

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.

OF GEORGIA

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 receive 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.

Anyone 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 INTRODUCE THE BROADBAND EXPENSING 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 ROCKEFELLER, 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

OF MICHIGAN

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 River.

**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. RADANOVICH 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