with the 2007 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Award. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Detective Wurtz for his relentless pursuit of dangerous criminals and legendary service to our community and our country.

BAY PINES VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM RECEIVES GOLD SEAL OF APPROVAL

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to report to my colleagues that the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, which I have the privilege to represent, has just been awarded The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for meeting rigorous national standards for health care quality and safety.

This award in particular honors the staff, volunteers, and management team at Bay Pines for its Behavioral Health Care, Home Care, Long Term Care and Hospital programs. The Joint Commission is the Nation's oldest and largest health care standards-setting and accrediting body. The Gold Seal is the result of The Commission's unannounced, on-site evaluation of Bay Pines from April 10th to the 13th.

Following my remarks, I will include for the benefit of my colleagues more information about this award and the standards to which its recipients are held.

Madam Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Wallace M. Hopkins, the Director of the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, the doctors, the nurses, and the volunteers at Bay Pines who are dedicated to caring for our Nation's veterans in a way befitting their brave and selfless service to our Nation and to the cause of freedom.

BAY PINES VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AWARDED ACCREDITATION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION

By demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety, Bay Pines VA Healthcare System has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™ for its Behavioral Health Care, Home Care, Long Term Care and Hospital programs.

''We sought accreditation for our organization because we want to demonstrate our commitment to safety and quality care,'' says Wallace M. Hopkins, FACHE, Director. ''We view obtaining Joint Commission accreditation as another step toward achieving excellence.''

''Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care,'' says Darlene Christiansen, executive director, Hospital Accreditation Program, Joint Commission. ''The community should be proud that Bay Pines VA Healthcare System is focusing on the most challenging goal—to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels.''

Hopkins spoke of his pride in a staff whose members ask what needs to be done to be accredited by The Joint Commission. ''In addition, they appreciate the educational aspect of the survey and the opportunity to interact with the team of surveyors.''

The Joint Commission conducted an unannounced, on-site evaluation of Bay Pines VA Healthcare System on April 10–13, 2007. The accreditation award recognizes Bay Pines VA Healthcare System's dedication to complying with the Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards on a continuous basis.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits nearly 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 8,000 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,800 other health care organizations that provide long term care, assisted living, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission also accredits health plans, integrated delivery networks, and other managed care entities. In addition, The Joint Commission provides certification of disease-specific care programs, primary stroke centers, and health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

CONGRATULATING THE HARLINGEN SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the mighty Harlingen South High School Hawks, who last Saturday represented the City of Harlingen and the entire Rio Grande Valley of South Texas in the 2007 State Class 5A High School Baseball Championship. Harlingen South was first victorious over Midland Lee, 4–2, in its state semifinal game. The Hawks (38–6) then advanced to the state championship where they were defeated 6–1 by Houston Cypress Fairbanks (32–7). However, their performance in 2007 was nothing less than spectacular.

The Rio Grande Valley is a Texas region with a long tradition of great high school sports successes, with state titles in football and soccer. The Hawks were one win away from adding a baseball state title to our impressive history of victories.

When any high school team approaches the pinnacle of high school sports—state championship glory—the entire region comes together to cheer on that team. That was the case this year as the Hawks advanced one win at a time. This past Saturday, all of Harlingen and every city in South Texas watched on the edge of their chairs and on their feet. All high school rivalries in the Valley ceased and were united behind the Hawks as they faced their formidable opponent.

The Hawks have reminded all of us that with outstanding players, solid coaches, hard work, disciplined training, and supportive parents and school districts, more state titles are in our future. Thank you, Mighty Hawks, for representing your school and the Rio Grande Valley so admirably for all the State of Texas to see.

As their Congressman, I am so proud of the Harlingen South High School Hawks from Harlingen, Texas for their outstanding wins on the baseball field and for playing their heart out throughout the season and in their fight for the state crown. Please join me in applauding the coaches and each and every one of the Hawks:

Coach, Tony Leal; Assistant Coaches, Jesse Landeros, Rolando Ruiz, and Ignacio Medina; Joey Reyna, Junior, Outfield/Pitcher; Randy Cavazos, Senior, Outfield; Peter Maldonado, Junior, Outfield; Logan Brown, Senior, Shortstop/Pitcher; Michael Johnson, Senior, Third Base; Javier Torres, Senior, Outfield/Pitcher; Sean Messick, Junior, Outfield/Pitcher; Joey Garcia, Senior, Third Base/Outfield; Danny Gidora, Senior, Pitcher/First Base/Catcher; Andrew Huerta, Senior, Shortstop; Kaleb Bryan, Senior, Second Base; Adrian Ramon, Senior, Catcher/pitcher; Josh Martinez, Senior, Outfield; Jonathan Salas, Junior, Second Base; Steven Mata, Sophomore, Shortstop; Jonathan Lopez, Senior, Outfield; Daniel Cardenas, Junior, First Base; and Cody Thompson, Senior, First Base.

Again, congratulations to the Hawks and their families, Harlingen South High School, the City of Harlingen, and the Rio Grande Valley.

TRUTH IN CALLER ID ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, and want to thank its sponsor, Mr. ENGEL, as well as Chairmen DINGELL and MARKEY for working with me on an amendment that was added to the bill during the full committee mark-up.

Caller ID is a great benefit to millions of Americans by giving them more control over their telephones and who and when they talk on the phone.

Like many technological advances, caller ID is a benefit, but bad actors can take advantage of it and turn the technology against the people it is supposed to help.

The amendment accepted during full committee clarifies that the standard in this bill—''intent to cause defraud or harm''—covers dirty political tricks that use caller ID spoofing.

