

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ROSAMOND PAYNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rosamond Payne, a Senior Associate Director in emergency medicine at Kings County Hospital Center. Mrs. Payne is also a Family Nurse Practitioner in emergency medicine as well. It behooves us to honor Mrs. Payne who immigrated to the United States from Grenada where she had vast political involvement in solving community issues and needs.

For many years, Mrs. Payne has been a preceptor for Advance Practice Nurse Practitioner students; has been a mentor in the African-American Nursing Leadership Program at New York University. Additionally, Rosamond has been a professor of nursing for three years at the City University of New York serving on the curriculum committee and as the liaison between the City University of New York and the College of Nursing in the Netherlands.

Mrs. Payne is well respected among the medical profession, having been drafted as a visiting clinical instructor at Columbia and Malloy Universities. To her credit, she entered the medical profession as a registered nurse in 1991, and with her enthusiasm and drive, she empowered people and encouraging them to improve themselves.

She also does community outreach medical educational seminars on stroke and stroke education through the American Heart Association. Along the way, Mrs. Payne has given testimony before the legislators in Albany, New York regarding the drafting of the nursing curriculum to provide an excellent education for nursing students and to improve nursing student graduates to pass their licensing examinations in order to ameliorate the nursing shortage statewide.

Finally, Rosamond has volunteered for years on medical missions to Guyana, South America and even drafted her twenty-year old daughter, Ann Marie, who volunteered in December 2006 and is on her way to medical school herself in the near future.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Payne is a proud wife and mother who loves her profession. It is important for us to recognize her accomplishments and her selfless service.

CAROLINE PELTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Caroline Pelton of Cameron, Missouri. Caroline is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by tak-

ing an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Caroline has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Caroline has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Caroline Pelton her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

LIVING BY THE SWORD

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, it has been said that "he who lives by the sword shall die by the sword." And in the case of Eliot Spitzer this couldn't be more true. In his case it's the political sword, as his enemies rejoice in his downfall. Most people, it seems, believe he got exactly what he deserved.

The illegal tools of the state brought Spitzer down, but think of all the harm done by Spitzer in using the same tools against so many other innocent people. He practiced what could be termed "economic McCarthyism," using illegitimate government power to build his political career on the ruined lives of others.

No matter how morally justified his comeuppance may be, his downfall demonstrates the worst of our society. The possibility of uncovering personal moral wrongdoing is never a justification for the government to spy on our every move and to participate in sting operations.

For government to entice a citizen to break a law with a sting operation—that is, engaging in activities that a private citizen is prohibited by law from doing—is unconscionable and should clearly be illegal.

Though Spitzer used the same tools to destroy individuals charged with economic crimes that ended up being used against him, gloating over his downfall should not divert our attention from the fact that the government spying on American citizens is unworthy of a country claiming respect for liberty and the fourth amendment.

Two wrongs do not make a right. Two wrongs make it doubly wrong.

Sacrifice of our personal privacy has been ongoing for decades, but has rapidly accelerated since 9/11. Before 9/11 the unstated goal of collecting revenue was the real reason for the erosion of our financial privacy. When 19 suicidal maniacs attacked us on 9/11, our country became convinced that further sacrifice of personal and financial privacy was required for our security.

The driving force behind this ongoing sacrifice of our privacy has been fear and the emotional effect of war rhetoric—war on drugs, war against terrorism, and the war against third world nations in the Middle East who are claimed to be the equivalent to Hitler and Nazi Germany.

But the real reason for all this surveillance is to build the power of the state. It arises from a virulent dislike of free people running their own lives and spending their own money. Statists always demand control of the people and their money.

Recently we've been told that this increase in the already intolerable invasion of our privacy was justified because the purpose was to apprehend terrorists. We were told that the massive amounts of information being collected on Americans would only be used to root out terrorists. But as we can see today, this monitoring of private activities can also be used for political reasons. We should always be concerned when the government accumulates information on innocent citizens.

Spitzer was brought down because he illegally withdrew cash from a bank—not because he committed a crime. This should prompt us to reassess and hopefully reverse this trend of pervasive government intrusion in our private lives.

We need no more Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act! No more Violent Radicalization & Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Acts! No more torture! No more Military Commissions Act! No more secret prisons and extraordinary rendition! No more abuse of habeas corpus! No more PATRIOT Acts!

What we need is more government transparency and more privacy for the individual!

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker. Today I am introducing the "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments Act."

Normally, I would be pleased to offer a bill that strengthens the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian tribes. But today, I am disappointed that such legislation is necessary.

It is undisputed that the United States has a legal and political relationship with Indian tribes and Alaska Natives. As such, when the Federal government interacts with Indian tribes, it does so on a government-to-government basis. This, combined with the history of treatment of Indian tribes by the United States, imposes a moral obligation on the United

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

States to consult with Indian tribes before enacting policies that have a direct effect on them.

The history of Federal-Tribal relations has shown that consultation with Indian tribes works. The Federal Indian policies that have failed have been those that were developed without tribal input or are contrary to tribal input. On the other hand, the Federal Indian policy that has succeeded is that which allows Indian tribes the most input and control over their own affairs—tribal self-governance and self-determination. Indian tribes know what is best for themselves and for their members.

