EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BRADLEY C. KEENEY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause

to recognize Bradley Keeney, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bradley has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Bradley has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. It is with extreme pleasure that I commend the dedication Bradley has shown.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bradley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am proud to represent Bradley in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. BERNARD SIDNEY DITTMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County 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. Mr. Bernard Sidney Dittman, known as "Bernie" to his many friends and family, was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

Bernie purchased WABB-AM in Mobile, Alabama, in 1959. This station, previously owned by the Mobile Press-Register newspaper organization, first went on the air in 1948 with call letters that stand for "Alabama's Best Broadcasters."

One year later, Bernie moved to Mobile and completely changed the broadcast format of the station. His conversion of WABB from a country station to Top 40 propelled WABB to the position of the leading station in that format and one of the premiere stations anywhere along Alabama's Gulf Coast.

In 1973, Bernie took WABB in a new direction when the station added a new FM signal and began to broadcast a progressive rock format. At a time when most automobiles were not equipped with FM receivers, Bernie and his team ran an extensive series of on-air promotions encouraging the installation of lowcost FM receivers. Under Bernie Dittman's leadership, WABB became one of the longest-running and most successful Top 40 radio stations in the United States.

The station has also spearheaded over the years the move to more equality in the hiring of on-air personalities and staff members. In fact. WABB was one of the first stations in south Alabama to hire both women and African-Americans for important announcer positions. WABB has also been a critical part of Mobile's emergency broadcast community and played a crucial role in providing information to listeners during Hurricane Frederic (1979) and Hurricane Ivan (2004). During Ivan, WABB was one of the few stations in the area able to transmit continuously during the storm without losing power. Following the end of the storm, the station also led the effort to collect and distribute relief material to neighboring States which had also been severely affected.

Aside from his professional obligations, Bernie ensured that WABB and its family of employees took an active role in the life of the Mobile community.

For the past 47 years, the station has operated the WABB Community Club Awards Program of Greater Mobile, which has provided over \$250,000 in financial awards to local civic, religious, and cultural institutions. Additionally, the station has been a 40-year sponsor of the Greater Gulf State Fair, a 35-year sponsor of the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, and a long-time sponsor of both the Senior Bowl and GMAC Bowl college football games.

Additionally, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Mobile, the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, the Mobile Ronald McDonald House and numerous other organizations advocating area youth have benefited tremendously from Bernie's leadership and community involvement. In fact, the area Toys for Tots program holds the record for the single largest toy collection anywhere in the United States, with over 100,000 toys collected—due in no small part to the efforts of Bernie and his entire team.

Bernie was a longtime member of the Alabama Broadcasters' Association and the National Association of Broadcasters and in 2000 was the recipient of the Greater Mobile Advertising Federation Silver Medal Award.

Mr. Speaker, there have been few individuals more important to the broadcast profession in Alabama or to the life of their local community than Bernie Dittman.

He was an outstanding example of the quality individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of broadcasting, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama.

Bernie Dittman loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife, Judith S. Dittman; his 3 daughters, Betsy Dittman, Stephanie Teichmer, and Marsha Scimo; his sister Sylvia Scott; and 3 grand-

children; as well as countless friends and loyal employees that he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE ROBINSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeanette Robinson in recognition of her multiple accomplishments as a professional bowler.

Jeanette has been inducted into seven bowling halls of fame and is the only person to have attained this great honor. Her competition and coaching endeavors have allowed her to travel the world and work with the best players internationally. Jeanette has also bowled a competitive frame in 49 of 50 states.

Jeanette grew up in Flint, Michigan and picked up her first bowling ball in 1956 at age 28. By 1957, Jeanette was coaching youth and seniors in addition to running leagues and tournaments full-time. As the first known person to organize and promote national bowling tournaments for the deaf and the blind in 1958 and 1959, she laid the foundation for making bowling a sport for everyone.

As more coaching opportunities became available, Jeanette's travels increased, and she was chosen president of the Professional Women's Bowlers Association in 1965. She held this position for 10 years until stepping down in 1975. Under her leadership, the women's professional bowling tour grew exponentially.

Although Jeanette still bowls today, her true love is coaching and she currently holds the position of resident professional at The Orleans Bowling Center. Her work with the local Las Vegas high school leagues, professional tours and family bowlers at The Orleans is most rewarding because it is the legacy of her sport that she hopes to see passed on from generation to generation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Jeanette Robinson. Her lifetime contributions to the sport of bowling are truly commendable. I wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AUXIL-IARY TO BELLEVUE HOSPITAL CENTER, INC. ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Auxiliary to Bellevue Hospital Center, Inc., which is celebrating its 100th anniversary of service to the community. During that

• 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. time, the Auxiliary has developed into an invaluable resource for Bellevue Hospital, one of our Nation's most renowned hospitals. Over the past 100 years the Auxiliary has provided in excess of \$45 million in support, piloted numerous new programs and been a source of satisfying work for thousands of volunteers. At their gala recognizing, they are honoring Rita J. Kaplan, for her philanthropy, Dr. Robert S. Holzman, for patient care, and Michael "Buzzy" O'Keeffe, for community service. They are all sterling examples of the extraordinary volunteers who have made the Auxiliary such a superb institution.

The Auxiliary was founded in 1906 by a group of socially conscious women who wanted to support the Bellevue Tuberculosis Clinic. Among other things, they created a Day Camp in 1908 on the old ferryboat "Southfield," anchored off the Bellevue Hospital grounds, so that patients could spend time in the open air. Contemporaneously, another group of philanthropic-minded women formed the Convalescent Relief Committee to assist in the wellbeing, care and convalescence of Bellevue patients. In 1907 a third group, The Synagogue Committee formed to translate for Yiddish-speaking Bellevue patients and provide for their social service needs.

The three groups grew steadily until their work encompassed every ward and clinic at the hospital. Eventually they recognized that they would accomplish more by working together. Thus, in 1940 the Auxiliary merged with the Convalescent Relief Committee and the Synagogue Committee and in 1945 the Auxiliary was legally incorporated as the Social Service Auxiliary to Bellevue Hospital. In 1956, the organization adopted its current name: the Auxiliary to Bellevue Hospital Center, Inc.

Volunteers have entertained patients and provided caring assistance to those in need. Additionally, through the years, the Auxiliary's volunteers have launched innumerable projects to serve Bellevue's patients. For example, in 1941 the Auxiliary founded and began staffing three patient libraries located in the TB, general and psychiatric divisions. The Interfaith Chaplaincy Program also counts on Auxiliary volunteers to help them attend to the patients' spiritual needs.

Volunteers have raised money for the hospital through a number of different enterprises and fundraising events, providing millions of dollars for the Hospital's needs. From thrift shops through coffee shops, the Auxiliary has been entrepreneurial in its approach to fundraising. The Auxiliary's Stuyvesant Square Thrift Shop at 80th Street is considered one of the best places in Manhattan to find inexpensive designer wear and other interesting clothes. The thrift shop is the successor to The Little Jack Horner Shop which opened during the Depression to serve patients and their families by providing low priced wares and clothing. The Bellevue Snack Bar opened on May 23, 1956 and has served physicians, staff and visitors to Bellevue Hospital while providing revenue for the Auxiliary's needs. Fifty years later the snack bar, now the Coffee Shop, continues to operate. The Bellevue Newsstand was created by the Auxiliary in 1970 and continues as a combination Newsstand/Gift Shop.

Notwithstanding the changes that have taken place during the past 100 years, service continues to be the Auxiliary's primary mission. Today's Auxiliary is a vibrant organization comprised of caring and involved people who pride themselves on having an impact on the well-being of all of the patients of Bellevue Hospital Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the hard-working, caring and compassionate volunteers of the Auxiliary to Bellevue for their 100 years of service to the patients of Bellevue Hospital. Every patient who passed through its doors has benefitted from their dedication.

CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, when the Congress was in recess this fall, a significant milestone in the fight for freedom occurred.

This past October 23 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. I want to recognize the young freedom fighters who on that day against monumental odds, put their lives on the line to fight for the liberation of their country from the oppression of a dominating communist empire.

They are true heroes, not only to citizens of Hungarian origin who have come to America, but to freedom-loving people around the world. As we remember the sacrifice of these freedom fighters, it is important to take the time to reflect upon the importance to freedom and liberty, and remember those who dedicate their lives to defending human rights.

HONORING JACK FINNEY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 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.

CONGRATULATING ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL SCOTTISH ARTS PRO-GRAM

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Pipe Band and Highland Dancers of St. Thomas' Episcopal Scottish Arts Program for their success and community service in Houston, Texas.

On August 26, 2006, the St. Thomas' Episcopal School Pipe Band won their fifth Juvenile World Pipe Band Championship title in Glasgow, Scotland. They also received 1st Place in Grade III Competitions at the Inverkeithing and Crieff Highland Games.

The Highland Dancers won more than 120 medals during the August, 2006 Scotland competitions. The 2006 U.S. and North American Highland Dancing Champion, Carla Gardner, received 4th overall at the World Highland Dancing Championships. The Highland Dancers have won 21 U.S. Championships and one World Championship.

The St. Thomas' Episcopal School Pipe Band and Highland Dancers are regularly invited to civic and charitable events and have performed for the United States Marine Corps, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Children's Cancer Hospital at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the Special Olympics, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Center, the Boy Scouts of America, NASA, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Houston Fire Department, the Houston Police Department, the Galveston Historical Society, the British American Business Council, the Heather and Thistle Society, and the British Consulate.

The St. Thomas' Episcopal Scottish Arts Program serves to inform, educate, and entertain the public about the Scottish performing arts, and has helped to underscore the importance of maintaining and preserving ethnic artistic traditions. The Scottish Arts Program of

St. Thomas' Episcopal School annually performs at Houston's Scottish Festival Spectacular in March at Houston's Toyota Center. This year's festival will be held on March 16. 2007.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF ARMY SPECIALIST CHRIS MASON OF MOBILE, AL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from the First Congressional District of Alabama who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country while helping to spread freedom abroad

SPC Chris Mason, a longtime Army Mobilian, was assigned to the 1st Battalion. 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, of the 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg, NC.

Chris joined the Army 2 years ago and comes from a family with a long and highly respected history of military service-his father, who served two tours of duty with the Marine Corps in Vietnam and completed a career in the Army, retiring with the rank of first sergeant, and his brother, an Army officer currently studying to become a chaplain.

During his career in the Army, Specialist Mason set a standard of excellence and displayed the gualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are the hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military.

Following his 1994 graduation from Baker High School in Mobile, Chris became a professional rodeo clown with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys' Association. He also taught a commercial drivers license gualification course at Bishop State Community College. No matter what the task, Chris Mason undertook every challenge with a determination to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, at this difficult time, it is only appropriate for us to pause and give thanks to God that there are still young men like Chris Mason.

Chris's life and actions personify the very best America has to offer. I feel certain his many friends and family, as well as his comrades in the United States Army, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

He was not only a physical presence in their lives but a spiritual leader in every sense of the word.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to SPC Chris Mason and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedom we enjoy, but to a people who are in the demanding but important stages of a new life-a new freedom-in their own land.

Mr. Speaker, we should also remember his parents, Garland and Susie Mason, his brother, Garland Mason III, and his other relatives and many friends. Our prayer is that God will

only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

Make no mistake, Chris Mason was not only a dedicated soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country. but he was also a true American hero. May he rest in peace.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON GLENN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor American Legionnaire Emeritus Clayton Glenn for his lifetime of service and dedication to this nation and its veterans.

Mr. Glenn was born 86 years ago in Brockton, MA, and has served this country since late 1941. It was the attack on Pearl Harbor nearly 65 years ago that spurred his enlistment into the U.S. Armed Forces. This path of service took him to military bases all across the United States and abroad for the ensuing 23 years.

Mr. Glenn's first stop was Ft. Devins, west of Boston, MA, where he served as infantryman, and then he moved on to the Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, MO. He soon endeavored to join the U.S. Army Air Corps, which was to be the predecessor to the U.S. Air Force. There he served as an aircraft mechanic until 1948. Mr. Glenn desired to be stationed in New England, and so landed at Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts.

Over the next 2 years, he worked as a floor man-sanding and refinishing floors, laying tiles and linoleum. This occupation allowed him the adventure of even flooring inside the Kennedy home while in Massachusetts. By 1950, he joined the U.S. Air Force Reserves and got recalled to active duty for Korea. Although Mr. Glenn never made it to Korea, he did get sent to Tooele, Greenland. His return to the States brought him from Wichita Falls, TX to Mobile. AL. From Mobile he was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada for a short span of time where he purchased a home in Boulder City. Mr. Glenn's final militarv stop was at Rantoul Air Force Base just south of Chicago. IL. in 1960 where be finished his military journey and retired 4 years later in 1964.

From Rantoul, Mr. Glenn and his wife, Theo, returned to Boulder City where he has resided ever since. Having been a member of the American Legion for over 60 years and an active leader at the Boulder City's Post 31 since his time at Nellis Air Force Base has earned him the title "Mr. American Legion" by fellow members and friends. Mr. Glenn has served as post commander three timessomething accomplished by only two other persons, and he served as district commander from 1991-92 where he oversaw 15 State posts and over 6,000 members.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Clayton Glenn today. His service and loyalty to the community, our country and our veterans has earned him many accolades. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

give them all the strength and courage that IN HONOR OF THE PANCYPRIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA CHOIR AND ITS HONOREE, NIKOS MOUYIARIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Pancyprian Association of America Choir and its 2006 honoree Nikos Mouviaris.

The Pancyprian Association of America Choir makes a remarkable contribution to American culture by combining the best of Cypriot and American song and music. Their focus on Cypriot music helps keep the dynamic culture of their heritage alive in the United States. The choir provides its fans a rich education in the music of both cultures.

On November 4, the choir will be honoring my good friend, Nikos Mouviaris. Nikos is an important, albeit unassuming, leader in the Hellenic-American community. He never seeks recognition for his actions, but he is unquestionably the one to go to get things done. If vou need someone who will fight for human rights or help a student get an education, Nikos is the one to turn to. At a conference or gathering, Nikos will make his ideas and concerns heard, softly. Furthermore, because people know that Nikos is worth listening to. his thoughts often prompt people to take action. In short, Nikos is a man of deeds and vision.

Nikos Mouyiaris was born in Athienou, Cyprus where he attended elementary and high school. He went to England for a short time and then emigrated to the United States. In the United States he received his bachelor of science degree in chemistry and was awarded a scholarship to Rutgers University where he received his masters of science.

Since arriving in the United States, Nikos has achieved the American dream. Starting with \$6,000 that he borrowed from his brother. Apostolos, Nikos created a successful business, Mana Products, that employs over 600 people. For nearly three decades, Mana Products has been an innovative participant in the beauty industry. Headquartered in New York, the company offers research, development, manufacturing and other operations. The company works with some of the most respected brands and professionals around the globe. In addition to his company, Nikos has interests in real estate as well as investments in other businesses.

Nikos has never forgotten the place of birth, Athienou in Cyprus, where he helps to support the local home for the elderly, and has helped build a day care center. He has also provided funding for an archaeological expedition in the area of Athienou, Cyprus for Davidson College of North Carolina for several years.

Nikos also works to promote Cypriot culture and human rights interests in the United States. As a member of the Board of Directors and Trustees of the Pancyprian Association of America, Nikos works to educate young Cypriot-Americans about the culture and ethnic customs of Cyprus and Greece, and to sponsor cultural events. He is a member of the International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus, PSEKA, which seeks freedom and justice for the Cypriot people and promotes international human rights.

Nikos and his wife Carol, who is his partner in business as well as in their personal lives, have two children, Alexis and Ariana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Nikos Mouyiaris, a true American hero and a remarkable member of the Hellenic-American community.

REMEMBERING BILLY EARL HIBBS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 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 25, 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, Dorma 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.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE RE-GARDING HIRING OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER for his leadership in introducing this legislation. I am a strong supporter of H. Res. 1070, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that members of Congress should actively engage in hiring wounded military veterans.

Earlier this year the House Veterans Affairs Committee, of which I am a member, held a hearing for private sector representatives to discuss their initiatives aimed at hiring veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. Although companies such as Home Depot, Exxon Mobile Corporation and R&L Carriers have initiated plans to increase the number of veterans, and specifically disabled veterans, other companies and the public sector can also improve their veterans hiring practices.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, younger veterans have a significantly higher unemployment rate than those of the general population in the same age range. Mr. Speaker, I find this situation unacceptable and I believe most Americans would agree that our country should do more to assist these veterans in transitioning from active duty to the civilian workforce.

For that reason, I helped establish a "Veterans Opportunity Conference" in my Congressional district of El Paso, TX, earlier this year. This conference brought together members of the community, Federal and State agencies, and businesses to assist veterans seeking to start a business, learn about State and Federal programs, and inquire about employment opportunities. Having had a great response from our veteran community, I now plan on making this a yearly event and encourage all of my colleagues in Congress to do the same in their respective districts.

Furthermore, as a U.S. Army veteran, a strong advocate of hiring qualified veterans, and a member of Congress, I practice what I preach. I am proud to have five former servicemembers in my El Paso and Washington, DC, offices.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans deserve our utmost commitment to helping them succeed after their military service, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in voting for H. Res. 1070. SAN JOAQUIN RESTORATION SETTLEMENT ACT

December 8, 2006

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today, I submit to the House bipartisan legislation, the "San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act," which implements an historic water settlement to resolve an 18-year lawsuit to restore a salmon fishery on the San Joaquin River.

The settlement legislation achieves two coequal goals: it restores the San Joaquin River and secures water management objectives to mitigate water losses to farmers in the restoration process. These two elements are crucial to the success the Act, and they are to be implemented in tandem.

The main reason I became involved in this issue last year was to ensure a stable water supply for Valley farmers. With that premise, the provisions in this measure were designed to make certain that water supply levels will remain manageable for farmers as the river is restored. It was also important to me that impacts to third parties, if any, be minimal and voluntary and the negotiators worked hard to create such language.

The landmark bill introduced today gives the people of our Valley a say in how the river is restored, as opposed to waiting for an uncertain outcome from the Federal court. This solution is science-based and included involvement from individuals throughout the Valley, the State and Federal agencies.

The significance of this bill cannot be understated. Over the past year and a half, countless hours have been spent in developing this measure, and I commend all those involved in this balanced resolution. I especially want to express my appreciation to the Friant Water Users Authority, Natural Resources Defense Council, Department of Interior, Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce and numerous third parties who were involved in the development of this bill.

I also thank Senator FEINSTEIN, who has introduced an identical bill in the Senate, for her steadfast commitment to this measure along with the members of the Valley delegation.

I'm dedicated to the passage of this measure in Congress and will work toward that end until it is signed into law.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPO-SIUM ON DEMOCRACY AND CON-GRESS IN TAIPEI, TAIWAN

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, on December 8 and 9 in Taiwan, there will be an important gathering of legislators from Pacific Rim nations to discuss the role of congresses or legislatures in the growing number of democracies developing across Asia.

The meeting has been convened by the Pacific Congressional Caucus, an arm of the Democratic Pacific Union, DPU, a regional organization of Pacific Rim democracies. Legislative leaders from 20 nations, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and the host Taiwan are expected to participate. It is unfortunate that, because of our legislative schedule, no member of this House or of the other body are able to attend.

However, Mr. Speaker, I did want to take note of this important meeting that will focus on the role of Congress in the various democratic governing models, such as the parliamentary system and the presidential system. Another important set of discussions will focus on the issue of legislative elections in various democracies, how they are conducted, and how they are financed.

I congratulate Taiwan's political leaders who were instrumental in creating the DPU and the Pacific Congressional Caucus. Taiwan's Vice President Annette Lu was the prime mover in bringing the DPU into existence and the Speaker of Taiwan's Legislative Yuan, Wang Jin-Pyng, was instrumental in establishing the Pacific Congressional Caucus and in organizing such meetings as the one this weekend.

This effort in Taiwan has been truly bipartisan, with Vice President Lu a member of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, and Speaker Wang a key leader of the Nationalist Party, known as the KMT.

Because Taiwan is one of Asia's most dynamic democracies, it is fitting that Taiwan has been instrumental in forming the DPU and the Caucus and in organizing this symposium. I congratulate Taiwan and wish all the participants a rewarding series of meetings.

RECOGNIZING ALABAMA STATE REPRESENTATIVE F.P. "SKIPPY" WHITE FOR OVER THREE DEC-ADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize Alabama State Representative F.P. "Skippy" White for his dedicated, faithful public service to the citizens of Baldwin and Escambia Counties.

Representative White has been a tremendous advocate for all of south Alabama for over three decades. He began his public service career as a councilman for the city of Pollard, AL, and served for 7 years. In 1982, he was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives and served in that capacity for 24 years.

During his career in the Alabama State Legislature, Representative White worked tirelessly on behalf of south Alabama. He was distinguished as an outstanding legislator and served on the House Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the faithful service of outstanding Americans like Skippy White 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 wife, Clara; his children, Todd, Hugh, and Sarah Anne; and his family and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts on behalf of south Alabama.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WALTER CASEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter Casey for his numerous contributions to his community.

Walter moved to Las Vegas, NV in 1951 under the advice of his doctor. He started out working for a maintenance company and eventually started a water conditioning and purification company called Walt Casey Water Conditioning and later Walt Casey's Culligan in the 1950s. Walt Casey's Culligan is now known as the largest water conditioning company in the state.

Walter also dedicated his life to enriching the lives of others in the community. He was a founding board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas and served as the vice chairman of the Colorado River Commission. According to his son, Walter's optimism helped him to devote his time and effort to developing promising ideas into large successes.

November 30, 2006, just 2 days after Walter and his wife, Peggy, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, Walter passed away from a heart attack. He was 88 years old.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Walter Casey for his outstanding efforts to improve the state of Nevada. He will be greatly missed by the entire community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CHIAN FEDERATION AND ADAMANTIOS (DIMIS) TH. VASSILAKIS PERMA-NENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NA-TIONS, RECIPIENT OF THE 29TH ANNUAL HOMERIC AWARD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Chian Federation, which is presenting its 29th annual Homeric Award to Adamantios (Dimis) Th. Vassilakis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations. Their gala event has been organized under the leadership of the Chian Federation's President, George Almiroudis, and the Event Chair, who is also First Vice President of the Chian Federation, Alexandros Doulis.

The Chian Federation was founded in 1974. Since then it has educated and empowered the Hellenic American community to exercise their rights and fulfill their obligations as American citizens. The Chian Federation has a strong record of advocating human rights and striving to promote democratic ideals. In addition to its political objectives, the organization sponsors a dance group; cultural events; a Web site; a magazine; business card exchanges; food, clothing and toy drives; a Senior Citizens' breakfast; and lectures on topics ranging from archaeology to health care. The Federation's accomplishments extend beyond the borders of the United States. On Chios, the Chian Federation has financially aided nursing homes, environmental groups for reforestation of the island, the Korais Library and the Office of the Repatriated Chians Organization, in addition to making substantial donations to the educational and health systems of Chios.

The Chian Federation established the Homeric Award in 1977, with the idea of recognizing individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the Hellenic community. Ambassador Vassilakis earned this honor through his outstanding service to Greece as a diplomat, and as a friend to the Hellenic community in New York.

Ambassador Vassilakis was born on the island of Chios on June 13, 1942, where he grew up and received his basic education, graduating from the Commercial High School of Chios. He then attended the Free University of Brussels, Belgium earning a Licence in Political and Diplomatic Sciences.

Mr. Vassilakis entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1972 as Embassy Attaché, and was appointed Third Secretary of Embassy at the Greek Embassy in Tirana, Albania in 1975. In 1977, he moved to the Foreign Ministry's First Department of Political Affairs, he was Head of Section for the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe. He served as a member of various Greek delegations visiting Eastern European countries and was a participant in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Common Market political experts meetings.

In 1985, Mr. Vassilakis was made Consul General of Greece in San Francisco, California, where he was promoted to First Counsellor of Embassy. In 1989, he was appointed Head of Section for Bilateral Greek-United States, Iranian, Turkish and Arab Countries in the Foreign Ministry's Department of Bilateral Economic Relations. In 1990, Mr. Vassilakis entered the Department of European Community Affairs. In 1991, he was named Deputy Permanent Representative in the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations, and in 1994, he became Chargé d'Affaires. In 1998, he was promoted to Minister Plenipotentiary (1st class). From 1999, Mr. Vassilakis served as Director General for European Affairs and Director of the Centre for Analysis and Planning in Greece's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2002, he was appointed to his present position.

Ambassador Vassilakis is married to Fay Malouf-Vassilakis and they have two children, Theodore and Athena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Chian Federation and its honoree, the Honorable Adamantios (Dimis) Th. Vassilakis.

TRIBUTE TO JERRIS LEONARD, A GREAT AMERICAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to a great American, outstanding public servant, and an esteemed colleague and good friend, the Honorable Jerris Leonard, whose sudden passing on July 27, 2006, was mourned by his family and countless friends whose lives he touched. Jerris's life was devoted to God, family, country, and his fellow man, and he leaves a legacy of integrity and service that will long be remembered and appreciated.

Jerris received his undergraduate and law degrees from Marquette University, where he was president of the Marquette student body and was elected to Alpha Sigma Nu, the National Jesuit Honor Society. Following graduation from Marquette University Law School in 1955, Jerris began his career in Wisconsin. He was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly in 1956, representing the North Shore suburbs of Milwaukee. In 1960 he was elected to the state Senate and became Senate majority leader in 1967. In 1968 he was the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate, but lost to incumbent Senator Gavlord Nelson.

In 1969 Jerris moved his family to Washington, DC, when he was appointed by President Nixon and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He served in that capacity until 1971, when President Nixon appointed him the first Administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, a position he held for the next 2 years. Jerris remained in Washington, where he has been actively engaged in the practice of law and advocacy. Most recently, in 2005, he launched The Leonard Group to focus on legislative and lobbying activities. He also served on the Bush-Cheney Transition Department of Justice Advisory Committee, which helped the Administration find key candidates for the agency.

In recognition of his considerable accomplishments, Jerris was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquette University Law School in 2000. In 1969 he received the Belle Case Lafollette Outstanding Professional Award from the Wisconsin Law Foundation. He is the author of numerous articles and was frequently invited to speak to groups throughout the United States.

Jerris was one of the original true conservatives, who championed core conservative values throughout his career and through his service in various organizations, such as Free Congress. His intellect and experience were invaluable to advancing the conservative agenda, and his engaging personality and enthusiasm for policy and politics were contagious. Jerris was a true statesman who made friends on both sides of the political aisle.

His friendships extended well beyond the realm of politics and career, however. He made friends in all walks of life. "He treated everyone the same, and that is what I think made him special," said his daughter Kate Leonard. On the day he was to be sworn in by President Nixon as an assistant attorney general, Jerris gathered his children and instructed them that they were going to meet the President, but they were to remember that the man who parks the car is just as important and just as deserving of respect.

Jerris was devoted to his wife, Mariellen, to whom he was married for 52 years, and to his family. He took an active interest in the lives of his six children and attended countless sports events and other activities in which they were involved. In addition to Mariellen, he is survived by his children, Mary Leonard Ralston and husband David, Gib Leonard and wife Joni, John Leonard and wife Jeannine, Kathleen (Kate) Leonard, Francis Leonard and wife Kelly, and Daniel Leonard and wife Kelly, 16 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was greatly loved.

Mr. Speaker, many of our colleagues in the House of Representatives knew and admired Jerris Leonard. I valued his friendship and advice, as did so many others, and we will greatly miss him. It is impossible to fully grasp the breadth and depth of a life of someone like Jerris, who gave every project or responsibility his very best effort and who lived his life with boundless enthusiasm and compassion. He was a role model and mentor to so many, and he leaves a powerful legacy that will last for generations to come. As we adjourn today, let us do so in tribute to this great American, dedicated public servant, and truly great man—Jerris Leonard.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONER ANN BAIRD

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Mrs. Ann Baird, County Commissioner of Miami County, OH, and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to public service. For more than 40 years, Mrs. Baird has contributed her talents to the betterment of Miami County, and for this, I offer her my utmost congratulations and thanks.

Her love of Miami County is unmistakable. During her long career in public service, Mrs. Baird has served on countless community boards and organizations in various roles including: Director of Community Services at Upper Valley Medical Center, Past President of the Miami County Chapter for the American Cancer Society, Past President of the United Methodist Women, Past President of the Troy United Fund, member of the Edison Community College Board of Trustees, and of course serving as the first female Miami County Commissioner for the past 12 years.

Mrs. Baird's record—as an elected official, a church leader, and as a good neighbor helping those in need—will leave an enduring legacy in Miami County. Her leadership will be missed, but the footprint she has left will inspire many to emulate her good works.

Mrs. Baird, I offer my congratulations and gratitude for your long and successful career in public service. I wish you well in your future retirement, and I hope you continue to achieve happiness and success wherever your life journey may lead you.

SAVING ENERGY THROUGH RECYCLING

HON. JOE BARTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the energy security issues we face and to highlight the important role renewable energy plays in producing reliable electricity and curbing demand for power transmission equipment. Given this importance, we must continue to support initiatives to improve transmission, increase generation nationally and encourage renewable energy and conservation.

Effective renewable energy policy must include the significant invested energy available through greater recycling. Manufacturing recycled products requires, on average, 17 times less energy than manufacturing the same products from virgin materials. In addition to the traditionally understood benefits of recycling as a conservation and waste management tool, recycling is becoming increasingly understood as an energy source available to combat the Nation's growing energy crisis.

For example, recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy required to make the same amount of aluminum from its virgin source. The amount of lost energy from throwing away aluminum and steel cans, plastic PET and glass containers, newsprint and corrugated packaging was equivalent to the annual output of 15 medium sized coal power plants. Increasing the recycling rate of these commodities by 10 percent would save enough energy annually to heat 74,350 million American homes, provide the required electricity for 2.5 million Americans, and save about \$771 million in avoid costs for barrels of crude oil. As a result, recycling should be an integral component of our Nation's energy efficiency strategy.

The Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 acknowledged the high invested energy content of recyclables. Section 1353 mandated the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to conduct a study to determine and quantify the energy savings achieved through the recycling of glass, paper, plastic, steel, aluminum, and electronic devices, and to identify tax incentives that would encourage recycling of such materials. As chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I was deeply involved in the creation of this legislation, which I am proud to say was achieved with strong bipartisan participation and support.

The Environmental Protection Agency has shown that recycling saves billions in energy costs and hundreds of millions of tons of raw materials. American companies that engage in the use of renewable resources and recyclable materials are already contributing countless billions of dollars per year to our Nation's energy grid. These companies are engaging in practices that are environmentally friendly and energy conservative.

By harvesting the invested energy in recycling, this country saves tens of millions of tons of ore, coal, trees and billions of dollars in energy costs. Recycling programs offer a means to conserve natural resources, ease the burden on the grid, reduce excessive municipal waste, protect the environment, create jobs, and save energy.

Like the energy drawn from wind or from water behind a dam, recyclable materials contain a vast amount of energy that is available to be harvested. Recyclables possess invested energy, and in order to remain competitive, we must focus on capturing the energy that is already invested in recycling. Through recognition of these policy objectives, we will create the most efficient market-based solutions to ensure a safe, abundant, and stable energy supply to our citizens for years to come. TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JIM DAVIS, CONGRESSMAN CLAY SHAW, CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL BILIRAKIS AND CONGRESS-WOMAN KATHERINE HARRIS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as the 109th Congress comes to an end, I rise to honor the Congressional service of four outstanding members of our Florida Congressional Delegation; JIM DAVIS, CLAY SHAW, MI-CHAEL BILIRAKIS and KATHERINE HARRIS.

Together, these outstanding Members have decades of experience in public service and have worked on a broad range of issues of lasting importance to the great State of Florida.

I believe that public service is a truly a noble calling. Any person who assumes the challenges and responsibilities associated with this profession, and who makes the sacrifices necessary to achieve the success of these Members of Congress, merits the respect of our nation, and our thanks.

Legislating in the Congress requires men and women who are masters of the traditional skills of American government—compromise, negotiation and bargaining. While we may disagree at times on policy and share different political philosophies, our objective should always be to serve the best interests of our constituents, our state and our nation.

It is part of the genius of American government that the institution of Congress continues on and is not dependent on any particular individuals. Still, there is no doubt that the quality of people elected to Congress has a lot to do with the kinds and quality of legislation that becomes law. Each of these Members has, in his or her own way, left their mark on our laws and our nation.

I am therefore proud to join with my colleagues in the Florida Delegation and, indeed, the entire Congress, in thanking you all for your service and wishing you much happiness and success in all your future endeavors.

HONORING LARRY STEWART

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to speak about a very special Missourian.

Larry Stewart has spent the past 27 years selflessly giving to the people of Kansas City. Mr. Stewart is a kind-hearted businessman from Lee's Summit, Missouri, and until recently, was known to many only as the "Secret Santa." Every December since 1979, Mr. Stewart has wandered the streets of Kansas City quietly searching for people in need, and handing them \$100 bills.

This honorable tradition began with a generous tip to a stranger. Mr. Stewart had just been fired from his job, the week before Christmas, and drove to a drive-in restaurant to cheer himself up. As soon as he saw what the \$20 bill he had handed the waitress meant to her, he withdrew \$200 from his bank account and drove around looking for people who seemed like they could use a lift. He has been handing out cash to people in need every December since. This year, with the help of a few special elves and four specially trained Secret Santas, he will hand out \$165,000.

Unfortunately, Mr. Stewart will also be spending this December fighting his esophageal cancer. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to keep Mr. Stewart in their thoughts, and use him as an example of kindness and generosity this holiday season.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JIM RYUN

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker of the many friends and colleagues, who will not be returning for the 110th Congress, I am especially disappointed that my fellow Kansan JIM RYUN is one of them.

It was at an event in Wichita, where I first encouraged JIM to run for Congress. Most Kansans knew JIM as the world record holder in the mile run and as an American Olympic hero. I knew him as a loving father and family man and someone who cares deeply about his country.

JIM RYUN won a hard fought battle in 1996 and served honorably in this House for five terms. He was an effective legislator and tough advocate for the constituents of the Second District of Kansas. You only need to look as far as Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth to see the results of Congressman RYUN's efforts. They not only survived the BRAC process, both installations have expanded missions and are well positioned for the future.

JIM RYUN not only stood strong for the men and women of the military, he has been a tireless fighter for the issues that are of greatest importance to his constituents. JIM RYUN is a budget hawk, defender of life and someone on whom you can always rely. He is a man of integrity and has already left an indelible mark on Kansas, our country and the world. He will be sorely missed.

HONORING ARKEMA INC., AXIS PLANT ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Arkema Inc., Axis Plant on the completion of their 25th year.

For the past 25 years, the Axis plant has been an economically vital contributor to both the town of Axis and the State of Alabama. The plant began operations in 1981 as M&T Chemicals, producing inorganic and organic tin compounds. After numerous expansions over the years, the plant was purchased in 2004 by Arkema Inc., a global leader in the chemical production industry.

Since its inception, Arkema has earned a very respectable reputation as a world class

chemicals producer. They have amassed nearly \$7.3 billion in revenue and have over 18,400 employees in 40 different countries. With such immense size and diversity, Arkema Inc. brings countless opportunities to the people of the First Congressional District.

In particular, the Axis plant specializes in producing a wide variety of chemical additives, such as heat stabilizers and impact modifiers. Heat stabilizers are compounds added to PVC to slow color development during processing and extend the life of a product. Impact modifiers are added to PVC to make it less brittle and to increase its strength. These products are used in everyday items such as hair dryers, plastic piping, and vinyl siding.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize the administration and staff of the Arkema Inc., Axis Plant and their continuing leadership in the chemical production industry. It is my sincere hope that they will continue to set highly commendable examples for others in their industry, and I rise today to recognize and thank Arkema Inc., Axis Plant for its contributions to the local economy and to the quality of life enjoyed in the State of Alabama.

HONORING FEDERAL JUDGE PAUL BROWN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to one of the outstanding Federal judges in our Nation, U.S. District Judge Paul Brown, who is retiring after 21 years of distinguished service on the bench in the Eastern District of Texas. Judge Brown has been my good friend for many years, and he is a respected and beloved Judge and member of the community in Sherman, Texas.

Judge Brown represents the finest qualities of jurisprudence. Hanging on his wall in the Sherman Federal Courthouse are Socrates' four qualities for a good judge—to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially. Judge Brown embodied all of these qualities, and he dispensed justice accordingly. He was highly regarded, well-respected, and was a role model for many.

Paul Brown was the youngest of a family of six raised on a farm near Pottsboro, TX. He graduated from Denison High School and although underage, he got his parents' consent to join the U.S. Navy when World War II broke out. He served as a minesweeper in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters and as a part of the occupation forces in Japan. He was discharged as an Electrician's Mate 2nd Class in June, 1946.

He returned to his studies and received a law degree in 1950 from The University of Texas before being recalled to active duty in the Korean War. He saw combat aboard a minesweeper which was sunk by mines, and he received an honorable discharge in December of 1951.

Judge began his practice of law following the war and following President Dwight Eisenhower's election, he went to work as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Texarkana under U.S. Attorney William Steger, who would become his mentor, good friend, and fellow colleague on the bench in the Eastern District until Judge Steger's passing this year. He served as Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1953 to 1959, then followed in Judge Steger's footsteps as U.S. District Attorney from 1959 to 1961.

While in Texarkana, Judge Brown met and married Frances Morehead, and the two returned home to Sherman, where Judge Brown practiced law for a number of years. In 1985 Senator Phil Graham recommended him to President Ronald Reagan for a new judge's position created for the Eastern District of Texas, and Judge Brown was confirmed that year. He held court in Beaumont, Paris, Sherman, and Texarkana, and as the caseload in Sherman grew, he eventually presided over the Sherman courthouse exclusively.

Premiere cases over the years included intellectual property, patent cases, and criminal cases precipitated by the bank and savings and loan failures of the 1980s and 1990s. In recent years he noted the increase in drug cases and expressed his regret that, in spite of all the efforts that have been made to prosecute drug dealers, the nation is not making much progress in curtailing the use of drugs. No matter what type of cases came before him, Judge Brown always enjoyed the work and ran an efficient and orderly courtroom. His personal work ethic and judicial integrity have been remarkable, and his reputation for punctuality has been legendary.

At his retirement reception, hundreds of local attorneys, area judges and friends and family paid tribute to Judge Brown. The Eastern District Chief Judge, Thad Heartfield, speaking for the fifteen judges on their court, has recommended that Congress name the U.S. District Courthouse in Sherman the "Paul Brown U.S. Courthouse." Judge Heartfield noted that Judge Brown has demonstrated the finest qualities of a U.S. district judge: knowledge of the law, courtesy, patience, wisdom and compassion. It will be my pleasure to introduce legislation to that end.

As we near adjournment of the 109th Congress, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a great American, outstanding public servant, and respected jurist, the Honorable Paul Brown, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

COMMENDING NATALIE WILSON CRAWFORD

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, although women have climbed to the highest reaches of outer space, the number of women who have risen to positions of prominence within the U.S. aerospace industry can be counted on one hand. I am therefore particularly proud to commend a fellow Californian, Mrs. Natalie Wilson Crawford, for her four decades of service promoting the security of the American people through her work at the Santa Monica headquarters of RAND. In 1964, Mrs. Crawford became a member of the professional staff of the RAND Corporation, an internationally known and highly respected think tank, and has since held a broad range of research-related senior management positions.

For the past nine years, Mrs. Crawford has been a Vice President of RAND and the Direc-

tor of Project AIR FORCE, RAND's first research division founded in 1946 under the name of Project RAND. For 60 years, Project AIR FORCE has been the Air Force's only federally funded center for studies and analyses; and it has provided independent, objective research on a full range of issues critical to national defense.

Mrs. Crawford's international reputation as an expert on air and space power made her especially well suited for this role. During her tenure, she worked closely with senior leaders of the Air Force to build a powerful research agenda in areas such as geopolitical strategy, aerospace force development, resource management, and manpower.

The Air Force has formally honored Mrs. Crawford many times. She has twice been awarded the Air Force's Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service. In 2003, she received both the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Air Force Analytic Community and the Lieutenant General Glenn Kent Leadership Award. She has also been the Department of the Air Force's Woman of the Year. Today, the members of the United States House of Representatives have the opportunity to add our expression of appreciation for her loyal and dedicated service.

In October, Mrs. Crawford stepped down from her administrative roles in Project AIR FORCE. However, she will continue to act as a senior advisor to RAND's chief executive officer and she will be a senior mentor to the USAF Scientific Advisory Board, a group with which she has been affiliated since 1988.

I thank Natalie Crawford for all that she has done to ensure the safety and security of the United States, and I wish her every success in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MR. G. FRED SCHUTZ FOR HIS TREMENDOUS LEADERSHIP

HON. JOHN R. "RANDY" KUHL, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KUHL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a tireless and unselfish community leader from my congressional district, Mr. G. Fred Schutz.

Born in Buffalo, New York, in 1928, Fred joined the U.S. Naval Reserve at the age of 19, and then transferred to the U.S. Air Force for 8 years during the Korean conflict. In 1988, Fred ended his military career with the U.S. Army reserve-retiring as a command Sergeant Major of the 98th division. During his 22 years of service, he received 9 personal medals and 21 service awards.

After active duty, Fred returned to Canandaigua, New York to work for the Penn Central Transportation Company and later became a small business owner. Fred has been a dedicated leader, being instrumental in many crucial projects including: the founding of a downtown park—The Commons, and the revitalization of Phoenix Street.

He has also organized the Memorial Day parade for as long as anyone can remember and, for the past five years, has led the 9/11 (patriot day) ceremonies. Fred has worked tirelessly to retain the VA medical facility in Canandaigua; he has fought to establish a

museum for military art and has lobbied for a ship to be named after the city of Canandaigua. Fred continues to provide sage advice and economic assistance to veterans who are seeking records, medical treatment, and transportation or lodging. For a number of years, Fred has served a

For a number of years, Fred has served a free Thanksgiving turkey dinner for homeless or needy veterans in the area. His concern for others is evident in his employment of handicapped and older veterans and his enthusiastic fundraising for camp good days and special times, the Make a Wish Foundation, and a church summer carnival.

Fred has also volunteered as a fireman for 20 years. He has been an American Legion member for 53 years, having served as a post, county and district commander and has served on numerous committees on the local, state and national level. Fred was a financial contributor to the Vietnam moving wall in 1999 and instrumental in organizing the ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean war.

He was named Seventh District Legionnaire of the Year in 2003 and Seventh District Humanitarian of the year in 2005. The city of Canandaigua named him volunteer of the year in 2006 and recently named a day in his honor.

