gem was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. The building, with its renaissance style architecture and aesthetic charm, still functions as a venue for educational, civic, and cultural purposes.

The City of Wasco has since flourished into a growing and vibrant community located in the heart of the most diversified agricultural region in the world. Wasco is nestled among blooming rose fields, almond and pistachio orchards, sugar beets, grapes, and white cotton fields among many other fruits and vegetables.

Wasco is also universally known as the Rose Capital of the Nation. Over 60 percent of all roses grown in the United States are grown in the Wasco area. Seven major rose companies grow more than 50 million plants in the North Kern County area. Rose companies were looking for a good climate, the right kind of soil, good land to lease, a desirable growing season, as well as an available labor force and water. Wasco has been home to many of these rose companies for over 50 years.

The history of this city further demonstrates that it is only by embracing the importance of community, cooperation and shared vision that such success can be achieved. I am honored to stand and shine a spotlight on the City of Wasco, as they celebrate a century of pride and progress.

STATEMENT HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT EVERETT O. BELL

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful man and the former president of Texas Southern University, Everett O. Bell. Mr. Bell passed away last Thursday after a lengthy illness and he will be deeply missed.

Everett Bell was born on September 23, 1918 in Kosciusko, Mississippi to Ebb Owens Bell and Allie Glee, as one of ten children. He quickly showed his dedication to serving his community and his country, attaining the rank of Captain during his service in the United States Army during World War II. After leaving the service, Mr. Bell returned to the University of Kansas to attain his Bachelor of Arts degree.

Mr. Bell first came to Texas Southern in 1948 as a registrar and assistant professor at my alma mater, Texas Southern's School of Law, later to become the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. This marked the beginning of 46 years of distinguished service to the university in various capacities. He served as director of personnel, acting dean of the School of Law, assistant to the president under seven different administrations, vice president for administrative affairs, and executive director for regent relations, among other positions. From 1979 to 1980, Mr. Bell served as Texas Southern's fifth president following the departure of President Granville Sawyer. He continued working at the school through 1994, when he retired after his extremely distinguished career.

Mr. Bell served Texas Southern University and the rest of his community admirably throughout the course of his life. In 1983, Texas Southern recognized his tireless service by naming the Student Services Building in his honor as Everett O. Bell Hall. He also served admirably in the Episcopal Church, where he served on the Diocese of Texas' Executive Board and Race Relations Board. Mr. Bell also demonstrated his commitment to his community by serving on the Board of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

I would like to express my condolences to Everett Bell's family, friends and all those who will miss him dearly. I would also like to express my admiration for his lifelong dedicated service to his community and his country.

PERCY SUTTON POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for the resolution to name the post office at 365 West 125th Street in New York City as the ''Percy Sutton Post Office Building.''

A civil rights leader and businessman, Percy Sutton was a pre-eminent fixture of New York politics, serving as a member of the New York State Assembly and from 1966 through 1977 as Manhattan Borough President. Most of all, Percy Sutton was one of the architects of the effort to revive Upper Manhattan.

Percy Sutton once said, ''If you pray for only one thing, let it be for an idea.'' He was a man of innumerable ideas—many of them profoundly important for New York City and for the community he represented. He lived an astonishingly full life that included stints as a stunt pilot, military intelligence officer, lawyer, civil rights activist, politician, media baron and technology executive.

Most of all, Percy Sutton dared to dream the impossible. At a time when Harlem was crumbling, he believed that it could become a tourist attraction. When the famous Apollo Theatre closed, it threatened to become another vacant shell on a street of shuttered stores. He acquired the theater, in a move that is widely considered the first step to the renewal of 125th Street.

Percy Sutton had an important and lasting impact on the community surrounding the post office, and it is fitting to have a federal building named in his honor. I am proud to support H.R. 954.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHWEST DIGEST

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Southwest Digest for 30 years of service in the Lubbock community. Over the past 30 years, the Southwest Digest has provided the African American community of Lubbock with news and current events. The newspaper has strongly advocated for economic and community development and against drugs and violence. Its editors have also focused on the special needs of senior citizens, young people, and the poor in the community.

