast my vote during rollcall number 524 on H. Res.

1070, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Members of the House should actively engage with employers and the American public at large to encourage the hiring of members and former members of the Armed Forces who were wounded in service and are facing a transition to civilian life.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a long-time champion of the military men and women who serve our Nation, I would have voted "aye."

IN TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF
CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I join the people of Illinois and the people of this country in celebrating the tremendous service of my dear colleague and friend Congressman LANE EVANS.

Congressman EVANS was a native of Rock Island, IL. Drawing on his first-hand experience a U.S. Marine Veteran in Vietnam, Congressman EVANS has fought hard to bring to light the experience for our veterans in the Persian Gulf War. His experience served him well on the Armed Services Committee. He worked to increase funding and to expand and build new veteran clinics across America. Before coming to Congress, Evans fought as a lawyer for working families and the poor in Rock Island. In Congress, in addition to fighting for veterans he also fought for the Environment. In fact, he was named an "Environmental Hero" by the League of Conservation Voters and he was awarded the Conservationist of the Year in 1995 by the Illinois Sierra Club.

My most fond memories of Rep. EVANS were when LANE invited me to participate in the Homecourt Basketball Tournament. Homecourt Charity Basketball Game features members of Congress playing against the Georgetown Law School Faculty to raise money for the Homeless Legal Center. In 2000, Mervyn L. Jones II, my son, age 16, began playing on our team. He has played in every game since 2000. Mervyn and LANE have gotten to know each other well and he and I will miss our annual games under the leadership of LANE EVANS. LANE was the manager and former Rep. Carrie Meek and I were the coaches. Upon Rep. Meek's retirement I took on the coaching responsibilities. I am committed to keeping the LANE EVANS Homecourt Basketball tradition alive.

I will truly miss my friend and colleague, LANE EVANS' presence on the hill and on the Basketball Court. I pray that God will continue to bless LANE EVANS and his family.

TRIBUTE TO 109TH CONGRESS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of the 109th

Congress and the forward progress America is experiencing. Much has been accomplished during these past two years and I believe that we must recognize the work that has been done.

We have tackled immigration and found solutions to border security to help stop the flow of illegal aliens into this country. We have taken steps to ensure that the Administration, military and the intelligence community have the tools they need to fight the war on terrorism efficiently. The economy is growing at an unprecedented rate, home ownership is up, unemployment is at 4.4 percent, and the federal deficit has been cut in half three years ahead of schedule. The efforts of the 109th Congress have led us forward to solving and finding new solutions to the challenges America faces.

I would also like to take this time to thank my colleagues, many of whom will not be returning for the 110th Congress. It has been a pleasure to work alongside you to strengthen America and work on legislation to improve the lives of millions of Americans. I will truly miss working with you and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for all of their hard work during the 109th Congress and I look forward to working together in the 110th Congress to continue to keep America on its prosperous path.

GULF OF MEXICO DRILLING BILL

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the underlying bill. Once again the Republican Congress has used this horrendous martial law process to ram a bill through on the last day of session.

It is unclear what exactly is in this bill because none of us have had a chance to actually read it.

We do know at least that it represents a last ditch attempt by the Republican Congress to sell out to their friends in the oil and gas industry. This time they want to open up the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico to new drilling—supposedly so they can help the Gulf Coast rebuild.

Are we really so cynical as to tie assistance for the gulf coast areas ravaged by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma to new oil and gas drilling? Are we really going to equate the welfare of Big Oil companies to the needs of hurricane survivors?

It seems like every time we open the newspaper or turn on the news these days, the oil industry is announcing another record profit. Yet here they are again, hat in hand begging for another giveaway. Do they really need our help?

I firmly believe that we have a moral responsibility to help the gulf coast rebuild, but we should not condition any assistance on the future revenues of Big Oil.

If we really wanted to help the gulf coast, we should've been debating and passing H.R. 4197, the Hurricane Katrina Recovery, Reclamation, Restoration, Reconstruction and Reunion Act of 2005, introduced by the Congressional Black Caucus last year.

If we really wanted to stop our addiction to oil and produce a real national energy strategy we wouldn't be debating this sham idea to open the gulf to new drilling.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

OFFICE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
POLICY REAUTHORIZATION ACT
OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, yesterday, we passed H.R. 6344. I took the opportunity to thank the various members of the House and Senate, without whom we could not have passed this important and long-overdue legislation. As a point of personal privilege, I want to take this opportunity to thank the many staff members who worked so long and so hard for us.

First, I must thank the Staff director of our Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources. Marc Wheat has been with us for over 3 years, and he has been relentless and energetic in pursuing this daunting project. There is no other staffer on the House or Senate side who deserves more credit.