Again, I thank Fred for his tremendous contributions, and I look forward to continue working with Fred to help those in need and do what is best for our community.

IN HONOR OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC UNION (DPU)

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Democratic Pacific Union. On the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II (August 14, 2005), the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU) was formally inaugurated in Taipei, Taiwan. The ceremony drew 76 dignitaries from 23 countries, including the presidents and vice presidents of Taiwan, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Palau. The Union's goal is to promote democracy and encourage contacts among its 28 member democracies. Taiwan Vice President Lu Hsiu-lien was elected Chair of the Union.

Since its inception, the Union has established a Secretariat and published its first quarterly, planned regular regional meetings in the East and the West Pacific regions, initiated the Pacific Economic Advisory Group and the Pacific Congressional Caucus, and additionally established a training program for typhoon and flood disaster reduction. The DPU has offered scholarships to students of member states to study in Taiwan, planned a Pacific university network in Taiwan, and invited distinguished women to come to Taiwan to discuss women's issues in the Pacific region. Other initiatives have been introduced to promote democratic values and prosperity among member states.

There is little question that the Democratic Pacific Union has achieved a great deal during its short history. Its goals of promoting and spreading democracy are laudable and complement with our values. We should encourage the leaders of the Democratic Pacific Union by endorsing their goals and objectives as well as learning from them. I am certain that the Union will attract more members and win even greater international recognition in the months and years ahead.

IN HONOR OF ROCKFORD, IL, BURPEE MUSEUM FOR RECEIV-ING TWO AMERICAN ASSOCIA-TION OF MUSEUM AWARDS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford, IL. The Burpee museum is a remarkable cultural institution that has received two prestigious American Association of Museum-AAM-Awards. Both of these awards are for the Jane: Diary of a Dinosaur exhibit at the museum, which opened to outstanding reviews in June 2005.

The museum submitted entries in two categories: Overall Exhibit Excellence and the MUSE Award for the use of media and technology in the Jane exhibit. Burpee received the Exhibit Excellence Award, which is considered the museum profession's highest honor. It also received an Honorable Mention MUSE award for Jane's interactive Meet the Researcher video.

Lew Crampton, Burpee president and CEO, accepted the awards at the AAM's 100th International Conference in Boston in the company of 7,000 other museum profession delegates from around the world. Judges who presented the awards to Mr. Crampton praised Burpee, stating the "whole project was so solid . . . and you just did everything right . . . your work could and should serve as a model to other institutions (including much larger ones) as a way to create an excellent exhibit."

Jane's exhibit is a reflection of the dedication and professional excellence that is demonstrated by the personnel at Burpee. Burpee's personnel overcame three daunting tasks in order to successfully create the exhibit. First, after transporting Jane from Montana to the museum lab, Jane's 66 millionvear-old bones were carefully removed from the rocks in which they were embedded. Second, identifying Jane's place in the dinosaur family tree presented a unique challenge because many scientists consulted in the process disagreed on this matter. Finally, in the midst of the first two tasks, Burpee's personnel had to consider how to create an exhibit that would be able to bridge the gap between science education and family enjoyment.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my recognition and support of the Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford, IL. Since its founding in May of 1942 as a part of the Works Progress Administration, the mission of Burpee has been to inspire all people to engage in a lifetime of learning about the natural world, and they have been very successful in doing so. To this day, Burpee reaches out to the public through its creative event programming and excellent education offerings for educators, families, and other members of the local community. Burpee is a prime example for other cultural institutions across the country, and I am honored to recognize the museum and its personnel here today.

HONORING PRESIDENT WILSON ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, December 28 will mark the 150 anniversary of the birth of our 28th president, Woodrow Wilson. Throughout 2006, a number of organizations-including the Woodrow Wilson House, the Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson, the Woodrow Wilson Family Home, Princeton University, and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library-have held multiple public events to commemorate the life and work of President Wilson. Today, along with my colleague, Mr. GOODLATTE, I'm pleased to offer a resolution both recognizing the 150th anniversary of President Wilson's birth and the contributions of the many organizations that have made this sesquicentennial successful. It also affords us a moment to reflect on how important Woodrow Wilson's legacy is for the United States.

President Wilson lived to see three major wars in his lifetime, each of which reshaped America's role in the world: the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. In the wake of the First World War, President Wilson had the vision to understand that if America was going to prosper in the 20th century, it needed to be a part of the world, not separated from it. That vision was encapsulated in the last of his famous "14 points" in his January 8, 1918 address to a joint session of Congress:

XIV. A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.

Wilson sought to create a just peace for the defeated Triple Alliance powers and a secure world for all nations. He understood both the value and need for collective security, and above all the moral imperative underlying it, as he revealed in his 1918 State of the Union speech:

We have spoken now, surely, in terms too concrete to admit of any further doubt or question. An evident principle runs through the whole program I have outlined. It is the principle of justice to all peoples and nationalities, and their right to live on equal terms of liberty and safety with one another, whether they be strong or weak. Unless this principle [can] be made its foundation, no part of the structure of international justice can stand.

Wilson's vision for America's role abroad— U.S. participation and leadership in the League of Nations—was ultimately undone by his lack of vision in dealing with a Senate that his party no longer controlled and by some flaws in the design of the League. Then-Senate Majority Leader Henry Cabot Lodge was skeptical of the value of the League and wary of the risks of committing America to a permanent, high-profile role in international affairs. The personal animosity between the two men undoubtedly contributed to Lodge's opposition to ratification of the League treaty. The intran-

sigence of both men doomed the League treaty's chances in the Senate.

Today, there is little debate among historians about the consequences. Had Wilson and Lodge been able to set aside their differences and ensure Senate passage of the treaty, America's membership in the League might well have moved the body to take far more decisive action against the fascist dictatorships that emerged in Germany, Italy, and Japan in the 1920s and 1930s, perhaps preventing the Second World War. Other presidents since have relearned the lesson that unless the Congress-the representatives of the people-are true partners in America's foreign policy initiatives, the results are usually tragic. Such was the case in Vietnam, and it is the case in Iraq today.

History ultimately validated Wilson's vision for America's role in the world, and his dream of an international body designed to mediate conflicts between nations did become a reality in the form of the United Nations. Wilson was an innovator in international affairs, and we need to recapture his spirit of innovation and inclusiveness if we are to meet both the threats and the opportunities that lie before us. I want to once again thank all of the fine organizations involved with the Wilson sesquicentennial celebrations for reminding us all what President Wilson has bequeathed to our Nation and the world.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JACQUE MUTHER

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and congratulate Jacque Muther—a true champion in building and sustaining HIV/AIDS care and treatment services in Atlanta—on her tenure as a member of the Board of Directors and Treasurer of the Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief Coalition. CAEAR Coalition is a leading national voice for the treatment and care needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and Ms. Muther has served on its Board of Directors for 12 years, including eight as treasurer. She will leave the board at the end of this year and I take this opportunity to acknowledge her service at the local and the national levels.

Ms. Muther's commitment to the care and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS goes back almost to the beginning of the epidemic. Since the mid 1980s, she has worked at the Grady Health System Infectious Disease Program—a program that now serves over 4,500 indigent people living with HIV/AIDS. She also served as Chair of Atlanta's Ryan White Title I Planning Council and as a member of the Georgia ADAP Task Force, which focuses on increasing state contributions to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. She also serves as Treasurer of HIVDent and is a member of the Board of Directors of Atlanta's AIDS Survival Project.

This impressive list of contributions does not fully capture Ms. Muther's important role in our community, nor her effectiveness as an advocate for high quality HIV/AIDS care for all who need it. Her service and advocacy are rooted deeply in her strong sense of justice and wherever she goes she is a compassionate and effective voice for the urgent need for the nation to redouble its commitment to HIV/ AIDS.

I know well the power of her work in Atlanta and here on Capitol Hill where she is a highly regarded expert. She has the ability to help members and staff alike understand the needs on the frontlines and what we, in turn, must do to respond to those needs.

I rise to honor Ms. Muther's contributions and to express my gratitude that she continues on in service to this vital cause.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. HOOPER MATTHEWS, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Escambia County 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. Mr. Hooper Matthews, Jr., known as "Big Hoop" to his children and grandchildren, was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

Hooper was born in Nashville but made his way to Atmore, Alabama, in 1948. He was a graduate of the University of Georgia where he earned a degree in Forestry, which he used while managing his family timberlands as a registered forester. He also owned the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Atmore and South Alabama Vending Company. He was awarded the Atmore Area Chamber of Commerce's lifetime achievement award in 2005.

Hooper was a strong believer in the future of Atmore. His work as president of the A.C. Moore Elementary PTA as well as his work on the board of directors of Escambia Academy exemplified his vision for creating a strong foundation in the community's children.

He also supported programs such as Read America, the Huxford Elementary School Reading Initiative, scouting events, the YMCA, and drug and alcohol education, to name just a few of his many pet projects.

Not only did Hooper give back to Atmore through his work with children, but he contributed in more ways than most people might realize to Atmore's economic viability through his business ventures.

His work with the Atmore Chamber of Commerce, where he served as a past president, brought Masland Carpets to the area and raised funds for Atmore schools as well as The American Cancer Society, The American Heart Association, Williams Station Day, Mayfest, and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Even with his numerous professional obligations, Hooper always found time to share his love for the land with anyone and everyone who was interested.

Many a child in south Alabama shot their first deer by his side, and on any given day, you could expect to see someone hunting with him. His kind generosity touched many people throughout the First District but was felt with the most warmth back at home. He always had an infectious smile on his face and a love for people that was real and genuine. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Hooper Matthews, Jr., loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his family and the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO ZACHARY L. COOPER

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a remarkable citizen, Mr. Zachary L. Cooper of Madison, Wisconsin. Mr. Cooper was an educator and scholar who devoted his life to the study and teaching of black history. He was widely known as one of the state's most prominent chroniclers of African-American history.

Zachary Cooper was born in Brunswick, GA, in 1935, and eventually settled in Madison, Wisconsin. After spending 2 years in the Army Medical Corps, Mr. Cooper went on to earn a bachelor's degree in European history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He followed that with a master's degree in American history and earned his Ph.D in curriculum and instruction from the Ohio State University-Columbus.

Mr. Cooper spent much of his career documenting the history of black settlers, authoring "Black Settlers in Rural Wisconsin" and creating a documentary called "Coming Together, Coming Apart" which used oral histories, photos and diaries to preserve evidence of early black families in Wisconsin. Mr. Cooper was also a lecturer for a variety of institutions including the Wisconsin Historical Society, the University of Wisconsin, Edgewood College, Madison Area Technical College, and the Madison School District.

Mr. Cooper's passion was working with children. As president of the board of directors at the Early Childhood Learning Center, he was able to impact the lives of all the children at the center.

In the spring of 1992, Cooper co-founded JAMAD (Jamaica-Madison Cultural Exchange), a program that creates connections between hardworking students in Wisconsin and Jamaica. Through the program, students establish pen pal relationships which culminate in the students from Wisconsin making a trip to Jamaica to learn more about their peers and the culture.

With the passing of Zachary L. Cooper, the world has lost a great scholar, and Wisconsin has lost a great teacher, citizen, and friend.

VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY SUS-PENSION BILLS AT THE END OF THE 109TH CONGRESS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my concern about the House of Rep-

resentatives at the last minute rushing to the floor dozens of bills spending tens of millions of dollars and interfering in the affairs of foreign countries. Mr. Speaker, we woke up this morning with the surprise announcement that we would face at least 35 of these suspension bills. Suspension bills are customarily noncontroversial—naming post offices and the like. I can hardly think of anything more controversial than sending tens of millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars overseas to interfere in the affairs of foreign countries.

The suspension calendar is being used to pass the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which funnels millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars to foreign governments. For example, through the Export-Import Bank, Americans are forced to subsidize China's economic growth with some \$4 billion dollars per year. Is this not controversial?

Additionally, today's suspension bills will turn an additional 52 million dollars in foreign aid over to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Is this not controversial?

Possibly more damaging in today's "noncontroversial" suspension bills are the several bills that seek to meddle in the affairs of foreign countries. Today's suspension bills, whether they regard Lebanon, Iran, Congo, or Nepal, make it clear that we still have not learned the lessons we should have learned from Iraq and all of our previous interventions that have gone awry. Mr. Speaker, it is bad enough that Congress acts as if its jurisdiction extends across the entire globe, must we add insult to injury by treating this as simply run of the mill, noncontroversial legislation?

SOBER TRUTH ON PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act (Stop Act), which tackles an important issue facing families in every congressional district, the issue of underage drinking. If present for rollcall vote 521 on H.R. 864, the measure would have my strong support.

The Stop Act serves to restate the importance of state alcohol laws in fighting underage drinking while supplementing federal research and advocacy with additional funds. I am proud to support this legislation to confront the growing problem of underage drinking.

> HONORING DR. PATRICK MCKIERNAN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 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.

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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.

TRIBUTE TO DR. POLLEYS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great woman who has without reserve given her all to Muscogee County, GA. On this day, Dr. Polleys is retiring as chair of the Muscogee County School Board, a position which she has held for 13 years. She has faithfully served her community while blazing new trails for those who would follow.

Dr. Polleys grew up in Harris County, GA and knew early on that she wanted to make a difference in her community. To that end, she came back to Columbus to teach school after graduating from Mercer University. Not long thereafter, Mary Sue completed her master's degree at Auburn University and taught speech at the college level for 7 years, tutored extensively, and became involved in corporate training. In accordance with her ambitious nature, she did not stop with her master's but went on to receiver her doctor of philosophy degree from Auburn and served as director of the Servant Leadership Program at Columbus State University until her retirement.

After being elected to the Muscogee County School Board in November of 1993, Dr. Polleys led the school board to a place where consensus was the norm, mutual respect was expected, and discourtesy was simply not acceptable. In less than 5 years, the school system resolved its leadership issues, passed a \$160 million capital program by a 3-to-1 margin, developed a fund balance of over 30 days, resolved its litigation, reversed the fall in test scores, and restored the confidence of administrators and teachers. More importantly, she restored the confidence of the parents and children whom the board serves.

Other members of the Muscogee County School Board characterize her this way:

As Chair, Dr. Polleys exemplified true leadership by pushing us when we needed to be pushed, calmed us when we needed to be calmed and taught us when we needed to be taught. She helped take us from a group of nine individuals, with nine separate agendas, to a school board of nine public servants, with a single agenda, service to the community and care for all its children.

In a lasting tribute to Dr. Polleys, the school board entered this resolution:

It has been said that all of us should be ashamed not to have made at least one victory for mankind during our lifetimes. By that standard, Dr. Polleys has earned not just the right to be unashamed, but the right to be proud. If she thought in terms of pride, she would be. She doesn't. If her accomplishments are to be praised, we must praise them because she won't.

Today, as Dr. Polleys moves into retirement from government service, we honor her and thank her for all she has done for the benefit of Columbus, GA—as an elected official and as a private citizen dedicated to the good of others. Her exemplary service to her community has set a standard of dedication and leadership that has inspired many and will inspire many others.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVES J.D. HAYWORTH AND JIM RYUN

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of working with some great men and women over my years in Congress, and I rise today to pay my respect to two of my colleagues who will be leaving at the end of this year: Representatives J.D. HAYWORTH and JIM RYUN.

Anvone who has worked with J.D. HAYWORTH can readily testify that he is a charismatic man of many talents. His career in Congress has been highlighted by his leadership on immigration reform, advocacy for enhanced border security and prioritization of national security in these threatening times. In addition, he has received the "Taxpayer Hero" award from Citizens Against Government Waste 10 times, and was recently awarded the "Lifetime Tax Fighter" award from the National Tax Limitation Committee. He has also worked tirelessly for protection of children. His provisions for a centralized law enforcement database of child abusers strengthened the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act. which President Bush signed into law this July.

These are some of the many distinctive achievements of J.D. HAYWORTH as a public

official, but many may not know some of the unique characteristics he possesses as an individual. I got to know J.D. better when I went and campaigned for him. I met his wonderful family and enjoyed their warm hospitality during my times in Arizona. He is a loving family man with a great sense of humor. Many may not be aware of one of his unique talents. He has an uncanny ability to mimic the speech of other Members. His impersonation of Representative HOWARD COBLE in particular is one of the best I have ever heard.

I greatly respect J.D., will sorely miss him, and I hope he will consider returning to public office sometime in the near future.

I would also like to take a moment to honor Representative JIM RYUN. He has greatly impressed me with his leadership-both in his public office and in his personal life. He has fervently worked for traditional family values, fiscal responsibility, immigration reform, and improving the lives of our men and women in uniform. For several years now, he worked to pass the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, which protects service members from coercive tactics employed by some credit institutions. This legislation overwhelmingly passed the House and paved the way for its companion legislation to be signed into law this past September. I was also impressed and touched by his eloquence during the debate on the Respect for Fallen Heroes Act when he stated. "Our service members embody the exact opposite of hate by sacrificing their lives so that we can keep ours. I pay tribute to them . . ." It is this selflessness and integrity that has made it a pleasure to work with him.

It is also an honor to know him as a friend. JIM is a committed family man. He and his wife Anne have worked as a "dynamic duo" to strengthen and promote family values through their work with the Statesmen Leaders Conference and the Congressional Wives' Club. He is most famously identified as the man who broke the 4-minute mile, an incredible feat of athleticism that many of us, myself included, wish we could replicate. But I would not identify him that way. Instead, I would identify him most readily with his faith, for that is how he lives his life. I have had the pleasure of attending many Bible studies with him here at the Capitol, and I have found the source of his strength of character stems from his deep faith in God. His love for God and his fellow man has inspired many of us, and led some to a deeper relationship with God themselves. I value the time I have had to work with JIM. I will miss his calming presence and insight in the 110th Congress, and I pray that God blesses him and his family in his future endeavors.

REGARDING INTENT TO INTRO-DUCE THE BROADBAND EXPENS-ING ACT OF 2007 IN THE 110TH CONGRESS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important piece of legislation I will reintroduce early next year, along with my colleague, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, to encourage the deployment of broadband high-

speed Internet service throughout the United States. The Broadband Expensing Act of 2007 will allow immediate depreciation of the costs of new infrastructure investments providing broadband connectivity. In previous Congresses this measure has received extensive bipartisan support with as many as 225 House cosponsors and 65 Senate cosponsors. As the Congress and administration consider various methods of encouraging innovation in America, a broadband incentive of this nature must be of high priority.

This bill was a priority for my late husband, who worked with Mr. ENGLISH, Senator ROCKE-FELLER, Senator BAUCUS, and the late Senator Moynihan to craft it in 2000. They all worked hard on it for several years and built tremendous bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. My husband spent a lot of time discussing this measure with his colleagues in the House, explaining how it would work, seeking cosponsorships. It has been a popular measure. On three separate occasions it has almost passed the Congress, but each time fell short in the House. Three times this bill has passed the Senate, and three times it has been rejected in conference with the House, to the disappointment of my husband, my colleague Mr. ENGLISH, and many other members of this body who supported it and felt it could make a significant contribution to improving America's telecommunications and information technology infrastructure.

Now we are prepared to make another push for this bill in the 110th Congress. The Broadband Expensing Act will provide a temporary two-tiered tax incentive to stimulate new investment in this crucial infrastructure: 50 percent expensing for investment in "current-generation" broadband infrastructure in rural and underserved areas, and full expensing for "next generation" broadband investments in those same areas, as well as residential areas generally. Moreover, it is designed to be technology neutral, making delivery of service, not the delivery medium, the factor for eligibility. Any broadband provider meeting the required speeds, measured in megabits of data delivered to and from the consumer per second, is eligible, whether such service is provided over telephone wire, cable modem, optical fiber, wireless, satellite, or other forms of technology.

It is important to act quickly. Recent reports by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the International Telecommunications Union find the United States lagging in broadband penetration compared to other nations. We should not sit idly by and allow the United States to fall behind in this crucial area. Just as the federal government stepped in to provide national availability of electrification and transportation in the mid-1900s, we must now ensure a national system of electronic information.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important measure. I look forward to working with my cosponsors and the leadership of both parties to see the Broadband Expensing Act become law in 2007. TURKEY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I encourage Turkey to honor their commitments and implement important economic, regional, and political advancements in order to gain membership in the European Union (EU).

Today, December 6, 2006, marks an important deadline in the pursuit of international partnership and cooperation. Turkey must begin to demonstrate to the EU and the international community that it is willing to implement changes in its policy prior to the Ascension Summit, where it will be decided whether Turkey may continue toward EU membership. The significance of this deadline is undeniable; Turkey must decide: do they continue to pursue a policy which alienates and impedes other nations? Or, do they adopt policy changes to join an important international cooperative body.

It is a well-known fact the regional policies of Turkey cause strain in the South Caucasus region and unfairly harms the welfare of their neighbor country, Armenia. The European Union has repeatedly called for the cessation of the Turkish Blockade of Armenia as well as normalization of relations between the countries. However, these two pre-conditions to entering the EU have been blatantly ignored by Turkey. The blockade, now in its thirteenth year, is the only blockade of a fellow Council of Europe state. This is simply unacceptable, and I implore the EU to stand firm in their recommendations to Turkey in order to ensure these iniquitous economic practices are eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, Armenia is a friend of the United States; and too many countries throughout the world. Yet, Turkey refuses to see the benefits Armenia brings to the South Caucasus region. This refusal has led to fierce tension within the region, as well as unfair economic outcomes that only harm Armenia. Before Turkey can become a member of the European Union, they must first acknowledge their mistakes, foster cooperation in the South Caucasus region, and respect their neighbor, Armenia.

I encourage the European Parliament to consider the ramifications of Turkey's actions before granting them membership to the EU. The purpose of the EU is to create economic, political and most importantly regional cooperation between nations with similar interests. Turkey, with a history of bullying their neighbor, does not deserve membership until they change their ways.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006 Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr.

Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation introduced today by Congressman RADANOVICH to implement a practical agreement to revive our State's second-longest river. This is a remarkable accomplishment, and I congratulate the parties who have worked tirelessly to get to this point.

When we debated and passed the Central Valley Project Improvement Act in the early 1990s, we anticipated a program to reestablish the San Joaquin River's salmon run that was eliminated by the construction of Friant Dam.

But bringing about something as momentous as this agreement is easier said than done. This settlement has been literally decades in the making, and I think we should all be very glad we're at this point, rather than watching another several years of litigation and argument.

It took a collaborative effort to bring this settlement about, and I'd like to take a moment to recognize the leaders of this effort.

Congressman RADANOVICH and Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN took the lead in directing the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Friant water users to settle the 18-year legal dispute, and in negotiating the legislation to implement their settlement.

Attorney Hal Candee has shepherded NRDC's effort to reverse 60 years of destruction on the San Joaquin, and Friant's counsel, Dan Dooley, ensured that the river could flow without devastating his farmers.

My hat is off to each of the parties who have made this happen.

There is still a lot of work to be done before the salmon can return to the San Joaquin River again, and I look forward to working in the 110th Congress and beyond to help move the restoration efforts forward.

I will also make sure that this worthy effort does not detract from other ongoing restoration efforts, like the important work taking place on the Trinity River in northern California.

There is still much to be done in order to implement and fund the 2000 Record of Decision for Trinity River restoration, and I intend to work with my colleagues to restore that river and its fishery, including the resources that the United States holds in trust for the Hoopa Valley Tribe.

Again, I want to thank those who have led in this collaborative effort, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to settle a very long legal dispute and finally to bring salmon back to the once-great San Joaquin Biver.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. CRUZ BUSTAMANTE JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and join my colleagues Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. RADANO-VICH and Mr. NUNES in honoring and remembering the life of Mr. Cruz Bustamante Jr., who passed away on Friday, December 1, 2006. Mr. Bustamante was a respected member of his community and his memory will forever be cherished.

Mr. Bustamante, was born on November 2, 1933 in Loving, New Mexico. In his youth, he and his family left New Mexico and made California's San Joaquin Valley their new home. Cruz graduated from Dinuba High School and Mohler Barber College. He successfully pursued careers as a barber and later as the Administrator for the Greater California Employment Program and United Health Centers.

Like his son, Cruz, who served two-terms as the California's Lieutenant Governor and as a Member of the State Assembly representing the San Joaquin Valley, Mr. Bustamante also had an appetite for public service and never shied away from the opportunity to influence change in his community. Following that passion, he served the City of San Joaquin both as a member and Mayor Pro Tem. In addition, many civic, educational and community boards and committees were the beneficiaries of Mr. Bustamante's interest in his community's welfare.

Mr. Cruz Bustamante Jr. is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Dominga and their children: Cruz M., Belinda, Dorothy, Ron, Andrew and Naomi. Also surviving him are nine siblings, ten grandchildren and three greatgrandchildren.

Although his passing leaves a community in mourning, his devotion to his family, loyalty to friends, and commitment to helping others will never be forgotten. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends, and reassure them that his memory will live on through the lives he so graciously touched.

FOND FAREWELL TO DEPARTING FLORIDA DELEGATION MEMBERS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, Florida is a state like no other. Our distinct regions range from the white-sanded beaches of the panhandle to the pink-sanded, sophisticated boutiqued avenues of Miami, passing through the space coast, home to Kennedy Space Center, and, most exquisitely, through the beautiful, rolling horse country of Marion and Alachua counties.

Our congressional delegation is no less diverse. We have our rock-solid fiscal conservatives, our steady moderates, and our progressive liberals. I am proud to be associated with them all.

Tonight, I join my Sunshine State colleagues to bid a fond farewell to CLAY SHAW, MIKE BILIRAKIS, JIM DAVIS, and KATHERINE HARRIS. Each of them are unique seashells, sparkling on the beach that we call Florida.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DAVIS and I have spent many years together on the Committee on Energy & Commerce. For countless hours, we have debated the Outer Continental Shelf, Medicaid, and telecommunications issues. There were never dull moments, but even as we disagreed, I think that the three of us asked a common question as we legislated: what is best for Floridians?

In Mr. BILIRAKIS, further, one could ask for no more dedicated advocate for our Nation's veterans. He has introduced the fix for the unfair offset of concurrent receipt of veteran disability pay and military retirement pay for 20 years now. Happily, he must leave here with the satisfaction that Congress has made substantial progress in ending this century-old problem. Mr. SHAW's leadership in Medicare is peerless. Physicians around Florida and around the nation have him to thank for his tireless efforts on their reimbursement, as well as medical liability reform. I am honored that he asked me to carry the torch for his work on medical screenings for first responders. I shall not let him down.

Mrs. HARRIS has served honorably as a brilliant stateswoman, both for Florida and for the United States. As Secretary of State for Florida, she represented and advanced our interests in trade, with diplomacy and aplomb. And, she is an accomplished horsewoman and solid booster and alumna of the University of Florida, with strong family ties.

As an example of our unity, like other States with no income taxes, our delegation has lobbied hard for federal income tax fairness, via the deduction for state and local sales taxes. When I gathered the support of the Florida delegation for this deduction in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 in a letter in the summer of 2004, I am proud to say that I collected the signatures of 100 percent of our delegation, all 25 of our House Members, and our two Senators. One of our delegation, the Honorable Porter Goss, in fact had one foot out the door, to head the Central Intelligence Agency, but he still took a moment to sign our letter. I don't think any of the other non-income tax states, including the even larger delegation of Texas, secured 100 percent support. This solidarity just exemplifies who Floridians are. Representatives BILIRAKIS. SHAW. HARRIS, and DAVIS, fare thee well.

HONORING LLOYD C. HILLARD, JR.

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 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 lifelong 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 HONORABLE SHERWOOD BOEHLERT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE SCIENCE COMMITTEE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable SHER-WOOD BOEHLERT for his outstanding service as Chairman of the House Science Committee.

Chairman SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, in honor of your long-term commitment to scientific research, I congratulate you on all of your remarkable achievements as Chairman of the House Science Committee. It has been my pleasure to serve alongside you as we worked diligently on many scientific matters which affected every American across the country. While I congratulate you on your service and celebrate your retirement, I recognize without reservation that your valued insights and contributions to the Science Committee will be deeply missed.

As Chairman of the Science Committee, you spearheaded advancement in nanotechnology through the "21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act," that was signed in December 2003, by President George W. Bush. This was an important bill which allowed for a more coordinated and betfunded interagency ter program in nanotechnology-an emerging field of science that the National Science Foundation estimates will be a \$1 trillion industry within the next decade.

You have also been an esteemed advocate for the environment having authored the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, which for the first time established a federal response to acid rain. Furthermore, your dedication did not stop there. In 1996, you authored the Conservation Title in the Farm bill, which provided over \$9 billion for conservation programs critical to hunters and fishermen. Such crucial programs included the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

I can confidently say that through your distinguished 24 years of service, you have made a lasting and valuable impact on American society. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and successful efforts in drawing the necessary attention to the competitive challenges facing U.S. companies, and to the importance of math and science education in overcoming those challenges. I also thank you for your excellent efforts of ensuring that our nation remains number one in the global economy.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON— CONFERENCE USA CHAMPS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize my alma mater, the University of Houston Cougars whose football team won the Conference USA Championship on December 1, 2006 against Southern Mississippi in front of a hometown crowd of 31,818, the largest crowd in the history of UH's Robertson Stadium.

After being down at halftime by a score of 17– 13, the Cougars rallied by to win by 34–20. I am immensely proud of the Cougar foot-

ball program, which in the space of 5 years has turned itself completely around from a winless season in 2001.

This lion's share of this tremendous success is attributed to Mr. Art Briles, the head coach of the Cougars—the brilliant architect of the turnaround. When Briles came to the Cougars in 2003, he found a team and school demoralized and devastated from years of mediocrity. A mere three years later, due to his leadership, the Coogs are conference champs and headed to the Liberty Bowl.

In football, statistics are misleading, because the game is above all a team effort. It is hard to describe the contribution of an individual player to such an effort through their statistics, because one's performance is mortally dependent on so many other variablesbroadly speaking, the performance of every other player on the team. Therefore, it could be said that the most important, perhaps only, statistic that matters is that of wins and losses, which reflects the performance of the team, not the individual player. This statistic is really the coach's statistic-Mr. Briles is ultimately responsible for it. In this the Cougars excelled, with a record of ten wins and only three losses.

In recognition of excellence in leadership and performance, on December 6, Briles won the Coach of the Year award from the Conference USA—An award well-deserved.

Mr. Speaker, in football, extreme importance is paid to the position of the quarterback. In the realm of sports, the vitality of this position is matched only by the pitcher in baseball. Fortunately, UH had an excellent quarter-

Fortunately, UH had an excellent quarterback in Kevin Kolb. In the championship game, Kevin completed 19–for–31 passes for 258 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for a 46-yard touchdown. But this was the continuation of an equally stellar season, in which Kevin completed 266–for–393 passes for 3,423 yards. He threw a league-high 27 touchdowns with only three interceptions. This touchdown-to-interception ratio was the second lowest in all of NCAAI–A football. For these exceptional accomplishments, Kevin has deservedly won the C–USA Offensive Player of the Year award.

I must also recognize Vincent Marshall, who was named the game's Most Valuable Player. Vincent, a wide receiver, rushed for a touchdown and had 224 all-purpose yards—100 receiving, 22 rushing, and 102 yards on three kickoff returns. Also notable is the fact that Vincent has made a reception in 36 straight games, allowing him to be the Nation's top returning career receiver. He is also just 31 catches, and 557 yards, away from holding the UH record in both categories. Mr. Speaker, I commend Coach Briles, Kevin, Vincent, and the entire Cougar football team for a superb season, a conference championship, and for making students of the University of Houston, past and present, proud to be a Cougar. I look forward to the Liberty Bowl, where the un-daunted Cougars will face the Southeastern Conference South Carolina GameCocks. They will meet for the first time since October 5, 1974, but whom the Cougars are 2–0 against. I look forward to a Cougar victory.

My pride goes to UH. "Eat 'em up, eat 'em up; rah, rah, rah," Mr. Speaker.

That's just the way it is.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN URGES SIKHS TO WORK TO FREE KHALISTAN SEES DISINTEGRA-TION OF INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, last month, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, spoke at the Press Club in Lahore, Pakistan. In that speech, he predicted disintegration of India, according to the newspaper Dawn from Lahore. "There is nothing common in the culture of the Hindu living in Bengal and the one in Tamil area," the paper quotes Dr. Aulakh as saying. "A country having 18 official languages cannot hold its people together for a long time, especially when there is state sponsored suppression against minorities," he went on to say.

Dr. Aulakh cited the BJP's statement that if vou want to live in Hindustan, you must be a Hindu. He discussed India's long record of violence against the minorities within its borders, including the murders of over a quarter of a million Sikhs, more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims. over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims around the rest of the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalit "untouchables", Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. He cited numerous other incidents, including the murder of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke, the kidnapping and murder by the police of human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, the recent attack on the Convent of Loreto, the attack on the Babri mosque, and many other such events.

Dr. Aulakh said that the only solution to this situation is a free, sovereign, independent Khalistan, which was declared on October 7, 1987. It is time for the United States to help protect the dignity of all people in South Asia by helping them to live in freedom. There should be a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab on the independence of Khalistan, as well as a plebiscite in Kashmir, as promised to the United Nations in 1948, in Nagaland, and wherever people are seeking freedom from India. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. The United States Congress should be on record in support of that. In addition, we should stop our aid and trade with India until such time as the tyranny stops and all people there enjoy full human rights.

We seek good relations with India, but not at the expense of our principles. India must spread the blessings of freedom and democracy to all its people, not just the ruling elite and its friends.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Dawn article and an article from The News concerning Dr. Aulakh's statement into the RECORD.

[From Dawn Lahore, Nov. 7, 2006]

KHALISTAN COUNCIL SEES INDIA'S

DISINTEGRATION (By Our Staff Reporter)

Lahore, Nov. 6: India will break up in many states like the former USSR, says Council of Khalistan president Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh.

"There is nothing common in the culture of the Hindu living in Bengal and the one in Tamil area. A country having 18 official languages cannot hold its people together for a long time, especially when there is statesponsored suppression against minorities," Dr. Aulakh said at a press conference at the Lahore Press Club on Monday. The BJP had conveyed to all the minori-

The BJP had conveyed to all the minorities in the strongest terms that if they wanted to live in 'Hindustan', they have to become Hindus. Over a million people have been killed since independence merely because they were not Hindus. The Indian government has committed terrorism against its own minorities. More than 250,000 Sikh infants, children, youth, men, women and elderly had been murdered since 1984, in addition to more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country besides tens of thousands of Assameese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils and other minorities.

Indian police arrested human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs. Over 50,000 Sikhs were arrested, tortured, murdered and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated, said Dr. Aulakh.

Mr. Khalra was murdered in police custody and his body was not handed over to his family. No one was brought to justice for his kidnap and murder. The only witness to the Khalra kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randbawa, had been repeatedly harassed by the police, including having been arrested for trying to hand a note to the then British home secretary Jack Straw.

The Khalistan Council chief said 35 Sikhs were arrested in Punjab last year for delivering speeches in support of Khalistan and raising its flag. How can delivering speeches and raising a flag be considered crimes in a democratic society?

The police never released the body of Gurdeve Singh Kaunke, the former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. The police officer had never been tried for the murder.

Mr. Graham Stains, missionary, was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted Hannuman ki jay (Victory to Hannuman). Another missionary, Joseph cope, was beaten so badly that he had to remain in an Indian hospital for a week. Later, the Indian government threw him out of the country and none of the people involved had been tried.

"Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire but the people who murdered priests, raped nuns and burnt churches had yet to be charged or tried. Recently, militants from the Bharatiya Januata Yuva, the youth movement affiliated with the BJP and the fascist RSS, attacked the Convent of Loreto.

"The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984. Militant Hindu fundamentalists destroyed the most important mosque in india, the Babri Masjid, but no one had ever been held responsible," said Dr. Aulakh.

"What good it did to the Sikh nation if the Indian government apologized for the Delhi massacres, in which over 20,000 sikhs were killed? Where are the apologies for the golden Temple attack, the destruction of the Akal Takht, the desecration of Darbar Sahib and the other atrocities? Where is the compensation for the victims' families?" asked a charged Khalistan Council chief.

Sikh farmers were expelled from Uttaranchal last year and their land was seized, police thrashed them, their homes that were built out of their life savings and by their own hands, were bulldozed by paratroopers. "We condemn this act of state terrorism by the government of Uttaranchal," he said.

Sikhs could not buy land in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh and now Uttaranchal had been added to the list while there were no restrictions on land ownership in Punjab by non-Sikhs.

India was trying to subvert Khalistan's independence by overrunning Punjab with non-Sikhs while keeping Sikhs from escaping the brutal repression in Punjab. "It is now incumbent on the Sikh diaspora to free Khalistan. We must redouble our efforts. That is the only way to keep these atrocities from continuing and to protect the Sikh nation and the religion."

The Akali Dal, Dr. Aulakh alleged, conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs in June 1984 in Punjab.

In response to a question, he said the Indian prime minister was a puppet. "Mr. Manmohan Singh lied before the Geneva Commission in 1992 that there were no atrocities against Sikhs in India in spite of the fact that there were 52,000 Sikhs in Indian jails under the notorious TADA. He lacks the true Sikh spirit, if a Sikh is not Khalistani, he is not a Sikh," declared Dr. Aulakh.

Sikhs would never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India had mistreated the Sikh nation, starting with Patel's memo calling Sikhs 'a criminal tribe.'

"What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandom when the Sikh nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India. There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, democratic India. Our moment of freedom is closer than ever. Sikhs will continue to work to make certain that we shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom and dignity.

"The flame of freedom continues to burn brightly in the heart of every Sikh and no force can suppress it. Recently, Dal Khalsa and the Shironment Khalsa Dal announced that they are uniting for sovereignty for Khalistan. The Punjab legislative assembly proclaimed the sovereignty of Punjab when it cancelled the water agreements. Only by liberating Khalistan can we put an end to the repression and terrorism against the Sikh nation by the Indian regime. Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to the liberation of Khalistan.

"The Sikhs are a free nation and they would neither compromise on their freedom nor they could be subjugated. Freedom is the right of every nation. We have been struggling for the independence of our homeland from the day when the Golden Temple was attacked. We have been exposing the indian atrocities worldwide since then," the Khalistan Council chief said.

[From The News International, Nov. 7, 2006]

SIKHS URGED TO WORK FOR HOMELAND

Sardar Gurmeet Singh Aulak, president of Council of Khalistan, has said that it is the moral duty of Sikhs to establish free homeland and get freedom from India.

While addressing a press conference here Monday at Lahore Press Club, he said Sikhs had to come forward to get free homeland for the Sikhs living around the world. He said the foundation of Khalistan was laid after the attack on Golden Temple in 1984 adding that now the Sikhs were fighting for their birth right though the war was long but it has to meet logical end.

He said the biggest mistake which the Sikh nation had committed was that they did not accept the offer of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and for that they have to pay for few more decades.

He said their struggle was peaceful and political but India turned into violent by killing innocent Sikhs in East Punjab and tagged them as terrorists.

He said in India, 18 different languages were being spoken and when there was no commonality in cultures, the country was bound to be divided into parts like the USSR. He said on October 17, 1987, the resolution was passed by Council of Khalistan for free homeland and from that date the Sikhs were struggling to get their homeland.

He said Sikhs has no claim on that piece of land where they did not have any population but they want homeland on areas of East Punjab, Himachal and Haryana, where the Sikhs were in majority. About Kashmir issue, he said he was surprised to note that with so many Muslim countries around the world, the state was not freed yet as if the Sikhs have the same number of countries, they had freed their land from the cruel clutches of India.

About Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, he said he was a puppet PM and dance to the tunes of Sonia Gandhi and lacks confidence of Sikh nation.

CONGRATULATING THE MIN-NESOTA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the staff and patrons of the Minnesota Children's Museum on its 25th Anniversary. Since its inception on December 12, 1981, the Minnesota Children's Museum has welcomed more than 5 million children through its doors, giving young people hands-on experiences that offer a world of opportunities for children, youth and adults alike to explore and discover.

As the number of visitors has grown from 65,000 to 400,000 per year, the Minnesota Children's Museum has moved to larger space three times, from downtown Minneapolis to its current location in downtown St. Paul. Thanks to the vision and commitment of founders Marialice Harwood, Kate Donaldson and Suzanne Payne, the Children's Museum continues to expand as an innovative venue for educating and nurturing young children, and offer unique public spaces for civic and community engagement.

In the new En Mi Familia gallery, children learn the life stories and dreams of a young Mexican American author and artist, Carmen Lomas Garza. In the Habitot gallery, infants and toddlers ranging in age from six months to four years old can safely explore and crawl through the Habitot's pond, prairie, forest and bluff caves to enhance their cognitive, physical and social development. In the Rooftop ArtPark, where nature and art come together, young visitors experience the changing colors of leaves from treetops to changing weather conditions in Minnesota, In the World Works gallery, children explore and discover the fun of water by building boats and racing them through a water tube.

Through these imaginative approaches to lessons about society, science and art, the Minnesota Children's Museum shows young people that learning can be fun. Community investments like the Children's Museum provide the foundation for lifelong learning. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring all the people who have made the Minnesota Children's Museum a success for children's education.

FRANK CORRECTS HIS ERROR

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker. in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for Tuesday, December 5, 2006 I inserted remarks noting the justifiable honor that Georgetown Law School paid to our former colleague, Father Robert Drinan, by naming a Chair in Human Rights in his honor. Unfortunately, I marred that insertion by incorrectly naming the first holder of the Chair. In that insertion, I said that Professor T. Alexander Aleinikoff was holding the Chair. In fact, he is the Dean of Georgetown University Law Center and he spoke at the ceremony in recognition of the first Chair holder. That recipient of the honor of being the first holder of the Robert F. Drinan Chair is Judge Thomas Buergenthal.

Mr. Speaker, because I think it is a very important step that one of our nation's leading law schools has so honored a man who pioneered in the important field of human rights, and further that the proceedings in which that occurred be fully and accurately portrayed here in this RECORD, I have submitted for printing elsewhere in the RECORD a copy that these remarks be included so that people who note that there were two versions of this important ceremony printed in the RECORD will understand why.

I apologize to Judge Buergenthal for not having recognized initially his being designated as the holder of this Chair and I repeat my congratulations to Georgetown University Law Center for honoring a great man, former Congressman Father Robert F. Drinan, and a great cause to which he has donated and continues to donate so much of his talent and time. PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 527; condemning the decision of St. Denis, France, to name a street in honor of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the convicted murderer of Philadelphia Police Officer Danny Faulkner.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING NASA MISSION SPE-CIALIST JOAN E. HIGGINBOTHAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the STS-116 crew aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery on the occasion of their launch into space today. Thursday, December 7, 2006, marks the shuttle's 20th mission to the International Space Station.