Using fake caller ID info to commit identity theft or stalk or harass someone is wrong and should be prohibited.

Using fake caller ID to falsely pretend to be calling from the Democratic Party or the Republican Party or any candidate for office is also wrong and should be prohibited.

We are not limiting anyone's speech, but we are saying that if you choose to contact thousands of people by phone through robocalls, Americans deserve accurate information on where you are calling from.

We are focusing on pre-recorded robocalls because there is no other way besides caller ID to know where they came from since there is no real person on the other end.

Current law requires commercial telemarketers to transmit accurate caller ID, but there is a loophole for non-commercial calls.

We are closing this loophole for non-commercial robocalls which includes political robocalls.

If you are going to send out thousands of robocalls, there is no justification for using false caller ID, regardless of whether you meet the underlying standard in this bill.

Again, I thank the bill's sponsor for working with me to solidify this through my amendment in committee, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE POST-9/11 VETERANS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to stand before this chamber and introduce the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007. This bill was first introduced in the Senate by my friend and fellow Virginia colleague, Senator JIM WEBB, earlier this year.

Not since Pearl Harbor has a single event so shaped a generation until the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Like Pearl Harbor, September 11th became a call to arms for many Americans to join the Armed Forces.

For the 15 million veterans who returned home from World War II, Congress passed the first G.I. Bill of Rights of 1944. The first G.I. Bill helped veterans readjust to civilian life and afforded them the opportunity to do something that many had missed out on—getting a college education. That first G.I. Bill paid for veterans' tuition, books, fees, room and board, and even provided them a monthly stipend. Approximately 7.8 million World War II veterans used the benefits in the G.I. Bill of 1944 to increase their quality of life through education.

After World War II, Congress passed several other G.I. Bills to provide educational benefits for veterans returning home from the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Since the Vietnam War, Congress passed two G.I. Bills that established peacetime educational benefits for members of the all volunteer Armed Services. Although the current Montgomery G.I. Bill of 1985 provides peacetime educational benefits, the current program was not designed to meet the needs of our current global situation—a situation in which several hundred thousand men and woman in uniform are fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq have strained our entire all-volunteer military, forcing many of our Reservist and National Guard units into extended tours of duty. Many of our men and women in the Army, Air Force, Navy, and the Marine Corps have served more than one tour of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With hundreds of thousands of our brave men and woman currently fighting overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq, we need a new G.I. Bill to honor these veterans when they all finally return home. The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007 is designed to expand the educational benefits that our nation offers to our brave men and women who have served us so honorably and who have sacrificed so much since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The bill that I am introducing today is designed to give this generation, who took it upon themselves to enlist after 9/11, benefits very similar to those provided to the veterans of World War II.

Madam Speaker, the bill that I am introducing today would specifically increase educational benefits to members of the military who have served at least 2 years of active duty, with at least some period of active duty time served beginning on or after September 11, 2001. Veterans will be eligible to receive these benefits for no more than 36 months or 4 academic years and would have 15 years to exercise these benefits. The version of this legislation that I am introducing today limits benefit payments to the cost of the most expensive public institution in the state in which the veteran is enrolled. If the veteran chooses to attend a private institution, the veteran must pay the difference between the cost of the college of his or her choice and the most expensive public institution of the state in which the veteran is enrolled. Like the G.I. Bill of 1944, the Post-9/11 G.I. bill will pay for tuition, books, fees, room and board, and provide a monthly stipend of $1,000.

Madam Speaker, while in law school, I was privileged to serve in the Massachusetts National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves. I fortunately was never called into active duty, but the circumstances of our global situation today have pulled thousands of Guard and Reservists out of college into active duty. I am proud to represent the Third Congressional District of Virginia which is home to thousands of military personnel. You can't go very far in my district without running into a military installation or a member of our Armed Forces. I see the sacrifices of our men and women and their families each and every time I return home.

Madam Speaker, it is time that we pass a G.I. Bill on the same scale of the first G.I. Bill that was passed at the end of World War II to meet the sacrifices of this generation. I am pleased to join Senator WEBB by introducing the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007 in the House today and I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CHRISTINE ''CHRIS'' TORRES, UPON HER RECEIPT OF THE 2007 SUBURBAN REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S TRIBUTE TO WOMEN AWARD

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Ms. Christine ''Chris'' Torres, upon her receipt of the 2007 Suburban Republican Women's Tribute to Women Award.

Since 1983, Chris has been actively involved in promoting the conservative principles of the Republican Party in Michigan. She supported Ronald Reagan's historic campaign for the Presidency and, later, became a precinct delegate by walking through Redford neighborhoods with her children and their friends, all the while dropping off literature and obtaining signatures for legislative proposals. In the years since, she also dedicated herself to the Bush-Cheney campaigns of 2000 and 2004, the gubernatorial campaigns of Dick Poshumus and Richard Devos, and the reelection campaigns of Mike Cox for Attorney General and Laura Toy for state Senate.

In 2004, she became a member of the Suburban Republican Women's Club where she serves as Chairman of Hospitality and as Chaplain. As the proud wife of Juan Manuel Torres for 30 years and the mother of six outstanding children, Chris is a deserving recipient of the Suburban Republican Women's Club's highest honor, the 2007 Tribute to Women Award. Importantly, Chris has also dedicated her time to the Michigan Right to Life organization by participating in annual benefits dinners in the southeastern district.

Madam Speaker, Chris's leadership and courage of convictions are an inspiration to her peers in the Suburban Republican Women's Club and our entire community. Thus, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Christine Torres for her selfless service to our community and our country.