

and responders who risked their lives and are now suffering devastating health effects because of their brave service following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

JOINING THE CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON INDIA AND INDIAN AFFAIRS

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, Indian Americans have contributed greatly to the vibrancy, creative thought, and diversity of our Nation. The large and growing population of Indian Americans in Minnesota has enriched our neighborhoods and communities and continues to play an important role in improving the lives of all Americans. It is with these advances in mind that we celebrate the growth of relations between the United States and India and look forward to promoting a closer friendship amongst our two countries.

I'm proud to join the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Affairs and look forward to working with my fellow Members of Congress through the promotion of our shared values and concerns. I stand with India and Indian Americans in promoting peace, prosperity, and happiness for all the world's people.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LANCE CORPORAL DANIEL R. SCHERRY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory and honor of Lance Corporal Daniel R. Scherry. He served our country courageously until his death on April 16, 2007. His brief but passionate career is an inspiration to the community and the brave Marines who continue to fight.

Daniel, born in Cleveland, was a graduate of Rocky River High School. He was an invaluable member of the varsity football team, where his determination and leadership helped the Pirates transform into a dominant football team. Daniel's presence extended off the playing field as he continued to mentor the students of his alma mater before he was deployed to Iraq.

After his graduation in 2005, Daniel continued to be an active member of the community and enrolled himself as a student at the Tri-C Fire Academy. He received hands-on training and underwent intensive classes that fueled his desire to serve our country. In April 2006, Daniel fulfilled his dream and enlisted in the Marine Corps.

In September, Daniel was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2 of the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Lejeune, NC. Daniel served as an infantry mortar man and his diligence and hard work did not go unnoticed. Within his first year of duty, Daniel was quickly promoted twice to the level of Lance Corporal.

Lance Corporal Daniel Scherry is survived, but greatly missed by his parents, siblings, and extended family.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring serviceman Lance Corporal Daniel Scherry. He is an American hero and his sacrifice will always be remembered by the lives he touched.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 23, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, my presence on this floor today is marked by a sad and heavy melancholy over the loss of a friend and dearest colleague. We have lost a good friend, indeed a great friend, in Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I wish to extend with deepest sincerity my sympathy and condolences to her family and to her constituents of Long Beach, Compton, and Los Angeles.

It is a common tradition in our society to look past the loss of the physical being in order to best preserve and cherish the personal being. However, the difficulty in this emerges when we constantly find ourselves reveling in the presence of that person as an everyday part of our lives. Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be so sorely missed. She was and is still a part of our everyday lives. It is hard to fathom the idea that we will never hear her voice again—for her eloquence and passion in speaking, and her unforgettable laughter, will ring in our ears. The strength and tenacity that propelled her through her life's work will continue to inspire us. As we continue our work in her memory, I encourage all of us to remember her as we walk through the hallowed Halls of Congress. If we stop and listen, we will hear her footsteps echo in these great marble corridors.

JUANITA's accomplishments and achievements in life were many. But as we mourn the loss of her physical-self, we would do well to remember her compassionate-self, her temperate-self, which encompassed an unflinching dedication to public service. I most humbly thank Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD for her being an exemplary public servant. I praise her for her stalwart fight against cancer. At last, I am comforted by the fact that her truly unconquerable soul is yet unvanquished.

RECOGNIZING APRIL 25, 2007, AS DENIM DAY IN LOS ANGELES

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with Peace Over Violence, the Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign in Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles City Council in recog-

nizing April 25, 2007, as Denim Day in Los Angeles.

Denim Day was established to show solidarity with rape victims everywhere. In an outrageous court decision in 1997, an Italian judge argued that because a woman was wearing tight jeans that her attacker forced her to remove herself, then the crime was not rape. Appalled by the verdict women in the Italian Parliament protested, by wearing denim to work. Their willingness to stand up for the rights of victims of sexual assault and rape empowered communities around the world to do the same.

For 9 consecutive years, sexual assault awareness advocates throughout Los Angeles have come together through Denim Day activities to call attention to the terrible crimes of rape and other sexual assaults and to say to the world that there is never an excuse. Domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault affect women, children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds. While one person, organization, agency or community cannot eliminate sexual assault alone, together we can educate our communities to prevent these attacks.

I will continue to fight for the rights of victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, and express my strong support for all programs aimed at the elimination of all violence against women. I am honored to recognize April 25, 2007, as Denim Day in Los Angeles and encourage everyone to wear jeans in support of the victims and the fight against domestic violence and sexual assault.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM RESERVOIR ACT

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I am introducing legislation today, along with my colleagues Representatives ROBERT ADERHOLT, JO BONNER, MIKE ROGERS, and JIM MARSHALL, to assist American farmers in dealing with drought conditions and enable them to increase their farm productivity. The need for on-the-farm drought management has become increasingly evident as farmers and the government struggle to keep ahead of the effects of Mother Nature. The drought conditions for the 2005 and 2006 crop years underscored the devastating toll natural disasters have on our Nation's farmers and ranchers. The current approach of providing ad hoc disaster assistance is inadequate and does not give farmers the certainty they need. The Farm Reservoir Act would provide cost-share assistance to agricultural producers for the construction of small reservoirs on their farms.

By combining sound planning with the right resources, agricultural producers can reduce the impact droughts have on their operations. Small on-farm storage reservoirs are an economical way to save water for summer use. The collection and storage of surface water during the off-season, when rainfall and stream levels are typically high, can make irrigation possible in areas where direct pumping from streams, lakes, or wells during the growing season is not feasible. Because these reservoirs are small, the engineering and construction cost per acre-foot are less than big