Space is a frontier few Americans get to experience, and for females and members of ethnic minorities, the opportunities are especially rare.

For this reason I offer warmest congratulations to Mission Specialist Joan E. Higginbotham.

As an African American woman, Joan Higginbotham will inspire millions of girls across the nation and across the world. Ms. Higginbotham's track record of excellence has set her apart from her peers. Trained as an electrical engineer with management and space systems expertise, Ms. Higginbotham has gone down a unique path.

Both Ms. Higginbotham and I are proud members of The Links, Incorporated.

The Links, Incorporated is a not-for-profit organization of more than 10,000 women of color, committed to enhancing the quality of life in their communities. The Links founders had three primary service aims: civic, educational, and cultural. In her achievement as an astronaut, Ms. Higginbotham will light the paths of millions of women of color to achieve in areas previously inaccessible to them.

Again, warmest congratulations and best wishes to the crew, especially to Mission Specialist Joan E. Higginbotham.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNI-VERSARY OF THE DECEMBER 14, 1856 BIRTH OF LOUIS MARSHALL

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Louis Marshall. Louis Marshall is a staple in the Syracuse community. Born on December 14, 1856 Mr. Marshall spent his time growing up in our area. After attending Columbia Law College, Mr. Marshall returned to Syracuse where he began his legal career. In time, Louis Marshall distinguished himself as one of the more prominent and sought after lawyers in New York State. Through his tireless efforts advocating civil rights and combating anti-Semitism, Louis Marshal became a legendary appellate attorney and a Constitutional scholar. Throughout his life, he tried more cases before the United States Supreme Court than any other non-governmental lawyer of his era.

Locally, Louis Marshall was heavily involved within the Syracuse community. As a longtime trustee of Syracuse University, he worked hard for the creation of the New York State College of Forestry.

His greatness was often sought after by many, landing Mr. Marshall on commissions at the State and National level.

Throughout his prestigious career, Louis Marshall always maintained close personal ties to the Syracuse community. At the time of his untimely death on September 11, 1929, Louis Marshall had already cemented his greatness. Louis Marshall will always be remembered as a hard working, loving, individual who fought diligently to protect the rights of all and fought hard so the integrity of our great Constitution would never be jeopardized.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY DICK

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of Ms. Betty Dick, who died on November 14, 2006, in Arizona. She was 84. Earlier this year, this body passed a bill I helped author to allow Betty to remain on property within Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado for the rest of her life—property that she and her late husband had enjoyed and stewarded for 25 years.

Although she did not get the chance to long enjoy this property under the rights of occupation granted under this law—the Betty Dick Residence Protection Act—she did appreciate that Congress understood her situation and passed a law to allow her to stay.

All those who got to know Betty understood her grace, her tenacity, and her love of the outdoors, this property in the Park, and especially her family, friends and neighbors. Before coming to me for help, Betty had not had experience working with Congress. Nevertheless, she was a quick study fully grasping the nuances of passing a private bill and approaching this task with patience, respect for the institution and its members, and the need to make her case. She did all of that with poise and vigor.

My involvement in this issue began when Betty met with my staff in September of 2004, at which time we learned that Betty's occupancy was based on a July, 1980 Settlement Agreement that resolved a lawsuit brought by Betty's deceased husband, Mr. Fred Dick, challenging the transaction through which the property was conveyed to the federal government. The challenge was based on the federal government ignoring Mr. Dick's right of first refusal when the property was sold to the National Park Service. Invoking this right of first refusal, Mr. Dick asked the court to set aside the sale of the property to the United States and to allow him to repurchase it from his exwife.

Betty and her husband traveled to Washington to negotiate a settlement of this lawsuit and were told that the Interior Department was prepared to agree to a settlement that would allow them a "lifetime occupancy" of the property in return for their agreement to drop the lawsuit. She told me that they agreed to that, but that the formal documents to complete the settlement instead provided for continued occupancy for a term of 25 years.

According to Betty, her husband decided to accept and sign the documents because he was wornout by protracted negotiations with the National Park Service and because he felt that neither he nor his wife would live longer than 25 years. So, he did sign the Settlement Agreement—which, in addition to reducing the period of occupancy to 25 years also required him to make a lump sum payment of \$7,500 to the National Park Service. As it happened, he was right to think that he would not outlive the 25-year period, but he was wrong about his widow, Betty Dick.

I also learned that both Fred and Betty Dick had been good stewards of this property, opened their home and property for community events and the public, and had been good neighbors with the National Park Service and its employees. Betty stated to me back in September—and has stated throughout—that she is simply asking for an opportunity to remain on the property for the rest of her life.

Given this history, I asked my staff to see what we could do to help. Following initial contact with Rocky Mountain National Park after my staff's first meeting with Betty in September, I sent a letter to the Secretary of the Interior on October 12, 2004 respectfully requesting that the Park Service sit down with Betty and renegotiate the terms of the Settlement Agreement. I also suggested that in return for this renegotiation Betty offer something of value in exchange for her being able to remain on this property.

The response to that request was a letter back from the National Park Service's Intermountain Region Director indicating that the Park Service was unwilling to sit down with Betty and work out either an extension of the Settlement Agreement, or some other arrangement with her. Given this response, I determined that the National Park Service was either uninterested or unable to take administrative steps to resolve the matter fairly, and that as a result my only option was to introduce legislation that would extend the terms of the Settlement Agreement and allow Ms. Dick to stay on this property for the remainder of her life.

That bill was H.R. 432, which I introduced on January 26, 2005. The bill extended the terms of the Settlement Agreement allowing Betty to occupy the cabin on this property for as long as Betty was alive. Senator KEN SALAZAR introduced a companion version of this bill on March 3, 2005.

Following the introduction of this bill, I continued to urge the National Park Service to work out some administrative resolution. I wrote a letter to the Park Service explaining that I thought that this situation was unique and urged the National Park Service to sit down with her and work out a resolution. Still, the Park Service chose not to work this out equitably. Betty testified for her bill before the House and Senate. I and other members of the Committee were impressed with her composure and the strength her plight. Consequently, the bill passed and was signed by the President on May 12th of this year.

I was also impressed with the outpouring of support from Betty's friends and neighbors in Grand County and the Town of Grand Lake, the communities along the western side of the Park. These people stood beside Betty as they valued her contributions to the community and the Park.

I was deeply saddened by Betty's passing. She died with her family around her.

In late August, I presented Betty with a framed copy of the signed law allowing her to stay. She was surrounded by friends and family who were gathered around the campfire just outside the cabin. All around us was the beauty and splendor of the Rocky Mountains and Betty got to enjoy her last days there secure in knowing that she had a right to enjoy and care for this property that meant so much to her and the community.

Betty opened her home to community events and was a valued member of Grand County. She was well regarded by everyone who knew her. Her cause became a labor of love and I was pleased to do what I could to help her. She will be missed by all those who were inspired by her love of life and her love of that special land along the Colorado River in the Park. I had hoped to visit her in future summers and enjoy her company and her neighbors around the campfire. She will always be there in spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for helping pass the Betty Dick Residence Protection Act. Our work for Betty shows that our government can be responsive to the needs of individuals as long as we take the time to listen, learn and care. I am proud of our work for Betty and for the principle of responsive government.

REMEMBERING ROGELIO SANCHEZ UPON HIS RECENT DEATH

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, today I remember a friend who passed away last week, former El Paso County Commissioner Rogelio Sanchez.

More than a friend, Rogelio was a public servant and part of the political lineage that enabled me to serve my city and my country in Congress. Born in Mexico, a valedictorian at Fort Hancock High School, a graduate of Sul Ross State University, a World War II veteran, and a teacher for many years in El Paso, Rogelio served the lower valley of El Paso, Texas, on the El Paso County Commissioner's Court for 36 years. At a time when minorities were not adequately represented in government, his leadership on Commissioner's Court and his persistent advocacy of diversity and opportunity opened the door for many Latinos to enter politics and public service.

He neutralized prejudice with his humor and easy-going manner and overcame discrimination with a record of accomplishment that includes roles in the construction of the Sun Bowl, Trans Mountain Road, Thomason Hospital, the new country courthouse, the new county jail, and many senior citizen nutrition centers. His fingerprints on El Paso are some of our proudest structures.

In addition, his work holds a special place in my heart because he was responsible for initiating Head Start in El Paso, a Federal program the success and expansion of which ranks high among my legislative priorities.

Politics and public service in El Paso looked a lot different when Rogelio left Commissioner's Court in 1997 than when he first won election to office in 1960. The path he helped blaze ultimately led me to Congress. He was a giant for his people. He was an inspiration for me.

Nothing says more about a man, however, than his family. Rogelio was one of 10 children born to Rogelio and Petra Sanchez and the first among them to attend college. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary, and their three children, Michael, Albert and Maricela. In addition to knowing Rogelio as a public servant, I knew him as a family man—and that is how I will remember him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in mourning the death of Rogelio Sanchez and recognizing his legacy.

LT. LAWRENCE GARLOCK: STAFF OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, one of the noblest professions is that of a law enforcement officer. The brave men and women who wear the badge of honor do so with a desire to protect and serve their communities. Day to day, law officers are thrust into dangerous situations, keeping the honest citizens safe from the outlaws of society. They perform their jobs with little recognition or thanks from the public, just the knowledge that they are making a difference.

Although the public may not always pay law enforcement officers the recognitions they deserve, their colleagues do. One of the highest recognitions a law officer can receive is to be named Law Officer of the Year. The honor signifies that the individual law officer is best of the department—the officer whose dedication to the profession surpasses his or her colleagues. Lt. Lawrence Garlock, with the Allen County, Ohio Sheriff's Department, is one such lawman.

For Lawrence, or Larry as he is more familiarly known, serving one's community as a law enforcement officer is a family tradition. A native of Lima, Ohio, Larry grew up with the influences of his father, Joseph, a Lima Police Officer, and his Uncle Tom, an Ohio State Highway Trooper. Those role models influenced Larry to join the Allen County Sheriff's Department in 1976.

Larry is not the only second generation law officer in his family. His older brother, Greg, currently serves as Chief of the Lima Police Department, and a Department. He also has a nephew, Jason, who is a Lima Police Officer. Larry even met his wife, Catherine, while they were both deputy sheriffs. Larry has had an impressive career with the Allen County Sher-

iff's Department. From 1979 to 1983, he was assigned to work the Department's Crime Prevention Unit. While serving in this unit, Larry was promoted to Identification Officer, with the rank of Detective, in 1981. In 1990, Larry was promoted to Sergeant, and then in 2001, he saw his rank change. He was made Special Sergeant in Charge of the Crime Scene Identification Unit. The following year, he was awarded the rank of Lieutenant. After nearly 24 years of going to crime scenes, collecting evidence, and maintaining a standard of excellence in the Identification Unit, Larry was transferred to the Detective Bureau, in 2005, and placed second in command.

In October 2006, Larry celebrated 30 years with the Allen County Sheriff's Department. There are only two other individuals in the entire department who have been there longer. Larry also has had the distinction of serving under three different sheriffs. Larry's service to his profession made him the ideal recipient for the Allen County Sheriff's Office Staff Officer of the Year.

The Staff Officer of the Year is an award given out to the sheriff's deputy who has made a positive impact on the community, works to maintain the efficiency of the office, and demonstrates an outstanding measure of professionalism in his or her work. Basically the award is bestowed on the deputy who takes utmost pride and seriousness in upholding his or her position.

The award of Staff Officer of the Year was a tradition that the Sheriff's Department upheld every year. Nominations for the award were submitted to the selection committee, and then a banquet was held for the awardee. In 2002, however, the Department was facing a financial crisis. Expecting to have to layoff 37 sheriff deputies, the Sheriff cancelled the award. He could not justify spending money on an award banquet if 37 deputies were losing their jobs.

In 2006, Larry sent a letter to the Sheriff, requesting for the reinstatement of the award. In the letter, he stated that the award would benefit morale of the deputies to be honored by their peers. The Sheriff agreed, and reinstated the award. The selection committee then decided to back-award deserving deputies with the awards, from the previously missing years.

Unbeknownst to Larry, he was nominated for the 2003 Staff Officer of the Year. His nomination was due not only to his professionalism while serving as a sheriff's deputy, but for his attention to detail regarding evidence logged in with the Identification Bureau. Larry demanded that evidence be collected to the letter of the law. His demand for excellence made it nearly impossible for the evidence to be ruled inadmissible in trial. His precision to detail, his diligence, and his impeccable work ethic earned him the respect of his peers; however, they also knew that if evidence was poorly or improperly collected, they were sure to hear about it from Larry. His nominator stated that. "Larry's ethics and diligence make the Sheriff's Office look better.'

When Larry's name was brought up for nomination, the selection committee voted unanimously in favor of honoring him with this award. In a true bureaucratic time frame, Larry was awarded the 2003 Staff Officer of the Year, during the beginning of November 2006, for outstanding performance of duty. He is a more than worthy recipient.

As a former judge and prosecutor, I have a great admiration and respect for our Nation's

law enforcement community. They are the men and women who spend each day on the front lines of battle, protecting communities and ensuring a safer society. Lt. Lawrence Garlock is the personification of what a law enforcement officer should be and should be used as an example of the type of officer every new officer should strive to become. I am truly honored to pay him his tribute.

That's just the way it is.

CREDIT REPORTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, My esteemed colleagues, thank you very much for the opportunity to talk to you about an important issue involving credit reports that will disproportionately harm low-income home buyers and put most small independent credit reporting agencies out of business within a month. The issue involves the "joint use" of credit reports for mortgages.

"Joint use", "secondary use" or "reissue" refers to the long-standing practice recognized in the FCRA, by the Federal Trade Commission, and by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which allows a credit report to be jointly used by multiple entities legitimately engaged with the origination of a mortgage at no additional cost. Joint use of credit report information is essential for the proper functioning of the mortgage banking, brokerage and financing industries and is an important process by which consumers shop for and obtain mortgage credit.

Recently, two of the credit repositories, Equifax and Experian, E&E have announced new mandatory fees and burdensome requirements for joint use of credit reports starting January 1, 2007. Consumers will now be burdened with paying multiple charges for the one-time access of their credit report in order to originate a single mortgage transaction. Unlike other credit industries, the mortgage credit reporting industry is required to depend on three-file merged credit reports provided by E&E and TransUnion. The proposed new policy will significantly increase mortgage origination costs. Costs for joint use of credit reports potentially increase by 100-300 percent. E&E will significantly increase their revenues while end users, resellers, and ultimately, consumers will pay the costs. In addition, consumers facing the highest cost increases will be those with credit challenges such as low income and first time homebuyers.

Further, about ninety percent of the independent credit reporting agencies will be unable to meet the additional contractual requirements being dictated by E&E. These credit-reporting agencies will be unable to access the credit data from E&E and therefore unable to provide the mandatory three-file merged credit reports. They will quickly be forced out of businesses due to these chances.

There is no new legislation, court case, regulatory decision or other external event to justify such action except to increase the revenues of these large companies at the expense of the consumer and to the detriment of small credit reporting companies.

The other repositories, TransUnion and Innovis, have not chosen to drastically alter the joint use procedure. TransUnion is evaluating its position and CBC Companies, the parent of Innovis, is challenging E&E's proposed new guidelines in federal court as a violation of U.S. antitrust laws.

The end user disclosure, joint use, requirements have been working well since they were enacted as part of the FCRA in 1997. The recent actions by E&E do little to combat the incidence of identity theft and increase data security. The main reason for these policies is to raise revenue and decrease competition. The effort to implement these new reissue/joint use procedures and fees needs to be stopped in order to maintain a level playing field, continue effective competition in the marketplace and provide fair and equitable access to capital for all Americans.

Any efforts by the major credit repositories to change the reissue process should not restrict competition. In order to protect both consumers and small, independent credit reporting agencies, E&E should make the following changes to their proposed reissue policies.

Continue to classify the GSEs, HUD and any other ancillary technology system that is part of the mortgage origination process as joint use, not the new created "reissue" or "secondary use" classification;

Allow credit-reporting agencies, at the direction of the end user of record, to reissue to any firm on one of the approved mortgage seller or servicer lists of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or HUD without end user documentation and site inspections; and

Designate a reasonable flat fee for reissue. Note: The changes to the 2003 FACT Act which included a free credit report to every American on an annual basis only required an \$.11 per file price increase while E&E's proposed policy changes attempt to justify the charge of \$1.05 to \$3.50 per file.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address this important topic. I strongly suggest that E&E reconsider the policies they plan to implement on January 1. Such policies will ultimately hurt the consumer and will have a disproportionate effect on low-income individuals. All Americans deserve the right to pursue the American dream of homeownership and should not be restricted to access to loans because of a policy intended solely to raise revenue for two large credit repositories.

PETER MORTON EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH TESTIMONIAL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I recently attended an event on stem cell research in Minnesota and had the opportunity to hear patient advocate, Peter Morton, speak. Mr. Morton shared his moving story which highlights the importance of expanding embryonic stem cell research. Stem cell research provides millions of Americans and their families with hope for a life without the pain and suffering that accompanies currently incurable diseases such as juvenile diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and spinal cord injuries.

Expanding this vital research must be a priority for Congress. I submit an edited version of Peter Morton's statement to the RECORD today as a valuable and powerful testimony to the need for this critical research.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH TESTIMONIAL 10/17/06

Like more than 250,000 Americans, I am paralyzed from a spinal cord injury.

I've been paralyzed from the neck down and ventilator dependent since a bike riding accident in 1995. I wasn't going fast and the trail wasn't difficult. Likely due to some mud on the trail, my front tire slipped, and in an instant I was on the ground with a broken neck, paralyzed and unable to breathe. If not for quick action by my brother, I would not have survived. That day, I lost the lottery. Tomorrow, it could just as easily be you.

When I awoke the next day in the hospital, I couldn't move, I couldn't feel, my head was in traction, and I had tubes in my nose and mouth. All I could do was blink. In an instant I had lost all my cherished independence, having to rely on others for everything from simply a drink of water to all the indignities of one's morning routine.

Most people understand that paralysis means you can't move. What they don't realize is that it also means you can't feel. Further, all the body's systems are affected, causing temperature and blood pressure instability as well as sexual, bowel, and bladder dysfunction. In spite of all this, do you know what the toughest part for me is now? ... not being able to touch my kids.

Now, more that any other time in history, there is hope. Embryonic stem cells hold the possibility of replacing the cells killed by the injury. Very promising studies are being performed around the world that demonstrate the potential of embryonic stem cells to solve paralysis and many other devastating illnesses. For humanitarian reasons, we simply must pursue this potential.

There is one other point that must be made. I cut my teeth in the business world. When I was injured, I was the CFO of a major brokerage operations company. In addition to their humanitarian benefit, stem cells have the potential to be the next medical industrial revolution. America has always been the leader in medical technology. Minnesota in particular has been called Medical Alley. America and Minnesota need to be leading the way in stem cell research, not sitting on the sidelines, watching the rest of the world pass us by.

In closing, let me offer this: A generation ago, pioneers in medical research developed in vitro fertilization, a technique that has now enabled my wife and me to have two beautiful children. My kids are living examples of the power of medical research.

I do not support slowing down the discoveries this research offers to millions, and allowing other countries to surpass America's leadership in medical technology.

That's why I am speaking out now, for the next generation. I don't want my children or anybody else's children to be told one day, "You are paralyzed, and will never move again."

I support those who champion this important research and thank them for helping change the future.

GEORGETOWN HONORS FATHER ROBERT DRINAN

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on October 23 one of the most accomplished

and distinguished people to serve in this House was the recipient of a wholly deserved high honor from one of the leading law schools in this country-Georgetown Law School. On that day, Georgetown Law School, where Father Drinan has taught since leaving the House 26 years ago, established the Robert F. Drinan, S.J., Chair in Human Rights. The establishment of this Chair-a very significant honor in academia-recognizes the pioneering work that Father Drinan did as a Member of this House for 10 years, and his continued commitment to that great work. Few people in our history have had as great a dedication to the cause of human rights and have been so consistently effective in advocating for this cause. Unlike many who have tried to make this a partisan issue, Father Drinan was equally fierce in his objection to human rights violators of the left, right and center, and accepted no excuses from those who would deny the basic rights of others.

Mr. Speaker, Father Drinan served here in this body for 10 years as one of its intellectual leaders, having been elected in 1970 as one of the most effective opponents at that time of the war in Vietnam. He also played a very significant role in the impeachment of President Nixon, insisting that appropriate legal standards be applied in that matter. He was also a leader in matters that did not divide the House on either partisan or ideological lines, for example in the field of copyright, where he made contributions during that period that remain important foundations of our law today.

Mr. Speaker, when Father Drinan declined to run for reelection in 1980 at the direction of Pope John Paul II, I was elected to succeed him. While I had been aware previously of the great respect and affection in which he was held by his colleagues, I came to appreciate that even more fully when I took the seat he had so ably filled in 1981.

In the years since leaving this body, Father Drinan has continued to be a leader in the application of religious teachings to important moral issues; in lecturing and teaching about the law; and of course in continuing his great work in the field of human rights. Georgetown Law School deserves recognition. Mr. Speaker, for establishing this Chair in Father Drinan's name. I congratulate Judge Thomas Buergenthal, who will be the first holder of the Chair, and I ask that the discussion of Father Drinan's work included in the program announcing the event be printed here so that people will understand how important his impact has been on the best traditions of our country.

ROBERT F. DRINAN, S.J., CHAIR IN HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Today, Georgetown Law proudly announces the creation of the Robert F. Drinan, S.J., Chair in Human Rights. Priest, scholar, lawyer, politician, activist, ethicist, and one of the nation's leading advocates for international human rights, Father Drinan has dedicated his life to humanitarian causes and to improving the legal profession.

A member of the Law Center's faculty since 1981, Father Drinan teaches courses in international human rights, constitutional law, civil liberties, legislation, legal ethics, and professional responsibility. During his tenure at Georgetown, he has taught over 6,000 students.

Father Drinan earned his B.A. degree in 1942 and his M.A. degree in 1947 from Boston College and his LL.B. in 1949 and LL.M. in 1951 from Georgetown University Law Center. He entered the Society of Jesus while at Boston College, and in 1953, he was ordained a Jesuit priest. From 1956 to 1970, he served as Dean and Professor of Law at Boston College Law School. During the ten years between his deanship and joining the Georgetown Law faculty, he served in the United States Congress as a Representative from Massachusetts, where he was a member of various committees and chair of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice of the House Judiciary Committee.

Throughout his career. Father Drinan has stood as a leading voice in the human rights movement. He serves on the boards of numerous organizations devoted to the furtherance of human rights, including the International League for Human Rights, Human Rights First, the Council for a Livable World Education Fund, Americans for Democratic Action, and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund He was a founder of the Lawyers' Alliance for Arms Control and the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, Father Drinan has traveled the globe. both as a member of Congress and as a private citizen, on human rights missions to Chile, the Philippines, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Argentina, France, and Vietnam to document human rights abuses and to work for their eradication. He is the author of several notable works on human rights, including The Mobilization of Shame, of which Elie Wiesel said, "Anyone interested in human rights will read Robert Drinan's informative, passionate and challenging book with deep concern and hope."

In 2004, Father Drinan joined such American legal luminaries as Oliver Wendell Holmes, Thurgood Marshall, and Sandra Day O'Connor when the American Bar Association awarded him its ABA Medal-the organization's highest honor which recognizes exceptionally distinguished service to the cause of American jurisprudence. The award citation notes, "For more than half a century, Father Robert F. Drinan has been an esteemed and beloved leader of the bar and a fearless advocate for the powerless and oppressed around the world. . . . Throughout his career, Father Drinan has heeded the call for human rights and social justice. With unparalleled passion and dedication, he has strived to improve the plight of the disadvantage and oppressed, and to advance the rule of law throughout the world."

Through the generosity of alumni and friends, Georgetown now recognizes and honors one of its greatest sons, Robert F. Drinan, S.J., L'49, L'51, with the creation of the Robert F. Drinan, S.J., Chair in Human Rights. This meaningful and lasting tribute will enable the Law Center to attract teachers, advocates, and scholars who share Father Drinan's passion and concern for liberty, equality of opportunity, and human dignity and who will inspire the next generations of Georgetown Law students to become leaders, protectors, and defenders of human rights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 524; 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 are wounded in service and are facing a transition to civilian life. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING PAT WILLIAMS 45TH POSTMASTER OF DALLAS, TEXAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Pat Williams, who was recently installed as the 45th Postmaster of Dallas, Texas. In the role of Postmaster, Ms. Williams will be responsible for the daily operations of 44 stations and branches in the Dallas City ZIP Code area. Notably, Ms. Williams is also the first African-American woman to hold the position of Postmaster in Dallas.

A graduate of Prairie View A&M University, Pat Williams began her career with U.S. Postal Service in 1981, where she held a number of positions in both operations and support for over 10 years in Plant Operations. In 1985, she was promoted to supervisor of mails. In 1992, she crossed over to Customer Service Operations where she was assigned as Superintendent of Mails at Richland Station. Ms. Williams went on to supervise and manage several Dallas Stations and branches, and became the Lead Customer Service Operations Manager overseeing three Customer Service Operations Managers and their 44 stations and branches. In 2004 she became the District's Manager of Operations Program Support; overseeing the development and implementation of all District programs and projects.

Pat Williams truly earned this position through hard work and a strong commitment to customer service and her fellow postal workers. She is well respected amongst the postal employees and managers, as well as, the clerks and carriers.

Pat Williams has always been dedicated to excellence, and I am certain that this pursuit will continue in the form of outstanding operations and customer service for the people of Dallas. I am confident that Ms. Williams will successfully serve Dallas in her new role as Postmaster.

HONORING THE SODUS LIBRARY RANKED #1 IN THE NATION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sodus Library and their #1 ranking among libraries nationwide. Every year a list of the Nation's top 100 libraries is published. Hennen's American Public Library Rating Index looked at over 9,000 libraries and ranked them on various traditional services. This year, the public library of Sodus, New York ranked number one in its population category.

As we all know, libraries are an integral part to all communities. We have all experienced the benefits of libraries; whether as a small child in a reading club or as a young adult working on a research paper. It is an honor for

me and the people of Central New York to have the number one library in the Nation. I congratulate Sodus Librarian Carol Garland and her staff for all the hard work that has attributed to Sodus Library being considered the top in the Nation.

CONGRATULATING JACK MCCROSKEY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jack McCroskey for his exemplary public service to Colorado. Jack, with his foresight and strong leadership, has helped make the metropolitan Denver light-rail transit system a reality. His service in reviving public transportation is deserving of special recognition.

Mr. McCroskey, former Chairman of the Regional Transportation District, has long envisioned a regional transit system throughout the Denver metropolitan area. Today there are six lines in operation and more are expected to be built in the coming years. Initially Mr. McCroskey believed that the system could start small and move forward gradually as the public began to embrace it. In 2004 the public voted to expand the system with a region-wide sales tax increase.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Mr. McCroskey for his great contributions to Colorado. We recognize his leadership and vision in bringing public transportation to the Denver metropolitan area. I am proud to offer a long awaited recognition to Mr. McCroskey for his great accomplishments.

UNITED

STATES-MEXICO TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFER AS-SESSMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 214, the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act of

2005. The U.S.-Mexico border region presents us with one of our Nation's most challenging sets of policy priorities. We read headlines everyday about the issues of migration, national security, illegal drug trafficking, and trade and commerce, all of which are centered on our southern border. However, the nation often forgets about other issues by which we are affected on the border that are complicated by the binational nature of the communities in which we live.

S. 214 will help border communities in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California as they approach an issue that will determine the viability of their communities to prosper indefinitely into the future: water. On the border, the question of water is not only one of negotiating resource allocation between countries, but also one of geography and scarcity. As we

enter a century in which, according to many experts, wars between nations will be fought over water, not oil, S. 214 will offer an essential assessment tool to policymakers making strategic decisions about resource allocation.

Currently, although the U.S. and Mexico share information about surface water and other resources, no bilateral mechanism exists for cooperation and the sharing of information with regards to ground water. This lack of communication makes it difficult to ascertain the limitations and capabilities of those groundwater resources shared between the U.S. and Mexico.

The bill would provide for that mechanism by establishing a United States-Mexico transboundary aquifer assessment program to evaluate and model groundwater resources along the border. The program will develop an integrated approach to assess transboundary groundwater resources, prioritizing the aquifers for further analysis, and creating a geographic information system database for each priority aquifer. The bill would expand existing agreements between the U.S. Geological Survey, border states, the research institutes, and U.S. and Mexican authorities to conduct joint scientific investigations and produce scientific reports that will assist technicians and authorities in managing our most precious resource.

Located in the Chihuahua Desert, the vitality of my district of El Paso, Texas depends on the prudent management of our water resources. S. 214 will help us provide sustainable water resources for generations of Americans to come.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 214.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORA-TION SETTLEMENT LEGISLATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of Mr. RADANOVICH's legislation to authorize implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement.

Enacting this legislation will allow the San Joaquin River-the second-longest river in California-to once again have the water it needs to support a viable salmon fishery. If enacted, the San Joaquin River will be a living river decades after the Bureau of Reclamation built Friant Dam.

Putting water back into a dry river in California is a very complicated and controversial task. A number of "third parties" have now come forward to express concerns that their own particular interests may in some way be detrimentally affected by this settlement and its proposed legislation, and ask that this legislation be restructured to eliminate or minimize their concerns. It is entirely appropriate that this legislation addresses those concerns. As we consider the implications of enacting this restoration legislation for the San Joaquin River and the need to protect a variety of interests, I am mindful of and remain committed to progress in implementing and funding the December 19, 2000, Trinity River restoration record of decision and the Hoopa Valley

Tribe's comanagement of the decision's important goal of restoring the fishery resources that the United States holds in trust for the Hoopa Vallev Tribe.

The San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement legislation is tremendously important for all of California. The settling parties, along with Senator FEINSTEIN, Congressman RADAN-OVICH, and many other concerned and affected parties have worked long and hard to bring this settlement to Congress all making concessions, and deserve our recognition and appreciation. I will continue to work with my colleagues and do whatever I can to help ensure the enabling legislation is enacted.

H.R. 4954, THE SAFE PORT ACT UN-LAWFUL INTERNET GAMBLING AND ENFORCEMENT ACT PROVI-SIONS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the recent enactment of the Unlawful Internet Gambling and Enforcement Act of 2006. Internet gambling legislation has been a priority for this Congress the last several years. In 2003, I sponsored H.R. 2143, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act and have cosponsored Mr. LEACH's Internet gambling bills in each of the last three Congresses. The Conference Report for H.R. 4954, the SAFE Port Act, which was enacted into law, reflects Mr. LEACH's Internet Gambling Prohibition and Enforcement Act, H.R. 4411.

Five years ago, there were less than 50 Internet gambling sites. Today, there are close to 2,000 sites that will generate upwards of \$5.9 billion this year alone. The legislation that was enacted into law addresses the problem of illegal internet gambling through an enforcement mechanism. The new law does not change the legality of any gambling activity in the United States. The sole purpose of this law is to enforce against activities that are already illegal under the Wire Act and other Federal and State statutes. It enforces illegal gambling by preventing the use of any bank instrument-such as a credit card, check or electronic fund transfer-for Internet gambling.

Though online gambling has been illegal in this country from its inception-under state law. not just federal law-we have had serious problems enforcing these laws. The advantage and the disadvantage of the Internet is that it has no borders. Nothing can stop bets and wagers from being placed using a Web site hosted in another jurisdiction. When that bet or wager causes a violation of our laws, we had no effective means of enforcement until now.

Congress reviewed a number of possibilities to better enforce the law on the books. One enforcement option was to prosecute the gambler. However, enforcement against individual gamblers is a State prerogative under our federalist system. The Federal government has never claimed the authority to prosecute gamblers. And though gambling online is a misdemeanor in most States, it would be impossible for States to effectively enforce this way. The State would have to monitor people's

Internet usage, which raises serious constitutional issues.

Next, Congress considered "notice-andtake-down" measures to combat illegal Internet gambling. The Senate passed bills twice that would have authorized law enforcement to notify computer services when an illegal web site was using their services, and require them to take down or block the illegal site. Time has shown that blocking just about anything on the Internet simply does not work, though takedown orders do work for web sites hosted by domestic companies. So we have retained the notice-and-take-down option in the new law where it has a chance of being effective-for gambling web sites hosted or advertised by Internet companies based in the United States.

But take-down orders, and prosecuting gambling businesses that violate State and Federal laws, are completely ineffective for Web sites hosted offshore. The U.S. legal system cannot reach offshore companies, even though their Web sites can reach U.S. consumers. So the gambling operators deliberately locate in jurisdictions that will not cooperate with the U.S. Here, existing laws reach the end of the rope.

We concluded that the only real option, if we want to enforce our gambling laws in the age ofthe Internet, is to block the financial transactions that pay for illegal online gambling. Banks and payment systems located in the United States are fully within the reach of Federal law, and U.S. citizens usually have to go through them to send money over the Internet. So requiring payment systems to put in place blocking procedures allows us to effectively and efficiently stop the flow of money, even when the gambling business itself is beyond the long arm of our law. Without the money, gambling simply cannot happen.

We needed to pass this law because it is the only way we can effectively enforce State and Federal gambling laws when offshore Web sites offer illegal services to our residents. This is also why the Department of Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board need to write strong regulations that will not be easily evaded. I am proud to have supported this vital law, and I look forward to working with the regulators to ensure they properly reflect Congress's intent. My only regret is that my friend and colleague JIM LEACH will not be here to assist Congressman GOODLATTE and others in our continued efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDITH H. HOPE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Judith H. Hope, an outstanding New Yorker who has devoted herself to public service and to civic and political engagement. Ms. Hope's tremendous contributions to American civic life are being recognized this month by the well-known and widely respected public policy advocacy organization, Citizen Action of New York. At a ceremony on December 6, 2006, Ms. Hope is being honored by Citizen Action with its Progressive Leadership Award. Also being similarly honored are our distinguished colleague and the dean of the New York State congressional delegation, the Honorable CHARLES RANGEL, and Mr. Bob Masters, a dedicated leader of the Communications Workers of America.

A lifelong activist devoted to the highest ideals of the Democratic Party, Judith J. Hope has exhibited strong, effective and graceful leadership while holding a series of important positions of leadership in the world of politics and public policy. As a founder of the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Committee, an organization dedicated to promoting women's candidacies for local and public office, Judith Hope has encouraged and inspired new generations of women to become deeply involved in public policy and the political process. Since its founding in 2001, the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Committee has provided crucial financial, educational and political support to hundreds of women, of whom 285 were successfully elected to public office.

Judith Hope became immersed in public service at an early age. Born and raised in Arkansas, she learned critical lessons and insights from her father, the Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives, and her mother, a respected writer and journalist.

After moving to New York, Judith Hope became a civic and community leader and married Thomas A. Twomey, Jr., a Long Island attorney and environmental leader. In the face of tremendous political odds, she was elected Town Supervisor in East Hampton in 1973. the first woman ever to hold that office on Long Island, and the first Democrat to do so in modern history. In 1976, Governor Hugh Carey named her the first woman gubernatorial Appointments Officer in the history of the Empire State. In 1983 and 1985, she was again elected East Hampton Town Supervisor, a position that afforded her national recognition for her innovative and effective policies to preserve open space and environmentally sensitive land. In the political realm, she was elected to the Democratic National Committee in 1989

Following the election of Mario Cuomo as Governor, Hope became an instrumental figure in the leadership of the New York State Democratic Committee. In 1995, Judith was elected chair of the State committee, becoming the first woman to head a major political party in New York State. She served in that capacity for 7 years and was justly celebrated for her tremendous abilities and effective leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the enormous contributions to our civic and political life made by Judith Hope, a true leader in the finest traditions of our great republic.

HONORING STEWART MANOR SCHOOL

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stewart Manor School for having received the prestigious Blue Ribbon School award. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose stu-

dents achieve at very high levels. Stewart Manor School has high expectations. It ranks in the top 10 percent in the State of New York in math and English scores. Stewart Manor School has proven it has outstanding instruction, teacher training and student achievement.

The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children, and our community and our Nation are enhanced by the contributions of high achieving students like those at Stewart Manor School.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my thanks and recognition to Stewart Manor School.

SEARCHING FOR VICTORY IN IRAQ

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I recommend to the American public an editorial by former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and request that it be included in the RECORD.

Published in the Weekly Standard on November 28, Mr. Gingrich's piece makes some very important points about the significance and necessity of our victory in Iraq. In comparing our current situation in Iraq to that which George Washington faced during the winter of 1776, Mr. Gingrich concludes that Washington's motto "Victory or Death" is the motto we must apply to Iraq.

As we review the Iraq Study Group's (ISG) recommendations, Mr. Gingrich is wise to urge that we examine them closely and ask questions. Most essentially, we must ask whether or not the suggestions will "make a real contribution in helping us win the war against the fanatical wing of Islam. Or will it be simply one more establishment effort to hide defeat so the American political system can resume its comfortable insider games without having to solve real problems in the larger world?"

As I have argued for some time now, Iraq is a pivotal juncture in the Global War on Terror. Irag is about the larger global war against Islamo-fascists that want to destroy America. Like our former Speaker, I realize that our current approach to Iraq is not working. However, we must disregard any ISG recommendations to abandon Iraq or set a timeline for withdrawal, both of which will only serve to inspire violence from our enemies and distrust from our allies. This is not the time, nor the place to try to save political face. A retreat at this time would have consequences beyond what we can imagine. This is the time and the place to decisively win, to work together as Americans. and defeat terrorists on their turf before they can return the fight to ours.

I urge my colleagues and the American people to read Mr. Gingrich's insightful piece.

[From the Weekly Standard, Nov. 28, 2006]

(By Newt Gingrich)

SEARCHING FOR VICTORY IN IRAQ—WHY THE BAKER-HAMILTON COMMISSION OUGHT TO VISIT MOUNT VERNON.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving Callista and I took some friends to Mount Vernon to see the new education center. It is an amazing tribute to George Washington and the creation of America.

We watched a movie about George Washington crossing the Delaware on Christmas Eve and surprising the Hessians (German mercenaries) on Christmas Day in Trenton. As I watched, I was struck by the amazing difference between the attitude of the father of our country and the current attitudes in the city that bears his name.

General Washington had had a long and painful summer and autumn of defeat in 1776. His American Army had been defeated across New York—in Brooklyn, in Manhattan, and in White Plains—and then driven across New Jersey and forced to flee across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania.

Washington's Night Crossing: "Victory or Death"

Washington's forces had dwindled until he had only about 4,000 effective soldiers left. There were another 6,000 men present but they were so sick they were unable to go into battle.

Faced with declining morale, rising desertions, the collapse of political will in the country at large, and a sense of despair, Washington decided to gamble everything on a surprise attack. It would require a night crossing of an icy river against a formidable professional opponent.

But the most telling sign of Washington's mood as he embarked on the mission was his choice of a password. His men said "victory or death" to identify themselves.

What if There Had Been a Baker-Hamilton Commission Advising General Washington?

That night crossing, immortalized in paintings of Washington standing in the boat as Marblehead Fishermen rowed him across the ice strewn river, led to an amazing victory on Christmas Day. That victory led to a surge in American morale and a doubling in the size of the American forces under Washington within two weeks. And that gave Washington the strength to win a second surprise victory at Princeton.

Within two weeks, Washington had gone from defeated, hopeless bungler to victorious American hero and personification of the American cause.

Imagine there had been a Baker-Hamilton commission—the group charged with assessing our options in Iraq—advising Washington that cold Christmas Eve. What "practical, realistic," advice would they have given him? Eleven Key Tests for the Baker-Hamilton Report.

Will the Baker Hamilton Commission make a real contribution in helping us win the war against the fanatic wing of Islam? Or will it be simply one more establishment effort to hide defeat so the American political system can resume its comfortable insider games without having to solve real problems in the larger world? Here are some key things to look for in its report:

(1) Does the commission have a vision for success in the larger war against the dictatorships and fanatics who want to destroy us?

If Iraq were only a one-step process, the answer would be to leave. But the reality is that Iraq is a single campaign within a much bigger war and within a power struggle both over the evolution of Islam and over the rise of dictatorships seeking nuclear and biological weapons to enable them to destroy America and her allies. If the Baker-Hamilton commission does not take this into account, it is a dangerously misleading report.

(2) Does the commission recognize that the second campaign in Iraq has been a failure?

This is the hardest thing for Washingtoncentric bureaucracies to accept. There was a very successful 23-day campaign to drive Saddam out of power. It used America's strengths and it worked. The second campaign has been an abject failure. We and our Iraqi allies do not have control of Iraq. We cannot guarantee security. There is not enough economic activity to keep young

males employed. If the Baker-Hamilton commission cannot bring itself to recognize a defeat as a defeat, then it cannot recommend the scale of change needed to develop a potentially successful third campaign.

(3) Does the commission recognize the scale of change we will need to be effective in a world of enemies willing to kill themselves in order to kill us?

We need fundamental change in our military doctrine, training, and structures, our intelligence capabilities, and our integration of civilian and military activities. The instruments of American power simply do not work at the speed and detail needed to defeat the kind of enemies we are encountering. The American bureaucracies would rather claim the problem is too hard and leave because being forced to change this deeply will be very painful and very controversial. Yet we have to learn to win. Learning. to win requires much more than changes in the military. It requires changes in how our intelligence, diplomatic, information, and economic institutions work. It requires the development of an integrated approach in which all the aspects of American power can be brought to bear to achieve victory. Furthermore this strategy for victory has to be doubly powerful because for three years we have failed to build an effective Iraqi government and we now have a shattered local system with many players using violence in desperate bids to maximize their positions. The plan has to be powerful enough to succeed despite Iraqi weaknesses and not by relying on a clearly uncertain and unstable Iraqi political system.

(4) Does the commission describe the consequences of defeat in Iraq?

What would the withdrawal of U.S. troops in Iraq look like? Frederick Kagan of the American Enterprise Institute recently offered this chilling picture: "The pullback of U.S. forces to their bases will not reduce the sectarian conflict, which their presence did not generate-it will increase it. Death squads on both sides will become more ac-Large-scale ethnic and tive. sectarian cleansing will begin as each side attempts to establish homogeneous enclaves where there are now mixed communities. Atrocities will mount, as they always do in ethnic cleansing operations. Iraqis who have cooperated with the Americans will be targeted by radicals on both sides. Some of them will try to flee with the American units. American troops will watch helplessly as death squads execute women and children. Pictures of this will play constantly on Al Jazeera. Prominent 'collaborators,' with whom our soldiers and leaders worked, will be publicly executed. Crowds of refugees could overwhelm not merely Iraq's neighbors but also the [Forward Operating Bases] themselves, Soldiers will have to hold off fearful, tearful, and dangerous mobs.

