

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

on-stream reservoirs. Additionally, they are more acceptable from an environmental perspective, because they are off-stream and do not block streams or disturb riverine habitats.

In addition to protecting our Nation's farmers from the costly effects of drought, enhancing their irrigation capacity will allow our farmers to expand production to more acres and increase the productivity of existing acres. Cost-share assistance to construct small, environmentally-friendly, reservoirs located on the farm will provide us with the tools necessary to grow additional bio-fuel crops; which will allow us to wean ourselves from foreign oil. This will reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions by increasing the availability of the cleaner burning fuels these crops produce.

GENETIC INFORMATION
NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee in making certain improvements to H.R. 493. In particular, I note the inclusion of information on embryos, fetuses, and adopted children. I further note a clear statement that nothing affects claims processing and quality improvement activities and related items. Finally, I am happy that there is a provision for covered entities already subject to regulations governing personally identifiable health information.

The primary author of the House bill, Ms. SLAGHTER, has stated:

"GINA prohibits group health plans and health insurers from denying coverage to a healthy individual or charging that person higher premiums based solely on a genetic predisposition to develop a disease in the future. Furthermore, it bars employers from using an individual's genetic information when making hiring, firing, job placement or promotion decisions."

That is the focus of this legislation. I expect the relevant Federal agencies will interpret this bill in light of the primary focus. GINA is a very complicated bill with a number of definitions capable of counterproductive readings. We have tried to improve the bill to reduce these problems. In the spirit of these efforts to improve the legislation I support its passage from the House and look forward to work in Conference.

SPOKANE NAMED 2006 ABILENE
TROPHY WINNER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Spokane community for their work in supporting Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington State. On April 12, 2007, Spokane was selected as the 2006 Abilene Trophy winner during the Phoenix Rally at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

The Abilene Trophy, sponsored by the Abilene, Texas, Chamber of Commerce, recognizes the community that provides the most outstanding support to an Air Mobility Command unit. The 92nd Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild is one of 11 Air Mobility Command bases eligible to compete for the Abilene Trophy in the United States.

The Abilene Chamber of Commerce noted Spokane's standout support for our troops at Fairchild, particularly through programs such as Operation Spokane Heroes and the Honorary Commanders program.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am committed to keeping our Nation and communities safe by ensuring we have a trained and equipped military. Since taking office, one of my top priorities has been to protect and expand the mission of Fairchild Air Force Base. The people of Spokane share that priority and recognize the importance of supporting our men and women in uniform and their families.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Spokane and the members of this community for their outstanding support of Fairchild Air Force Base. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Spokane community on this great achievement.

ACCEPT TAIWAN INTO THE WHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for Taiwan's efforts to participate in the World Health Organization. Taiwan's participation in the WHO is a health issue rather than a political issue. Taiwan has been directly impacted by many of the new, global health threats that have swept Asia since 2002. During the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, Taiwan saw one of the highest incident rates of infection. More recently, Taiwan has reported incidences of avian flu outbreak, a disease which presents a global threat.

For many years, in my district, Idaho State University hosted a unique program providing a language and cultural education program for junior diplomatic officers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I spent time discussing the American political system and current events in Taiwan with the junior diplomats, and they taught me a great deal about Taiwan's political system and the challenges it faces. As Taiwan deals with new arising health threats, the lessons that I learned from the young diplomats reminded me of the importance of ensuring that all people throughout the world can access resources to fight potential pandemics.

Madam Speaker, global health pandemics recognize no borders. Taiwan has been seeking observer status at the WHO since 1997. Other non-sovereign entities, such as the Holy See, maintain observer status. Protecting people's health is not a political issue, and gaining access to global health organizations should not be a political issue either. Safeguarding world health requires the participation of everyone in the international community. Madam Speaker, I urge the international community to accept Taiwan into the WHO community this year.

HONORING MICHAEL D. THOMAS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael D. Thomas, who was killed on April 27, 2007 in Hirat Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Michael was a sniper, a weapons sergeant and a combat medic assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and was killed when his unit came under rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

I did not have the privilege of knowing Staff Sergeant Thomas personally but by all accounts he was a dedicated family man who was devoted to serving his country. He grew up in Seffner, Florida and joined the military police in 1991, serving in Somalia and in Korea. After already having served in the military police for 13 years and with only 3½ years until he could retire, he volunteered to be a Green Beret. At 34, Michael was one of the oldest in his unit which earned him the nickname "Gramps."

Michael was a highly decorated soldier. His awards and commendations include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Medal, the Parachutist Badge and the Special Forces Tab.

Michael was an avid Tampa Bay Buccaneer fan who visited the team's training camp whenever he could. I've been told that he decorated his Fort Bragg room with Buccaneer memorabilia, including signed footballs and helmets. He was also an accomplished guitarist who liked watching movies and going for long walks with his wife, Teresa.

Madam Speaker, my heart aches for Michael's family. He leaves behind his wife, Teresa, his children, Diana and Craig, his sisters, Krista and Cassie, and his parents, Debbie and Robert Kirpatrick. May God bless the Thomas family and continue to watch over the country that Staff Sgt. Thomas so loved. We shall never forget him.

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. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and accomplishments of our recently-passed colleague and dear friend JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD.

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD's life epitomized one of a true leader. Her deep commitment to those she served led her to be the first African American woman to chair a committee in Congress.

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD's vision and leadership since 1996 will have a lasting impact on the House of Representatives. Her