Subcommittee counsel Dennis Kilcoyne, who joined our staff in February, has led the negotiations with the Senate for months and skillfully steered this legislation through the demands and critiques of the many competing parties in Congress, the Administration and private sector. It was a huge task requiring patience, skill and diplomacy, without which the effort would not have succeeded.

The bipartisan nature of this negotiation has been an inspiration, and that is represented on the House side by Tony Haywood, counsel to the minority staff of the Government Reform Committee, who has ably represented the interests of our ranking Subcommittee member, ELIJAH CUMMINGS. He has been a team player with our staff.

I cannot forget the role played by our former Staff Director Chris Doneso—now with the House Intelligence Committee—and our former Subcommittee counsel Nick Coleman. These men brought great insight and skill that has contributed much to this legislation.

And I would be remiss if I didn't thank Susie Schulte of the Government Reform Committee and Matt Miller of the Speaker's Drug Task Force, as well as his predecessor Andy Tionson. All of these people have been enthusiastic and resourceful partners in this fight.

Finally, I must mention all those staff members on the Senate side who responded so well to the hard work of our House Staff. First, I must thank Gavin Young—who represents Chairman SPECTER on the Judiciary Committee—and his predecessor Matt McPhillips, who just left last week to take up his FBI assignment in Denver. These two proved every bit as skillful in shepherding the bill in the last few weeks of maneuvering in that mysterious body we call the United States Senate. Caucus.

Also we thank Jeremy Mischler and Melissa Sandberg of the Senate Drug Caucus. They have worked long on behalf of Senator

GRASSLEY to help us finally reach the elusive goal of passing this bill.

Jackie Parker of Senator LEVIN's staff and Reagan Taylor of Senator BIDEN's staff have been working this issue for a long time, and my staff have nothing but high praise for their team efforts. Roscoe Jones of Senator LEAHY's staff worked hard and in good faith in recent weeks with my staff to hammer out the last few wrinkles in the negotiations, and we thank him for his efforts also.

I also want to salute John Mackey of the House International Relations Committee, Janice O'Connell of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Tim Rieser of the Senate Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee, who did so much in the drafting of the provisions to ensure that the Director of ONDCP carries out a study on the use of mycoherbicides as a way to kill off coca and opium poppy plants in an environmentally safe manner. Their efforts may succeed where thousands of tons of chemical spraying has failed.

Among the private sector groups, we are especially grateful to Sue Thau of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, Marcia Lee Taylor of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, and Ron Brooks of the National Narcotics Officers Associations Coalitions. From the treatment, prevention and law enforcement sides—respectively—they have been indispensable partners in our efforts to enact this law. Additionally, I must thank Professor Charles O'Keeffe of Virginia Commonwealth University, who gave us such helpful guidance on provisions to allow doctors to treat more heroin addicts who need drugs like buprenorphine for treatment.

Finally, I am particularly proud that this act to be signed by the President takes the first step to prevent what C.S. Lewis referred to as "the abolition of Man." In the section authorizing the U.S. Anti-Doping agency, it explicitly bans from athletic competition anyone who has been genetically modified for performance enhancement. This technology of "gene-doping" is not yet viable in humans, but it is widely anticipated to be on the horizon. To that end, it is critical to anticipate the problem and explicitly address it.

The protocol set by the U.S. Anti Doping Agency, which follows the World Anti-Doping Agency, is also the standard followed by the International Olympic Committee. These standards state that "The non-therapeutic use of cells, genes, genetic elements, or of the modulation of gene expression, having the capacity to enhance athletic performance, is prohibited." Although the U.S. Anti Doping Agency and the World Anti-Doping Agency presently prohibit gene-doping, there is no guarantee that gene-doping will remain on the prohibited list. The prohibition of gene-doping by statute and further public dialogue is critical. I salute my House and Senate colleagues for their foresighted efforts in this regard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 540 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

S. 994—THE FAMILY ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, family abductions are the most common form of abduction, yet receive far too little attention. Every year, over 200,000 children are abducted by a family member and most frequently, by a parent.

We all assume that because the child is with a parent, they are safe, but we have seen entirely too often this is far from the truth.

More than half of the parents who abduct their children have a history of alcohol or substance abuse, a criminal record, or a history of violence.

So not surprisingly, children who are abducted by family members suffer emotional, psychological, and often physical abuse at the hand of their abductors.

We cannot let this continue. It's time we provide law enforcement with the resources they need to treat these child abductions as the serious crimes that they are.

Please join me today in support of this important legislation that will assist States in preventing and responding to family abductions.