(5) Does the commission understand the importance of victory? Winning is key. We are in a power struggle on a worldwide basis with dictators who want to defeat us (Iran, Syria, Venezuela, Cuba, North Korea) and with fanatic organizations that want to kill us (al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas, etc.). In a struggle like this, the goal has to be to win. Anything less than victory is very dangerous because it allows our enemies to gather more capabilities and prepare for more dangerous campaigns. Time is not on our side. Time is on the side of those seeking nuclear and biological weapons to use against the civilized world.

(6) Does the commission define what it means to win or simply find a face-saving way to lose?

Winning is very definable. Can we protect our friends and hurt our enemies? Are they more afraid of us or are we more afraid of

them? The recent Syrian assassination of a Lebanese Christian leader who was pro-Western is a signal that they are not afraid of us. The North Korean decision to launch seven missiles on our Independence Day and to set off a nuclear weapon were signs they have contempt for our warnings. The statements of Ahmadinejad and Hugo Chavez indicate how confident they are. Today the enemy thinks they are winning and our elites seem to be seeking face-saving cover behind which to accept defeat. Does the Baker-Hamilton commission have a proposal for victory or a proposal for accepting defeat gracefully? Will it offer a diplomatic deal allowing us to pretend we are okay while our enemies gather strength?

(7) Does the commission acknowledge that winning requires thinking regionally and even globally?

In Afghanistan we are engaged in an Afghanistan-Waziristan war in which our enemies retreat into Waziristan in northwest Pakistan and rearm, reequip, retrain, and rest before coming back into Afghanistan. We will never win that war by engaging only in Afghanistan. In Iraq, the problems may require much more direct confrontation with Iran and Syria. In Lebanon, it is impossible to create a stable democratic government and disarm Hezbollah as long as Syria and Iran are deeply involved in killing Lebanese leaders and supplying Hezbollah.

(8) Any proposal to ask Iran and Syria to help is a sign of defeat. Does the commission suggest this?

Iran and Syria are the wolves in the region. They are the primary troublemakers. You don't invite wolves into the kitchen to help with dinner or you become dinner. The State Department Report on Terrorism in April 2006 said: "Iran and Syria routinely provide unique safe haven, substantial resources and guidance to terrorist organizations." It went on to say, "Iran remained the most active state sponsor of terrorism." It noted that in Iraq the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (an arm of the Iranian dictatorship) "was increasingly involved in supplying lethal assistance to Iraqi militant groups which destabilize Iraq." How can the Baker-Hamilton commission seriously suggest that two dictatorships described like this are going to be "helpers" in achieving American goals in the Middle East?

(9) Does the commission believe we can "do a deal" with Iran?

The clear effort by the Iranians to acquire nuclear weapons, and Ahmadinejad's assertion that it is easy to imagine a time in the near future when the United States and Israel have both disappeared, should be adequate proof that the Iranian dictatorship is the active enemy of America. Couple that with the fact that the Iranians lied to the International Atomic Energy Agency for 18 years while trying to develop a nuclear weapon. Either this is a dangerous regime we need to fundamentally change, or it is a reasonable regime with which we can deal. Presidential speeches and State Department documents clearly indicate it is a dangerous regime yet, there is a permanent Washington establishment desire to avoid conflict and confrontation by "doing a deal." In the 1930s, that model was called appeasement, not realism, and it led to a disaster. We need a Churchill not a Chamberlain policy for the Middle East.

(10) Does the commission believe we are more clever than our enemies?

The al-Assad family has run Syria since 1971. Hafiz Assad arranged for his son Bashar to succeed him. This family and its Alawite supporters represent a small minority of the Syrian people, but they maintain a relentlessly tough internal dictatorship which keeps power in their hands. In some ways, there are parallels between Bashar Assad and Kim Jong Il-they both maintain family dictatorships with the support of a key system of internal controls. After 35 years of defying the United States, there is no reason to believe our diplomats are more clever than their ruthlessly survivor-oriented systems. Negotiating with them is an invitation to be taken to the cleaners and to extend the power and prestige and influence of our mortal enemies in the region. Recent talk of reaching out to Syria has been met by the assassination of a Lebanese minister and the intensifying of the Hezbollah blackmail tactics in Lebanon. Weakness from America leads to greater aggression from our en-The Baker-Hamilton commission emies. should focus on how to contain or defeat Syria not on how to rely on them for help.

(11) Does the commission recognize the importance of working with the Democratic majorities on a strategy for victory?

The Democratic victory in the 2006 election should not be used as an excuse to do the wrong thing. The Democrats are now confronting the responsibility and burden of power. Given the right information about Iran, Syria, and Iraq there is every reason to believe a bipartisan majority can be formed in both the House and Senate for a rational strategy for victory. Opposition to continuing the failed second campaign should not be translated into opposition to an American victory. The Bush administration should reach out to moderate Democrats and forge a bipartisan agenda for victory and by March 2007 pass a bipartisan resolution for victory in Iraq and for stopping Iranian efforts to get nuclear weapons. That will then set the basis for appropriations to continue the effort. The passage of a solid bipartisan bill in March would send a signal to the world that Americans are overwhelmingly in favor of defeating terrorism and defending America. That will dramatically lower the morale and confidence of our enemies.

These 11 steps would be a powerful basis on which to move forward in Iraq and in the world. What's more, they reflect the spirit of General Washington when he chose "victory or death" as the motto of the campaign which led to the founding of America despite overwhelming odds.

STEVEN JACKSON, GOOD SAMARITAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, every day we hear of rising crime rates and countless acts of criminal activity. The question is often asked— Is there any good left in the world? On December 5, 2006, in the city of Humble, Texas, a man by the name of Steven Jackson showed us all that goodwill still exists.

On the evening of December 5, an evildoer, without regard for human life, went into a Humble gas station with a gun. This man robbed the attendant at gun point, took a few hundred dollars, and forced her to wait in the back room until he escaped.

After the robber left the gas station, the attendant went outside and saw him walking across the street to his getaway car. Upon this discovery, she started screaming that the man had robbed her and was getting way, which caught the attention of Steven Jackson.

Steven Jackson, a volunteer firefighter with the Kingwood and Porter volunteer fire departments, had been filling up his car that evening—a routine action we all do. On this evening, while doing an ordinary task, Steven decided to do something extraordinary. As the attendant pleaded for help, Steven got into his car and began following the robber while calling 911.

According to the Humble Police Department, it appears that the criminal knew Steven was following him. At some point, a few miles from the gas station, the robber stopped his car, approached Steven's car, and shot him twice in the torso.

As Steven's car left the road, he was able to tell the 911 dispatcher that he had been shot. Unfortunately, those words were the last this world would ever hear from Steven Jackson—his life cut short for a few hundred dollars.

The fine officers of the Humble Police Department are currently investigating this case. The outlaw who took Steven's life is still at large. It is my hope that he is brought to a swift and fitting justice.

That's Just the Way It Is.

IN HONOR OF HAROLD HURVERS AND THE 194TH LIGHT TANK BATTALION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery and determination of Minnesota men who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Philippines during World War II. In particular, I want to note the contributions of the 194th Light Tank Battalion.

On Easter Monday, 1941, 83 St. Paulites reported for induction into the U.S. Army, joining 163 men from Hennepin County. Seventy-seven of these men joined the 194th stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. They were trained and deployed to the Philippine Islands.

At 12:30 p.m. on December 8, 1941, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Philippine Islands were attacked by Japanese planes, placing U.S. Armed Forces on wartime status. The air strikes destroyed U.S. airplanes stationed at Clark Field, leaving U.S. forces and Philippine Scouts trapped and with few supplies. Despite these great hardships, the 194th Light Tank Battalion fought on bravely for the next four months, delaying the Japanese offensive. Ultimately, U.S. forces were forced to evacuate to the Bataan Peninsula after relentless attacks by Japanese forces. April 9, 1942 marked the beginning of the notorious Bataan Death March.

Following heavy land attacks and after withstanding hundreds of raids from the air by Japanese forces, the Fall of Corregidor, forced American forces to surrender on May 6, 1942. Courageous American forces held out in spite of supply shortages, hunger, disease, and exhaustion. In the days that followed, many Minnesota military personnel from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Corps, and the Nurse Corps were added to the rolls of prisoners of war. More than 75 percent of the men who were in service December 8, 1941 perished.

Those who survived faced 3¹/₂ years of imprisonment until they were liberated in August and September, 1945.

Many veterans of the Philippine Campaign, the Bataan Death March and Japanese Prisoners of War are known only to history, their individual identities lost in the aftermath of war, but I want to recognize Harold Hurvers of St. Paul, the last survivor of the draftees. Through his stories of this horrific ordeal, Americans can learn volumes about the great sacrifices made by our veterans. All Minnesotans, indeed, all Americans owe Mr. Hurvers and all veterans a debt of gratitude for their service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Hurvers and the Minnesota Draftees of the 194th Light Tank Battalion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 525, Nonprofit Athletic Organization Protection Act, had I been present, I would have voted "Yea."

HONORING WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and applaud the Women's Federation for World Peace, USA for their commitment to women and world peace. This extraordinary organization provides women with the opportunities to create peace around the world. Their remarkable work highlights and enhances the role of women in establishing a world without terror and violence.

In these troubling times, the cries for peace on Earth are needed more than ever. Women's Federation for World Peace continues their fight by bringing women from all walks of life together to conquer a common goal. Their outstanding dedication and strong will to the enhancement of the world's women and peace will no doubt serve as a valuable component throughout the world.

As women we must be persistent, vigilant, and a strong force to help rid the world of violence. Although change will not come from one group, gender, or political party, but from all who are interested in helping to create a better world. An organization as the Women's Federation of World Peace is just one illustration in helping to create a better world for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I want to personally thank the Women's Federation for World Peace for their dedication and commitment they have put forth. I truly admire this organization for improving the world's women and peace throughout the world.

TRIBUTE TO RON HOLLIDAY

HON. MARK UDALL OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ron G. Holliday. Mr. Holliday will be retiring as County Manager of Summit County, Colorado, on January 5, 2007, after having served 4½ years in this position. Prior to his position in Summit County, Mr. Holliday served 5 years as the County Administrator for Jefferson County, Colorado. Before his county government experience, Mr. Holliday served over three decades as Director of State Parks in Texas, Colorado and Montana.

Together, these years of exemplary service by Mr. Holliday amount to nearly four decades working for the citizens and environment of many Colorado and other western communities.

As Summit County Manager, Mr. Holliday worked on issues related to forest health, the present bark beetle epidemic, increasing growth and development in this county along the critical Interstate 70 corridor, ski area and tourist management, as well as roadless issues in our national forests. He brought a collaborative spirit to all of these endeavors, and the citizens of Summit County have a thriving economy and a roadmap to help address future issues and needs.

As County Administrator for Jefferson County, Colorado, Mr. Holliday oversaw more than 1,200 employees and was responsible for daily operations and a \$344 million annual budget. He was serving this county at a time of significant growth, resulting in challenging transportation needs. To address this, he structured a multi-agency intergovernmental agreement for crucial transportation planning. He also helped guide the \$150 million open space acquisition program and helped win passage of a voter approved \$160 million open space bond issue.

Mr. Holliday also helped coordinate the county's administrative response to the tragic Columbine High School shooting. This incident garnered worldwide attention, and Mr. Holliday was part of the county's coordination team to manage the fallout from this unfortunate incident.

Prior to his work with Jefferson County, Mr. Holliday was Director of State Parks for the State of Texas for 5 years. At this position he oversaw 140 State parks with natural, recreational and historic significance encompassing 600,000 acres. He developed strategic plans for these attractions and tripled the revenue in 3 years. He also worked to create three new parks under his management.

Mr. Holliday secured similar achievements as Director of Colorado State Parks where he worked for 7 years. He increased the revenue of this office and developed strategic plans and longrange visions to our State's impressive park system. He got his start in this work for open space protection and visitor enjoyment working as State Park Director for Montana prior to working for State Parks in Colorado.

Throughout his work for open space, parks and county government, Mr. Holliday has brought a keen appreciation of the importance of preserving a quality environment and thriving economy for the benefit of the local communities he served as well as the entire States and Nation. His dedication to public service and his communities stands as a model for future managers and directors who act as stewards of our lands and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Holliday for his dedicated, collaborative service. I wish him the very best in his future endeavors and continued contributions.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MANIAS OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. RAY LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Manias, a man who is a legend in my hometown of Peoria, Illinois.

Yesterday, George Manias celebrated the 60th anniversary of the opening of his shoeshine business in Peoria. George Manias is the true personification of the American dream. The son of Greek immigrants who spoke no English when he came to Peoria, he was just 16 years old when he opened his business. From that first day in the corner of a downtown barbershop, George has worked tirelessly to make his shop a great success.

George has shined the shoes of countless people, from his fellow Peorians to former Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan. The walls of his shop are covered with photos and clippings of the more famous of his customers, but each customer is special to George. His pride in his workmanship and his love of people are evident no matter who walks through his door.

This week, the Peoria City Council honored George with a resolution commemorating his 60th anniversary, and tonight, there is a big celebration planned for him. I want to add my congratulations to George and his family on reaching this milestone in his career. George Manias is truly the pride of Peoria.

HONORING THE DEPARTING FLOR-IDA MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES *Thursday*, *December* 7, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the four departing Members of the Florida Delegation. These Members, MIKE BILIRAKIS, JIM DAVIS, KATHERINE HARRIS, and CLAY SHAW, are leaving with a combined 64 years of congressional service. Our State is losing dedicated public servants who have worked on behalf of their constituents and the Nation. Their input will be sorely missed in the 110th Congress.

MIKE BILIRAKIS is a shining example of heartfelt dedication to veterans' issues and is someone whose passion for veterans is hard to duplicate. Having shared many flights back and forth to DC with MIKE, I can tell you that I learned a great deal from him during my time in Congress.

I always found JIM DAVIS to be a thoughtful, respectful, and thought-provoking Member of

Congress. I enjoyed serving with him because of his southern genteel manner.

KATHERINE HARRIS brought an amazing amount of energy to the House. We served together on the Financial Services and Homeland Security Committees, where I saw her dedication to the issues and the people of Florida. She is especially known for helping those looking to join the ranks of homeowners by fighting to pass the American Dream Downpayment Act.

CLAY SHAW worked tirelessly to find alternative approaches for preserving Social Security for future generations. While never the most flashy Member, CLAY was instead known for his legislative accomplishments as a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee. Not only was he was the foremost proponent to save the Everglades, CLAY made America a better place by helping push welfare reform through Congress.

While each of these public servants will be replaced in the 110th Congress, their memories will not be forgotten. MIKE, JIM, KATH-ERINE, CLAY, we will miss you up here in Washington and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO A DEMOCRACTIC TAIWAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise

to honor and acknowledge Taiwan's democratic practices and respect for human rights.

For 20 years, Taiwan's promotion of liberty, the rule of law, freedom of the press, an independent judiciary, and associative rights have contributed to the creation and continuation of a mature democracy. Through electoral competition which expanded their rights and innovative legislation which improved the lives of the Taiwanese citizenry, over time democratic practices, institutionalized democracy, and fostered the Nation's emancipation from authoritarian rule; and ensured the Nation's allegiance to liberty and justice.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, Taiwan has been a staunch ally of the United States and a responsible member of the community of nations. Thus, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the people of Taiwan for establishing a flourishing, multi-party democracy and for their dedication to democratic ideals and human rights.

> IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution calling for a month to remember the significant achievements and contributions that Irish-Americans have made to our Nation.

Throughout our more than 200 years of history as a Nation and during our colonial period, countless immigrants from the Emerald

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Isle have arrived on our shores. Irish-Americans have been instrumental in building up our strong, free, and prosperous Nation at every turn in our Nation's rich history. Despite initial discrimination, Irish-Americans used the freedom and opportunity of the United States to build strong communities and businesses and prove themselves great Americans.

Though many Irish came to American shores with little but the clothes on their backs, their hard work and integrity made them great American leaders. While we are all aware of President Kennedy's pride in his Irish heritage, 18 other presidents are of Irish descent including Andrew Jackson, Woodrow Wilson, and Ronald Reagan.

There is a great legacy of Irish-American service in our military with many recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor claiming Irish heritage or birth. Irish immigrants have contributed significantly in our Armed Services as well, ensuring full freedom for all Americans.

While many Americans remember their Irish heritage on St. Patrick's Day, because of the great contribution of Irish-Americans to our Nation, it is fitting that we dedicate an entire month of ceremonies and celebrations to their achievements.

TRIBUTE TO BUSINESSES IN MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA THAT DO NOT SELL TOBACCO PRODUCTS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the businesses in Marin County, California, that have stopped selling tobacco products in order to protect the health of the public.

Recently, I attended an event with the American Heart Association at Mollie Stone's Market in Greenbrae to officially announce the removal of all tobacco products in their Bay Area stores, including two in Marin County. At that time, Michael Stone, cofounder Mollie Stone's, said, "I don't think there's been a company our size taking this proactive action . . . we did it for health reasons for the community." The American Heart Association described this as "an aggressive, positive approach to help stop the spread of smoking."

Larry Meredith, Director of Marin County Health and Human Services, added, "Tobacco is the No. 1 cause of preventable death in the United States today . . . The decision by Mollie Stone's to go tobacco free is another jewel given to the community." A survey by this department found that other stores are considering the same move, citing concerns for general public health and youth smoking. Two years ago when United Markets, a small Marin independent chain, pulled their tobacco products, coowner Bill Daniels announced that "it's just the right thing to do."

Other Marin County stores that have decided it's the right thing to do are: AG Ferrari Foods, Golden Gate Pharmacy, Golden Point Produce/Tomales Bay Foods, Good Earth Natural Foods, Cornucopia Gourmet Deli, Elephant Pharmacy, Jack's Drug Store, Kaiser, Marin Medical Pharmacy, Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Paradise Foods, Peoples Market, Pueblo Latino Market, Olema Liquor and Deli, Ross Valley Pharmacy, Royal Coach Car Wash, Target, Trader Joe's, Western Sport Shop, and Whole Foods.

The County of Marin is also setting an example in protecting public health. For example, with funding from a tobacco settlement agreement, the Department of Health and Human Services has developed a program to crack down on illegal sales of tobacco products to minors, and the Board of Supervisors recently passed an ordinance expanding smoking bans to outdoor public gathering spaces such as parks and ATM lines.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that smoking is a major cause of diseases that are hurting public health, straining our medical system, and putting millions of individuals at risk. I commend these businesses and the County of Marin for their courage and foresight in responding to this threat by limiting tobacco use and availability, and I honor all businesses that add their names to this growing list.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 526; Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

TRIBUTE TO DON TALLEY

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Don Talley, who was both a nationally recognized leader in the agriculture industry as well as a local community leader. Sadly, Don passed away on Saturday, December 2, 2006, at the age of 66, and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to Don's wife, Rosemary, his son, Brian, and the rest of his family for their loss.

Don was president and a coowner of Talley Farms, a specialty crop operation in the Arroyo Grande area, which I represent. Founded in 1948, under Don's auspices, Talley Farms grew to encompass more than 1,150 acres. In 1982, he established Talley Vineyards, which produces a collection of fine wines. Over his lifetime, Don successfully worked to build Talley Farms and Vineyards into nationally respected entities. Talley Farms grew a variety of specialty crops and was especially renowned for growing the best bell peppers.

As president of Talley Farms, Don established and implemented environmentally sound farming practices, developed innovative agricultural techniques for growing, harvesting, and packaging produce, and was noted for treating his employees well. Moreover, Don served in leadership positions with the Western Growers Association, Ag Box, the Council of California Growers, the California Agriculture Leadership Foundation, and Farm Credit West.

One of Don's hallmark legacies was his strong personal leadership efforts to improve relations between the California agriculture industry and local communities. Notably Don was named Agriculturist of the Year in 1992 by the County of San Luis Obispo Farm Bureau and was voted Grower of the Year in 2004 by the Western Growers Association. In addition to Don's leadership in the agricultural industry, he served on the Arroyo Grande City Council and as mayor from 1974 to 1976. He also was a commission and a member of the Cuesta College Board of Trustees.

Don will be remembered not only for his leadership and achievements, but also for his community service, selflessness, and compassion for his employees. California agriculture suffered a significant loss with the death of Don Talley.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. NANCY ROBERTS GARRITY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Nancy Roberts Garrity, a teacher at St. John Fisher School and recipient of the National Catholic Educational Association's Distinguished Teacher Award. Mrs. Garrity will receive her award at the NCEA annual conference on April 10, 2007. She was selected out of a pool of more than 100,000 nominees.

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the largest professional association in the world, offers guidance and educational services to its 200,000 members. During the Fall of each year, every member school is invited to nominate one teacher for the Distinguished Teacher Award. This award was established in honor of Sister Miriam Joseph Farrell, who served as executive secretary of the NCEA's Department of Elementary Schools. The NCEA divides the country into 12 geographic regions, with one teacher in each region receiving this award.

St. John Fisher School is located in Chicago's West Beverly neighborhood. This parochial school provides educational opportunities for preschool through eighth grade students, where teachers serve as influential figures in developing students' lives.

Mrs. Garrity is guided by the belief that each student uniquely contributes to her classroom. She utilizes creative teaching methods in order to cater to individual educational needs. For example, when teaching her class about A Christmas Carol, she plays the part of Jacob Marley's ghost, complete with chains and a ghostly voice. During the poetry section of her reading class she dresses up as a hippie. Mrs. Garrity's creative methods of teaching allow her students to reach their full potential.

Mrs. Garrity has been a teacher at St. John Fisher School since 1990. The Catholic educational system has given her the ability to influence her student's lives with her passion for teaching, which is evident in her students' drive to succeed.

It is my honor to recognize Mrs. Nancy Roberts Garrity as a recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award. Teachers, like Mrs. Garrity, are key to our children's futures. IN RECOGNITION OF CLINTON KIRK

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay tribute to Mr. Clinton Kirk, a constituent of mine who has dedicated the past 20 years of his life to staying healthy and fit.

Mr. Kirk resides in Valley, Alabama, and is in his eighth decade of life. He is known around the area as "The Walking Man." Kirk says when he began his walking in 1982, he would walk around 5 to 6 miles a day in the early morning. Over 20 years later, he says he now walks about 1 mile a day and says he attributes his good health to his walking habit. Amazingly, Mr. Kirk has walked over 50.000 miles since 1982, and began keeping a daily log of the distance he covers in 1986.

I salute Mr. Kirk for his continued efforts to exercise and stay healthy, and commend him at this milestone for serving as an example for us all to take care of ourselves and stay fit.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAUL AND SYLVIA HOLLINGER

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and service of Paul and Sylvia Hollinger.

Fifty years ago, Paul Hollinger got his start in Christian radio as a singer for WMBI at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

After leaving Moody, he continued his broadcasting career in Pennsylvania as a sales representative or WEZN in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

In July 1961, Paul began with WDAC radio in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and he's been capably serving that station ever since. In 1981, his wife, Sylvia, joined him at the station and continues to play a crucial role in its operations to this day. Together, Paul and Sylvia have grown WDAC into the tremendous success that it is today.

WDAC's consistently high ratings are a testament to the God-given talents that the Hollingers have brought to the station's leadership ranks.

With programs offering sound Biblical wisdom for living a life of integrity, as well as practical guidance for raising a God-honoring family, WDAC provides a wonderful resource to the Lancaster community.

Paul and Sylvia have also been active in the community outside of their roles at WDAC. They give charitably of their time and resources, serve as leaders in the pro-life movement, and are strong supporters of the conservative family values that Lancaster County holds so dear.

Paul and Sylvia's retirement this month from WDAC's daily operations caps more than four decades of distinguished service, and it's a legacy worth honoring.

We live in an age of eroding decency and growing vulgarity on our Nation's airwaves.

Hollinger, WDAC has consistently and successfully gone against this trend.

The high-quality, family-friendly Christian programming that WDAC has committed itself to is a wonderful influence on the surrounding community every single day.

Paul and Sylvia have played an enormous role in making this happen and their legacy of positively impacted lives grows with each new listener.

I congratulate the Hollingers on a wonderful life of service, and wish them all the best in whatever the future holds.

TRIBUTE TO FORTUNE "TINO" BOSCO

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Fortune "Tino" Bosco, of Tampa, Florida, who lost his battle with cancer last month. Fortune described himself to many as "just a poor Italian immigrant," but to all who knew him, he was so much more-a grand story teller, a civil rights advocate, a political powerhouse, a bocce ball enthusiast and a dedicated family man.

Born in Lanciano, Italy, Fortune earned a degree in law and economics from the University of Rome, and went on to serve in the Italian National Police and at Interpol, the Paris based international police agency. Also a professional soccer player, in the 1950s, Fortune played on the Italian Olympic soccer team.

In 1954, Fortune arrived in the United States on the Andrea Doria. Later, when the famed ship collided with another cruise liner, Fortune worked as a translator for the rescued Italian passengers. It was during this time that Fortune met the love of his life, Marjorie Nettleton, who was also helping the accident victims. Mariorie and Fortune would go on to settle in Florida and start a family, which became the focal point of Fortune's life.

Fortune earned his second law degree at University of Miami. Afterwards, he was hired as a civil rights attorney by the U.S. Department of Justice and transferred to Tampa to serve in the Office of Economic Opportunity. His passion for protecting civil rights brought him to Selma, Alabama in 1965 to participate in the historic civil rights march.

Always proud of his Italian heritage, Fortune was also known for his weekly "La Pagina Italiana" column in Tampa's trilingual La Gaceta newspaper. Even as Fortune struggled with retinitis pigmentosa, which slowly robbed him of his eyesight, Fortune continued to write his column, play bocce ball and chess games and actively participate in local and state political campaigns.

Fortune was active in a host of local community groups including the Sons of Italy, Mona Lisa Lodge and the Italian Club of Tampa. He served on the Mayor's Alliance for People with Disabilities and was an honorary member of the Board of Directors at the Lion's Club.

In so many ways, Fortune represented the heart and soul of Tampa. On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I would like to ex-

Under the leadership of Paul and Sylvia tend my deepest sympathies to Fortune's familv.

> TRIBUTE TO HOWARD C. "CHIP" CONLEY

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to honor Chip Conley's service to his country, to this House, and to our Nation's farmers and ranchers. Chip will retire from the staff of the House Agriculture Committee at the end of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Chip was hired as the Agriculture Committee's economist by Chairman E. (Kika) de la Garza in 1985. By all accounts, from the moment he got there. Chip was the go-to guy on nearly every bit of work in the Committee's jurisdiction. This was so much the case that on his birthday one year, Chairman de la Garza handed out buttons printed with the commonly uttered phrase: "Where's Chips?"

Mr. Speaker, the Agriculture Committee's big task that comes along periodically is the writing of a Farm Bill. Chip played an integral role in four farm bills-each one of which proved to be a more monumental undertaking than the last. In addition to casting policy for the production of food and fiber, the Farm Bill also includes provisions to update the food stamp program and other programs that are so important to the daily needs of our most vulnerable citizens. In addition to the tremendous expertise Chip displayed regarding the economics of these programs, he always demonstrated a thorough command of programmatic details. His diligence and abundant creativity through many sleepless nights have had an enormous impact, and he will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, you don't have to work with Chip for too long to realize that his efforts are inspired by an enduring, true desire to improve the lives of others. Before he began his professional career. Chip served in India as a Peace Corps volunteer. He spent 2 years in Hissar from 1970-1972, providing extension services to dairy farmers.

Mr. Speaker, I should also express the gratitude of the House to Chip's wife-Jan Rovecamp. Jan herself served as a staff member and was working for the House when she and Chip met and they discovered their mutual interests in hiking and other outdoor pursuits. Jan also aided the Committee by her constant support of Chip and her tolerance for his long hours. They both have hearts of gold. and for nearly 15 years they have volunteered their time to Food and Friends. Each Friday, they spend the middle of their day delivering food and providing companionship to people living with life-challenging illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to see Chip go. Through his work on legislation, he has touched the lives of many Americans. In the city of Washington, he has gained the respect and admiration of countless colleagues from all philosophical backgrounds. To the Members and staff of the Committee, he is a true friend.

On behalf of the Agriculture Committee, I extend to Chip and Jan my deepest appreciation for their service, and wish them much happiness in retirement.

December 8, 2006

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA BOCELLI

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the remarkable achievements of singer, writer, and producer Andrea Bocelli.

Growing up on his family vineyard in Lajatico, Tuscany, Mr. Bocelli displayed a talent for music from an early age. Andrea developed a passion for opera recordings and dreamed of following in the footsteps of celebrated Italian tenors. A graduate of the University of Pisa, Mr. Bocelli practiced as a state appointed defense attorney for a short time before leaving behind a legal career to pursue his musical dream.

The best-selling classical soloist of all time, Mr. Bocelli has experienced unprecedented international success. He has staged concerts at the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids in Egypt, and the Statue of Liberty. Andrea has performed at Olympic closing ceremonies and over the devastation of Ground Zero. He has sung for kings, queens, princes, premiers, prime ministers, presidents, and Popes. The recipient of numerous awards, Mr. Bocelli has been globally recognized for his achievements in music and for his philanthropic efforts.

Andrea Bocelli has used his talents and stardom to bless many lives. Partnering with worthy charities like The Vision of Children Foundation, an organization committed to the eradication of hereditary childhood blindness, Mr. Bocelli has raised millions of dollars to help children all over the world. Funds raised by his benefit concerts have gone towards research to improve the lives of the visually impaired and aid the families of children who require organ transplants.

Mr. Speaker, whether influencing lives with his musical talents or inspiring countless individuals to overcome adversity, Andrea Bocelli is honored and admired for his many accomplishments. We recognize and commend him today for his extraordinary dedication and service.

HONORING CHICAGO ASTRONAUT JOAN HIGGINBOTHAM

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Astronaut Joan Higginbotham. Higginbotham is a member of the crew on the Space Shuttle Discovery that is scheduled to launch tonight from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Additionally, she is a fellow Chicagoan, and I wish her the best of luck as she prepares for her first mission. STS 116.

Higginbotham graduated from Chicago's Whitney Young High School in 1982, and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1987. She will be the third African-American woman aboard a NASA mission, and she and her fellow astronaut Robert Curbeam will make history this week on STS 116, the first Space Shuttle mission with two African-American astronauts. Higginbotham previously worked as a payload engineer at the John F. Kennedy Space Center while also earning two master's degrees from the Florida Institute of Technology.

As a Mission Specialist on board Discovery, Higginbotham's responsibilities will include a complete rewiring of the International Space Station's power supply. She will also have the responsibility of operating the robotic arm to deploy several satellites and to direct payload transfers.

Higginbotham will be joined by mission commander Mark Polansky, as well as Robert Curbeam, Sunita Williams, Nicholas Patrick, William Oefelein, and Christer Fuglesang from the European Space Agency, who is the first Swedish astronaut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my fellow Chicagoan as well as her fellow astronauts, and to wish them all the best on their launch tonight and their 12-day mission.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROLE MANCHESTER PILLAY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit for the RECORD the following tribute that appeared in the Winsted Journal on October 27, 2006. Mrs. Pillay began her career in fashion at Vogue, later becoming fabric editor at Glamour, and fashion director at Seventeen and Elle. Mrs. Pillay was also the author of French Tea and Tea in the East. I'm honored to submit this for the RECORD. My heart goes out to her entire family.

[From the Winsted Journal, Oct. 27, 2006]

CAROLE MANCHESTER PILLAY

WINSTED—Carole Manchester Pillay, author of two distinctive books on the preparation and drinking of tea and a former editor of leading women's magazines, died Oct. 21, 2006, in Manhattan. She lived in Manhattan and Winsted and was the wife of Shunna Pillay.

Mrs. Pillay started her fashion career with Vogue and later became the fabric editor for Glamour and then fashion director at Seventeen and Elle magazines. Her articles on fashion, the decorative arts and tea appeared frequently in national magazines.

Her two books are "French Tea" (Hearst Books, 1993) and "Tea in the East" (Hearst Books, 1996). The latter publication took her on journeys throughout Asia, where she met and interviewed "staunch devotees of tea planters, pluckers, brokers, blenders, producers, promoters, and tea lovers."

She wrote that "there were many trying times rummaging through the obscure domains of tea, but at journey's end I look back on the adversities as fond adventures." More recently, she authored the book for the forthcoming musical, "Pansy."

Her friends regarded her as possessing an exquisite aesthetic sense, a wonderful joie de vivre, an indomitable spirit and a keen commitment to social justice. In addition to her husband of 33 years, Mrs. Pillay is survived by a brother, Dudley Manchester of West Hartford; a sister, Ann Shubert of Acton, Mass.; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a sister, Lois.

There will be a private service in late spring.

HONORING DR. JOHN CONDON, RE-CIPIENT OF THE 2006 SACRED HEART MEDICAL CENTER SISTER PETER CLAVER AWARD

HON. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John Condon, recipient of the 2006 Sacred Heart Medical Center's Sister Peter Claver Award. In receiving this award, Dr. Condon joins the ranks of many like himself who have gone out of their way to help and serve others, doing it humbly and without seeking recognition.

The Sister Peter Claver Award is given in honor of its namesake each year. Sister Peter Claver gave nearly thirty years of her life to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Washington. She led this institution by her example of charity, service, and integrity. Today, Dr. John Condon exemplifies the mission and message of Sister Peter Claver.

Dr. Condon has maintained a pediatric dentistry practice in Spokane for more than 40 years. Because the community in which he works and serves is a rural one, Dr. Condon travels throughout the community, making a special effort to reach those who would not normally have access to such quality dental care. Dr. Condon has also devoted much of his time to providing dental care to underprivileged children and adults with mental and physical challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Dr. Condon for his compassionate service to the citizens of Eastern Washington. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. John Condon on receiving the "Sister Peter Claver Award" and in thanking him.

IN HONOR OF SISTER JULIE HYER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Julie Hyer, O.P., whose uncommon mixture of faith, benevolence and business savvy has seen the Dominican Hospital of Santa Cruz through twenty-two years of exceptional service and growth.

As president and CEO of Dominican Hospital, Sister Julie sat at the helm of Santa Cruz County's largest health care facility. With 1,700 employees, 500 doctors on staff and more than 500 volunteers—to say nothing of the hundreds of patients Dominican Hospital serves daily in its 369 beds—Sister Julie has overseen a considerable operation and done so without compromising individualized care and treatment.

Under Sister Julie's leadership, Dominican Hospital has implemented numerous programs and services which address the particular needs of our community; from the Infant Hearing Assessment program, to Occupational Rehabilitation, to the ShareCare Health Plan for Older Adults, Sister Julie has ensured that Dominican Hospital is prepared to see patients through every stage of their lives. Other services, such as Dominican's Tattoo Removal Program which gives former gang members a chance to start a new phase of their lives, reflect Sister Julie's all-embracing approach to the health of our community.

To accommodate such a bold and comprehensive vision of health care, she has driven the hospital's steady institutional growth by continuously improving its facilities and establishing relationships with other distinguished healthcare organizations. Under Sister Julie's guidance, Dominican Hospital has seen three major building expansions, multiple remodels, and affiliation with Catholic Healthcare West, the eighth largest hospital system in the Nation.

The laurels of her tenure are as numerous as they are invaluable. They are the realization of Sister Julie's faith in action and a testament to the power of earnest and solemn goodwill.

Mr. Speaker, for all that she has done and all that she will undoubtedly continue to do, I extend my most sincere thanks and warmest wishes to Sister Julie in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MASSACHUSETTS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS: EVERETT, WAYLAND, AND WINTHROP

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that this weekend Massachusetts crowned three state football champions all from the Seventh Congressional District.

The Crimson Tide of Everett, led by Coach John DiBiaso finished the season a perfect 12–0 after a 35–6 win in the Division 1 title game to capture its second Super Bowl victory since 2003.

Later that afternoon, the Wayland Warriors, led by their coach Scott Parseghian took to the same field and knocked off their opponent with a convincing 28–0 victory to take home the Division IA crown, finishing the season with an unblemished 13–0 record.

Finally, the mighty Vikings of Winthrop, led by their coach Tony Fucillo, rallied to a 25–8 victory in the Division 2A championship game also finishing the season a perfect 13–0. This was a huge boost to a program and a school which only a few short years ago was facing possible elimination of high school athletics all together

Each of these teams finished the season ranked among the top three in Massachusetts polls.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the communities of Everett, Wayland and Winthrop and their student athletes and coaches for their commitment to excellence in their sports and for their hard-earned, well-deserved championship seasons.

RECOGNIZING HON. PAULA L. FEROLETO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Western New York's State

Supreme Court justices. Hon. Paula L. Feroleto will be presented with the 2006 Lawyer of the Year Award by the Women Lawyers of Western New York. Judge Feroleto has been on the State Supreme Court bench for 2 years and previously served as an attorney for over 20 years. Over this course of time, Mrs. Feroleto has quietly broken barriers within the legal field.

Judge Feroleto began her career at Brown & Kelly, in Buffalo, where she was the first woman attorney named as partner to the firm and acted as the firm's pro bono coordinator for several years. In addition, she was also the first woman president of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association. Her humble demeanor sets her apart from many and she has undoubtedly been a quiet trailblazer for women. Judge Feroleto balances family, career, and community obligations including participation in the Lawyers for Learning program.

It is clear, this award is long overdue, and Judge Feroleto's accomplishments exemplify the great strides women have made within the legal profession and specifically within the Western New York community. The award will be presented to her on December 14 in Buffalo and I would like to extend my congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize the work of Hon. Paula L. Feroleto, a leader and admired community member of the Western New York region.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FAY-ETTEVILLE-MANLIUS HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give much deserved praise to the Fayetteville-Manlius High School Girl's Cross Country Team on their first place finish at the Nike Team Nationals, defeating 19 other teams and beating the second place team by 50 points to earn a national title.

The Nike Team Nationals put together a race of 20 teams of the highest caliber to compete in Portland Oregon in a 5-kilometer race. The young women of Fayetteville-Manlius worked extremely hard this year to put together a team that was capable of competing at this level, and their hard work paid off with a first place finish and two runners within 20 seconds of first place.

On behalf of all my constituents, I would like to congratulate this special team on their amazing athletic prowess, and especially Coach Bill Aris for leading them throughout the year. I wish them every success in the 2007 season, and look forward to watching them defend their national title.

The team members are: Mackenzie Carter, Kathryn Buchan, Jessica Hauser, Hilary Hooley, Courtney Chapman, Molly Malone, and Ashley Higginson. A TRIBUTE TO AMY EDINGER

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to honor Amy Edinger, the recipient of the great state of New Jersey's No Child Left Behind 2006 American Star of Teaching award.

Throughout her distinguished career, Amy has worked with special education students at the James Fenimore Cooper Elementary School in Cherry Hill. Her efforts to improve the educational atmosphere of her students have earned her both admiration and praise from her colleagues, students, and parents. Her extraordinary innovation and commitment has enabled her to assist her students in moving forward both academically and through improvements in their social skills. Amy's expertise can be measured through the many achievements by the children in her classroom.

I would like to commend and congratulate Amy Edinger on this impressive honor. She is an example of excellence in the classroom, and she serves as an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE CAMPION

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotism and military service of Mr. Charlie Campion of Loveland, Colorado.

He joined the United States Navy on September 7, 1954, and was sent to Great Lakes, Illinois, for boot camp.

In 1958, Mr. Campion's ship, the USS *Summit County*, pulled into Chennai, Korea where Mr. Campion served as a gunner's mate during his first enlistment. Shortly after arriving, Mr. Campion and 2 other soldiers were ordered to drive a jeep from the base to pick up supplies at a different military supply location off base.

While on this mission Mr. Campion's jeep hit an explosive device throwing out the Lieutenant and the Seaman, flipping the jeep and himself upside down in the canal nearby. The jeep ended up landing on Mr. Campion and he sustained several injuries, including a broken back.

At the age of 21, Mr. Campion re-enlisted and started his studies at the Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Illinois. Mr. Campion went on to serve a total of 16 years in the United States Navy as Hospital Corpsman and FMF Corpsman with the Marine Corps.

For "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action" while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division near the village of La Chau, Republic of Vietnam on 5 June 1965, Mr. Campion was awarded the Silver Star. While giving medical aid to several sick villagers, Mr. Campion was attacked by other villagers at the same time that his platoon was attacked by the Viet Cong Fighting his way free, he ran to the platoon position and immediately began medical treatment of two wounded Marines.

In order to protect the wounded men, Mr. Campion seized an automatic rifle from one of the men and turned it against the enemy, killing one Viet Cong and driving the others to flight. After the wounded men were evacuated he fearlessly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire so he could render aid to a critically wounded Marine and assist in his evacuation.

Additionally, he was awarded four good conduct medals and 12 further medals for his service to our country in the Korean War and in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Campion's selfless service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, a true American hero, Mr. Charlie Campion.

THE SUZANNE GONZALES SUICIDE PROMOTION PUNISHMENT AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2006

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Suzanne Gonzales Suicide Promotion Punishment and Prevention Act of 2006 on behalf of families across the United States who have lost loved ones to suicide through information provided on Internet forums.

On March 22, 2003, 19-year-old Suzanne Gonzales told her father, "I love you, Dad. I'll see you soon." Hours later, she was dead. As a student attending college thousands of miles from home, Suzanne had become involved in an online discussion group that promotes suicide as a personal choice and a "civil right." Other members of the group, using anonymous screen names, encouraged Suzanne to commit suicide and gave her step-by-step instructions on how to obtain and use potassium cyanide, a lethal substance used by jewelers to polish metal.

It is difficult for most of us to imagine the grief of Suzanne's parents when they learned of their daughter's death. Their distress was only increased when prosecutors told them that there was no law under which the members of the online group, who had given Suzanne the necessary information to commit suicide, could be charged. While many states have laws prohibiting assistance to suicide, the individuals responsible for Suzanne's death could be residents of any state.

Suicide is not just another personal choice. It is final and irreversible. Victims of suicide do not have an opportunity to learn from their mistake. And their actions have a lasting impact on their family and friends. The same Web site whose members encouraged Suzanne Gonzales to take her own life has been implicated in well over a dozen other suicides. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is time for Congress to take a stand. These sick and twisted individuals who prey on the despair and emotional distress of others ought to be held responsible for their actions.

The legislation I am introducing would make it a federal crime to use facilities of interstate commerce, including the Internet, to provide a particular person with information or material support to commit suicide. It is narrowly tailored to avoid infringing on speech protected by the first amendment. And it recognizes the role of state governments as the primary sources of laws relating to suicide.

This legislation is a sensible response to a real and growing problem, one that will bring wrongdoers to justice and hopefully help to prevent future tragedies like Suzanne Gonzales's. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled commitment, I was not present in the House chamber to vote on rollcalls 526 or 527.