Eddie Richardson and T.J. Patterson cofounded the Southwest Digest in 1977. In addition to their work with the newspaper, both men have been active in serving the Lubbock community and state of Texas, and both also served their country in the U.S. armed forces.

After working with Texas State Representative Al Edwards for many years, Eddie Richardson was appointed by the governor as a commissioner on Texas' Juneteenth Cultural and Historical Commission. T.J. Patterson's career in education included teaching in Lubbock and serving as Assistant Dean at the Texas Tech College of Business. He was also a leader in local government, becoming the first African American elected to the Lubbock City Council in 1984. He was named Mayor Pro-Tem in 1990 and stepped down from the Lubbock City Council in 2004.

Under the leadership of Eddie Richardson and T.J. Patterson, the Southwest Digest has made many notable contributions to the Lubbock area. Some of these include participating in 85 marches against gangs, drugs and violence over the years. In 2002, the editors established the Southwest Digest Foundation to help support disadvantaged young people. Through the years, the Southwest Digest has continued to spread the message that drugs and crime should not be tolerated in the Lubbock community.

This newspaper has had a positive impact on Lubbock for the past 30 years. I congratulate the editors on their work and wish the Southwest Digest continued success for many years to come.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BURKE CENTRE CONSERVANCY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Burke Centre Conservancy, located in Fairfax County, Virginia.

The Burke Centre Conservancy is a home owners association representing 5,862 homes on 1,700 acres of land. A planned residential community, Burke Centre is comprised of single family homes, townhouses, condominiums, co-ops, duplexes and quad units. The variety of housing located in Burke Centre provides the Conservancy with unique and pressing challenges in ensuring a healthy quality of life for all of its residents.

Burke Centre is governed by an annually-elected board of trustees with seven volunteer members. The board acts to maintain community assets; address resident concerns; manage the financial assets of the corporation; execute the yearly budget; enforce Conservancy rules; administer community programs; encourage volunteer efforts; and to provide services to enhance a positive lifestyle within the Burke Centre community.

Significant accomplishments of the Burke Centre Conservancy include a community risk

management plan and stream bank instability study by the Board of Trustees; a $250,000 wetlands remediation project; and the establishment of a community parking district.

Burke Centre was also honored with the 2007 Best of Braddock Award for Neighborhood Enhancement and Beautification.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I commend and congratulate the Burke Centre Conservancy on 30 years of excellence. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the Conservancy on its continued growth and success for many years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA GRAY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Gray for her unwavering dedication and service as Clerk of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Nevada.

Patricia has recently retired from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court after dutifully serving it for over 36 years. Patricia came to Las Vegas in 1968, moving with her family from her birthplace of Carlsbad, New Mexico. She graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1969.

In September of 1970, Patricia was appointed as a deputy clerk for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Her immense talents and indomitable work ethic were recognized and she rose quickly through the ranks, becoming the Chief Deputy Clerk in 1974. In 1979, Patricia was appointed as the Clerk of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court under the Bankruptcy Code for the District of Nevada.

During her 36 years with the court system, Patricia has actively served the judicial branch, serving on many committees in both the 9th Circuit and Administrative Office of U.S. Courts. She has served on the Local Rules Subcommittee for Bankruptcy Rules and as Chair of the 9th Circuit Bankruptcy Liaison Committee. Patricia is also a notable member of the Las Vegas community for her service as a member of the Board of Directors for the Clark County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Patricia's enduring legacy is recognized by her peers in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, where they describe her as being a great leader who has shown dedication and compassion for both the members of the court and for the public. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Patricia Gray. I wish her the greatest happiness in her retirement and I offer my sincere thanks for her many years of service.

IN HONOR OF SOUTH BAY STAND DOWN FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation and support for South Bay Stand Down For Homeless Veterans. From September 8th through September 10, 2007, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is reaching out to homeless military veterans living in the South San Francisco Bay region.

Held in Santa Cruz County, South Bay Stand Down aims to reduce the many barriers faced by homeless veterans and to assist them with a wide variety of services. For three days, veterans will be able to access clothing, food, water, and shelter, and can interface with a wide variety of government and public service organizations. Veterans will have the ability to learn about benefits that they may be entitled to, and even access free legal assistance and health services.