So it is disappointing that over 30 years after passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act that this Administration refuses to engage in timely and meaningful consultation with Indian tribes.

Despite the political and moral obligation, as well as Presidential Executive Order 13175 requiring the administration to consult with Indian tribes, this administration has flagrantly ignored this responsibility. Instead, the administration takes actions that often have serious and negative consequences on Indian country, without any consultation at all. The House Committee on Natural Resources hears from Indian tribes on a continuous basis about the lack of government-to-government consultation between the administration and Indian tribes.

This bill will require the Department of the Interior, the Indian Health Service, and the National Indian Gaming Commission to enter into a true consultation process with Indian tribes and Alaska Natives before new policies or actions are taken, which will directly affect them.

This bill will mandate that Federal Indian policy is formulated only with input from Indian country while respecting Indian tribal self-government, sovereignty, and with honor for treaties signed long ago.

This bill will ensure that the United States will not repeat the mistaken policies of the past where the Great White Father makes decisions and policies in a vacuum.

This bill will make sure that the United States as a government sits at the table with Indian tribal governments when decisions are to be made affecting the lives of our First Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECONNECTING HOMELESS YOUTH
ACT OF 2008

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the lead Republican Sponsor of H.R. 5524, the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008. I am pleased to join with my good friend Congressman JOHN YARMUTH to introduce this important bill reauthorizing and strengthening programs for runaway and homeless youth programs set to expire this year.

Madam Speaker, each year, between one and three million children in the United States find themselves on their own and on the street. Throughout our Nation, local shelters, like Naperville Community Outreach and Aunt Martha's in my district, rely on Federal support to keep these kids safe and off the streets.

Congress first enacted the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, RHYA, in 1974 and has regularly reauthorized it to ensure a basic level of support for unaccompanied youth. The Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act does more than reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. It gives children whose lives have been disrupted an opportunity to overcome homelessness and get on track for a successful future.

This bill gives needed flexibility to shelters receiving Basic Center Program, BCP, funds, which provide children with emergency short-term shelter while attempts are made at family reunification. It strengthens Transitional Living Programs, TLP, that provide older youth with life skills, education and employment services to help them become self-sufficient and independent. The bill also strengthens outreach efforts aimed at educating runaways on the services available and preventing youth from running away in the first place.

While the bill improves key components of runaway and homeless youth programs, I do have some concerns that I look forward to addressing as the bill moves through the Education and Labor Committee. First, I am concerned that raising minimum small state and territory allotments could adversely affect other States and territories if RHYA funding levels remain flat. Secondly, while I support the intent of more accurate research on runaway and homeless youth, I believe we can find a more cost-effective alternative to the research mandated in this bill. Lastly, I am concerned that the grant appeals process created in the bill attempts to fix a problem that simply does not exist and, in doing so, raises costs associated with administering the program.

I very much appreciate the assurances I've been given by the majority and minority on the Education and Labor Committee that we will discuss these and other issues in a bipartisan manner to make a good bill great, and, most importantly, to keep children off the streets.

IN RECOGNITION OF DELIA P.
SANCHEZ IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Delia P. Sanchez, a champion for children in Florida. Ms. Sanchez is a wonderful example of the power of women to shape future generations and make a difference in their communities.

Ms. Sanchez is a lifelong learner. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Florida State University in social work with minors in education and Spanish in 1945 and went on to get her master's in social work at Columbia University in 1947. Until 1991, nearly 50 years later, she took graduate level courses in areas such as pupil personnel services, education, and rehabilitation.

All the while, Ms. Sanchez was affecting enormous change in lives of hundreds of children in the Tampa Bay area. One of the greatest services that Delia Sanchez provided to the Tampa community was to work with Congressman Sam Gibbons to bring the first Head

Start program to Hillsborough County. She began her career as a child welfare worker for the Florida State Welfare Board. From there Ms. Sanchez went on to work for the School Board of Hillsborough County as a school social worker and a case work consultant, working her way up the ranks to eventually serve as the administrative supervisor for Head Start for 9 years. Then, in the last 3 years of her career, she went into private practice to counsel troubled children.

Throughout her career and in her retirement, Ms. Sanchez has served as a board member or local representative to a number of community organizations. The list is too large to mention them all, but they range from the University of South Florida's Latin Community Advisory Committee, the Citizen's Advisory Council, the Child Abuse Council, the Ybor City Museum Society, to the National Association of Social Workers.