Please indicate as such in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 526 and "yea" on rollcall 527 had I been present.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for your attention to this request.

TRIBUTE	то	DAYTO	DNA	BEACH
MAYOR GOLDEN	YV	ONNE	SCA	ARLETT-
GOLDEN				

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to send my thoughts and prayers to the family of Yvonne Scarlett-Golden, the first black Mayor of Daytona Beach. She had been a very, very close friend of mine for many years, and she will be dearly missed by the community of Daytona Beach and the State of Florida.

I will always remember her for her persistence, her spirited willpower and determination, as well as her extreme dedication to public service. Her admirers and supporters included not just the African American community, but also by those with financial influence in the area. In particular, I will always remember her "respect" campaign, wherein she attempted to tranquilize the somewhat disorderly behavior of the city's special events.

Even though she entered politics somewhat late in life, at all times she devoted her energy to her native city of Daytona Beach. Ironically, this was the same city that disallowed her to go to the beaches because of strict segregation laws. Yet with the inspiration and tutelage of one of our nation's most famous civil rights leaders and founder of Bethune Cookman College, Ms. Mary McLeod-Bethune, who also hails from the city of Daytona, Ms. Scarlett-Golden learned the essence of public service.

Yvonne Scarlett-Golden went on to graduate from Bethune-Cookman College in 1950, where she received academic honors as well as special distinctions for performing as an outstanding athlete. It was in the halls and lecture rooms of this college where she became profoundly influenced by the teachings and philosophy of Ms. McLeod-Bethune. She went on to utilize these teachings in her career as an educator and as an elected official. Ms. Scarlett-Golden will always serve as an inspiration not only to the local black community in Volusia County, but to African Americans throughout the State of Florida.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOSEPH L. IMESCH

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Joseph L. Imesch who will celebrate 50 years of priesthood on December 16, 2006.

On June 21, 1931 in Gross Pointe Farms, Michigan, Dionys and Margaret Imesch became the proud parents of Joseph L. Imesch. Bishop Imesch spent his early years in Michigan attending the following schools: St. Ambrose and St. Paul Elementary School, Sacred Heart Seminary High School and College. In 1953, the Bishop went to Rome where he attended the North American College and received his STL degree. He attended the Gregorian University from 1969 to 1970. On December 16, 1956, Bishop Joseph L. Imesch was ordained in Rome.

Most of the Bishop's pastoral ministry was spent in Michigan. From 1957 to 1959, he was the assistant pastor to the St. Charles Parish in Detroit, Michigan. From 1959 to 1971, the Bishop served as a secretary to John Cardinal Dearden, Archbishop of Detroit. In 1971, Bishop Imesch became the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows' Parish in Farmington. On April 3, 1973, Joseph L. Imesch was ordained as Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit and was the Regional Bishop of the Northwest Region, Archdiocese of Detroit from 1977 to 1979.

On August 28, 1979, Bishop Imesch was installed as the third Bishop of Joliet. During his tenure, Bishop Imesch served on many committees including: Catholic Relief Services Board, Board of Trustees of Archdiocese of Chicago Seminaries, Chairman of the NCCB Committee on Women in Society and the Church, Chairman of NCCB Committee Writing the Pastoral on the Concerns of Women. the Marriage & Family Life Committee, Committee for Stewardship, Chairman of NCCB Committee for Pastoral Practices, the Retired Religious Grant Review Board, the Society of St. James Board, the USCCB Administrative Board, and Chairman of Bishops of Region VII. Bishop Imesch retired as Bishop of Joliet on June 21, 2006 shortly after his 75th birthday. According to Bishop Imesch his only regret is that he turned 75 much too guickly and could no longer serve.

The Diocese of Joliet was established in 1948 and has a Catholic population of approximately 636,862. It comprises the counties of DuPage, Kankakee, Will, Grundy, Ford, Iroquois, and Kendall.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other persons in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's families and communities.

HONORING SANDRA E. ULSH, PRESIDENT OF THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sandra E. Ulsh. Sandra is president of the Ford Motor Company Fund, a philanthropic organization funded largely by Ford Motor Company profits. Ford Fund supports innovative programs that focus on education, American heritage and legacy, and safety. Under her leadership, Ford Motor Company Fund has also dedicated itself to celebrating cultural diversity and supporting programs that stimulate cross-cultural exchanges.

Sandra received a bachelor's in mathematics and economics from Gettysburg College and an MBA from Lehigh University. She joined Ford as an economic analyst in 1978. She held numerous positions in Finance, including vehicle pricing manager, vehicle program finance manager, manager of business analysis and business plans for Truck Operations, and manager of Investor Relations.

Sandra joined Ford's Governmental Affairs organization in 1996 as a strategic issues associate in the Corporate Economics and Strategies Issues office, and later became a legislative manager on Healthcare and Financial Service matters in Washington, DC. Prior to assuming her current position, Sandra was the director, Public Policy, Governmental Affairs.

Along with her work at Ford Motor Company Fund, Sandra serves on various other nonprofit and advisory boards, including the Council of Michigan Foundations, ConnectMichigan Alliance, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation Corporate Advisory Board, Dennis Archer Foundation, and America's Promise Leadership Council.

Sandra will be retiring from her position at Ford Motor Company Fund on December 31st. I'm sure I'm not the only one impressed with her professionalism, dedication and the achievements reached by Ford Motor Company Fund during her leadership tenure. I wish to thank her for her exceptional service and wish Sandra well on all her future endeavors.

FLORIDA DELEGATION FAREWELL TRIBUTE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to specially recognize 4 of my colleagues who have so honorably served the residents of Florida and the citizens of the United States over the past 4 to 26 years.

I applaud my friends, CLAY SHAW, MIKE BILI-RAKIS, JIM DAVIS, and KATHERINE HARRIS for their admirable service. Over the years, each has made numerous invaluable contributions bettering the lives of their constituents and all Americans.

I've seen first hand how effective and committed these individuals are in serving their

constituents. Our longest serving member with 26 years, CLAY SHAW has been one of seniors' and Social Security's greatest advocates. His expertise in Social Security, trade, and welfare issues will be sorely missed. Serving 24 years, MIKE BILIRAKIS has been one of Congress' primary supporters for veterans' issues. It has truly been my pleasure serving with MIKE on the VA Committee for the past 5 years. Over the past 10 years, JIM DAVIS has been one of the leading sponsors in trying to protect Florida's pristine coastlines and U.S. military missions from offshore drilling. His leadership and passion are lauded and will not be forgotten. KATHERINE HARRIS has left her mark as a strong leader in helping Florida toward its future as an international leader in economic and foreign affairs.

Mr. Speaker, Florida and the Nation have benefited from their leadership, and each will be truly missed. I would like to thank each for their service to our country and extend my best wishes for their continued success.

H.R. 6099, UNBORN CHILD PAIN AWARENESS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6099, the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act. I would point out that, despite the best efforts of some in this Chamber and from various interest groups to masquerade this as a pro-choice or pro-life issue, this is not about choice. This is quite simply an issue of who is qualified to provide medical information to patients: Congress or doctors? Frankly, patients are better served with medical information coming from a qualified medical professional than from a simple Polish lawyer from Southeast Michigan like myself.

Let me be clear: this bill requires that doctors provide women seeking an abortion past the twentieth week of gestation a brochure produced by the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill very clearly requires that the brochure include text written word for word by Congress. The patient would then have to sign a document saying she received the information. That document, again, would contain specific text written by Congress. The very idea that Congress would require that specific text imparting a medical opinion be handed out to patients is ludicrous. We are in the business of writing laws, not of keeping up on the most recent articles published in medical journals. I would ask, Mr. Speaker, where does this game of Congress playing doctor end? Will we next be writing scripts or brochures advocating for one chemotherapy treatment over another for cancer patients? I think not. I believe that most of us recognize that this is well beyond our capability as lawmakers.

Mr. Speaker, let's leave the decisions about medical science to the scholars and professionals who are qualified to make them and focus on our responsibilities as Members of Congress.

I've always wondered why we don't focus more of our attention on preventing unwanted pregnancies. Reducing the number of abor-

tions performed in this country is certainly a goal we can all agree on and strive for. Instead of imposing ourselves on private relationships between doctors and patients, I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will come to the table to discuss how we can further this mutual goal.

ETHICS IN THE 110TH CONGRESS

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, as the 109th Congress ends and I prepare to leave the House of Representatives after 20 years, I wanted to speak with my colleagues about congressional ethics one last time. This is an honorable House and an ethical House. Most House Members desire to serve honorably and ethically, a few do not. Yet, as James Madison observed in the Federalist 51, "if angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary . . . but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions." The integrity of this House is important to our Nation and our integrity is not as it should be. As Members of Congress, we will never be perfect, but we can strive to be better. As Members of this House we must do better.

In 1952. Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois wrote a small book that had wide influence, "Ethics in Government." Douglas said the book grew out of his experiences on the Chicago City Council and in the Senate, where he served on a committee which investigated the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and chaired a Senate subcommittee which considered the entire range of ethics issues for those involved in public service. His book started with the following words, "[T]he American public has become increasingly uneasy in recent months about the moral practices of many government officials." Sounds familiar, doesn't it? More than 60 years later. Congress is still struggling with many of the issues identified by Senator Douglas. We have made significant progress since the 1950s, but as this past Congress has shown, we have a long way to go.

Before discussing ethics in the Congress while I have served and what I believe we need to do in the future. I think it would be helpful to review some of the conclusions and recommendations of Senator Douglas. After reviewing that state of ethics during the time of the ruling Florentine House of the Medici as described by Machiavelli in "the Prince," Douglas surveyed the state of ethics in Great Britain during the 18th and 19th centuries and of our own Congress during the period before the Civil War and during the Civil War. Despite the evidence of enormous corruption during those times, Douglas stated, "[M]y own conclusion is, therefore, that there has been an appreciable long-time improvement in the level of political morals." However, he also noted that there are frequent periods of "moral relapse," often after wars and that in his own time the standards of behavior were "by no means good enough and need radical improvement."

Let's look at what Douglas was concerned about. First, he identified six "difficulties which

beset public officials and legislators." Leading the list was the items of gifts and entertainment. The next issue he described as the "lure of past and future employment." Next, he identified the problem of the use of public office as a means of making money through various private business interests engaged in by members in addition to their congressional duties, such as insurance or practice of law. Douglas was extremely concerned by what he called, "use . . . of public office to further . . . private business." Finally. Douglas identified the abuse of members of government resigning and "then almost immediately appear[ing] as well-paid legal representatives of private agencies which are doing business with the Government." Douglas also identified this issue as the sale of influence. Senator Douglas recommended 2 remedies to these issues: better pay and an ethical code for public officials.

Douglas went on to identify 3 sets of additional ethics issues important to legislators: (1) The expense of campaigning for office, (2) relationships between legislators and administrative agencies, and (3) the conduct of congressional investigations and the treatment of witnesses before congressional committees.

Douglas concluded with 2 final recommendations: disclosure of private income and the suggestion that stocks and investments be sold or placed in trusts not under the control of the owner. Finally, Senator Douglas stated that "more important than the institutional improvements which I have suggested is our need for a deeper set of moral values." He surmised that "since the state is but the individual writ large, perhaps the disclosures of the past years may reawaken within us a sense of our individual failure to live up to the standards we inwardly cherish." Institutional reform begins with self-reform, he suggested.

Since the time of Senator Douglas, we have come a long way towards fulfilling his recommendations and establishing a modem ethics process. The Ethics Committee was established in 1967. Through the years, the committee has provided oversight and enforcement, sanction recommendations and investigations, and importantly, advice and education to Members and staff. Congress adopted Code of Ethics for Government Service was in 1958 and the House adopted a Code of Official Conduct in 1968. Significant campaign finance legislation was adopted in 1971, 1974, 2002 and House Rules now limit personal use of campaign funds. A limited private financial disclosure system was put in place in 1969 and made public in 1978. In 1989, Congress adopted rules limiting outside income and employment, banned honoraria and established post-employment restrictions. Finally, in 1995, strong gift and travel rules were adopted by the House and Congress passed the Lobbying Disclosure Act to counter public perception that special interests groups maintain undue influence over the legislative process and that Members are granted perquisites and privileges unavailable to average Americans. Each of these steps was significant in and of itself. Taken together they represent real progress.

Through this modem ethics process an established ethics committee has sanctioned Members of the House for inappropriate conduct on a nonpartisan basis. More importantly, the Ethics Committee has provided thousands of letters to Members and staff advising them how to navigate the web of ethics rules and procedures. In my opinion, the advice and education process, though unsung, is the most valuable asset the House has received from the Ethics Committee.

Under the modem ethics system our constituents now have a good idea of our income and assets. Members are restricted from outside income and honoraria of the sort that concerned Senator Douglas and created the potential, the appearance and sometimes the actual existence of a conflict of interest. Gifts have been limited and official business funded by private groups is publicly disclosed.

The tide of power in Washington turned again in November. With power comes great responsibility. Knowing that Congress is an institution, we can find comfort in the fact that faces may change but purpose remains. During the years we as elected officials represent our home districts, our people, our values, we should hold ourselves to higher standards because we have been given the power to change law, to create law, and to fund our government. And when those standards weaken in the House, we monitor each other through the use of the Ethics Committee. Real ethics reform begins and ends with enforcement of the rules and advice and education by the Ethics Committee.

Since its inception in 1967, the Committee on Standards for Official Conduct, informally known as the House Ethics Committee, has been unique in the House of Representatives. It is the only standing committee in which membership is equally divided between each party. The make-up of the committee is intended to provide a fair procedural framework for the conduct of the committee's activities and to help ensure that the committee serves well the people of the United States, the House of Representatives, and the Members, officers, and employees of the House.

I have been in the position to serve on the Ethics Committee as a member and as chairman. During my service, I have come to the conclusion that the process works if leadership allows it to. Having an equally divided committee encourages a working relationship that has rarely been equaled on other committees. While serving as chairman, all of our actions were consensus and most were unanimous. I told each new member to leave his partisanship at the door and they did.

I would be hard pressed to remember a time when Congress was not under scrutiny but in recent times, we have come under a direct dissection and search for credibility. To be a credible ethics process, bipartisanship must exist not only in committee deliberations and actions, but also in the development of the rules under which those deliberations and actions will occur.

I believe some of our credibility disappeared during the 109th Congress, when the House leadership fast-tracked legislation and called on party loyalty to pass rules changes for the Ethics Committee during a party-line vote. This is a misfortune that should be remedied in the 110th Congress.

The vote on the ethics process should be separate and apart from the vote on the House rules. The vote on the House rules is a party-line vote, the vote on the ethics process should not be. I see it as a duty for each member to make an individual vote not a party-line basis but on the basis of what would

be the best ethics process for the House. The January 2005 vote signified a major detour from a bipartisan ethics process.

Besides the actual rule changes, which would have weakened the Ethics Committee both in its ability to do its job and as a bipartisan institution. I am troubled by the process leadership engaged in to fast-track the rules changes. Despite numerous requests by the Ethics Committee, leadership did not consult the committee on any of the changes they proposed and publicly released the text of these rules only a few hours before they were to be voted upon. As a result of protest by myself and others, some of the proposed rules changes were dropped immediately. Fortunately, the rest were dropped after months of unnecessary dispute. So the end result was that the rules were not changed permanently, but the process used by the House leadership damaged both the ethics process in the House and the House as an institution.

Prior to this misguided effort, the Ethics Committee has almost 40 years of bipartisan tradition. Sure, the process has not always been perfect, but the House has had a tradition of addressing any imperfections through the use of a bipartisan process. From its very beginning, the rules for the Ethics Committee were the results of a bipartisan panel composed of six Democrats and six Republicans. To continue working without undue influence, it is imperative to develop the rules in a bipartisan manner. All significant changes in the ethics process over the years, principally in 1976-77, 1989-1991 and 1997, were adopted after bipartisan task forces looked at the issues or a bipartisan consensus was reached before passage. As I have stated repeatedly, if the House is to have a meaningful, bipartisan ethics process, ethics reform can be made only after thoughtful, careful consideration on a bipartisan basis.

Why, at this time when partisanship dominates virtually every aspect of political life, is bipartisanship necessary in the ethics process? The reason, quite simply, is that if the ethics process were to be dominated by the majority party, whichever party that might be, it would have no credibility whatsoever. Such an ethics process would almost certainly degenerate into simply another tool of partisan warfare and thereby become a farce.

I also have to note, that both parties in the House are guilty of misusing the ethics process from time to time, most notably during what Norm Ornstein and Thomas Mann call the period of "the politics of scandal." During this period in the late 1980's and continuing through 1997, both parties alternatively used the ethics process to attack and eventually destroy one Democratic Speaker, Representative James Wright of Texas and one Republican Speaker, Representative Newt Gingrich of Georgia. During the 104th Congress, virtually every member of the Republican and Democratic leadership of the House had an ethics complaint filed against them.

As a result of broad dissatisfaction on both sides of the aisle regarding the Gingrich matter, the 1997 task force made positive recommendations that were adopted by the House. As a result both parties disavowed the "politics of scandal," with the result that between 1997 and 2004, only one ethics complaint was filed against a House member, down from a peak of over 26 filed between the Wright case in 1989 and 1996. In 2004, a complaint was filed against the majority leader, Representative DeLay, and in my opinion, the political use of the ethics process by both parties began again.

Some commentators have called the period between 1997 and 2004 an "ethics truce." I don't believe that is the proper term because the Ethics Committee was clearly engaged in aggressive investigation of misconduct during this time period, with many of the investigations self-initiated by the committee. During this period the Ethics Committee, while the House was under Republican control, followed the facts, investigated both Republicans and Democrats. For instance, the Ethics Committee conducted a thorough and exhaustive investigation of Representative Jav Kim of California during 1997 and 1998. While Representative Kim pleaded guilty to three misdemeanors in court regarding violations of Federal campaign laws, the investigative subcommittee charged him with numerous additional charges, including false statements, improper gifts, improper financial disclosure and an attempt to improperly influence a witness.

In the investigation against another Republican, Representative E.G. "Bud" Shuster, while the complaint had been filed in 1996, the Ethics Committee again conducted an exhaustive 4-year investigation into this powerful committee chairman, often working directly with the Department of Justice, which resulted in Representative Shuster being cited for "serious official misconduct."

A third investigation, involving Democratic Representative CORRINE BROWN of Florida, which was self-initiated by the committee, did not result in any charges, but the committee noted her actions demonstrated poor judgment and "created substantial concerns regarding. . . appearance of impropriety and the reputation of the House."

Also during the period of so-called "truce," the Ethics Committee self-initiated a second investigation against a Democrat, Representative Earl Hilliard of Alabama, in 1999. In 2001, Representative Hilliard admitted "serious official misconduct."

In 2001, the committee received the one complaint filed against a Member during this period. On July 16, 2001, Representative Peter Deutsch of Florida filed a complaint against Representative STEVE BUYER of Indiana, alleging improper use of official resources for political purposes. The committee unanimously dismissed the complaint on August 1, 2001.

On April 11, 2001, Representative James Traficant of Ohio was convicted in Federal court of conspiracy to violate Federal bribery and gratuities statutes, receipt of an illegal gratuity, obstruction of justice, defrauding the Government, racketeering and tax evasion. The committee self-initiated an investigation and after a 3-day public hearing, rec-ommended expulsion. On July 24, 2002, the House voted to expel Representative Traficant. The peer review process contemplated by the Constitution was truly in play during this process, as a very close friend of Representative Traficant served on the Ethics Committee during this period and felt duty-bound to cast a vote to expel his friend. This member, a former county prosecutor and defense counsel, while voting to expel Representative Traficant, ensured the committee held meticulously to its rules and afforded the respondent every ounce of due process mandated by the com-

mittee's procedures. Another peer of Representative Traficant from Ohio, a former judge and county prosecutor, also judged her colleague in this process. The committee was ably served during this process by the experience of another member, who tried numerous death-penalty cases before coming to Congress.

Another matter investigated by the committee during this period was the investigation into allegation of bribery during the 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug Act. The committee also self-initiated this investigation. During this investigation the committee deposed the Speaker of the House, the House Majority Leader, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and numerous other senior Members of the House. The investigation ultimately resulted in the admonishment of three Republican Members, Representative Tom DeLay, Representative CANDACE MILLER of Michigan and Representative Nick Smith of Michigan on September 30, 2004. It is important to note that the committee admonished Representative Smith for public statements that threatened to impugn the integrity of the House and for failure to cooperate with the committee investigation.

In summary, during the period of so-called truce, the committee self-initiated serious investigations. To me, this demonstrates not a truce, but a return to a committee dedicated to the investigation of serious matters in a non-partisan way. As an additional note, during the 108th Congress, the committee noted it either commenced or carried over 10 investigations from the 107th Congress.

From 1997, when I served my first term until 2004 while serving my last, we as a committee gave mostly unanimous or overwhelmingly bipartisan conclusions. The committee worked. Deadlock never reared its ugly head. Partisanship was left at the door. And careful deliberation carried us to our conclusions.

This was true even with the diverse nature of the committee's membership. While I served on the committee the chairmen were from Utah, Texas and Colorado and the ranking minority members were from California and West Virginia. Members of the committee were from Ohio, Washington, Arkansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Texas and California. We had lawyers, non-lawyers, former judges, former prosecutors, former defense counsels, businessmen, big-city members and members from rural America. We also had liberals and conservatives. Still, almost every decision was unanimous and every decision was nonpartisan.

This past Congress was noted for scandal, further emphasizing the need for a strong ethics process in the House. While ultimately the criminal justice system and the voters addressed most of these cases, the lack of a functioning Ethics Committee during most of this Congress was glaring. At a time when Representative Tom DeLay of Texas was indicted and Representatives Duke Cunningham of California and Bob Ney of Ohio were convicted of bribery, the Ethics Committee was not functioning. This was also the period of the Abramoff scandal and the search warrant of Representative William Jefferson of Louisiana's office. Only at the end of the Congress was the committee able to effectively investigate allegations involving former Representative Mark Foley of Florida. An ongoing inves-

tigative subcommittee inquiry into Representative JIM McDERMOTT of Washington was also continued during the Congress but no result has been reached.

Finally, this past Congress lost credibility by failing to adopt significant ethics reform. The ethics and lobbying reform package proposed by the House leadership was so weak that I actually voted against it, believing it was designed to make people believe we were doing something when we really were not. Denying former Members access to the House gym and the House floor did not address the real ethical issues confronting the 109th Congress.

The Senate did little better. I believe the public took note of this failure.

H.R. 4975, the legislation narrowly adopted by the House, while addressing lobbying reform, did not go far enough, and was silent on reforming the rules that govern the ethics process in the House itself. We had a serious opportunity to implement comprehensive ethics reform in the House, but we did not take advantage of it.

The importance the new Congress places on ethics will define its character. Congress has the duty to protect the integrity of the institution and within that duty, every member must hold himself accountable for his own actions as well as those of our colleagues. I also recommend that once members on the Ethics Committee are appointed, the leadership should stay out of the ethics process.

I further urge the new Congress to use a different process than used in January 2005 to adopt the new ethics rules for the House. We have done a great disservice to ourselves by injecting partisanship in the ethics process and the consequences of that vote show in the form of stalemate during most of the last Congress. It is my hope that a real analysis of the rules is undertaken when deciding on changes.

Based on my experience on the Ethics Committee, I, along with Representative HULSHOF, have suggested reforms to the House ethics procedure that were not included in H.R. 4975. Our bill, H.R. 4988, did three things the passed legislation does not. Our proposal gave the Ethics Committee broader subpoena power during informal investigations, which is when the key decision is made whether to fully investigate a potential violation. Our bill would strengthen the independence of the chairman and ranking member by giving them presumptive 6-year terms like other chairmen. And our bill would strengthen the independence of the Ethics Committee staff by making this a career office, like the Parliamentarians office, yet with the accountability all staff should have.

The House should also consider the earmark reform adopted late in the 109th Congress. We need more accountability and transparency in the appropriations process.

Another unnecessary and unfortunate act by leadership during this past Congress was the replacement of two very good members of the committee before the end of their terms. One of them had chaired an investigative subcommittee that recommended the admonishment of Representative Tom DeLay, the majority leader, and both had participated in subsequent committee admonishments of Representative Delay. This gave the appearance and in my opinion, the reality of retribution. They, I believe, were being punished for doing the right thing.

The third unnecessary and unfortunate act in the past Congress was to weaken the independence and nonpartisanship of the Ethics Committee staff. One of the reforms instituted in 1997 was the requirement that the committee staff be assembled and retained as a professional, nonpartisan staff. From 1997 through 2005, the committee started the process of developing an independent, career staff. Many of the staff hired during that period of time were hired from off the Hill, including several with backgrounds at the Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Columbia, the Federal Election Commission, the District of Colombia Bar Association, and related agencies. While the staff of the committee has to have a strong understanding of how Congress works, I think it was a good tradition to include on the staff nonpolitical career attorneys who are able to step back from the intense political nature most congressional staff bring to their positions. In February 2005, the incoming chairman removed the committee's chief counsel and a member of the nonpartisan investigative staff. These actions, in my opinion violated the spirit and tradition of the Ethics Committee's charge to assemble staff in a professional and nonpartisan way. I hope the incoming leadership of the committee sees fit to return to the tradition of an independent and nonpartisan staff.

Turning to reform proposals again, one idea that is repeatedly suggested by many is the concept of an ethics commission or an ethics counsel. Some describe the office as an independent office of public integrity. As noted by Ornstein and Mann in their book, "The Broken Branch," the ethics bills passed in 2006 failed to include adequate enforcement mechanisms. These proposals are one way to fill this gap. Another way, is to strengthen the Ethics Committee itself. Under these proposals an outside group of non- members, most likely former members or retired judges or other "wise men" of some sort, would either make recommendations to the Ethics Committee or actually conduct investigations for the Ethics Committee. Certainly the names mentioned for these positions are the sort of people who would be fair and nonpartisan. Similar procedures are used by the House of Commons in London and by the Kentucky and Florida legislatures here in the United States. I have given this concept great thought. While I believe there is some merit to having a system where conduct is judged by officials who are removed from the political process, thus removing the temptation of partisanship from the ethics process, I am not convinced we need to do this. While peer review is extraordinarily difficult, in fact one of the most difficult duties I faced as a Member of Congress, I think only an internal policing system using fellow members judging the ethical conduct of members of the House is important. I believe this for two reasons. First, the Constitution requires it. Second, I believe it is important for fellow members to decide whether House rules have been violated and whether a specific act of conduct is appropriate or not. The Justice Department is the external mechanism when laws have been broken.

The source of the power of the committee to recommend and the House to impose sanctions on the conduct of members is in the Constitution, which provides that each House may "punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member." Art. I, &5, cl. 2. Unless the Constitution is altered, I can see no way Congress can place this responsibility on other shoulders.

The key provision in the Code of Official Conduct adopted by the House in 1968, is House Rule 23, clause 1. It states, "a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives shall conduct himself at all times in a manner which shall reflect creditably on the House of Representatives." Combined with House Rule 23, clause 2, which mandates Members to "adhere to the spirit and letter of the Rules of the House," these two rules have the practical effect of allowing Members to judge using the current standards of the House. While subjective, the standard is certainly one that every member should be able to meet. It needs to be subjective because what the House considers to be inappropriate conduct changes over time. For example, in the 1980's two Members were censored for sexual conduct with pages. I believe that a Member found to have committed the same conduct in the current Congress would be expelled.

Another component of standards of conduct used to judge Members is the appearance standard that has been used by the Ethics Committee with increasing frequency in recent Congresses. Based on rule 23. clause 1 and other standards of conduct, the committee has long cautioned members "to avoid situations in which even an inference might be drawn suggesting improper action." The primary concern regarding the appearance of misconduct is that it undermines public confidence in the integrity of the House. The committee has specifically endorsed a rule by the Senate Select Committee on Ethics directing that Senators should avoid the appearance that campaign contributors receive special access and instructed that members of the House should adhere to the same rule with regard of official access. In 1989, the Bipartisan Task Force on Ethics articulated the concern that gifts to Members may create an appearance of impropriety that may undermine the public's faith in government. The Ethics Committee has cited this concern in both the Ethics Manual and its Gift and Travel Booklet and members were publicly sanctioned or cautioned under this standard in 2004, 2000, 1996, and 1995. Any judgment of a Member under the appearance standard can only be done by another Member of the House. It would not be fair or right to have outsiders, even former members. judging a current Member for the appearance of their actions.

Finally, as Senator Douglas stated so long ago, and many colleagues and commentators have echoed since, we must clean up campaign financing. Thus, I introduced a bill in this Congress to ban leadership PACs. Watching our prospective committee leaders scramble for money in order to buy their positions demeans all of us. Fundraising is also nearly a full time job for many members of both parties. Lobbyists, the backbone of the process, are even tired of the obligation, the requirement, of giving, giving, giving to the politicians. The question of impropriety can not help but be raised when the amount of money solicited and poured into other's campaigns determines whether a Member attains a leadership position or committee chairmanship. Money cannot be the price of admission into leadership.

In concluding, I want to thank the Members of the House of Representative who served with me on the Ethics Committee while I was chairman. These include Representatives Doc HASTINGS of Washington, JUDY BIGGERT of Illinois, Representative HULSHOF, Representative LATOURETTE, former Representative Rob Portman of Ohio, former Representative Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, Representative TUBBS JONES, Representative GENE GREEN of Texas, Representative LUCILLE ROYBALL AL-LARD of California. Representative MIKE DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Representative MARTIN SABO of Minnesota, and Representative ED PASTOR of Arizona. In particular I want to thank Representative ZOE LOFGREN of California, who served as the ranking minority on the Shuster investigative subcommittee and came back to serve on the investigative subcommittee for Representative Traficant. Finally, I must thank the two distinguished ranking minority members I served with, Representative HOWARD BERMAN of California and Representative ALAN MOLLOHAN of West Virginia. Each served with honor during difficult times and each never acted or mentioned a partisan issue to me while we were involved in committee matters.

I also want to thank the fine professional staff of the Ethics Committee. Starting with Joanne White, our administrative assistant who insured the committee functioned so efficiently; other assistants Christine Stevens, Sean Kelley, Preston Johnson, Peter Johnson, and Amelia Snider; our counsels Kenneth Kellner, Bernadette Sargeant, John Sassaman, Reed Slack, Susan Pohl, Stacey Duffey, Peter van Hartesfeldt, Susan Olson, and Carol Dixon. Special thanks goes to Representative BERMAN's counsel Bari Schwartz and Representative MOLLOHAN's assistant, Colleen McCarty. The committee was further assisted by two distinguished chief counsels during this period, Robert Walker and John Vargo. Finally, I want to thank my two counsel's while I was chairman, Virginia Johnson and Paul Lewis. Rob Walker and Virginia Johnson provided vital support and assistance during the Traficant matter and John Vargo and Paul Lewis did the same during the complaint filed against Representative DeLay at the end of my tenure.

When I began my service in this House 20 years ago, I never thought I would serve on the Ethics Committee. I certainly never thought I would serve as its chairman. Yet, I now believe it is my duty to speak to you one last time regarding ethics. Ethics advice in this House must be fair, impartial, and nonpartisan. Ethics reform in this House must be fair, impartial, and bipartisan. Ethics enforcement in this House must be fair, impartial and bipartisan. The leadership of both parties should keep their hands off the ethics process once the rules are adopted and the members are assigned to the Ethics Committee. I hope a strong ethics reform package is passed on the first day of this new Congress. But we must do more. I urge the next Congress on the first day to also establish a bipartisan task force to draw on proposals adopted on that first day but to do more and to do better. The work of the 1997 Bipartisan Ethics Reform Task Force is instructive on how major changes in the ethics rule should be made. The task force labored on its recommendations for 4 months, taking testimony from House Members and outside experts in public hearings as well as executive session. It is evident from the task force's final report that it spent hours and days in studying, discussing

and voting upon a variety of rules changes. With so much at stake in the ethics rules for both individual Members and the House as an institution, such open, careful consideration of rules changes is absolutely necessary.

John Barry, the author of "The Ambition and Power," about ethics investigation of Representative Wright, described our Capital as the grandest building in this Nation. I believe our grandest building should also be a cathedral. A cathedral of integrity. Senator Douglas urged each member of Congress to consider the need for a deeper set of moral values. I ask each of my colleagues and the incoming Members of the House to consider the same.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF MIKE LYNCH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued staff member—Mike Lynch—who retired this month from the House Science Committee. As one of our Committee Counsels, Mike's legal and parliamentary expertise touched many offices and issue areas during his tenure.

He was a dedicated and long-serving House staffer. Prior to joining the Committee, Mike served in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1977–1994 in several counsel positions. Most notably, he was the Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the Subcommittee on Accounts of the Committee on House Administration from 1985–1993. In each position, Mike honed his legislative skills to become a respected and much sought after Committee Counsel.

As the Science Committee Democrats' principal liaison with the Parliamentarian, Rules Committee and Leadership on parliamentary and legislative process issues, Mike's role was an important one. His mastery of the rules and procedures of the House and his advice to Members and staff on legal and legislative issues before the Committee were vital. No one worked harder than Mike did to protect the prerogatives of Members, the Committee and the Congress.

He loved this institution and that love was evident in his work each and every day. Without fail, his careful analysis of legal issues and sound judgment in rendering opinions and advice resulted in astute answers for the Committee. He also took great pride in mentoring junior Committee counsels and in explaining the intricacies of Committee procedure.

Mike will be missed by many, but we all understand that his retirement now clears his calendar for his other great passions in life travel and sports, particularly rooting for Notre Dame and the New York Yankees.

The Science Committee's Members and staff wish him well as he moves on to new endeavors and a relaxing retirement. Thank you, Mike, for your many years of dedicated and loyal service. 19TH ANNUAL WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Thursday, December 1, 2000

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, communities around the world came together to remember AIDS' more than 25 million victims and to renew our commitment to the 40 million people currently living with HIV/ AIDS.

The 19th annual World AIDS Day was both an opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made combating this illness and a reminder of all of the obstacles we must still overcome. Since 1981, our battle to combat the myths associated with AIDS, the discrimination against people infected with HIV, and the virus and disease themselves have all improved. However, AIDS continues to devastate every region of the world as 6,000 people, half of which are between 15 and 24 years old, become infected with HIV every day.

This year alone, almost 3 million people have died from AIDS, while more than 4 million more were infected with HIV. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 12 million children have been orphaned as a result of AIDS. In California, 56,000 people are currently living with AIDS, making up 14% of our nation's total AIDS population. The AIDS pandemic has become so widespread in our country that it is thought to have killed more than ten times the number of American soldiers killed in Vietnam. We cannot afford to turn a blind eye as this disease takes its toll on the American public.

We must do more to address this global health crisis. Congress must increase its aid for treatment and educational programs to countries burdened by catastrophically high infection rates. The U.S. must support and implement programs that increase the public's knowledge about proper ways to protect against HIV transmission. More people must receive treatment. Each year World AIDS Day is a wake-up call to the reality that we cannot be complacent with our accomplishments combating AIDS because so much more needs to be done.

That's why I have consistently supported measures to help poor nations get the medicines they need to fight AIDS, and have also joined efforts to fight for more funding for the Global Fund. We work to improve the care available to HIV/AIDS patients while ensuring that socioeconomic status does not limit a person's access to life-saving treatments. Additionally, it is essential that we continue to adequately fund the Ryan White CARE Act, which helps cities, states, and local communitybased organizations provide services to HIVpositive individuals who otherwise couldn't afford medication, transportation, food or housing. The time and effort Congress spends on implementing programs that deal with HIV prevention, treatment, education, and support must be in line with the true priorities of the American people. In that respect, we still have a lot of work to do.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate World AIDS Day because I believe we must take this opportunity to honor our commitment to those who have struggled with and continue to fight against this destructive disease. As we work to improve HIV/AIDS prevention and

treatment, let us do so with the dedication and the drive that the American public demands of us. As we look forward to the new Congress, let us confront this disease head on, finally putting forward the resources we need to conquer AIDS.

H.R. 1176, NONPROFIT ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, today H.R. 1176, the Nonprofit Athletic Organization Protection Act of 2006, was brought to the floor on the suspension calendar. The suspension process should only be used for bills that are non-controversial. The Republican leadership has once again abused the suspension calendar in order to limit debate on divisive issues. Accordingly, I will not vote to suspend the rules.

DOWNINGTOWN		WEST	HIGH
SCHOOL	GIRLS	SOCCER	TEAM
2006 PIAA	CHAMP	IONS	

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Downingtown West High School Girls Soccer Team for their recent 2–0 victory over the Moon Township High School to win their second Girls Soccer PIAA Class AAA Championship in three years. If fact, this was the same score that Downingtown beat Moon Township in 2004 to become Pennsylvania State Champions.

The Downingtown West Whippets were led by five seniors: Colleen Flanagan, Katelyn Capps, Amber Werner, Christine Thurwanger and Sarah Halpin. This group of seniors boasts three District 1 titles and one Ches-Mont League title in four years.

The Whippets played the championship game against Moon Township in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and managed to shut out the opposition with their determined and aggressive play.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring all of the players, coaches, and supporting staff of the 2006 Downingtown West Girls Soccer Team. The skill, hard work, and commitment to excellence by the entire team led to this spectacular athletic achievement. Their display of character and sportsmanship brings honor to Downingtown West High School and the entire community.

The team is comprised of: Katie Bauer, Hallie Berger, Jessicca Bourroughs, Rae Bradley, Laura Call, Katelyn Capps, Sarah Cardamone, Bridget Coleman, Christie Coper, Nicole Dankanich, Madison Davenport, Brynn Evans, Emily Fenimore, Colleen Flanagan, Laura Flanagan, Kelsea Fortino, Sarah Halpin, Brittney Hamil, Ashley Harrington, Devan Hibbs, Alyssa Johnson, Michelle LaBricciosa, Amanda Marino, Stephaine Myers, Morgan Obendorfer, Kelly Peterson, Jenny Schleinitz, Katie Schneider, Courtney Sicinski, Jamie Tabor, Christine Thurwanger, Tori Viscuso, Amber Werner, Christie Werner, Lauren Wilson, Courtney Wylie, Head Coach Rob Smith, Assistant Coaches Kelly Cross, Wes Davis, Meredith Markle, and Mary Schanne, and Athletic Trainers Joe lezzi and Jessica Korn.

CONDEMNING IRAN'S COMMIT-MENT TO HOLD INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST DENIAL CON-FERENCE

> SPEECH OF HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill H. Res. 1091, to condemn Iran's commitment to hold an international Holocaust-denial conference.

Recent reports that the Iranian government is sponsoring a Holocaust-denial conference are deeply disturbing and offensive.

Over the course of the last year, the tirades and actions of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the Iranian government have included calling the Holocaust a myth and holding an international contest for cartoons about the Nazi genocide. President Ahmadinejad has also called for Israel to be "wiped off the map," and his anti-Semitic rhetoric and this conference are clearly part of an ongoing campaign to attack the Jewish people and Israel by any possible means.

We live in a time in world history when we desperately need increased cooperation and understanding between nations and peoples in order to help reduce, not exacerbate, hostilities and tensions that can lead to deadly conflict.

There is no place for these state-sponsored anti-Israel and anti-Semitic provocations. And there is no justification, of course, for a conference on whether or not the Holocaust ever occurred. We all know that it did. To suggest otherwise is a repugnant and inflammatory action that is deeply disturbing to the Jewish people and to all people who had to endure the atrocities of World War II and all genocides that have occurred before and since.

I join my colleagues and the world community in rejecting and denouncing this effort to fan the flames of hatred.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY BULLDOZED IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I express my deep concern about the destruction of thirteen homes in a Hare Krishna commune outside of Almaty, Kazakhstan. It is a saddening development considering that Kazakhstan is a participating state in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and has been vigorously pursuing a bid to chair the OSCE in 2009. I am greatly troubled by the actions taken against this peaceful religious community, which is reminiscent of the "bad old days."

On November 21, 13 Hare Krishna homes were destroyed in the Sri Vrindavan Dham commune in the village of Seleksia, 25 miles from Almaty. Orders to bulldoze the homes reportedly came from the Karasai District Court, giving the residents only 24-hours notice to gather all their possessions. When the bull-dozers arrived, they came under the escort and supervision of riot police. The belongings of some who refused to leave were thrown out in the snow, and their furniture and larger household items taken away to be destroyed. Families were left without a home and many others left without water and electricity in the cold of winter.

More damage could still be done—53 more homes (one of which houses a temple) could be demolished and their 116-acre communal farm could be seized. Making this outrage all the more disturbing, the Karasai District Court reportedly announced that it will charge the community for the demolition expenses! I appreciate the strong statement issued by the U.S. Embassy in Astana urging Karasai district authorities to "refrain from any further aggressive actions."

The conflict over the commune has steadily intensified since a regional court ruled in March to confiscate the farm without compensation. A special government commission was established in response to international criticism to negotiate with the Hare Krishnas, but this process was short-circuited when the bulldozers revved up. Authorities justify these heartless actions by citing legal problems with the purchase of the farm by Hare Krishnas in 1999, but most observers believe this is nothing more than a land grab dressed up as a legal proceeding.

Despite Kazakhstan's positive reputation for religious tolerance, I have been concerned by governmental actions against minority religious communities, such as the heavy fines (and sometimes arrests) during the past six months against Baptist ministers representing unregistered congregations. Also worrisome are increasingly harsh government policies toward Muslims who practice their faith independent of the government-controlled Muftiate. While President Nazarbayev's initiative to bring world religions together to promote tolerance is laudable, his government's harsh treatment of small and independent groups displays a sad absence of tolerance.

In short, I do not believe these actions befit a country that would be a leader of nations. I urge President Nazarbayev and the Government of Kazakhstan to end these practices, withdraw the court cases to seize the Hare Krishnas' land, and ensure that all individuals are compensated for their lost property.

TRIBUTE TO LOVELLA CRADDOCK

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lovella Craddock of McLeansboro, Illinois for her many years of service to the citizens of Hamilton County, Illinois. Lovella began working part-time in the Hamilton County Clerk's Office in 1960, full-time in 1961 and was elected as Hamilton County Clerk in 1974. She will retire December I, 2006 after 46 years of service.

For the past 46 years, Lovella has greeted not only me, but also the citizens of Hamilton County, with a smile as they entered her office to conduct business. Her friendly and courteous service will be missed. It is with gratitude that I thank her for her service and congratulate her on retirement. I wish Lovella all the best in the years to come.

COMMENDING THE IRAQ STUDY GROUP

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the members of the Iraq Study Group and to thank them for their dedication and service to our country.