I am truly inspired to see that the South Bay Stand Down for Homeless Veterans is a community effort. A diverse array of organizations have come together to ensure that the problem of homelessness among military veterans is properly addressed. Notable participants include the Veterans Transition Center, the County of Santa Cruz Veterans Services Office, Capitola Vet Center, Shelter Network, Not This Time Vets, Easter Seals, and the Red Cross.

Homeless veterans face incredible hurdles in areas of life that many people simply take for granted. Access to shelter, food, and employment are immeasurably more difficult to attain. With as many as 50,000 homeless veterans living in the state of California alone, it is imperative that the government and local communities reach out to assist those who have served our nation. The South Bay Stand Down accomplishes just that. I commend the participating veterans and organizations for their willingness to better the lives of our community members.

Madam Speaker, I wish to express my gratitude to the organizers of South Bay Stand Down and to all of the participating organizations. To the veterans who attend, I offer my most sincere appreciation for your service in the armed forces of our nation. I can think of no other group more deserving of community support and recognition than the men and women who served in the United States military.

HONORING THE 1966 TEXAS WESTERN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the Texas Western Miners, the 1966 NCAA championship basketball team that is being inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame today. Texas Western College is now known as the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), and is in the district that I am honored to represent. The victory of the 1966 Texas Western team made a groundbreaking impact on diversity in sports and civil rights in America, and this team is only one of six to be enshrined forever as a legend of the basketball world.

Texas Western was coached by Don Haskins, ''the Bear,'' who has become an El Paso icon and legend and who was himself inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1997 as a coach.

The Texas Western team, a tight-knit group of blacks, whites, and one Hispanic, finished the 1965–66 regular season with a 23–1 record. The Miners then played their way to the NCAA championship game. On the night of March 19, 1966, in College Park, MD, history was made when Haskins started, for the first time ever, an all-black lineup in the final NCAA championship game against Adolph Rupp's No. 1-ranked Kentucky Wildcats, an all-white team. The Texas Western team won the national title with a 72–65 victory. More important than the basketball victory was the profound statement that was made that night regarding an issue that was causing great national controversy and strife—civil rights.

The win soon became a symbol for the breakthrough of black athletes into college sports and is an event defined by many as the ''Brown v. Board of Education of athletics''. After the '66 championship, college teams throughout the South began aggressively recruiting black athletes, ending years of shameful segregation. You may recall that the 2006 film ''Glory Road'' is based on the story of the 1966 Texas Western team. Years later, when recounting his coaching successes and historic contribution to civil rights, Haskins said, ''I just played my best guys, like any coach would do.''

This team will be remembered forever. This is a great day for El Paso and for basketball enthusiasts all over the world; a great day to remember the civil rights struggle and some of the strides that have been made; and a great day to recognize and honor the contributions of the 1966 Texas Western NCAA championship basketball team as they are inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

I am proud of this team—Bobby Joe Hill (Detroit, Michigan), Orsten Artis (Gary, Indiana), Togo Railey (El Paso, Texas), Willie Worsley (New York, New York), David Palacio (El Paso, Texas), Dick Myers (Peabody, Kansas), Harry Flournoy (Gary, Indiana), Louis Baudoin (Albuquerque, New Mexico), Nevil Shed (New York, New York), Jerry Armstrong (Eagleville, Missouri), Willie Cager (New York, New York), David 'Big Daddy' Lattin (Houston, Texas) and their legendary coach, Don ''the Bear'' Haskins, and congratulate them on this slam dunk!

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF LIFE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a new record for the State of Florida; our first set of sextuplets, born this weekend to new parents Karoline and Ben Byler of Wesley Chapel in my district.

As someone who raised three wonderful girls, I know the joys of motherhood, albeit one at a time. the Bylers, who already have a 4-year-old at home, now get six times the challenge of raising young children, welcoming five little boys and one girl into their home.

The boys were named Brady Christopher, Eli Benjamin, Ryan Patrick, Jackson Robert