I have been to Iraq three times, the first two times without military escort. I traveled all over the country. Upon my return I called for the creation of a high level, bipartisan panel to take an honest assessment of the situation in Iraq. To look forward, not back, and to report its findings to the American people.

On March 15, this bipartisan Iraq Study Group was established with co-chairmen former Secretary of State James Baker and former Congressman Lee Hamilton, who cochaired the 9/11 Commission, leading the 10member panel—five Democrats and five Republicans. Because of the importance of their task in finding consensus on assessing the way forward in Iraq, at that time, I said it was important to have as members of the group people who loved their country more than their political party.

The group undertook a serious, bipartisan, forward-looking assessment of the current and prospective situation on the ground in Iraq and its impact on the surrounding region, and its consequences on U.S. interests. It focused on political, military, security and reconstruction in Iraq.

In addition to co-chairs, the study group members were former U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese, former Clinton Administration adviser Vernon Jordan, former Clinton Administration chief of staff Leon Panetta, former Defense Secretary William Perry, former Virginia Senator Chuck Robb, former Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson, former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. The group traveled to Iraq, and met with hundreds of experts.

Yesterday the Iraq Study Group released its much anticipated report on how we as a country can come together and move forward on Iraq. The report is a tough assessment of the current situation in Iraq and a blueprint for moving forward. Not everyone will agree with every recommendation contained in the report, but it should be given full consideration by the administration, the Congress, and equally important, the American people. Rarely do we see a report that has the full consensus of such distinguished Americans, men and women of honesty and integrity. I thank them for their service and a job well done. I also would like to thank members of my staff who worked on this issue including Christine Kojac and Mike Ringler of the Science-State-Justice-Commerce appropriations subcommittee, and Janet Shaffron and Samantha Stockman of my personal staff. A special thanks goes to my chief of staff, Dan Scandling, who accompanied me on my trips to Iraq and served as photographer and writer for the trip reports.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARNOLD "RED" AUERBACH

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Arnold "Red" Auerbach, the legendary coach, general manager, and president of the Boston Celtics. Red was the architect and mastermind of one of the most dominant franchises in professional sports history.

He coached the Celtics from 1950 to 1966, and during his tenure the franchise won nine NBA titles, including eight straight from 1959 to 1966—the longest string of championships in the history of North American professional sports. His historic coaching career ended in 1966 with 938 regular season victories, a record that stood until Lenny Wilkins broke it in the 1994–95 season and 9 championship rings, an amount only matched by the current Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson.

Auerbach was revered for his unique ability to scout and recognize talent. Throughout his time as a coach and in the front office he engineered some of the most historic trades and draft selections in NBA history. One of the most notable was in the 1956 NBA Draft when the franchise traded up to the second pick in the draft and selected Future Hall of Famer Bill Russell from the University of San Francisco. Also, while in the Celtic's front office, Auerbach assembled arguably the greatest front line in NBA history when he drafted Larry Bird in 1978 as a "junior eligible" selection and then in 1980 worked out a deal that brought Robert Parish to the team and allowed the franchise to draft Kevin McHale out of the University of Minnesota. All three players are now members of the NBA Hall of Fame and became the nucleus that led the Celtics to 3 world Championships in the 1980's

Auerbach's influence on the game went beyond the numerous victories and championships; he also was a pioneer in advancing race equality within the NBA. In 1950, the Celtics franchise selected Chuck Cooper of Duquesne University in the second round as the first black player to ever be selected in the NBA Draft. In addition during the 1963-64 season, Auerbach's starting line up of Bill Russell, K.C. Jones, Sam Jones, Tom Sanders, and Willie Naulls became the first all black starting line up in NBA history. And finally upon his retirement in 1966, Auerbach chose Bill Russell to succeed him as the coach of the Boston Celtics becoming the first African American to coach an American professional sports team.

Please join me in recognizing this American legend, his contributions to both the game of

basketball and the nation will be forever remembered.

THE SACRAMENTO RIVER NA-TIONAL RECREATION AREA ES-TABLISHMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Sacramento River National Recreation Area Establishment Act of 2006.

This bill was drafted with the direct input and involvement of locally elected leaders in Tehama County, California. It is the product of a citizen-led initiative. Written exchanges, phone calls, meetings, and an on-site visit were all part of the process that has led up to today.

On two separate occasions the Tehama County Board of Supervisors endorsed the concept of creating a National Recreation Area at the Sacramento River Bend, including, most recently, a unanimous endorsement of this specific legislation, which was passed on December 6, 2006. The Shasta County Board of Supervisors and the City of Redding, California both have formally expressed support for the creation of a recreation area at the Bend Area. Various constituents and organizations have done so as well.

Local officials expressed support for a national designation that focused on recreation and respected the nearby communities' goals and priorities. They wanted a designation to build on existing popular outdoors opportunities, such as horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and hiking. They wanted management of the land to attract tourists to the area in order to help the local economy. And they wanted to make sure that neighboring landowners and land uses were protected in the process. It was argued that a national designation for the Bend Area should be a "win-win" for everyone in the community. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that this legislation accomplishes this important priority.

In carrying out the wishes of local officials, the Sacramento River National Recreation Area Establishment Act of 2006 focuses on three important local priorities: recreation, community involvement, and landowner protection.

The bill directs the BLM to manage the Bend Area in a manner that encourages and promotes public recreation. The bill lists, at a minimum, sixteen separate recreational activities that are to occur and be enhanced for public enjoyment of the recreation area and, in turn, help create new economic opportunities for local businesses. Specific language is also included to ensure that this popular destination point for deer, wild turkey, dove, and pheasant hunting, and trophy-sized rainbow trout and salmon fishing remain open and accessible to the public.

The bill also authorizes the Secretary to develop recreation related facilities, such as new trails, restrooms, parking areas, and campgrounds, all of which will help make experiencing the Bend Area more enjoyable for Northstate families. Additionally, the bill clearly states that no fees for same-day use or access to the recreation area may be charged by the BLM unless significant recreation services are provided. This provision will help the public access the Bend Area free of charge for activities like an afternoon hike or bike ride. Any modest fees that could be charged at the Bend Area would be developed in consultation with the public and proceeds would be reinvested in local recreation and safety facilities.

Local involvement and participation is also required in the bill. The legislation would establish an "Advisory Council" to ensure that the ideas and concerns of local citizens are incorporated into a management plan for the area. The Advisory Council would be appointed by locally elected officials, and would consist of concerned citizens representing diverse backgrounds and viewpoints. And to ensure that everyone in the community has a chance to participate in the drafting of the management plan for the Bend Area, each meeting of the Advisory Council will be open to public observation and involvement. This important provision will ensure transparency without the unnecessary paperwork burdens and expense associated with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill protects private property rights. Local officials carefully drew the recreation area boundaries so as not to include private land. In addition, language was developed to ensure that landowners adjacent to the new recreation area are guaranteed full access to their property, and that efforts to improve or enhance such access are not limited in any way by this legislation. Existing water rights holders are also protected under this bill, as it plainly denies authority to the federal government to acquire water rights to further the purposes and needs of the recreation area. Lastly, livestock grazing, which is very important to the area I represent, is protected in this bill. Local officials supporting the legislation were clear: the right to continue to graze cattle in this area needs to be preserved.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a great pleasure for me to work with local officials and concerned citizens to develop this legislation. But our work is not over. In my view, you can never have too much local participation. Initiatives like this one succeed not because they were created in Congress or by national interest groups. They succeed because they are the product of an on-the-ground effort, led by those who live near and are the most familiar with this special area. I look forward to continuing to work with my constituents who have been involved in this legislation to this point, and urge anyone else with an interest to participate to do so.

This legislation is introduced in the spirit of local involvement and cooperation. It has been carefully written based on local needs and is worthy of the consideration and support of my colleagues in the House.

TRIBUTE TO GONZALES FAMILY

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a family recently devastated by a tragic drunk driving accident. On Saturday, November 11, Paul Gonzales, Renee Collins-Gonzales, and their
daughters, Alisha Garcia, Jacquelynn Gonzalez, and Selena Gonzales were killed in a horrific accident. Arissa Garcia, Renee's daughter, survived the terrible crash.

Paul was the co-owner of a small familyowned business in Las Vegas, New Mexico, a town he had lived in his whole life. Paul was well-known throughout his home town, especially as a strong supporter of youth sports and academics. A graduate of Robertson High School, he was continually involved in fundraising events for the high schools in the area. He was extremely active with the Robertson band and football team, even designing the 2006 District Championship t-shirts for the school. Extremely civic-minded, Paul was a member of the Las Vegas Fiesta Council and spent some of his spare time helping to restore historical buildings.

Renee, Paul's wife, was also a lifelong resident of Las Vegas. Renee spent her life caring for others, as a nurse at the hospital and in the West Las Vegas School System. Looking to increase her education, she was finishing her master's degree in nursing and was working towards becoming a nurse practitioner. Renee was extremely devoted to her family and always found the time to spend with each one of them.

Alisha, seventeen years old, was Renee's daughter and Paul's stepdaughter. She was a senior at West Las Vegas High School, and was scheduled to graduate in May 2007. Like her mother, she also was extremely dedicated to her family and enjoyed her role as the eldest sister, often putting the needs of her sisters ahead of her own. Alisha was continually active, participating in several sports and music programs, and also learning sign language.

Jacquelynn, the daughter of Paul and Renee, was eleven years old. A fifth grader, Jacquelynn enjoyed participating in her school's basketball and soccer teams, and also enjoyed other sports, camping, and fishing. She was thoughtful and giving, and enjoyed spending time with her family.

Selena, also the daughter of Paul and Renee, had celebrated her tenth birthday only three days before the tragic accident took her life. In fourth grade, Selena enjoyed school and was an honor student. She also enjoyed participating in sports and was known to be daring and to live life to the fullest. Like the rest of her family, she was considerate, thoughtful, and brought joy to all those around her.

While we remember these five extraordinary people, we must also show our support for Arissa, who was the only survivor of the accident. Arissa, who is fifteen, sustained injuries in the accident, but is slowly recuperating and is already back in school.

The members of this family have touched the lives of all members of the community, as was evident by the thousands of people who attended their services. I want to recognize the entire community for coming together to show their support to Arissa and her family. I also want to acknowledge the pledge that students, staff, teachers, friends, and other members of the community have made—that they will never drink and drive, that they will not let a friend drink and drive, and that they will not get into a vehicle with someone who is intoxicated. If more people were to take this pledge and stick with it, the number of drunk driving tragedies surely would decrease.

In recent years, New Mexico has taken many strides to curb drunk driving accidents throughout the State. In fact, recent figures have shown an 11 percent decrease in drunk driving accidents in the past year. However, this tragedy shows that even one drunk driver is one too many.

We all have our own horror stories of how our constituents have been affected by drunk driving accidents. Let's commit ourselves today to taking the necessary steps to truly attack this problem. I intend to work with local, State, and federal officials, as well as the families of the victims of this horrific crash and others that have been impacted by drunk driving to continue to attack this problem. We can only defeat this problem if we all work together.

PROPOSED RULE REGARDING THE MEDICARE PROGRAM AND REVI-SIONS TO PAYMENT POLICIES

HON. LUIS FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my concern over the proposed rule put forth earlier this year by the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the Medicare Program and revisions to payment policies under the physician fee schedule for calendar year 2007. This rule, as written, would have a negative impact on Puerto Rican doctors and their patients. While I fully support the overall objective of the changes-to ensure that HHS payment systems are updated to reflect changes in medical practice and the relative value of services-I am confident that can be achieved without inflicting another harmful financial burden on Puerto Rico. I would support legislative activity that would prevent further cuts from taking place.

First, it must be understood that the cost of living in Puerto Rico is at least the same, if not higher than in the U.S. mainland. As a matter of fact, the costs of transportation, water, electric power and housing are all notably higher on the Island. These cost differentials were not adequately considered in the proposed rule.

Under the proposed rule, Puerto Rico would be forced to assume two large losses. The first is on the elimination of the payment floor with slightly over a 2 percent cut, plus the cuts in each of the specialties. Radiology would suffer the most, with an average cut of 16 percent. This is an issue that affects doctors, patients and ultimately the quality of care that can be provided to those most in need. I strongly recommend that these proposed reductions be suspended for calendar year 2007, and that the impact of any further floor reductions be considered thoroughly before implementation.

As you know, Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens and pay the same Medicare payroll taxes and deductibles as their fellow citizens in the 50 States. Thus, we must ensure that Medicare recipients in Puerto Rico have the same access to quality health care as those in the 50 States, and that health care providers on the Island receive satisfactory reimbursements for their services.

RECOGNIZING TAFT COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S "TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENT LIVING PRO-GRAM" FOR YOUNG AUTISTIC ADULTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of this House who has long voiced concerns about the lack of concerted federal action to deal with the growing epidemic of autism in this country, I was very encouraged by yesterday's passage of the "Combating Autism Act."

Although I believe that we missed an opportunity in this bill to resolve the problem of mercury in vaccines and its connection to autism, there is no denying that the Combating Autism Act represents a long overdue and significant expansion of the federal government's response to the autism epidemic. The bill commits an unprecedented \$945 million in federal funds over five years to combating autism through research, screening, better interventions and education efforts.

But we should be under no illusion that the job is finished. Autism is a condition that has no known cure, which means that this is a crisis that is simply not going to "go away." What we have done is realistically only a small down payment on the vast resources that we must invest in order to deal with this terrible scourge. For example, in my own State of Indiana we experienced a 923 percent cumulative growth rate for autism from 1992-2003. The annual growth rate of autism in Indiana averaged 27 percent compared to an average of 7 percent for the growth rate of all disabilities. And Indiana's experience is by no means unique. In fact, as a Nation we have gone from roughly 1 case of autism for every 10.000 births in the 1980's to 1 in every 166 today.

What this means in practical terms is that we are now at the beginning of what can be considered a "bubble" of older children who have been diagnosed and treated for autism, who now must face the challenges of their disease in a post-secondary environment and beyond. The "No Child Left Behind Act" has given our schools the tools to do an excellent job of providing additional teachers, curriculum and individual educational programs for our students with autism. But this assistance is largely confined to the K-12 years and for the most part our schools are only just beginning to effectively meet the growing learning needs of that age group. We are therefore still woefully ill prepared for the unique problems our post-secondary young autistic adults will face as they transition from a relatively protected learning environment to the demands of our modern life. We must recognize the plight of these older children with autism and commit ourselves to providing the additional resources necessary to deal with their unique problems as we have done for younger children with autism.

Recently, I was privileged to meet with officials from Taft Community College, located in Kern County, California. Taft, I am told is one of only two institutions throughout the country currently exploring ways to dealing with this impending crisis. I understand that for the last ten years Taft has pioneered a "Transition to Independent Living Program" (TIL) which provides a structured environment for post-secondary special needs students to successfully meet the demands of our modern world. According to the statistics compiled by Taft Community College President, Dr. Roe Darnell, the achievements of these students and graduates are truly remarkable. I understand that fully 81 percent of the program's graduates are employed and 94 percent live independently. When you consider that the national employment average for all classes of people with a disability is only 37 percent, these results are noteworthy.

According to Dr. Darbell, other "Snapshots of Success" include: 93 percent of graduates receive no financial help; 90 percent of graduates use public transportation; 95 percent have a checking account; 80 percent have a savings account.

The Taft Community College curriculum teaches life skills and independent living strategies to its students, with TIL students receiving vocational training, ethics training and assistance in developing sound work habits. A moderately size dormitory in the middle of campus is utilized by Taft Community College as a "laboratory" to practice life skills, and Taft officials believe that one of the keys to the success of their TIL program is its emphasis on residential living.

Now I understand that the Taft program handles high functioning adults with autism, which means that the techniques and skills taught to these students may not be completely applicable to young adults, who are more severely autistic, but the pioneering efforts and achievements of President Darnell, his teachers, students and TIL program graduates should be applauded.

Programs like those at Taft will not solve the whole problem of how to deal with the impending boom of autistic adults, but I think it is certainly possible that they are a part of the solution. I sincerely hope that many of the approximately 2,000 community colleges around the country will also begin to recognize the growing educational needs of this underserved population and explore the idea of adopting programs like Taft's TIL, if appropriate, and if not, push the boundaries of what is possible for these victims of autism.

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE: MOVING FROM ETHNIC CLEANSING AND GENOCIDE TO EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, when I was appointed chairman of the Helsinki Commission in early 1995, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. foreign policy establishment and its European counterparts were seized by a genocidal conflict of aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina. Many here in the Congress were already deeply involved in bipartisan efforts to end the conflict by urging a decisive, international response under U.S. leadership. I can still recall the sense of horror, outrage, and shame when the Srebrenica massacre occurred and nothing was done to stop it and

other atrocities committed against civilians. Slobodan Milosevic, meanwhile, was comfortably entrenched as Serbia's leader, with Kosovo under his repressive thumb. The situation was truly bleak.

Today, relative calm prevails throughout the Balkans region, though simmering tensions and other serious problems could lead to renewed crisis and conflict, if left unchecked. Overcoming the legacy of the past and restoring dignity and ensuring justice for the victims will require sustained engagement and vigilance. Integrating the countries of the region into European institutions can advance this process.

Slovenia has become a full-fledged member of both NATO and the European Union. Croatia is well on its way to similar membership, and Macedonia and Albania are making steady progress in the right direction. In a welcome development, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the epicenter of bloody carnage and mass displacement in the mid–1990s, was invited last week to participate in NATO's Partnership for Peace Program, along with Serbia and the newly independent state of Montenegro.

As a longstanding member and leader of the Helsinki Commission, I want to highlight some of the numerous initiatives we have undertaken in an attempt to draw attention to developments in the Balkans and to influence related policy. Since 1995, we have convened more than 20 hearings on specific aspects of the region as well as related briefings, legislation, letters, statements and meetings. These efforts have been undertaken with an uncommon degree of bipartisanship. In this regard, I particularly want to thank the Commission's outgoing ranking member, Mr. CARDIN of Maryland, for helping to make this a reality.

Among the Commission's most noteworthy accomplishments, I would include garnering the strong support that contributed to the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and pressing countries to cooperate in bringing those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide to justice. I would include the change in U.S. policy from relying on Milosevic to implement the Dayton agreement to supporting democracy in Serbia as the long-term and genuine partner in building regional peace and stability.

We have maintained a significant focus on elections, encouraging all the countries in the region to strive to meet international standards for free and fair elections as well as referenda. There has been tremendous progress in this regard.

The Commission's support for the OSCE, I believe, has helped the organization's field activities in southeastern Europe to be more successful in promoting respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all the people, regardless of ethnicity. Finally, on the more controversial policy of NATO's action against Serbia in 1999, the Commission served as a forum to air differing views on the policy response while finding common ground in addressing the humanitarian crises, documenting human rights abuses and holding human rights violators to account.

Mr. Speaker, while welcoming this progress in southeastern Europe, I would caution against complacency as the region faces significant challenges. Maintaining positive momentum will require much from actors in the region as well as the international community, including the United States.

First and foremost is the situation in Kosovo. The pending decisions that will be made on Kosovo's status give rise to growing expectation as well as apprehension and concern. Despite the many debates on larger issues of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and self-determination, these decisions should and will ultimately be judged by whether or not they lead to improved respect for human rights, especially the rights of those people belonging to the Serb, Roma and other minority communities in Kosovo. The members of the minority communities deserve to be treated as people, not as pawns in a fight over territory and power. They should be allowed to integrate rather than remain isolated, and they should not be discouraged from integration when opportunities arise. I remain deeply concerned that these issues are not being given the attention they deserve. Whatever Kosovo becomes, OSCE and other international human rights standards must apply.

Similarly, there is a need to ensure that justice is vigorously pursued for the victims of horrendous human rights violations. Conditionality on assistance to Serbia, as well as on that country's integration, must remain firmly in place until Belgrade cooperates fully in locating at-large indicted war criminals and facilitating their transfer to the ICTY in The Hague. It is an outrage that Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic remain at large. After refusing to take meaningful action on these cases, Serbia can not be let off the hook now, but should be pressed to comply with its international obligations.

A related issue is that of missing persons. Ten years after Dayton, additional mass graves continued to be uncovered, and the identification of the remains of relatives and loved ones is important for the survivors of past atrocities and their societies. The Commission recently held a briefing on identifying remains found in mass graves in Bosnia, and I hope that support for determining the fate of missing persons can be further strengthened.

While some progress has been made in combating trafficking in persons in the region, all countries there need to intensify their efforts to end this modern-day form of slavery. Political will and adequate resources will be required, including through enhanced efforts by law enforcement and more vigorous prosecution of traffickers while providing protection for their victims.

Religious freedoms also remain a cause for concern. Various laws in the region allegedly providing for religious freedom do more to restrict this fundamental right by establishing thresholds for registration, by discriminating against small or new religious groups through tiers of recognition with associated privileges for traditional faiths, and by precluding the sharing of creeds or limiting free speech. These restrictions are particularly burdensome to smaller religious groups and can lead to stigmatization, harassment, and discrimination against their members. For instance, Kosovo's new religion law singles out certain communities for special status while failing to address how other religious groups can obtain juridical personality as a religious organization, thereby creating a significant legal void from the start. I urge Kosovo authorities to follow the progressive Albanian system and create a neutral registration system of general applicability. Macedonia is considering a draft law now, and I hope authorities will fully adopt the recommendations of the OSCE Panel of Experts

on Religious Freedom, as certain provisions of the draft regarding the granting of legal personality need additional refinement. I similarly call on Serbian officials to amend their current law and ensure all groups seeking registration receive legal status. Meanwhile, there is a need to step up efforts to respect the sanctity and ensure the safety of places of worship that have in the past been the targets of ethnically based violence in Kosovo, Bosnia, Serbia and elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, concerted efforts by courageous leaders in the Balkans and elsewhere have helped move the region from the edge of the abyss to the threshold for a brighter and more prosperous future. I congratulate the countries of southeastern Europe on the progress achieved thus far and encourage them to make further progress to ensure that all of the people of the region benefit.

TRIBUTE TO WESTERVELT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Westervelt Christian Church on the occasion of its induction into the National Register of Historic Places in February 2006. Westervelt Christian Church celebrated this special occasion with a ceremony on October 8, 2006.

The church was formed in 1921 after the Antioch Church families, living in Westervelt, felt they were traveling too far for services and desired that a new Christian church be built in Westervelt. It is believed that charter members of the First Christian Church were accepted on October 31, 1921 and that a list of these members was placed in the cornerstone of the church.

The church, built in classical revival style, was built during the years of 1921, 1922 and 1923. The lots for the church were donated by E.D. and Alpharetta Kerr and Charles and Minnie Donnel. The architect was Charles Harris and he designed the interior of the church to have outstanding acoustics while the outside of the building was designed to resemble a Greek temple. The building was dedicated on May 6, 1923. To this day, the church still uses the original theater seats, an original serving table in the basement as well as the original hanging lights.

In 1968, the congregation of First Christian Church decided to remove themselves from the Disciples of Christians Churches. The church formed new articles of incorporation and changed the name to Westervelt Christian Church, a now independent Christian church. Today, the church has the following mission statement, "The mission of the Westervelt Christian Church is to exalt and worship Almighty God by living, teaching and preaching the gospel of His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ as revealed to us by His holy word, the Bible."

I am pleased to congratulate Westervelt Christian Church on this special occasion. My prayers are with the church during this special time. May God bless the congregation of Westervelt Christian Church. GAMBLING EXPLOSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Thursduy, December 1, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, gambling is exploding throughout our country. I am deeply concerned about the impact this is having on our society. Gambling destroys families and preys on the poor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share some comments from a recent speech delivered by Rev. Tom Grey, national spokesman and field director for the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion. Rev. Grey gave these remarks to the Seventh Annual Commercial Real Estate Deal Maker Forum on October 24, 2006, in Cleveland, Ohio, as Ohio voters were considering the question on the Ohio ballot to legalize casino gambling. The proposal, which included money allocated for education, was dubbed the "Earn and Learn" initiative. Voters defeated the initiative 57–43 percent on election day, November 7.

Tom has worked to bring attention to the harm gambling can bring to families and communities. Excerpts of Tom Grey's speech follow:

Gambling is like a fungus. If it gets started in one region, it tends to spread. We saw this happening, and in 1994 we formed, from the bottom up, a national organization to fight it. We gathered local and state activists and formed the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. We started sharing information and we challenged the spread of gambling at the ballot box. We did that in the peak of hard times for states. State budgets were upside down all across the country, and the casinos were pitching gambling as 'the force of history, the wave of the future.' In the beginning there were bands playing while governors cut ribbons and welcomed the riverboats as economic salvation. The promoters declared that gambling was 'inevitable,' but a decade later we now know it isn't even desirable.

The wave of gambling hit a wall when we started exposing the product. Key votes in Ohio, Rhode Island, Missouri, and Florida surprised the gambling promoters. Voters turned it down. They burst the balloon of inevitability. The promoters lost. Ordinary citizens were successful. It's at the ballot box where we have our best results. They can buy legislators with their threats and big campaign contributions, but they can't buy elections.

Gambling is and always has been an 'other side of the tracks business.' Do you really believe that valued lakeside museums and gateway sports complexes are enhanced by having a casino next to them? In addition, there are terrible side effects with this product. Read the label. 'May Cause'—no—'WILL cause addiction, bankruptcy, crime and corruption.'

Well, most of you are here this morning because you are business people whose businesses rise with the tide of a flourishing Cleveland, the community where you live and do business. Let me use an example from one of America's most admired businessmen from the past named Herb Taylor.

For Taylor, a deal wasn't a good deal unless it was a good deal for everyone. Every deal, and every major business decision, had to pass these four questions, or tests:

Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? IS IT THE TRUTH?

The casino crowd has made billions turning teachers, school kids and PTA parents into gambling lobbyists. They do this by promising money for education, and that's exactly what they're doing in Ohio. Gambling promoters need to pick education or some other worthy community cause to buy their way into our communities or states. They want us to overlook the fact that the lion's share of the money goes to them. In Ohio, it's 55 percent. They want us to think the money's not going to the gambling promoters; they want you to think it's going to the schools

Gambling isn't new money. It's re-directed money. It's trading dollars. Gambling came to New Mexico in 1994, and by 1998 the state's Secretary of Taxation and Revenue reported roughly \$1 to \$1.2 billion per year in other taxable sales had fallen off the balance sheet. Entertainment, retail, restaurants, and services took huge hits from the casinos, and as a result, paid far less in taxes. The best the economists could say was the economy was playing a 'zero sum game.' The casinos were winning and the other businesses were losing.

Is the gambling sales pitch the truth? NO! No state has gambled itself rich, including Nevada-a state that should serve as a model for what a state can produce with gambling. Nevada recently passed the largest tax increase in that state's history. Republican Governor Kenny Guinn told his legislature in his inaugural address. 'Our revenue system is broken because it has relied on regressive and unstable taxes.' (Guinn understands that when you take money from the citizens to run the government, it's still taxes, even if you do it with a slot machine.) Guinn told his legislature, 'Implicit in this (gambling) tax strategy was a belief that the revenues from gaming and tourism could keep pace with our growing and diverse population. Unfortunately, this strategy has failed.'

Nevada ranks near the bottom in per pupil spending on education, and spends less per capita on Medicaid than any other state. If those two areas don't concern you, take a look at where Nevada ranks in high school dropout rates, teen pregnancy, and children living in poverty. If the epicenter of gambling can't gamble itself rich—if the posterchild of casino-gunded government can't balance the budget, and if the model of slot machine largesse fails its kids so miserably, why would Ohio want to follow Nevada on its downward path?

IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?

The simple truth is that 30 to 50 percent of casino gambling money comes from problem and pathological gamblers. Can anyone think of anything more cynical than funding education on the backs of sick and troubled people?

There are about 400 of you here this morning. If casinos come to town, you can expect about 12 of you will become this kind of addicted gambler. You might not steal, but the addiction will likely cost you your home, your savings, your family, and your self respect. It could be you, your spouse, your siblings, your children. In the end, this addiction humiliates formerly great citizens to the point of desperation and even suicide. Gambling addicts think about suicide more than any other addictive group, and they act on those thoughts.

Inviting a casino to town is playing Russian roulette with your friends and neighbors; employees and business partners. At 3 percent, which is conservative in a casino town, it would be like giving you a handgun with 400 chambers, and 12 of them are loaded. Are you sure you want to pass that around the tables? Are you willing to pull that trigger?

New addicted gamblers cost more than \$11,000 each—MINIMUM in 'externalities.' That's extra costs the society pays for law enforcement, incarcerations, lost worker productivity, divorce, health care and the like. Gambling isn't entertainment like shopping or the movies. It always brings with it a tide of what we call the ABCs of Gambling: Addiction, Bankruptcy, Crime and Corruption. These cost the state, and the taxpayers, and you, the businesses, money. That's why gambling is a net loss to the economy.

So what's your share? Let's do the math. Park a casino in your town, and the addiction rate will hit 3 percent or higher. Each new addict costs the economy more than \$11,000. That's about \$33,000 for each hundred people, or \$330 a year for each of you. And that's using the most conservative numbers available!

WILL IT BUILD GOOD WILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Well, I doubt it. Making slots promoters rich by turning citizens into losers isn't a friendly relationship. It's adversarial, predatory and parasitic. It doesn't build friendship. It builds cynicism and despair. Good will means the customer goes home and says I got a good deal.

Why does gambling have to keep expanding? Why do the casinos need to be open at 3 in the morning? Because that's what it takes to suck the addicted people dry. You just don't see many church-going college graduates that pay their credit cards on time yanking on slot machines at 3 in the morning. Did you notice this proposal has already set the stage for the conversion of slots parlors into full-blown casinos?

Corruption is government trying to make losers of its citizens by legalizing something that damages the very health of its citizens, all under the guise of a painless revenue stream. Take another look. The revenue stream is running backwards, and the pain is intense. History has proven this—over and over again. Gambling does not build friendships. It builds dependencies. It breeds corruption.

WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

Beneficial to all means everyone should be better off, not worse off. John Kennedy once said a rising tide lifts all boats. If gambling made all winners, it would be beneficial to all concerned. Of course, gambling makes losers and the citizens are worse off because of that. Even the people who never gamble lose money: the citizens and taxpayers. They get stuck with additional costs that they didn't have before: those public health and crime costs that ALWAYS follow gambling.

In order to enrich themselves, these slots promoters are asking you to divert money from legitimate businesses, move jobs from real commerce to casinos, and give the taxpayers the bill for the social costs. Remember, the promoters openly admit they expect Ohio to sacrifice the health and lives of 109,000 of its citizens. They propose to make those people very sick, and then spend another \$28 million to treat them. And even that sum isn't going to cover the bill. Not by a long shot. Do the math.

Multiply that 109,000 new addicts the promoters ADMIT they will cause, times the \$11,000 each for social costs. That comes to \$1,199,000,000 loss for the economy of Ohio. Why would we accept making 109,000 people sick, and then losing more than a billion dollars from the economy to boot?

The Pew Research Center just this year found three important changes in Americans' thoughts about gambling. First, they found that 7 in 10 Americans say that legalized gambling encourages people to gamble more than they can afford. That's up about 10 percent in the past 10 years. Second, a plurality, 42 percent of adults say casinos have a negative impact on their communities, while only about a third, 34 percent, say casinos have a positive impact. Third, and most revealing, the study found that only 23 percent of Americans actually enjoy gambling. That's down from 34 percent just 10 years ago. Think about that. If your product drops 11 percent in the people who enjoy it, you're in trouble.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM FELICE, FLORIDA PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. William F. Felice, a professor of Political Science at Eckerd College, who has been named the 2006 Florida Professor of the

Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Felice was honored here in Washington on November 16th along with professors of the year from 43 states,

It is my privilege to represent Eckerd College, a St. Petersburg, Florida college led by its President Donald R. Eastman III, which emphasizes quality undergraduate education. Dr. Felice is one of many outstanding members of the Eckerd faculty.

Motivating students in his international relations classes is Dr. Felice's principal goal as a professor. He is highly successful as since 1995 when he joined the Eckerd faculty, he has been awarded some of the college's highest honors by his students and his peers. He received the John M. Bevan Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award in 2005. The students voted him the Professor of the Year in 2003 and the faculty voted him the Robert A. Staub Distinguished Teacher of the Year in 1999.

This latest honor though is not his first national recognition, as he earned the 1999 American Political Science Association (APSA) Outstanding Teacher in Political Science Award from APSA and Phi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

Mr. Speaker, following my remarks I would like to include for the benefit of my colleagues a profile of Dr. Felice published by Eckerd College. Clearly he has found a way to inspire his students to study more about the world around them and I commend him for this great honor and for the personal energy and enthusiasm he brings to the classroom.

"My primary pedagogical method is to teach international relations in a Socratic style, constantly questioning and interacting with the students in the class. I strive to motivate students to understand the importance of international relations by my example. With conviction and passion, I try to show students how central these issues are, both to my own personal intellectual journey and to world affairs."—William F. Felice

William F. Felice, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science at Eckerd College, has been named the 2006 Florida Professor of the Year by the prestigious Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The U.S. Professors of the Year Program, administered by

the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), is the only national initiative specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

Professor Felice was recognized on November 16, 2006 in a Washington, D.C. awards ceremony along with professors from 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam. The following day, also in Washington, Florida Congressman C.W. Bill Young extended personal congratulations to Professor Felice.

"It is a fitting tribute to Professor Felice to be recognized as the 2006 Florida Professor of the Year," said Eckerd College President Donald R. Eastman III. "Professor Felice epitomizes what is one of Eckerd College's greatest strengths in the academic program: the mentoring relationship between the professor and student. Professor Felice, who exudes passion in his teaching about human rights and social justice, motivates students to find the courage to address issues of poverty and despair with a sense of hope that their efforts will make a difference in this world."

"Not only has Prof. Felice distinguished himself as a truly outstanding teacher whose impact on students is profound," said Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Lloyd W. Chapin, "he has contributed substantially to building an extraordinary undergraduate International Relation and Global Affair Program that offers students unique opportunities to study both here and abroad. They study at the United Nations in New York City and in Geneva, Switzerland, and complete domestic and international service learning projects. Highly respected also for his curricular leadership, he coordinated our capstone senior course. Quest for Meaning, from 2004-2006 earning rave reviews from the interdisciplinary team of twenty faculty who participate in the course.

"Repeatedly, students tell me stories of the transformative effect that Professor Felice has had on their intellectual and ethical lives."

HOW TWO FORMER STUDENTS REMEMBER PROFESSOR FELICE

Professor Felice's courses have included Ethics and International Relations, Introduction to International Relations, Quest for Meaning, International Political Economy, Geneva and International Cooperation, Human Rights and International Law.

"Dr. Felice inspires and motivates his students in many ways, but one of his greatest gifts as a teacher is his ability to teach about empathy toward the poverty-stricken and oppressed in our local community and on a global scale."

—Kathleen Deegan, B.A., Eckerd College, 2003

"One professor in particular sticks out in my mind as a humble hero whose passion and enthusiasm for life and education infuse his teaching with boundless energy, encourage his colleagues to aspire to higher levels of learning and teaching and inspire his students in ways admired by many and replicated by few. Though I honestly believe that Professor Felice could easily have led a life of fame, world travel and excitement as a politician or an international affairs consultant, I am selfishly grateful that he chose to dedicate so much of his time to teaching and I hope that he realizes just how great an impact he has made in that role."

-Taryn Fielder, B.A., summa cum laude, Eckerd College, 1999; J.D., Harvard Law School, 2002

TEACHING AWARDS

Professor Felice joined the Eckerd College faculty in 1995. Since then Professor Felice has received Eckerd College's John M. Bevan Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award $(\overline{2005})$, and he has been recognized by the students as Professor of the Year (2003) and by the faculty as the Robert A. Staub Distinguished Teacher of the Year (1999). In 1999, Professor Felice received the APSA Outstanding Teaching in Political Science Award, presented by the American Political Science Association (APSA) and Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

Professor Felice earned his B.A. in History from the University of Washington; his M.S. in Political Economy from Goddard College; and his Ph.D. in Political Science/International Relations from New York University. Prior to joining Eckerd College, he taught at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn.

SCHOLARSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS

Professor Felice has published two books that are highly regarded by scholars in the field, Taking Suffering Seriously (1996) and The Global New Deal (2003). In The Global New Deal, Professor Felice wrote, "There is nothing preordained by either the structure of the international system of states or the economic system of the market that makes economic and social human rights a dream. They are not a utopian fantasy. They can be achieved. The question is: Do we have the courage to walk the path?"

He has also published numerous articles and academic papers which address international issues and human rights, including, "Human Rights Disparities between Europe and the United States: Conflicting Approaches to Poverty Prevention and the Alleviation of Suffering," (Cambridge Review of International Affairs, Vol. 19, No. 1, March 2006) and "The UN Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination," (Human Rights Quarterly, Vol. 24, No. 1, February 2002). Professor Felice serves on the editorial board of the journal Human Rights and Human Welfare.

CARNEGIE COUNCIL ON ETHICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

During the 2004-05 academic year, in collaboration with the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs (CCEIA), Professor Felice led a four-part lecture series, "America and the World: Ethical Dimensions to Power." The series inspired a booklet distributed nationally. Ethical Dimensions to American Foreign Policy: A Study Guide to the Four Freedoms, From 1999-2005, he served as a CCEIA Trustee.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY IN CONVERSATION

In the 2006-07 Col. Christian L. and Edna M. March International Relations Lecture Series, which is also part of the Presidential Events Series, Professor Felice coordinates the program on "The Ethics of Economic Globalization." Invited speakers this year include Peter Singer, Jagdish Bhagwati, Micheline Ishay and Gita Sen. At The Studio@620 in downtown St. Petersburg, Professor Felice serves as co-facilitator of the 620 Round Tables on Social Justic, co-sponsored by Eckerd College.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY HYDE

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Representative HENRY HYDE. HENRY has been a devoted public servant to the people of Illinois and this Nation for many decades and it at the end of this session.

HENRY began his political career in the Illinois State House in 1966, rising to the rank of majority leader before turning his sights to Washington. Coming to Congress in 1975, HENRY is leaving Washington as one of the most distinguished and well respected Members to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. He had the unique honor to serve as Chairman of two of the biggest committees, the Judiciary Committee and the International Relations Committee. Throughout his time here he has fought diligently for many worthwhile causes and led us through some of the most tumultuous times in our nation's history, but what I will remember HENRY HYDE most for was the way he carried himself while serving our citizens.

Always honest, passionate, and fair, HENRY HYDE is an example to us all about the ways we should carry ourselves in these hallowed halls. Mr. Speaker, this Congress will miss HENRY HYDE and his influence and I rise today to say thank you and God Bless.

HONORING KING COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF STEVE COX

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in the House, my constituents in Washington's 7th Congressional District, and First Responders across America to join me in honoring a fallen hero, King County Deputy Sheriff Steve Cox.

Last weekend, Steve Cox, an extraordinary public servant, was killed in the line of duty while interviewing witnesses to a shooting in the White Center neighborhood of Seattle, Washington. The tragic loss of this 9 year veteran of law enforcement has stunned and saddened our entire community.

Steve Cox had become the White Center neighborhood's Superhero. Area residents remembered Deputy Cox in The Seattle Times as the person "who was single-handedly making the streets safer and the neighborhood better. He became so deeply involved in community issues that he was elected president of the local Council. To his family, he was a man who had found new joy since he and his wife, Maria, adopted a baby, Bronson, who turned 1 in October '

Deputy Cox exhibited a personal and steadfast commitment to law enforcement and community safety that spanned varied sides of the law enforcement profession. The son of teachers, Deputy Cox was an attorney and served as a deputy prosecutor in Franklin and King Counties prior to becoming a King County Sheriff's Deputy 9 years ago.

I had the honor of meeting Deputy Cox in our community. I know that he touched the lives of so many that he so honorably served.

Deputy Steve Cox led by example. He was and will always be a role model of selfless public service. We mourn his passing, but we are grateful for the life he led on our behalf and the legacy of idealism and heroism we will never forget.

is hard to see him leave the Halls of Congress IN RECOGNITION OF THE SAINT JEAN BAPTISTE CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125th ANNIVER-SARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the Saint Jean Baptiste Church in New York City. The Church began celebrating its 125th anniversary year on Saturday, December 2nd. Founded by Frenchspeaking residents of the Yorkville neighborhood in Manhattan, Saint Jean Baptiste began as a national church with special permission from the Holy See. Saint Jean Baptiste Church has since become a blessed sanctuary for Catholics of all backgrounds and a familiar and beloved institution on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

The Societé Saint Jean Baptiste, founded by Gabriel Franchére in 1850, first launched a project to establish a national parish for New York's burgeoning francophone Catholic community under the guidance of Father Peter Cazeneuve. At an organizing meeting held in 1881, local worshipers resolved to hold religious services in a central location and took a collection, raising twelve dollars. This was but the first drop in what was to become a torrent of generosity from supporters of Saint Jean Baptiste. Before the erection of its first church, parishioners held services in a rented hall located over a stable, affectionately known as the "Crib of Bethlehem." Because of their dedication to establishing their own congregation, John Cardinal McCloskey of New York granted Saint Jean Baptiste's parishioners permission to build their own church in 1882. Later that year occurred a groundbreaking and a ceremony blessing the cornerstone presided over by Archbishop Michael Corrigan.

A decade later, the Church became a shrine to Saint Anne when the Right Reverend J.C. Marquis of Canada bore the relic of Saint Anne from Rome to the Church en route to Canada. When news spread that the relic of Saint Anne was to be shown to the parishioners, a large crowd filled the church that evening. One parishioner, an epileptic, was suffering from convulsions that were said to have been cured immediately upon being touched by the relic. In the following days and weeks, crowds estimated in the hundreds of thousands visited the little church, with many traveling from as far away as New England and the Middle Atlantic states. Deeply moved by the outpouring of devotion, Monsignor Marquis arranged to divide the sacred relic of Saint Anne, and a novena was dedicated in her honor. The relic was soon joined by another bestowed by Pope Leo XIII that was sent from the Shrine of Sainte Anne d'Apt in France.

At the turn of the twentieth century, the Church of Saint Jean Baptiste opened another important chapter in its storied existence when it became the location of a Eucharistic shrine. Today, it is one of just two churches in all of New York City that are served by the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, an apostolic organization whose religious life centers on the power of the mystery of the Eucharist. Increasingly, Saint Jean Baptiste Church began to serve a diverse range of Catholics

from all walks of life and backgrounds. A generous benefactor, Mr. Thomas Fortune Ryan, made significant contributions that allowed the Church to build a magnificent new building that could accommodate 1,200 worshipers. The international prize-winning design by Nicholas Serracino provided a church of the purest Renaissance style, constructed of Indiana limestone, with twin towers surmounting the edifice, arches and fluted pilasters supporting the rounded ceiling that covering three naves, a wide cornice extending around the nave and at the middle height of the apse, and an impressive approach of church-wide steps. The new building's cornerstone at Lexington Avenue and East 76th Street in Manhattan was laid in 1912, and the new Church was fully completed two years later.

Today, Saint Jean Baptiste Church remains a thriving institution, offering spiritual sanctuary, education, social services, and a wide range of other programs to the people of New York City. Under the able stewardship of the Reverend Anthony Schueller, S.S.S., the Saint Jean Baptiste Church continues to uphold its proud history and traditions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions to the civic and spiritual good of the people of New York City made by the historic Saint Jean Baptiste Catholic Church and its parishioners, past, present and future.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. MARION RAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sgt. Marion Ray on the book signing release for his book, Damn Cold and Starving, which tells his story as a prisoner of war. He was part of the 106th Infantry Division, 424th Regiment, First Battalion.

Sgt. Ray and fellow infantrymen were captured on December 17, 1944, by two German soldiers in Winterspelt, Germany, and were held until the spring of 1945. This was the first day of the Battle of the Bulge. During his time as a POW, Sgt. Ray was held in three different internment camps. He uses his book to describe the main hardships and difficulties he encountered.

It is a pleasure to thank Sgt. Marion Ray for his service to our great Nation. I appreciate his service and sacrifice and know his book makes a great contribution to our Nation's history.

HONORING GARY STEWART OF DUCKS UNLIMITED

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gary Stewart for his decades of work as one of North America's finest waterfowl biologists, and to thank him for all that he has done to mobilize a diverse group of interested parties to further the goals of conservation. His leadership has aided conservationists throughout the Pacific Flyway in maintaining viable waterfowl populations and protecting key landscapes. He is retiring from a prestigious career with Ducks Unlimited Canada in December 2006.

Mr. Stewart began his efforts with waterfowl on the Prairies of Manitoba studying bluewinged teal. His career with Ducks Unlimited Canada ignited in 1979 as a young, energetic Area Biologist starting a program in New Brunswick. After 5 years, he traveled west to take on the challenge of Alberta Provincial Biologist. In that role, Gary advanced many important scientific and program delivery components of the vital Alberta landscape for over a dozen years, including critical planning and delivery of early NAWMP activities.

From his knowledge of the key waterfowl breeding areas, Mr. Stewart stimulated Flyway concern and support for conservation in the Prairies and Boreal Forest. This conservation outreach extended to the western U.S., major donors, industry partners, First Nations, and governments. A key linkage was established among Ducks Unlimited, Pacific Flyway waterfowl biologists, and especially the State of California. He was instrumental in coordinating the first Flyway biologist meeting with Ducks Unlimited Canada staff, and he built a strong cross-border working relationship with the Western Regional Office of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and U.S. partners.

In 1997 Mr. Stewart pioneered work in the Western Boreal Forest as Manager of Conservation Programs, a task at which he excelled. Under his leadership, the Western Boreal Forest readily became known across the continent as "the other duck factory," with a unique set of values and challenges. His entrepreneurial spirit, passion, energetic approach and strategic thinking have resulted in a greatly increased understanding of the landscape and several specific examples of critical conservation.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, Mr. Stewart has earned a great deal of personal and professional respect from those who have had the pleasure of knowing and working with him. He readily shared his knowledge with younger staff and partners. I would like to personally thank Gary for working with me, and extend the thanks of all who have benefit from his leadership.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID AND DOLLY FIDDYMENT

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday. December 7, 2006

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Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to thank and congratulate my friends, David and Dolly Fiddyment of Roseville, California, for their generous contributions to furthering the field of education. They have made an extraordinary gift of \$1.09 million to establish the first endowed chair at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) School of Education. With this contribution, they are furthering their family's heritage as education pioneers in Northern California.

The Fiddyment Family's roots in the greater Sacramento area predate both the advent of railroad and the founding of the City of Roseville—which the family helped to start. David's greatgrandmother, Jane Fiddyment, acquired an 80-acre parcel in 1856. The parcel eventually grew to encompass 2,200 acres of live-stock, grain, and pistachio farms. David and Dolly themselves have been growing pistachios at Fiddyment Farms in Roseville since 1969 and have helped shape the State's vibrant pistachio industry. Mr. Speaker, the Fiddyment Family's com-

Mr. Speaker, the Fiddyment Family's commitment to education runs as deep as their rich history in agriculture. Great-grandmother Jane Fiddyment gave a portion of her land for one of the first schools in the Roseville area in the 1880s. She felt that the school building and playground were essential so that children in the area could receive needed instruction. It was a one-room structure with an oblong iron wood stove in the center of the room, a tall pine flag pole in the front, a good well, and a shed for stabling the horses ridden by youngsters from near and far. It was known as the Pleasant Grove School, and Jane became its first teacher. The school continued in operation until 1911.

Continuing the tradition, the mothers of both David and Dolly taught school in the early 1900s, and Dolly was a teacher in the San Juan Unified School District for 25 years.

Like the Fiddyments, UC Davis has a long history of working to strengthen schools, dating back to the first teacher-training program held on the University Farm in 1918. With the founding of the School of Education in 2002, the university revitalized its commitment to K-12 education.

The Fiddyments' financial gift will enhance UC Davis' leadership position in preparing the next generation of teachers to respond to the critical issues facing our schools. This is the largest private donation made to the School of Education and one of the few in the Nation given to support an endowed chair in teacher education.

Mr. Speaker, as Harold Levine, Dean of the School of Education said, "This gift is a milestone in our growth and signals the importance of teachers and teacher education to all of us. We are honored to have the Fiddyments as partners in our mission to strengthen teaching and learning for all."

David added, "It is such a joy for us to be able to stand up and take a position on something of such importance. With this gift, we are hoping to make a difference in the education of children everywhere." They were inspired, in part, by a visit to the classroom of one of UC Davis alumna, Dawn Imamoto, a 2004 California Teacher of the Year. Dolly Fiddyment said that, "Dawn embodies the kind of teacher we'd like every child to have."

Today, I am proud to honor my friends and constituents, David and Dolly Fiddyment. They are truly pioneering the way to a brighter future for the next generation of students.

TRIBUTE TO AVONDALE ARIZONA ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the city of Avondale, Arizona on its 60th anniversary. Avondale is a vibrant city, ranked as one of Arizona's fastest growing communities, and it is my great privilege to acknowledge this important milestone.

Avondale began as an agricultural community, as many in Arizona. William Moore built the community's first establishments. As the area attracted more settlers through its pleasant climate and favorable farming conditions, a post office was built at the Avondale Ranch in the early 1900's, lending the town its current name. On December 16, 1946, Avondale was incorporated as a city, and by then was an important part of the state's capitol.

Today, Avondale has reached a population exceeding 70,000, and has much to offer its residents. To keep up with the population's demands, the city offers a wide variety of academic establishments, arts festivals, among other cultural attractions, and is a favored destination of NASCAR fans. Because of these draws and the accomplishments of residents, Avondale enjoys a growth rate among the Nation's highest, and expects to reach 120,000 residents by 2020.

Avondale has come a long way from its agricultural beginnings. It is my great pleasure to congratulate them on this landmark.

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL JERRY SINN

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the leadership and dedication to public service of Lieutenant General Jerry Sinn, who has provided exemplary stewardship of the Army's resources and budgeting for the past 7 years. Beginning as a "tunnel rat" in Vietnam, Lieutenant General Sinn has retired as the Army's budget chief after 39 years in uniform.

After being drafted in 1968, Jerry Sinn was soon commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. The Army sent him to Vietnam shortly thereafter, where he fought as a tunnel rat—one of the deadliest missions in that conflict—and led a Rome Plow team. Throughout his career, he has never stopped inspiring, guiding and teaching soldiers whether as a company commander in Korea, a mathematics instructor at West Point, a battalion commander with the Big Red One, an assistant chief of staff of VII Corps, a brigade commander in the 3rd Infantry Division, or commander of the Corps of Engineers' North Atlantic Division.

Lieutenant General Sinn has spent the last 7 years of his military career in the Pentagon as the Army's top uniformed budget official. His ideas, acumen, finesse and good humor were essential to guiding the Army from being a force at peace to a force at war. General Sinn oversaw the unprecedented growth in resources and mission since 2001, dedicating himself to ensuring that every soldier was properly equipped and trained. He looked after families, initiating and pushing numerous programs to improve their quality of life. And he made sure that everyone involved in financial management understood the importance of their work. General Sinn inspired the civilians and the uniformed members of Army financial management to do their very best and ap-

proach their tasks with the same vigor as the soldier on the battlefield. He also provided counsel to the Army leadership, the Defense Department, the Office of Management and Budget and many members of Congress.

General Sinn earned a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars, both with oak leaf clusters and one with a V Device, among many other medals and awards. He lived the Soldier's Creed with great pride and dignity. He always placed the mission first. He never accepted defeat. He never quit. And though he could have, he never left a fallen comrade.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his youth in North Dakota, Jerry Sinn thought he would follow in his parents' footsteps, raising cattle and growing wheat. The U.S. Army, and his many supporters in Congress, are grateful that he devoted his life to public service instead. Please join me in thanking him for those 39 years of selflessness, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE CHURCH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

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Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Grace Church in the Borough of Madison, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent! On November 4, 2006, the good citizens of Madison celebrated Grace Church's 150th Anniversarv.

Grace Church, the oldest building in Madison, New Jersey still being used for its original purpose, is one of the largest congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. The first church service was held on April 13, 1856. When completed, the building, including bell and organ, cost about \$9000 and seated two hundred persons. One hundred and fifty years later Grace Church is undergoing a \$3,000,000 capital campaign to enlarge the existing structure to meet the needs of a still growing congregation.

The earlier years in the history of Grace Church were marked by building and consolidating, participation of a wide segment of the community: black and white, abolitionist and slave owners, recent immigrants and colonial heirs. A new era for Grace Church arrived when more than ninety millionaires moved to Morristown and neighboring towns, many of whom were Episcopalian. Their generosity enabled the church to enlarge, but, unfortunately, membership did not grow as there was no need to broaden the financial base with increased membership. That changed after World War II, with the population explosion that followed the war and the resulting exodus to the suburbs. This brought Grace Church to a new era in its history and in the 1950's the church underwent a major expansion.

Today Grace Church's congregation includes parishioners from all the neighboring towns and its primary focus is outreach. A wonderful choir, with members of all ages, a large and active youth program, and many adult ministries fill the church 7 days a week. Under the leadership of the Reverend Lauren Ackland, the membership continues to grow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Grace Church of Madison on the celebration of its 150 years serving its parishioners County.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEDICATED STAFF OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS FOR THE 109TH CONGRESS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of patriots whose dedication and contributions to the United States space community has been exceptional. For the past 2 years I have served as the Chairman of the Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics and have had the honor to work with a staff comprised of some of the best and brightest in the fields of space and earth science, aeronautics and space exploration.

In the 2 years that I've been Chairman, the staff has worked diligently to implement the President's Vision for Space Exploration, maintain robust science and aeronautics programs and open opportunities for the private sector and space entrepreneurs. In short, they have tried to give America's space-farers the "Rules and Tools" to succeed in the Second Space Age. Last year, the President signed into law the first NASA Authorization Act in 5 vears. Anyone can tell you how difficult it is to draft legislation that must balance the many needs of the Agency's various stakeholders while keeping the original Vision intact. The majority subcommittee staff worked tirelessly to secure passage and I commend their hard work and dedication. It certainly has paid off-NASA is charging full speed ahead with the Vision for Space Exploration and a commitment to ten healthy centers.

The subcommittee completed several resolutions commending successful shuttle launches and their crews; conducted hearings on a wide range of topics including "The Future of Aeronautics at NASA," "Future Market for Commercial Space," and "The NASA Workforce"; and conducted several legislative mark-up hearings on other relevant bills. The subcommittee even conducted the first hearing in Congressional history with a witness testifying from space when NASA astronaut John Phillips, a member of the crew aboard the International Space Station in June 2005, participated via satellite. The efforts of the subcommittee staff also enabled me to visit all of NASA's Centers, including the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Applied Physics Laboratory, during the 109th Congress. None of this would have been possible without the intelligence and perseverance of the staff.

At this time I would like to recognize the individuals responsible for the subcommittee's many accomplishments:

Bill Adkins, former Staff Director. Bill was a thoughtful advisor and an influential force in the passage of the NASA Authorization Act during the 18 months we worked together.

Johannes Loschnigg, current Staff Director. Johannes has done a terrific job and has offered solid leadership to the subcommittee.

Ed Feddeman, Professional Staff. Ed is the resident expert on aeronautics and space science. I have appreciated his depth of knowledge on these issues and his expertise during several NASA Center visits.

Ken Monroe, Professional Staff. Ken is the subject matter expert on the space shuttle program and financial management at the Agency. His first-hand experience, and strong attention to detail has been a true asset during the last 2 years.

Tind "Shep" Ryen, Professional Staff. Shep is the go-to-guy on the space exploration agenda being implemented by NASA, including the Constellation Systems program, NASA Workforce and Commercial Space issues. As one of the more recent additions to the staff, Shep has not wavered from delving deeply into his work and has exercised excellent oversight over these exciting new programs.

Tom Hammond, Professional Staff. Tom handles a long list of issues including the International Space Station, Earth Science, Remote Sensing, and International and National security programs. I appreciate Tom's dedication and know he will continue to excel in all his future endeavors.

Devin Bryant, Staff Assistant. Devin is the support system to all of the staff and has done an incredible job. As a fellow Californian, I appreciate his enthusiasm for America's space program as it reminds me of the ripple effect of NASA's achievements—inspiring the next generation of explorers.

Roselee Roberts, Chairman's Designee/Professional Staff. Roselee has been a tremendous asset to my chairmanship and the subcommittee. It was an honor to designate her as my representative. It has been a pleasure to work with her these past 2 years. She has been a trusted confidant to me and my staff and I appreciate her dedication and loyalty. She will always be a part of the Calvert team.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention my deep gratitude to David Goldston, Chief of Staff of the Science Committee. David impressed me with his intelligence, tireless work ethic, and his love of science policy. During the past 2 years we have shared some great conversations and debates and I believe I have been a better Chairman for them. I appreciate the tremendous support and expertise he has provided me and my staff during my Chairmanship.

To all of the subcommittee staff, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your hard work, diligence, passion, and service. I salute your dedication and wish you all the best of luck.

KYRGYZSTAN IMPROVES ITS DEMOCRACY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress comes to a conclusion, I rise to make some remarks on the state of democratic development in Central Asia. I am inspired to do this by the very significant recent events in Kyrgyzstan, where last month, a new constitution was adopted that limits the power of the presidency and enhances the authority of the legislative branch. The Kyrgyz should be congratulated for peacefully negotiating a delicate political situation that could have turned violent. The outcome resulted in the strengthening of Kyrgyzstan's democracy at a time when its neighbors are moving in the opposite direction.

Throughout post-Soviet Central Asia—and all over the former USSR—the defining feature of political development has been the emergence of super-presidents, while parliaments and courts languish under executive control. As a result, the balance of powers, though constitutionally mandated, has remained a dead letter, and corruption has become endemic.

But Kyrgyzstan has always differed from other regional states by virtue of its strong civil society and relatively combative legislature; former President Askar Akaev was never as powerful as his counterparts in Central Asia. Moreover, there is a well-established tradition of "people power" in Kyrgyzstan-Akaev was almost forced from office by a countrywide protest movement in 2002. He managed to keep his seat, however, until last year's "Tulip Revolution" of 2005, which led to his ouster and his replacement in July by Kurmanbek Bakiev. By all accounts, the presidential election of July 2005 marked a real improvement in elections held in Kyrgyzstan, and particularly in Central Asia.

Since then, however, Kyrgyzstan has struggled with major problems, among them: uncontrolled criminality, high-level corruption, economic decline and a general sense of disappointment at unfulfilled promises. By this fall, discontent had risen to such a degree that a political movement, "For Reforms" led largely by President Bakiev's former associates, was able to mobilize protesters to pursue their agenda by peaceful rallies. Though the demonstrators originally called for Bakiev's resignation, in the end a compromise was reached in the form of a new constitution.

The document represents a real achievement, primarily for limiting the executive's powers—a first in Central Asia. Bakiev will remain in office until 2010 but his successor will not appoint the government, Prosecutor-General, the head of the Central Election Commission and the holders of other important posts. Whichever political party gains 51 percent in elections has that responsibility—an incentive for traditionally fractious political parties to align themselves in coalitions and work together.

Naturally, the heads of neighboring states have been displeased. State-controlled media in those countries have portrayed these events in the worst possible light, emphasizing "chaos and anarchy," and hoping thereby to discredit the Kyrgyz experiment by linking popular demonstrations with instability. But while crowds gathered in the streets of the capital Bishkek, the new constitution was adopted almost without violence, solidifying a tradition of politically effective peaceful protest. Most important, a framework has been created for developing all branches of power and resolving political disagreements.

I believe Kyrgyzstan's experience has genuine significance for the possibility of democratization in Central Asia, simply because the Kyrgyz political class, cooperating with civil society, has shown that it is possible without bloodshed to reach compromise solutions to fundamental political problems. Whether Kyrgyzstan's experience can or should work in other countries is a different issue. But it is clear that all post-Soviet states need to find a way to limit the power and authority of their presidents if they are to escape the trap into which they have fallen. When people feel they have no representation or possibility of addressing grievances through state institutions, they will be tempted to find other methods. If this happens in other, more repressive countries with few or no democratic traditions, the outcome may not be so peaceful or positive.

So far, there is little evidence that this realization has penetrated elsewhere in Central Asia, where presidents continue to jealously hoard power. Sapannurat Niyazov remains the all-powerful "Turkmenbashy," or leader of all Turkmen, whom he continues to subject to his capricious campaigns, while running a permanent purge of the political class and making sure Turkmenistan remains the only one-party state to survive the Soviet bloc. Uzbekistan's Islam Karimov, who allows no opposition, has cracked down even harder and cuddled up to Russia since the international community reacted with outrage to the slaughter of hundreds in Andijan in May 2005. Tajikistan's Imomali Rakhmonov won re-election last month; constitutional amendments adopted last year will potentially allow him to remain in office until 2020. And Kazakhstan's bid to chair the OSCE in 2009 has been resisted by the United States and the United Kingdom for failure to improve its poor human rights record

What happened in Bishkek is quite noteworthy, especially for the region—opposition groups were allowed to protest, the government did not respond with violence, and both sides agreed to a new constitution that actually decreases presidential powers and introduces a parliamentary system. Nothing like this is happening for thousands of miles in any direction.

All in all, Mr. Speaker, 15 years after the collapse of the USSR and the emergence of new states, it is hard to summon up much optimism for the prospects of democracy. Still, Kyrgyzstan has given me a bit of hope.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA CROTCHETT

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Crotchett for her many years of service to the citizens of Jersey County, IL as County Clerk. Linda will retire this year after 44 years of service as the Jersey County Clerk.

For the past 44 years, Linda has greeted the citizens of Jersey County with a smile as they entered her office to conduct business. She has always lived up to her motto, "Happy to meet you, eager to serve you." Her friendly and courteous service will be missed. It is with gratitude that I thank her for her service and congratulate her on retirement. I wish Linda all the best in the years to come. TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE HENRY J. HYDE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with our colleagues to pay tribute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois, Mr. HYDE, as he prepares to retire from the U.S. House of Representatives.

I cannot imagine this, the people's House, without HENRY HYDE being here. He is the conscience of this House. His eloquence, his honesty, his integrity, his passion, his dedication have filled this chamber on so many occasions when issues of the highest and most significant importance to this country were being debated.

I say to HENRY, your words have stirred this House time and time again. Colleagues always have looked to you for wise counsel. It was almost automatic that during a vote, I would always look up to see how you were voting.

I am so grateful that my years of being a member of the House have allowed me the privilege of serving with and being a colleague of Mr. HYDE.

The people of the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois, the people of the United States, and indeed freedom-loving people around the world can say to HENRY HYDE, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

May God bless you, HENRY.

HONORING THE GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Greater Chicago Food Depository for its enduring commitment to providing food for hundreds of thousands of hungry people in Cook County. In addition to addressing immediate needs, the Greater Chicago Food Depository strives to end hunger throughout the region by empowering people to break the cycle of poverty.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository, founded in 1979, is one of the largest not forprofit food distribution systems in the nation, distributing donated and purchased food through a network of 600 pantries, soup kitchens and shelters to more than 91,000 adults and children every week. Last year, the Food Depository distributed more than 40 million pounds of non-perishable food and fresh produce, dairy products, meat, poultry and fish—the equivalent of more than 84,300 meals per day.

In addition to its food distribution programs, the Greater Chicago Food Depository runs Chicago's Community Kitchens, a chef-training program designed to empower unemployed and underemployed Chicago residents. Featured on November 28th in a front-page article in the Wall Street Journal, this free twelveweek program teaches participants the basics of food preparation and employment skills, enabling them to develop a successful career in

the food service industry. Students create nearly 2,000 meals a day for delivery to the Kid's Cafes, an after-school program also run by the Food Depository that provides children with a daily hot meal, a safe haven, tutoring, and other educational programs.

Chicago's Community Kitchens is an innovative program that empowers graduates looking for "a new lease on life", and inspires them to give back to the community themselves. Many of the students in Chicago's Community Kitchens are soup kitchen regulars or homeless shelter residents and, after graduating and securing a full-time job, have returned to volunteer at a soup kitchen themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Greater Chicago Food Depository for its tireless, efforts to provide food for hungry people, to provide people with the tools necessary to break the cycles of poverty, and to end hunger in our community. I wish its staff, volunteers, and supporters every future success in their continuing work toward meeting the needs of Chicago's hungry men, women and children.

UNBORN CHILD PAIN AWARENESS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act. This legislation is based on the scientifically unsubstantiated assertion that a fetus feels pain at 20 weeks of pregnancy.

This is not the first time this Congress that Members have been asked to substitute our judgment for that of scientists or physicians. It is bad policy for Congress to substitute its opinion for the considered medical judgment of doctors and I have consistently opposed legislation that does this.

By passing this legislation, Congress will force doctors to provide information to patients that is not scientifically proven to be true. These doctors will be subject to fines if they do not provide women with a brochure published by the Department of Health and Human Services explaining that a fetus feels pain at 20-weeks and that administrating anesthesia for the fetus will reduce pain. The bill goes so far as to outline for the Department of Health and Human Services what must be included in the brochure. The language that this bill requires HHS to include in the brochure asserts that there is conclusive scientific evidence that a fetus feels pain. According to the legislation, the brochure must read: "There is a significant body of evidence that unborn children at 20 weeks after fertilization have the physical structures necessary to experience pain. There is substantial evidence that at least by this point, unborn children draw away from surgical instruments in a manner which in an infant or an adult would be interpreted as a response to pain. There is substantial evidence that the process of being killed in an abortion will cause the unborn child pain, even though you receive a pain-reducing drug or drugs." This is, at best, misleading. We should not use legislative language to interpret scientific data that we do not understand and to

direct physicians in their considered professional practice.

In August 2005 a literature review in the Journal of the American Medical Association concluded that "evidence regarding the capacity for fetal pain is limited but indicates that fetal perception of pain is unlikely before the third trimester." The review also concludes that administering "fetal anesthesia or analgesia should not be recommended or routinely offered for abortion because current experimental techniques provide unknown fetal benefit and may increase risks for the woman."

As policymakers, we should consider very seriously our actions that may overstep what is scientifically proven. In formulating public policy on scientific issues like global warming, stem cell research, alternative energy, and others, it is essential that we use science as a basis for legislation and not use legislation to attempt to make science.

I oppose this legislation because I believe that the decision of whether to have a baby should be left to individuals, their doctors, and their families without interference from the Government. I also oppose this legislation because of its circumvention of scientific evidence.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 6099.

TRIBUTE TO GILBERT LESSENCO

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished career of Mr. Gilbert Lessenco and to congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Lessenco has dedicated his half century of legal practice to not only his clients, but his community and his country.

Mr. Lessenco's superior performance as a lawyer was recognized early in his career when he received the "Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year" from the District of Columbia Bar in 1965. Mr. Lessenco has been in private practice for 50 years, but prior to that he served in the United States Air Force as chief, legal officer at Hanscom Air Force Base in Lexington, MA. He continues to serve his community to this day as a member of the faculty at Johns Hopkins University School of Professional Studies in Business and Education, teaching marketing and business law. His commitment to his students was honored publicly when he received the "Above and Beyond" faculty award from the Department of Marketing. Mr. Lessenco earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1953 and his B.S. from the Johns Hopkins University in 1950.

Mr. Lessenco has also had an active civic and political career. He has been an active supporter of the Democratic Party since 1958. From 1970–74, Mr. Lessenco was a member of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee and has been engaged in Democratic Party politics ever since. He served as a commissioner of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission from 1987–92 and as its chairman from 1989–90. He has also served as chairman of the International Visitors Service Council, 1962, trustee for the Meridian House Foundation, 1970–80, president of the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County, 1980–82, and president of the Jewish Social Service Agency of Greater Washington, 1984–86, and currently serves as the co-chairman for St. Luke's House Building Fund.

Mr. Lessenco is also a dedicated husband, father and treasured mentor.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere congratulations to Gil Lessenco as he celebrates a distinguished career and lifetime of learning and serving our community. I ask my colleagues of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the many accomplishments of this extraordinary man.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF MAJ JOSEPH ''TRANE'' McCLOUD

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to mourn the death of Major Joseph "Trane" McCloud, 39, who was planning to celebrate his 40th birthday next week, but instead tragically died on Sunday, December 3, when the CH-46 helicopter he was riding in crash-landed in a lake in the Anbar province of Iraq. Additionally, I urge my colleagues to mourn the deaths and honor the lives of all of our soldiers who have died defending our country.

Major McCloud was a career marine who had been in Iraq for 3 months as the operations officer with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. Major McCloud was described by his family as "a Marine's Marine." He sacrificed the most active years of his life while in armed combat as a platoon and company commander defending the United States of America.

This was the second war in the Middle East that Major McCloud had served in. His service in the Persian Gulf war in 1991 was equally commendable. During the Persian Gulf war in 1991, McCloud served on the USS *Missouri*, as part of the final group of Marines to work aboard the ship before it was decommissioned.

Major McCloud's tremendous service to his country was not limited to the Armed Forces. He also worked at the Pentagon, completed a fellowship here in the U.S. House of Representatives, and served as an instructor at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA. His dedication to teaching was just as strong as his dedication to the protection of this Nation. When Major McCloud worked for Representative JOE WILSON (R–S.C.), he assisted on military issues and took a special interest in a loan forgiveness program for inner-city teachers. This gentleman was the absolute prototype of the compassionate and dedicated soldier.

Shortly after President Bush declared the war on terrorism, McCloud was deployed to Zamboanga, in the Philippines, in charge of a small Marine unit during a time of intense violence and bombings.

McCloud was remembered yesterday as a good-natured man with a wonderful sense of humor who cherished his family above anything else.

A 1989 graduate of the University of Tennessee, Major McCloud leaves behind his wife Maggie and three children: Hayden, 7, Grace, 5, and Meghan, 2. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to mourn the death of a great soldier, husband, and father, MAJ Joseph "Trane" McCloud, and all the soldiers who have fallen while defending our Nation's freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BIOGRAPH THEATER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of The Biograph Theater, recently acquired by the Victory Gardens Theater, and located in the vibrant and multicultural neighborhood of Lincoln Park.

Since 1914 the Biograph Theater has been a symbol of art in a dense metropolitan area, and thanks to The Victory Garden Theater, it will remain in operation as the new main stage for theater company that has been in business since 1974.

After 90 years as a movie theater, under various owners, in July 2004, Chicago's Victory Gardens Theater announced it had purchased the Biograph for use as a live venue. The theater has been completely renovated by architect Daniel P. Coffey, who constructed a large state-of-the-art stage, with seating for 299 people.

The Biograph Theater will house a state-ofthe-art stage guaranteeing the intimacy for which Victory Gardens' performances have become known, while providing greatly enhanced technical production capabilities. The new theater will have the very latest lighting and sound equipment as well as generous wing-space, dressing rooms, and a trap system under the stage, allowing for all kinds of theatrical magic.

In a city with such a rich history in the arts, The Biograph Theater is just one more example of thriving theater in the nation's Second City.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus I believe that it is important to support and recognize The Biograph Theater, Victory Gardens Theater and the Arts in Chicago. The Biograph Theater is an example of a new breath in an old Chicago landmark. I am proud of the storied history of The Biograph Theater and the work that the Victory Gardens Theater does and I wish them continued success in the coming years.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE RE-GARDING HIRING OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the sentiment that motivated the gentleman from California, Mr. HUNTER, to offer this resolution. I agree with him that our Government must set the example when we choose to exhort employers to hire veterans. That's why I was pleased that in July of this year, the House passed by voice vote a concurrent resolution

I offered with Mr. BROWN of South Carolina that calls upon the President to establish a permanent national "Hire a Veteran Week."

The purpose of our bipartisan bill is simple. On a yearly basis, the President would lead a week-long effort to remind employers-both government and private sector-of the importance and value of hiring veterans. According to the most recent U.S. Labor Department data, in August 2005, 20- to 24-year-old veterans had an unemployment rate of 18.7 percent compared with their nonveteran counterparts. For all of 2005, the annual rate was 15.6 percent for 20- to 24-year-old veterans compared with 8.7 percent for non-veterans in that age group. Women veterans also suffer higher rates of unemployment than nonveterans. The unemployment rate for women veterans aged 25-34 stands at 6.9 percent versus 6 percent for their civilian counterparts. More alarmingly, women veterans aged 45-54 have twice the rate of unemployment than their non-veteran counterparts-7.1 percent versus 3.3 percent.

These aren't simply numbers; these are men and women who put on our country's uniform to protect each and every one of us. We can and must do more to help them find goodpaying jobs that allow them to build a career and a life in the Nation they served and protected. That process should begin with a yearly reminder to all employers to actively seek out veterans as potential employees. I have been deeply disappointed that to date the Senate has not elected to follow the House's lead and pass my "Hire a Veteran Week" legislation. Should the Senate not pass this bill before the 109th Congress adjourns sine die, it will represent yet another failure of this Congress to meet the real needs of veterans.

My colleague from California, Mr. HUNTER, is correct that Congress should take the lead and set the example when it comes to veterans' employment issues. That's why in 2005 I introduced the American Veterans Congressional Internship Program, H.R. 1242, a bipartisan bill that would allow each Member of Congress to hire a veteran as a paid intern for 1 year.

The benefits of this bill are clear. House and Senate Members would be able to take advantage of the experience and can-do work ethic of veterans, while veterans would get the chance to directly influence policy decisions and contribute to legislation that will affect them and their fellow veterans. I regret the 109th Congress failed to act on this commonsense bill, and I intend to reintroduce it and push for its speedy passage in the 110th Congress.

One thing we should all be able to agree on is that our outreach to veterans seeking jobs should be buttressed with concrete action by Congress to fund job training and placement programs, particularly for young veterans and women veterans.

That we have a long way to go in meeting the employment and training needs of our veterans was made clear by John Rowan, the current president of Vietnam Veterans of America, in testimony he gave before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on March 30 of this year. Mr. Rowan noted that:

In fact, there is no real national strategy to assist returning veterans, including National Guard and Reservists, who are unemployed or under-employed—and some 15 percent of our newest veterans have yet to find gainful employment. Similarly, there is no effective mechanism in place for enforcing veterans' preference, and we have an Administration that appeals a case against a disabled veteran who had finally won his case before the Merit System Protection Board pursuant to The Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998.

It is imperative that re-education and work skills upgrades, including selfemployment, be made a priority by those agencies of government that provide these services, especially considering the battalions of seriously and permanently disabled veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

This indictment of our current federal efforts on behalf of veterans seeking employment is a wake up call. I hope that when the 110th Congress convenes in January 2007, my colleagues will join me in helping create a national strategy to help returning veterans get the job training and employment opportunities they've earned for their service to America.

TRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY CONGRESS TAIPEI, TAIWAN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the legislators from Pacific Rim countries who will assemble this weekend in Taiwan to explore the role of Congresses in democratic governments. Representatives from 20 Pacific Rim Countries are meeting under the auspices of the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU).

The DPU is a regional organization of Pacific nations that is promoting democracy and peace within that region, in addition to enhancing the multilateral relationships of the participating nations. I applaud the Taiwanese who took the initiative to establish the DPU and its sister organization, the Pacific Congress, I wish the DPU much success in continuing to strengthen the democracies and the vital regional alliances of its Member countries.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2006 CRYSTAL FALLS FOREST PARK HIGH SCHOOL TROJANS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2006 Crystal Falls Forest Park High School Trojans. This high school football team has made the entire Upper Peninsula (U.P.) community proud by once again beating the odds and advancing to the Division 8 State Finals game at Ford Field in Detroit.

This was the third straight year that the Crystal Falls Forest Park Trojans advanced to the Division 8 state high school football championship game. These players, their coaches and the entire Crystal Falls Forest Park community should be commended for representing the U.P. at Michigan's state football championship.

In many ways, the Trojans' advancement to the state finals again this year was a classic Cinderella story. Some "inside" football experts had predicted that 2006 would be a rebuilding year for the Trojans, as this year's roster included only 2 seniors. However, what the Trojans lacked in size and experience, they made up for with dedication, heart and teamwork. These 34 young men brought an unselfish attitude to the game that many college and professional players could learn from.

The team's moment of truth for this year's season came on October 13, when they played Bessemer High School. The shorthanded Trojans suffered a 14–6 loss, dropping their record to 6–2 for the season and jeopardizing their chances at the playoffs. While many teams might allow a dispiriting loss such as this to derail their playoff ambitions, the Trojans came together as a team to overcome this challenge and rally in the face of adversity. The Trojans followed their setback in Bessemer with 5 straight wins, including 4 in the postseason.

Assistant Coach Dave Graff summed up the winning attitude of this year's Trojans when he said, "We might not be the best team, but we're good enough to get where we're going. They believe in themselves and anything is possible."

The community of Crystal Falls Forest Park and the U.P. truly united behind the Trojans, giving 110 percent of their support. Some of the supporters of the team traveled a long distance—in a short period—to cheer on their team. Crystal Falls Forest Park fans loaded up three buses at the high school at 10:00 p.m. Thanksgiving night and trekked more than 500 miles, arriving at Ford Field at 7:30 a.m. the Friday morning of the game. That gave the fans just a few hours to stretch before the 10 a.m. kickoff!

Mr. Speaker, each member of this team deserves to be recognized and I want to take a moment to share their names: Fred Hubbard; Jim Freeman; Dustin Basirico; Bob Reid; Zach Sawyer; Kyle Roberts; Justin James; Calix Sholander; John Grandahl; Levi Oleksy; Kyle LaVacque; Tony Grandahl; Andrew Bortolini; Matt Sundquist; Bryan LaChapelle; Erik Peterson; Josh Siler; Tim Wheeler; Ethan Uren; Justin Process; Jim Wheeler; Tony Renner; Marcus Smithson; Kevin Takala; Chris McCarthy; William Bortolini; Bill Fennick; Travis Hoenig; Bill Paige; Ed Zarn; Paige Armstrong; Pat Bredy; Ben Shuck; Jake Jacobson; Jeff Sartori: and Andrew Gussert.

I would be remiss if I did not also salute the Trojans' talented coaching staff. Head Coach Bill Santilli and Assistant Coaches Dave Graff, Gerard Valesano, Gene Giuliani, Jeff Chernach and Dan LaPoint should all be commended for helping lead the Crystal Falls Forest Park Trojans to a third state championship game. Managers L.J. Burns, Dan Ballo-Shuck and Lee Graff should also be recognized for their contributions, as should their trainer, Mark Nylund. Together, this talented coaching staff shepherded this year's young team to the state finals.

Mr. Speaker, the Crystal Falls Forest Park football team knew what the late, great Green Bay Packers coach, Vince Lombardi always said, "Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is." The Trojan team wanted to win more than the so-called "inside" football experts predicted!

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Crystal Falls Forest Park Trojans football team, their classmates, parents and the community on their exceptional season and in wishing the Trojans well when they retake the field for the 2007 season.

HONORING CHICAGO ASTRONAUT JOAN HIGGINBOTHAM

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Astronaut Joan Higginbotham. Higginbotham is a member of the crew on the Space Shuttle *Discovery* that is scheduled to launch tonight from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Additionally, she is a fellow Chicagoan, and I wish her the best of luck as she prepares for her first mission, STS 116.

Higginbotham graduated from Chicago's Whitney Young High School in 1982, and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1987. She will be the third African-American woman aboard a NASA mission, and she and her fellow astronaut Robert Curbeam will make history this week on STS 116, the first Space Shuttle mission with two African-American astronauts.

Higginbotham previously worked as a payload engineer at the John F. Kennedy Space Center while also earning two master's degrees from the Florida Institute of Technology.

As a mission specialist on board *Discovery*, Higginbotham's responsibilities will include a complete rewiring of the International Space Station's power supply. She will also have the responsibility of operating the robotic arm to deploy several satellites and to direct payload transfers.

Higginbotham will be joined by Mission Commander Mark Polansky, as well as Robert Curbeam Sunita Williams, Nicholas Patrick, William Oefelein, and Christer Fuglesang from the European Space Agency, who is the first Swedish astronaut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my fellow Chicagoan as well as her fellow astronauts, and to wish them all the best on their launch tonight and their 12-day mission.

HONORING MARILYN W. GROUNDS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marilyn W. Grounds for over 10 years of extraordinary service on the board of the Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area.

Ms. Grounds is best described as a "professional volunteer." Active in her children's schools and the community, she was at first focused in serving the arts community. It was the great fortune of the Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area to have her join their board in 1995.

The Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area provides comprehensive reproductive health care which contributes to both

individual well being and community stability. These services are provided in settings which preserve and protect the essential privacy and rights of each individual. The organization advocates public policies which guarantee these rights and ensure the understanding of the individual and societal implications of human sexuality. The Planned Parenthood Association encourages research and the advancement of technology in reproductive health care and the understanding of inherent bioethical, behavioral, and societal implications. In addition, the agency employs trained educators who conduct extensive community outreach and educational programs, offering comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education and health programs to thousands of New Jersey residents every year. Everyone is welcome, regardless of race, age, income, sexual orientation, or disability. Fees are based on the ability to pay and no one is turned away.

First as board vice president in 1997, then as board chair, Ms. Grounds successfully led the PPAMA through several managerial transitions. She has had leadership roles on Development, Finance, Facilities, Personnel, and Public Affairs Committees. She was an incentive for the board to re-evaluate its own role in the organization. A modest, exceptionally organized woman, Ms. Grounds excels at "the big picture," keeping the board cohesive and efficient, while recruiting extraordinary leaders.

Ms. Grounds is a phenomenal fundraiser. Through both Annual and Capital Campaigns, she has made possible the improvement of services offered to clients, and during her tenure the number of patients treated has significantly increased. This is no small task. The annual budget of the PPAMA is about \$2.8 million, making possible the service of about 15,000 clients per year.

Ms. Grounds has been an editor, writer, fundraiser extraordinaire, and tireless worker for the Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area. She leaves a legacy of fund raising skill, governance expertise, and strong board leadership that benefits not only the organization, but also the individual, community, and State.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 12th district of New Jersey, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Marilyn W. Grounds for her service on the board of the Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area.

POLISH AMERICAN MONTH

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, this month I proudly join the thousands of Polish-Americans living in Chicago in a national celebration of Polish history, culture, and pride during Polish American Heritage Month.

Celebrated in October, Polish American Heritage Month includes General Pulaski Memorial Day, which honors the American Revolutionary War patriot Casimir Pulaski. In 1777, General Pulaski attended his first meeting with Benjamin Franklin, to champion the freedom of the American people. This early partnership has been mirrored by the present-day alliance between Poland and the United States. Polish-Americans have made strong contributions to American culture in virtually every field, including literature, technology, and music. My hometown of Chicago has more people of Polish descent than any other city outside of Poland. I am dedicated to continuing the strong record of cultural and economic ties between our two nations.

The United States is grateful to Poland for its friendship and commitment to the democratic ideals of liberty and human rights. Poland has also proven to be a strong ally of the United States, assisting in global efforts to combat terrorism, and providing troops and resources for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join the citizens of my district, as well as those of Polish decent around the country in recognizing, remembering, and celebrating Polish American Month.

REMEMBERING SYDNEY TALLY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Sydney Tally for her tireless commitment to better the lives of active duty servicemembers, retirees, veterans, and above all their families through a distinguished career with the National Military Family Association.

Widely known and beloved in military circles, this Air Force daughter and Navy spouse trained as a nurse and pursued her specialty in public health nursing before becoming a full time mother and volunteer after the birth of her first child. Among many service endeavors, she freely devoted her time serving as teaching assistant, Brownie and Girl Scout leader, Red Cross pediatric nurse, and president of four naval officers' wives clubs.

In 1983, she joined the NMFA government relations staff and served as vice president of the department from 1987 to 1990 before rising to the position of first paid professional staff member and director. She also sat on the NMFA's board of governors until her recent passing. Mrs. Tally used her leverage through this organization to benefit military families everywhere. Her focus on the military family drove her in creating the Military Coalition. Women, infants, and children found nourishment after her advocacy secured legislation for an overseas nutrition program targeted specifically for military families.

Mrs. Tally received numerous awards and recognitions for her altruistic work, including the Military Coalition's Award of Merit, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Defense Commissary Agency, 1993 Defense Transition Services Award from the University of Central Florida, and recognition of her outstanding citizenship by the Military Chaplains Association.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Mrs. Tally for her life's work and continuing legacy that brought forth significant awareness of the needs of military families. I call upon my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishments, and in sharing our condolences with her family and friends. A CALL TO ACTION THE POLITICS OF DISEASE ADVOCACY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention an October 10, 2006 article in the Wall Street Journal by Amy Dockser Marcus, entitled "Advocacy Overload?" The article reviews the current state of disease-funding advocacy, and specifically cites the efforts of the Princeton-based Melanoma Research Foundation to coordinate the advocacy activities of a wide variety of melanoma organizations. In the past year, MRF has worked to organize a coalition of these groups in order to develop a coordinated message to Congress and the National Institutes of Health. The goal of this "One Voice" for melanoma research is to develop a common agenda, focused on securing the additional resources to fund the research into better treatments and cures for melanoma.

The Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) was founded 10 years ago and has become the leading research foundation for melanoma. The Foundation has worked closely with the research and medical communities encourage dialogue and education about melanoma through their research congresses; participated in National Cancer Institute initiatives; organized the first steps of a melanoma coalition for advocacy; and hosts an interactive website for patients and caregivers. Their three part mission-supporting basic and translational research, education of patients and caregivers, and advocating for the melanoma community-is funded primarily through community fundraisers across the United States organized and managed by MRF volunteers. Other primary sources include memorial donations, individual gifts, and unrestricted grants from pharmaceuticals.

The need for a coordinated attack on melanoma is more critical now than ever before. Here are some of the facts about melanoma: It's the fastest growing cancer currently in the U.S.; It's the most common cancer in young adults aged 20 to 30; For women, age 25 to 30, melanoma is the primary cause of cancer death; For women, age 30 to 35, it's the second leading cause of cancer death, after breast cancer.

One of the primary causes of melanoma is UV exposure, most of which comes from too much time in the sun. Melanoma is survivable, if diagnosed early. When a superficial melanoma is found and diagnosed early, the 5 year survival rate is 100 percent. But at the opposite end, when the melanoma advanced to what's called Stage IV, when it's disseminated to major organs, the 5 year survival rate drops as low as 7 percent. Yet, despite these figures and the growing incidence of melanoma, no significant advances in medical therapies (or survival) for patients with advanced melanoma has occurred in the past 30 years.

Clearly, there's a great need for public awareness of the dangers of overexposure to the sun. There's also a need for increased research in identifying the causes and potential cures for melanoma. Once again, I commend the good work of the Melanoma Research Foundation in bringing greater public awareness to this disease, and advocating for more public and private sector funding for melanoma research.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 10, 2006] ADVOCACY OVERLOAD?

ACTIVISTS SEEK TO UNIFY EFFORTS OF GROUPS TARGETING DISEASES; A BRAIN-TUMOR COL-LABORATIVE

(By Amy Dockser Marcus)

At the national Brain Tumor Foundation, executive director Rob Tufel has a standard reply for well-meaning families and patients who want to set up a patient-advocacy group: "Please don't start another organization."

There are 141 patient-advocacy groups that cover brain tumors, according to Mr. Tufel, while 43,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed every year with primary brain tumors, benign or malignant. That's roughly one group for every 305 new patients. "It just doesn't make sense from the point of view of funding, or from the point of view of patients and families," who must sort through the numerous organizations and Web sites for information, Mr. Tufel says. "Competition is good because it keeps us on our toes, but at some point . . . it becomes ineffective."

Competition is an issue that many patientadvocacy groups wrestle with as they struggle to raise funds for research, attract greater interest in their diseases, and speed up the search for a cure. Increasingly, advocates are asking: When it comes to a disease like cancer, is it possible to set a common agenda and speak with a unified voice?

Now some groups have begun to debate whether the large number of organizations may be hindering as much as helping in their efforts. Many diseases-including AIDS, autism and Parkinson's disease-have more than one group that lobbies Congress for more funding and reaches out to patients and families. With cancer, in particular, there has been an explosion in the number of foundations and advocacy groups in recent years, as the Internet allows patients to connect with one another more easily. It's particularly true in rarer cancers such as brain tumors or melanoma, where the ratio of the number of groups to the number of people who actually get the disease is especially high. There are an estimated 40 groups in the U.S. for melanoma-a disease that will see about 62,190 new cases and 7,910 deaths in 2006, according to the American Cancer Societv.

Many of these groups wind up competing with each other for the same donors and the same researchers to sit on their boards. There is the chance that groups will duplicate one another's efforts, wasting resources by offering the same programming or services. And busy legislators find themselves uncertain about what the greatest need is for patients because each group emphasizes different issues or aspects of the disease.

There is also recognition that as cancer research increasingly focuses on using costly, cutting-edge technology to identify genes and cellular changes as an avenue to new treatments, progress is going to take huge sums of money that small patient-advocacy groups are unlikely to be able to raise on their own.

Advocacy groups need to ask, "Couldn't we better leverage some of these resources that you're all spending?" says Paula Kim, whose Translating Research Across Communities consulting group in Green Cove Springs, Fla., and Fallbrook, Calif., works with patient advocates. Many times, groups end up "recreating the wheel" in doing very similar work, she says.

Different strategies are being tried in order to organize the patient-advocacy community. Some advocacy groups for major cancers, such as breast cancer and prostate cancer, have formed coalitions that have been effective in lobbying on common issues. Others end up merging; two separate lymphoma patient-advocacy groups decided to join forces and create one organization instead, the Lymphoma Research Foundation. "One Voice Against Cancer" is a coalition of many public health groups that lobbies Congress for more federal funding for cancer research. Eight brain-tumor foundations, including Mr. Tufel's group in San Francisco, formed the Brain Tumor Funders' Collaborative to pool money to fund large projects. Earlier this year, they announced their first joint funding initiative, giving grants of \$2 million to each of three scientific projects.

Not all smaller groups see the proliferation of foundations as a problem that needs fixing. Many advocates started their work because they lost someone to the disease, and want to focus on highly personal goals or local projects. Small groups also sometimes worry about having to divert too much of their meager funds to big projects. "I don't agree with the idea that there are too many melanoma groups," says Colette Coyne, who founded the Colette Coyne Melanoma Awareness Campaign in New York with her husband, Patrick, after their daughter died of melanoma. "Many work in their community. I think it is a healing thing for people to create a foundation when they have lost someone."

The Coynes concentrate their efforts in New York, where they live. They have helped promote shade coverings in playgrounds and helped push through tough legislation regarding the use of tanning salons by minors. But they rely mainly on volunteers and raise around \$50,000 through a yearly walk and dinner dance. "I'd be concerned about being committed to large amounts of money for a coalition when we're never very sure what our income will be," says Ms. Coyne. Nonetheless, Ms. Coyne says she believes a coalition is necessary, and she wants to find a way for her group to join.

It is within the melanoma community that one of the most interesting and important debates is going on regarding advocacy groups, amid growing attention to the disease. Steven A. Rosenberg recently announced that he and other National Cancer Institute scientists genetically engineered advanced melanoma patients' own white cells to recognize and attack their cancer cells. In a report published about 15 of the patients, two of the patients saw their disease regress. Translational Genomics Research Institute in Phoenix and the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, Fla., are working together to create a kind of map of the human melanoma genome for researchers. These are the kinds of projects that a coalition of melanoma advocacy groups could help by lobbying for more federal funding and generating greater public awareness about the projects and the need for support.

Nineteen different melanoma groups came together in Bethesda, Md., in late March for a meeting planned by the Melanoma Research Foundation in order to debate whether they should form a "One Voice Melanoma" coalition to increase the impact of the community on a federal level. At the melanoma coalition meeting, one of the key speakers was Connie Mack, who was the U.S. senator from Florida from 1989-2001, and is a melanoma survivor. Sen. Mack. who now serves as chairman of the board of the Moffitt center, told the patient representatives that their organizations could do much more, especially on Capitol Hill, if they joined together. "Our challenge is to see that our voice is heard," he told the advocates, "but the only way that this will occur is if we speak with one voice.'

In an interview later, Sen. Mack said that the individual organizations were all doing important work, but that members of Congress and officials at the NCI were constantly meeting with patient advocates, including melanoma groups with different ideas and requests. Congress has limited resources available to give these groups, says Sen. Mack, and without a common agenda, "funding levels haven't achieved the level where they can accomplish anything of significance."

Linda Pilkington, a melanoma survivor who is executive director of the Melanoma Research Foundation in Princeton, N.J., says that the coalition talks had already made a difference. In the wake of the meeting, the groups agreed on some common goals. While discussion about the coalition's structure and mission continue, as a result of the group's discussion, the Melanoma Research Foundation was able to work with a lobbyist and Ms. Kim to craft language that was included in the current Senate Labor. Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations report for fiscal 2007. It calls on the National Cancer Institute to convene a group of patients and researchers to develop a five-year strategic plan for melanoma research, including focusing on the issue of how to speed up the development of

new therapies. The effort hasn't been easy. "Putting groups together is like having your children work together," says Valerie Guild, president of the Charlie Guild Melanoma Foundation in Richmond, Calf., and part of the steering committee working on the melanoma coalition. It seems to make sense because they're all siblings, "but try to get someone to decide what movie to go to on a Sunday night." Despite the challenges, a coalition can work, says Ms. Guild, who started her group in 2004 after her daughter died of melanoma. "Everybody really wants to get to the same place at the end of it all—a treatment for the disease."

Ms. Kim, the consultant, who is helping the melanoma groups create a coalition, says there are a number of models that can help small or financially strapped organizations contribute to a coalition. Among them: sliding-scale dues based on the size of a group's budget, or a program for helping coalition members raise additional funds. Ms. Kimwho herself co-founded an advocacy group called the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network in 1999 after her father died of pancreatic cancer-argues that "for rare diseases, coalitions are vital. It's a lot harder to make noise when there are not a lot of people to advocate for you. It's harder to get people on the bandwagon.'

HONORING REVEREND ROBERT MOORE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday. December 7. 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Reverend Robert Moore for twenty-five years as Executive Director of the Coalition for Peace Action.

The Coalition for Peace Action began in 1980 when a group of religious congregations in the Princeton area joined together to sponsor a Teaching Conference and Interfaith Service on the theme "Can We Reverse the Nuclear Arms Race?" At a follow-up meeting several weeks later, a decision was made to form an ongoing organization dedicated to nuclear disarmament—the Coalition to Reverse the Nuclear Arms Race. Rev. Moore served as Steering Committee Chair of the NJ Nuclear Weapons Freeze Referendum in 1982 and was instrumental in its successful passage by two-thirds of New Jersey voters.

As the Cold War drew to an end in the late 1980's, the Coalition's goals expanded to include the related goals of reaping a major peace dividend—a peace economy—and halting weapons trafficking, both internationally and domestically. In 1993, to reflect this broader agenda, the members voted to change the name of the organization to the Coalition for Peace Action. As other peaceseeking organizations have come into existence and faded away over the years, the Coalition for Peace Action has remained vibrant because Rev. Moore has created an organization that is relevant, well informed, committed and practical.

Rev. Moore has been instrumental in the Coalition's efforts to motivate and mobilize peace and non-violence activists. As an example, in the late 1980's, the Coalition's "Target Congress" project recruited and trained over 500 citizen letter-writers to regularly write to US Representatives. Those contacted showed significant movement toward pro-peace voting records.

Rev. Moore co-chaired the NJ Coalition Against War in the Middle East in 1990-1991, opposing the first Persian Gulf War, and later the N.J. Coalition Against War in Iraq from 2002 to the present. Under his direction, the Coalition successfully lobbied Congress, as part of a national effort, to stop funding for U.S. nuclear weapons testing. Despite an initiative engineered by the National Rifle Association to rescind the New Jersev ban on assault weapons, the law was preserved by an intensive lobbying effort led by the Coalition. In 1995 the first Peace Voter campaign in the country distributed tens of thousands of voter guides comparing candidates on peace and gun violence issues. In 2000, the Coalition provided the first-in-the-nation "NonPartisan Candidate Briefings" to five of six major party candidates in New Jersey's U.S. Senate primary, and to 3 of 4 major party candidates in two House races.

Rev. Moore is hailed nationally for his ability to educate and mobilize citizens in the name of peace and disarmament. He is an outstanding example of a committed citizen taking action for what he believes. Rev. Moore is a teacher, advisor, and motivator.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Reverend Robert Moore on his twenty-fifth anniversary with the Coalition for Peace Action.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS: A GREAT MAN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join with Congressman COSTELLO and all of my colleagues in honoring a truly great man—Congressman LANE EVANS of Illinois, who will be leaving Congress after a quarter-century of service to our country.

When I was a freshman Member of Congress, and a new member of the House Armed Services Committee, LANE EVANS, a veteran himself, a senior member of Congress and the ranking Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, learned of my interest in veteran's issues and took the time to show me ways to improve my service to veterans in my District and in our state. They were lessons from a master, and they have left an indelible impression on me.

His expertise is legendary. He knows the needs of veterans; their programs, history, problems and concerns. He forged alliances across the aisle and put together coalitions to pass legislation to keep this Nation's promise to our veterans. As a Vietnam Veteran himself, he never forgot what it meant to serve this country in the military. His ability is so great that he can even make those who have never served also understand the military and its culture.

I will also never forget the fun we had when Mr. EVANS managed our Congressional basketball team. We played games to help raise funds for charity, and even though he was stricken with Parkinson's disease, which prevented him from participating, it was obvious how much he loved the team and the goodnatured competition. He is a joy to be around, and an inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, we need only look at the walls of the Speaker's Lobby or our committee rooms to appreciate that the House of Representatives will continue on long after we are gone, and there is a certain comfort in the realization that this great institution, in which it is our honor to serve, will endure.

However, I want Mr. EVANS to know how much he has touched me and the other Members of this Congress; to thank him for his friendship, his leadership and for his service to our Nation; and to let him know of our commitment to build on the foundation that he laid down over his 24 years in Congress.

HONORING THOMAS PRITZKER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas Pritzker on being named Chairman of the Art Institute of Chicago, and to honor him on his many years of service to the people of Chicago.

For more than a century, Chicago's Art Institute has served as one of America's premier centers for art education and exhibition, nurturing the abilities of talented young artists, and bringing important works of art to the people of Chicago and the nation.

This great Chicago institution has been home to great American artists such as Grant Wood, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Orson Welles. I have no doubt that under Mr. Pritzker's lead, it will continue to contribute profoundly to the American cultural landscape.

A lifelong Chicagoan, and graduate of The University of Chicago's Schools of Law and Business, Mr. Pritzker has tirelessly supported the city's institutions of higher learning throughout his career.

Mr. Pritzker's dedicated service includes years of philanthropic work with The University of Chicago, where he sits on the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, and 18 years as a Board Trustee for the Art Institute. Mr. Pritzker's important philanthropic gifts have enabled The University of Chicago and The Art Institute of Chicago to consistently operate at a high degree of excellence, and remain at the forefront of education and innovation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I congratulate Thomas Pritzker on his new title of Board Chairman of The Art Institute of Chicago, and thank him for his many outstanding contributions to the city of Chicago.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS LEADERSHIP

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, in the past I have often had the delight of saluting my departing colleagues with a tribute in Rap poetry. At this point, however, circumstances have been reversed and I am departing. As I leave, it will be my pleasure to offer some brief portraits in words describing the very able women and men I leave behind.

Today I would like to highlight three outstanding members—EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, DONALD PAYNE, and MAXINE WATERS—who have served as President of the Congressional Black Caucus, CBC. The continually improving effectiveness of the CBC is due to the fact that it is able to benefit from the talent and know-how of a pool of very dedicated and competent leaders. They also have unique personalities that can be appreciated with a few light-hearted verses, see three attached RAP poems.

TEXAS MONA LISA

Power and mystery In generous portions mated; Fair time she allots For any issue debated But her moods are rapidly rotated Her anger can be swiftly escalated; Mess with Eddie Bernice's pride And she'll quickly invite you outside. Once great goddess of reapportionment, Her lines drawn in stone would stay, Through ten years would never fray, Untouched by rustler Tom DeLay. Slow sly smile Magnetic style Great resource of charm and stealth But on the side also some Texas wealth.

But on the side also some Texas wealth. Struggle focused credo uniquely excited, Power and mystery tightly united, Beneath the strict no nonsense fashion Run deep wells of cosmic compassion.

SPECIAL ENVOY PAYNE

Female agents fondly remember his name-Tireless globetrotting fearless Don Payne. Stealth master across the globe Always on the probe; Quiet in his command But tightly holds leader's lives In the palm of his cool hand. When Donald says move Charles Taylor hops into the groove; Liberia from Jersey must learn To let rule from Newark Take its empire turn. Don travels With the proud and brave. Somalia he single-handedly Sought to save. Always on the probe

Stealth master across the globe But at home he still holds power, Email orders cross Newark every hour; In each Jersey county A Payne relative rules, Most powerful political tools. Tireless globetrotting crafty Don Payne, Lady agents fondly remember his name.

MEAN MAXINE

Queen Maxine Can act hard and mean. She can fertilize Any Congressional Record page With unforgettable rage. Queen Maxine Can act hard and mean When the CIA deals dope But her career fills with tears When hungry African kids Are offered no help and no hope. Soft candy at the core But like nails when there's a need; With California flash And Southern mother wit She's a rare dynamite breed. With Hollywood skills She makes political thrills, One foot in the palace of influence The other planted on the street, Mistress of coalition magic She makes power methods meet. CIA drug selling she labeled a fact Iran Gate caught traitors in the act: To save Contras zealots were Selling weapons and flags Who could doubt they had Peddled drugs in little brown bags. Outrageously right Maxine makes moderates uptight: Radicals suspect her elegant style Cause she got arrested for Haiti Wearing expensive stuff: Never mind the clothes. Just a few weeks later Clinton told the Haitian dictators That the CBC had enough. Soft candy at the core But like nails when there's a need: With California flash And Southern mother wit She's a rare dynamite breed.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF DEARBORN MAYOR MICHAEL GUIDO

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the passing and commemorate the life

mourn the passing and commemorate the life of Dearborn, Michigan's Mayor Michael Guido. Mayor Guido, 52, passed away Tuesday night at his home surrounded by his family.

The son of Italian immigrants, Michael Guido got his start in politics in 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 and 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 and 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.

NUREMBERG TRIALS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the Nuremberg trials.

After the unspeakable horrors that occurred during the Holocaust, the United States joined the international community in upholding the rule of law and created the International Military Tribunal. Unique in the history of the world, the Nuremberg Tribunal honored our commitment to law and an honest, open trial process.

I was reminded of all of this when I heard a recent NPR story that told the personal experience of Sergeant Clancy Segal, an American Jew, during the trials at Nuremberg. As Mr. Segal recounts, the members of the Nazi party sentenced at Nuremberg underwent a fair and objective trial process. Despite the atrocities they committed, they were afforded due process.

Remembrances such as these emphasize the need for restraint and upholding the rule of law when dealing with war criminals. Regardless of the circumstances, we must exercise the same due process when investigating and prosecuting suspected terrorists and war criminals today.

I ask unanimous consent that the full transcript of this story from National Public Radio be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

National Public Radio: Morning Edition, October 2, 2006: Sixty years ago, the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg handed down its first verdict against Nazi war criminals. The Nuremberg trials were structured as a blueprint for something new in international law . . . "crimes against humanity" and "crimes against peace".

The evidence presented was the first account to the world of the Nazis' atrocities and mass murders. Commentator Clancy Segal was a sergeant in the American army of occupation in Germany.

I was the only Jew in my unit. I told no one when I put my .45 automatic in my holster and sneaked away to the International War Crimes trial at Nuremberg.

 ${\rm I}$ wanted to look Herman Goering in the eye and shoot him dead.

Next to Adolf Hitler, Goering was the most powerful man in the Nazi Third Reich. He created the first concentration camps and he was the driving force behind the decrees which stripped Jews of their civil rights.

In the foyer of the court building, Furtherstrasse 22, military police made me check my weapon. At first I was angry. I'd stored up a lot of hatred for the top Nazis like Goering who'd operated the "Final Solution" to kill Jews.

But inside the courtroom I felt something like relief. Suddenly, it was unthinkable to add one more act of violence to the solemn, businesslike presentation of evidence. Evidence which included the shrunken heads of tortured prisoners and lamp shades made of human skin. It moved me beyond tears to a sort of numbness.

The U.S. War Department was determined that Goering and the other Nazis leaders would receive a fair trial. At Nuremberg, there would be no secret evidence or closed proceedings. The Allies believed that would betray their ideal of restoring democracy in Germany.

For three days, I couldn't take my eyes off Goering, who lounged in the dock like a bored Roman emperor. Minus his sashes and medals, he looked slightly naked in a white uniform jacket, even emaciated down from his former huge bulk.

As concentration camp survivors testified, I sometimes caught Goering's cold, unblinking stare, which was full of contempt for the Tribunal and the witnesses.

When the prosecution showed films of piled-up corpses at Auschwitz, Goering kept turning his head away, sometimes in my direction. I'm ashamed to say he stared me down, because I'd never before felt myself in the presence of such unmitigated evil.

I returned to my unit and didn't see Goering testify on cross-examination. Newspaper and radio correspondents like Walter Cronkite told us of his brazen lack of repentance in the witness box.

On Oct. 1, 1946, the Allied judges handed down their sentences. Most of the accused

were found guilty and sentenced to death. Goering swallowed a cyanide pill just hours before he was to mount the gallows.

Today, in the midst of a national debate on how to treat captured terror suspects, my mind flashes back to Room 600 at Furtherstrasse 22. We gave Goering and the other war criminals a chance not only to defend themselves but in some cases, preach hate and violence.

In a ruined Germany, where so many corpses still lay buried in the rubble, and life seemed so very fragile, we found it in ourselves to give the worst of men due process.

JUDGE THOMAS RUSSELL JONES GREAT POINT-OF-LIGHT

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Judge Thomas Russell Jones was appropriately described as an activist, soldier, assemblyman, civil rights lawyer, and judge at a memorial service held in Brooklyn, NY, at the Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims on Tuesday, December 5, 2006. My personal recollections of Judge Jones compel me to describe him as a Great Pointof-Light for all Americans. He was a rare leader with a great gift for inspiring others. He was an extrovert, outgoing, always giving advice freely, always offering encouragement generously. It is not exaggerating to call Tom Jones the Father of the Brooklyn Empowerment Spirit. All aspiring candidates could look up to Tom Jones and his independent record and see a clear standard for their future performance. He broke ground and ran for the Assembly without the endorsement of the powerful Brooklyn political machine. As a result of the bold moves of Tom Jones, civil rights activists for the first time began to examine electoral politics as a possible effective instrument for change. To the picketing and the sit-ins we added voter registration and voter participation. Without Tom Jones and the pioneering Unity Democratic Club there would have been no successful election of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. His unblemished record of integrity and wisdom on the bench are outstanding recent memories. Both his judicial career and his political trailblazing are sparkling legacies which justify the citation of Judge Thomas Russell Jones as a Great Point-of-Light for the people of Brooklyn and for all Americans.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a dear friend and colleague, Congressman LANE EVANS.

I've gotten to know LANE through our work as co-chairs of the Congressional Working Group on Parkinson's Disease. He is a deeply dedicated, kind, and courageous person who I admire and who I will truly miss.

For the past 24 years, Congressman EVANS has been a champion of veterans and Parkinson's issues on Capitol Hill and a great friend to both communities. Earlier this week, I was proud to see a bill passed that included a program, Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers, PADRECCS, conceived and created by LANE. By working with the former and current VA Administration, Representative EVANS helped to establish these Centers that serve American veterans battling Parkinson's disease.

As a former Marine, Ranking Member on the VA Committee, and person battling Parkinson's disease, Representative LANE EVANS has a strong sense of mission about providing the highest standards of care for both constituencies. Though I am sad to see LANE go, I am encouraged by his commitment to help others and make a difference in people's lives. I hope to continue his legacy while working with the Working Group on Parkinson's Disease to find a cure for this terrible disease.

This body is losing a true patriot, but we can all agree, LANE, that we are proud to know you, proud to have served with you, and are proud to honor you today.

CREDIT REPORTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, thank you very much for the opportunity to talk to you about an important issue involving credit reports that will disproportionately harm low-income homebuyers and put most small independent credit reporting agencies out of business within a month. The issue involves the "joint use" of credit reports for mortgages.

"Joint use", "secondary use" or "reissue" refers to the long-standing practice (recognized in the FCRA, by the Federal Trade Commission, and by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency), which allows a credit report to be jointly used by multiple entities legitimately engaged with the origination of a mortgage at no additional cost. Joint use of credit report information is essential for the proper functioning of the mortgage banking, brokerage and financing industries and is an important process by which consumers shop for and obtain mortgage credit.

Recently, two of the credit repositories, Equifax and Experian (E&E) have announced new mandatory fees and burdensome requirements for joint use of credit reports starting January 1, 2007. Consumers will now be burdened with paying multiple charges for the one-time access of their credit report in order to originate a single mortgage transaction. Unlike other credit industries, the mortgage credit reporting industry is required to depend on three-file merged credit reports provided by E&E and TransUnion. The proposed new policy will significantly increase mortgage origination costs. Costs for joint use of credit reports

potentially increase by 100–300%. E&E will significantly increase their revenues while end users, resellers, and ultimately, consumers will pay the costs. In addition, consumers facing the highest cost increases will be those with credit challenges such as low-income and first-time homebuyers.

Further, about 90 percent of the independent credit reporting agencies will be unable to meet the additional contractual requirements being dictated by E&E. These credit reporting agencies will be unable to access the credit data from E&E and therefore unable to provide the mandatory three-file merged credit reports. They will quickly be forced out of businesses due to these changes.

There is no new legislation, court case, regulatory decision or other external event to justify such action except to increase the revenues of these large companies at the expense of the consumer and to the detriment of small credit reporting companies.

The other repositories, TransUnion and Innovis, have not chosen to drastically alter the joint use procedure. TransUnion is evaluating its position and CBC Companies, the parent of Innovis, is challenging E&E's proposed new guidelines in federal court as a violation of U.S. antitrust laws.

The end-user disclosure (joint use) requirements have been working well since they were enacted as part of the FCRA in 1997. The recent actions by E&E do little to combat the incidence of identity theft and increase data security. The main reason for these policies is to raise revenue and decrease competition. The effort to implement these new reissue/joint use procedures and fees needs to be stopped in order to maintain a level playing field, continue effective competition in the marketplace and provide fair and equitable access to capital for all Americans.

Any efforts by the major credit repositories to change the reissue process should not restrict competition. In order to protect both consumers and small, independent credit reporting agencies, E&E should make the following changes to their proposed reissue policies.

Continue to classify the GSEs, HUD and any other ancillary technology system that is part of the mortgage origination process as joint use, not the new created "reissue" or "secondary use" classification.

Allow credit-reporting agencies, at the direction of the end-user of record, to reissue to any firm on one of the approved mortgage seller or servicer lists of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or HUD without end-user documentation and site inspections.

Designate a reasonable flat fee for reissue. Note: The changes to the 2003 FACT Act which included a free credit report to every American on an annual basis only required an \$.11 per file price increase while E&E's proposed policy changes attempt to justify the charge of \$1.05 to \$3.50 per file.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address this important topic. I strongly suggest that E&E reconsider the policies they plan to implement on January 1. Such policies will ultimately hurt the consumer and will have a disproportionate effect on low-income individuals. All Americans deserve the right to pursue the American dream of homeownership and should not be restricted to access to loans because of a policy intended solely to raise revenue for two large credit repositories. ST. RENE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator in my district, Marianne McGuire, who has been nominated for entry into the 2007 edition of Who's Who Among American Teachers. For over 20 years, Mrs. McGuire has tirelessly served her students and the community at-large.

Currently, Marianne McGuire teaches the fourth and fifth grades at St. Rene Goupil, a Catholic elementary school in Chicago's Clearing neighborhood. A graduate of Quincy University and a veteran teacher. Marianne brings valuable insight and perspective to the classroom. She has the reputation of being an excellent academic instructor who is involved in the lives of her students before and after school-tutoring, assisting with the TerraNova tests, and coordinating the Geography Bee.

Who's Who Among America's Teachers, first published in 1990, gives exceptional students an opportunity to honor the teachers who have positively contributed to their lives and invested in their futures. It is a great privilege to be included in this publication, which is meant to let teachers know that they truly make a difference. Mrs. McGuire's impact has given her a nomination to be included in this publication.

It is my honor today to recognize Marianne McGuire for her achievements as an outstanding teacher. She and countless other educators serve to enhance our overall education system, while impacting one student at a time. I thank Marianne, along with all of our Nation's teachers, for their hard work, dedication, and noble service.

MONTEREY HONORING 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 Monterey High School for earning a 2006 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Award for academic superiority

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.

Monterey High School is a rural high school with only 18 full-time teachers. Forty percent of the school's 373 students come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Despite this, the students consistently rank in the top 10 percent on state achievement tests.

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

HONORING MARIANNE MCGUIRE OF IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH AN-NIVERSARY OF SAINT CECILIA SCHOOL

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZOUEZ

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 recognize Saint Cecilia's School, located in Greenpoint. Brooklyn, as it celebrates 100 years of academic excellence. This institution has served the educational needs of countless students in the community, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize its strident efforts on this momentous occasion.

Since its inception, Saint Cecilia's has fostered both the intellectual and spiritual development of local students, providing them with the resources they need for success in the classroom. Through the leadership and dedication of its first rate faculty, this institution boasts a commendable record of academic achievement, thereby enriching the lives of school age children throughout our community.

St. Cecilia's School has a longstanding tradition of promoting a culture of community-oriented citizens that are devoted to the interests of Brooklyn, as well as our Nation. Its comprehensive approach to education has contributed to the ongoing revitalization of our neighborhoods, inspiring a new generation of informed, engaged activists committed to real change and, ultimately, a more prosperous future.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students, faculty and parents of Saint Cecilia's School as they celebrate 100 years of educational distinction in the Greenpoint community and extending best wishes for further success in the years that lie ahead

USNS COMFORT

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:

In an effort to save both U.S. and Iraqi lives by adhering to International War and common decency, I sent the following letter to the Captain of the Navy's top hospital ship. Thomas J. Nagy, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow in Public Health, Johns Hopkins, '77-'79

NOVEMBER 12, 2006.

TO THE CAPTAIN, USNS COMFORT: Would it not be to the benefit of all if the USS Comfort were to return immediately to the Persian Gulf to provide life-saving health care to Iraqi infants and children who are dying in huge numbers for the lack of medical services and supplies.

Further, does not the Geneva Convention on the Responsibilities of Occupying Powers require that the U.S., as the de facto if not de jure Occupying Power in Iraq furnish lifesaving health care to Iraqis?

Finally, please forward my note to the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General as well as the captain of the USN HOPE and the captains of any other USN Hospital Ships.

I request a written reply. Sincerely,

THOMAS J. NAGY.

From: Shimkus, Albert J CAPT To: Thomas J. Nagy CC: Herden, Mary J CAPT Subject: Your Email of 12 November Date: 14 Nov 2006 DR. NAGY: Thank you for your email note of 12 November.

I will forward your email note as you have requested.

Sincerely,

A. SHIMKUS. Commanding Officer Treatment Medical Facility. USNS COMFORT (T-AH)20)

UNBORN CHILD PAIN AWARENESS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 6099.

H.R. 6099 is an extreme intrusion into the relationship between a woman and her doctor. Rather than improving informed consent as the authors claim, this legislation would put into federal law inflammatory rhetoric that has not been proven to be fact.

In 2004 a federal district court found that there is "no consensus of medical opinion" on the issue of fetal pain. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, it is highly improbable that a fetus could feel pain before the third trimester. In addition, studies conducted by JAMA on this issue showed that additional anesthesia, as is proposed in this bill, poses increased risk to a woman's health.

Yet this bill would force health care providers to tell patients seeking an abortion that there is "substantial evidence" regarding fetal pain and force them to offer anesthesia for the fetus. It would also force the patient to sign a statement to prove she understood that information

H.R. 6099, if passed, would actually require a medical professional, under federal law, to give women inaccurate and potentially harmful information. This law makes no exceptions for individual patient circumstances or a doctor's judgment of medical necessity. And if a doctor does not provide this information, he or she will face civil sanctions.

Our health care system-the best in the world by many measures-depends on the quality of our health care providers and their ability to communicate with and care for their patients. It is outrageous for Congress to remove the discretion of doctors and instead. rely on politics to make medical decisions. This legislation is based on inaccurate information and political motivation and should be rejected.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 6099 today and in working to improve health care for all Americans in the 110th Congress.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB" LAYHER OF HAYS, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my admiration of a Kansan's life—a life filled with honor and service to country, community and family. Mr. Robert "Bob" Layher of Hays, Kansas, a member of

"Bob" Layher of Hays, Kansas, a member of the Greatest Generation, lived life with integrity, passion and enthusiasm. Like so many young Americans of his generation, Bob put country before self and joined

eration, Bob put country before self and joined the U.S. military. Bob proudly fought for freedom during World War II, though he began serving prior to the start of the war. He was among those who resigned their U.S. military positions in order to volunteer for a covert operation with the Chinese Air Force before the U.S. entered the war. For his service in China as a member of The Flying Tigers, Bob was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Bob's dedication to those he served with and his preservation of their memories was unsurpassed. While the history and service of The Flying Tigers is well known in China, few in our country know about the courage and heroism of these men. Bob took a lead role in making certain that his community knew about The Flying Tiger's mission of protecting China's important Burma Road from Japanese attacks.

He was also involved in national education of The Flying Tigers. Appearing in stories and presenting at schools, he shared the history of this brave group of volunteers. During trips back to the area where they were stationed, members of The Flying Tigers found the need for education about their group was much less necessary in China. The idea that Americans would volunteer to defend another country all for the sake of freedom made a great impression on the Chinese.

While Bob was born and raised outside of Kansas, our state was lucky to have him settle here and begin farming after his military service. Bob was born in Dallas, Oregon, on September 3, 1916. He graduated from the University of Colorado where he also met his wife, Marian. In 1941, 4 days before he left for China, he and Marian were secretly married. This was also the same day as his birthday, so this way Bob would never forget their anniversary.

A very involved member of his community, Bob participated in several civic groups. After he moved to Hays in 1952, Bob became a member of the First Presbyterian Church and the Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a member of the ISIS Shrine and the Masonic Lodge in Salina.

Most important to Bob was his family. Over the course of their 65 years of marriage, he and his wife were committed parents and grandparents. Bob's son, R.F. "Bobby" Layher Jr., followed in his father's footsteps and served as a pilot in Vietnam. Even though Bobby went on to be a civilian pilot, Bob and his son were still able to fulfill their dream of farming together.

In the many important roles Bob filled in his life, he served out of a sense of duty and not out of selfish ambition. He helped make his community better and his nation safer. I join his many friends and admirers in paying tribute to a great man. My thoughts and prayers go out to Marian and her family during this time of loss.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my colleague and good friend from Illinois, Mr. LANE EVANS.

LANE has always served his country with honor. From 1969 to 1971, he served in Vietnam in the U.S. Marine Corps, and as they say, "once a marine, always a marine." When he was elected to Congress in 1982, he immediately worked to make sure veterans were given the benefits that they deserve, and he has fought to bring up issues that would go unknown if it was not for his voice. For almost a quarter of a century in Congress, LANE has been a champion of America's veterans, and his passion for this cause will truly be missed.

LANE and I were able to develop a friendship that transcended politics. We worked together on many issues as members of the House Armed Services Committee. Serving others, especially his constituents, was something LANE did exceedingly well. I was able to see this firsthand when I traveled to his district in 2004. I was impressed, but not shocked, by the large amount of people who showed up at an event he hosted, which certainly speaks to how well-liked and respected he is in the 17th district of Illinois. Serving with LANE has truly been an amazing and educational experience. Unfortunately, LANE has had to battle Par-

Unfortunately, LANE has had to battle Parkinson's Disease since 1995. In his fight against this debilitating disease, he has yet again shown courage and perseverance that proved to everyone that he was not going to easily give up. LANE has also been a great partner in the effort to advance stem cell research, which is a matter of great importance to me. This effort will continue so that patients with spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's Disease and other conditions will benefit from this research in the future.

LANE, thank you for making a difference. While you will be missed in the halls of Congress, I wish you the very best in the next chapter of your life.

CONGRATULATING ALABAMA STATE SENATOR HARRY E. "HAP" MYERS FOR 12 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED LEGISLATIVE 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 to honor Alabama State Senator Harry E. "Hap" Myers for 12 years of leadership and service to the citizens of Mobile and the entire state of Alabama. Hap is a distinguished member of the Mobile, Alabama, community and a tremendous advocate for all of south Alabama. During his career in the Alabama State Legislature, he worked tirelessly on behalf of south Alabama and served as chairperson of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Local Legislation Number Three, and the Senate Veterans Military Affairs Committee.

Hap has been a professional consulting engineer since 1961 and is presently vice president of Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., a national firm with over 50 offices, where he concentrates on municipal long range planning, finance, and operations.

Mr. Speaker, the faithful service of outstanding Americans like Hap Myers 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 wife, Toni, his 3 children, his grandchildren and 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.

WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Weyehaeuser Corporation and its wonderful community service in assisting in the relief efforts and the rebuilding of the gulf coast that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. This outstanding company has gone well beyond the call of duty, truly exemplifying what community service is.

The Weyehaeuser Company was incorporated in 1900 and is one of the world's largest integrated forest product companies, headquartered in Federal Way, Washington, employing 5,000 people in over 40 locations in 18 countries. In 2005, they recorded sales of \$22.6 billion and the company manages more than 2.4 million acres of timberlands in three States. I am pleased to note that of the many locations of the Weyehaeuser Company, two are in the Fifth District of North Carolina.

In recognition of their outstanding community service and dedication to helping those who need it most, Weyehaeuser Corporation has been recognized with the Ron Brown Award. This is the only Presidential award to honor companies "for their exemplary quality of their relationships with employees and communities," This award is presented to companies that have set forth strong initiatives to strengthen their employees and the community that surrounds them as well as promote pioneering business initiatives. The Ron Brown Award was originally established by President Bill Clinton after the late Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, who believed that "businesses do well by doing good." In my opinion, there is no better choice for this award than the Weyerhaeuser Company for its outstanding work and dedication to our country.

On December 4, 2006, the chairman, president and CEO of Weyerhaeuser accepted the Ron Brown Award from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez at a ceremony in the White House. Mr. Rogel accepted the award and dedicated it to Weyerhaeuser's Disaster Relief Coordinator Katy Taylor, along with the partners and volunteers who attended the ceremony.

Also recognized in the White House ceremony was the North Carolina Baptist Builders, with whom Weyerhaeuser teamed up in the gulf coast relief efforts. The North Carolina Baptist Builders is a faith-based organization that set forth a large mission to rebuild 600 homes along the coast. To the credit of the Baptist Builders, the Weyerhaeuser Company recognized their "smoothly-run rebuilding operation to keep projects moving." It is this kind of forward thinking and teamwork that makes the Weyerhaeuser Company so deserving of the Ron Brown Award.

I am honored to have such a wonderful and dedicated company that operates in North Carolina in places such as Charlotte, Greensboro, Newton and many other places, including Elkin and Winston-Salem in the Fifth District. Weyerhaeuser Company has been operating in North Carolina since 1957 with approximately 3,090 employees.

The dedication of Weyerhaeuser to the community is astounding and sets a shining example to other businesses about the importance of community service and helping the less fortunate. To date nearly 300 employees and retirees from across the United States and Canada have volunteered more than 42,000 hours of their time and helped rebuild 50 homes. Weyerhaeuser has a truly generous policy of allowing employees 2 to 4 weeks paid leave to help volunteer in the rebuilding efforts of the gulf coast. Not only does it pay its employees while they are volunteering their time, but it also pays their way and their spouses' way down to the coast for the rebuilding efforts. Now, over a year later, Weyehaeuser employees are still participating in reconstruction efforts and have contributed a combined disaster relief to date totaling more than \$2.8 million. This is nothing short of extraordinary.

While I can mention some of the accomplishments of the Weyerhaeuser Company's contributions, it is the people Weyerhaeuser has touched and the response it has received that truly shows the difference it has made not just to individuals, families and the community as a whole. As one family wrote in response to the help from Weyerhaeuser volunteers, "Because of all of your efforts, we are home! Words cannot truly express the outpouring of love we have received. We are eternally grateful to our Weyehaeuser family." This shows how the assistance of strangers can truly

touch one's spirit, make their life better and give true meaning for caring in the community.

A sign of the high caliber of individuals Weverhaeuser employs is some of the comments of the volunteers that went to the gulf coast to help. One man noted, "The days were long and hot, the work was intense, but the rewards were immeasurable. This has been an experience I won't soon forget." Another volunteer employee commented, "This experience was such a blessing. I got so much more from it than I felt I gave." Even Weyerhaeuser's retirees participated and one reflected of the occasion to assist those in need saying, "Having once more the opportunity to work side by side with other Weverhaeuser employees and retirees made me realize anew why I enjoyed working for Weverhaeuser so much. It's all about the people and the values the company ascribes to. Thanks again!"

Testimonies such as these speak volumes of Weyerhaeuser Company and its dedication to its employees and others. It goes beyond helping those who are under its employment, but it extends a helping hand to strangers to make the world a better place to live. I am pleased that Weyerhaeuser has had a long standing tradition in North Carolina and especially in the Fifth District. It is without question an admirable and outstanding company that lives up to the highest meaning of community service.

Weyerhaeuser's dedication to helping others is immeasurable and I cannot thank the company enough for the work they have done and continue to do. It is truly deserving of such a prestigious award, and I am delighted to see Weyerhaeuser's efforts have been recognized by the administration. The work of its employees and retirees shows that there is no one more deserving.

TRIBUTE TO JOE EDMISTON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my close friend of more than 30 years, Joe Edmiston, recipient of he Environmentalist of the Year Award at the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life of Southern California (COEJLSC)'s 7th Annual Awards Reception. COEJLSC could not have chosen a more deserving person to receive this honor.

Joe is a remarkable man whose accomplishments are legion and whose passion and commitment to the environment is unparalleled. He has literally and figuratively transformed the landscape of southern California for the better. He has also, through his infectious enthusiasm, his innovative work with professional associations and his formal academic teachings, helped change the way we think about environmental protection and stewardship. He epitomizes COEJLSC's guiding principles and his work is perfectly aligned with COEJLSC's mission and purpose.

I first met Joe in December 1976 when he interviewed for the position of executive director of the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission, a State agency created by legislation that I authored as majority leader of the California State Assembly. He was then a young member of the conservation staff of the Sierra Club, but his ideas impressed everyone and ultimately Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., appointed him to the commission directorship.

His decision to implement the plan through the establishment of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was an insightful-but risky-decision to forego traditional approaches. I carried the legislation, and it was a tough fight. Looking back, it was pretty audacious of Joe to think that market forces could be used to control the market, and more audacious still to think that his band of planners and ecologists would be the ones to do it. But the gamble paid off. Now, 26 years later the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has expended close to \$550,000,000 and acquired and preserved more than 55,000 acres of park and open space lands-much of it accessible and regularly enjoyed by the urban population that surrounds it.

Serving his fifth Governor, Joe is close to being the longest serving State agency head in modern history. For a plodding bureaucrat that would not be so remarkable an accomplishment, but he is anything but that. Dynamic, sometimes controversial, he has taken the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to the forefront of conservation leadership in California and the Nation by his innovative approaches and his impact has even been felt in other countries that are attempting to model his success.

I am proud to know Joe. He and his wife Pepper are great friends and they have a wonderful family. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joe Edmiston and congratulating him for receiving COEJLSC's Environmentalist of the Year Award.