For all of her hard work for the education and welfare of children, countless organizations have recognized her. Ms. Sanchez is the recipient of the U.S. State Department Fellowship Award, the American Red Cross Service Award twice, the Mayor's Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award, the USF Social Work Alumni Society Award for Outstanding Community Service, the Channel 8 WFLA Volunteer of the Year Award, the Commemoration Committee Award for Dedicated Community Service, the Retired Social Worker Outstanding Achievement Award, the St. John Presbyterian Early Childhood Hand Print Award, the Ybor City Museum Society Pizzo Award to preserve Tampa's Latin heritage, the Hillsborough County Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, the Louis De La Parte Mental Health Advisory Council Award, and the National Head Start Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

And, if all of that wasn't enough, she is also a member of Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society, was named Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers by the Tampa Bay Unit and then again by the Florida Chapter, received an honorary Doctorate from the University of South Florida School of Social Work, and in 1993 she was Hispanic Woman of the Year.

Madam Speaker, Delia P. Sanchez is a woman of the highest regard who has dedicated her life to helping others. I am proud to call her my neighbor, and I join many others to applaud her lifetime contribution to the Tampa Bay community.

HONORING ASNETH SYDONNIE
COUNCIL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Asneth Sydonnie Council for outstanding and exemplary contribution to children and families in their pursuit of educational opportunities and advancement.

Asneth Council grew up in St. Ann, Jamaica in a home environment nurtured with love and strong family ties. She is the first of four daughters and one son of Mrs. Hillary Livingston, who is herself an educator. Her family's motto is "Education Is the Key to Success." Naturally, Ms. Council epitomizes this motto in

her professional life as well as her work with children, families, staff and community stakeholders.

Asneth attended and graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Behavioral Science from Mercy College. She continued her studies at Teachers College of Columbia University where she earned a Master of Arts Degree in Social and Organizational Psychology. Her love of learning propelled Ms. Council to return to Long Island University where she completed a second Master's Degree in Public Administration in May 2007. She is presently enrolled in Doctoral Studies with a concentration in Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

Starting at the Joseph DiMarco Head Start program where she worked with children and their families, she continued working in Head Start by setting up a joint Head Start program with Broadway Housing and Center for Urban Community Services.

In December 2005, Asneth Sydonnie Council joined the Police Athletic League where she was quickly promoted from Deputy Director to the Director of Head Start programs and in August of 2007, was promoted to her current position as Director of Childcare and Nutrition. Moreover, Ms. Council is also a member of the Police Athletic League Strategic Planning Committee.

Ms. Council and her husband, Herbert, are celebrating seven years of marriage and are the proud parents of five children who continue to excel in their educational pursuits. Keeping with the tradition of her family's motto, Asneth also believes that "every individual is important and has something to offer."

Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to honor Asneth Sydonnie Council for her important role, her unwavering dedication and valuable contributions on behalf of young children. She is selfless and gives all of her heart to the very young who need her compassion the most.

STEPHANIE MORROW

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephanie Morrow of Blue Springs, Missouri. Stephanie is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Stephanie has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Stephanie has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stephanie Morrow for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

HONORING NANCY PORTER
MORRILL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Porter Morrill—the 2008 recipient the Bucks County Women's History Month Award. Ms. Morrill is being recognized by the Bucks County Women's Fund for her hard work and exceptional achievements in working to improve her community.

Ms. Morrill has a long and distinguished career of service to Bucks County. Committed to improving Bucks County. Ms. Morrill dedicated herself to working for various organizations, such as Community Development Advisory Council, Human Services Advisory Council and the Operations Review and Evaluations Committee.

Ms. Morrill has also worked to improve the scholastic and cultural environment of Bucks County. She was an important member of both School Works! and the Pennsbury School District, working to advance the relationships between businesses, teachers, students, and parents.

She has had an impact on the arts as well. She helped create the Arts and Cultural Council of Bucks County and the Food and Wine Festival in Bucks County which she co-chaired for 5 years. Ms. Morrill was also an active member of the Pennsbury Arts Foundation and the Art Committee of the Phillips Mill Community Association.

Of all Ms. Morrill's outstanding achievements, her most important work has been done fighting for women's rights in Bucks County. Over many years, Ms. Morrill worked tirelessly for the Planned Parenthood organization. She was head of the fundraising committee for the Planned Parenthood clinic in Doylestown and she went on to serve as the president of Bucks County Planned Parenthood organization. Also, Ms. Morrill was named the secretary of the board of the Family Planning Association of S.E.P.A. and helped to build the Bucks County Women's Fund.

As her outstanding resume shows, Nancy Morrill has pledged her life to helping those in her community. Through her tireless work, Ms. Morrill has changed Bucks County for the better. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ms. Morrill for her extraordinary accomplishments and extremely honored to serve as her Congressman.

HONORING OLD FIRST CHURCH IN
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I would like to commemorate the First Church of Christ, Congregational, located in Springfield, MA, commonly known as "Old First Church." The congregation first established on the banks of the Connecticut River in 1637, conducted its last service on Sunday, December 31, 2007. Its steeple bells tolled for

the last time after the service was concluded and rang out over Court Square and downtown Springfield in its entirety. Its closing should not go unreported.

Old First Church was founded by settlers, including William Pynchon, who came to the banks of the Connecticut River from Roxbury, MA, in 1636. The settlers began worshipping in settlers' homes in 1637 with the Reverend George Moon. The First Meeting House was built in 1637, the second in 1677, the third in 1752 (during the ministry of the Reverend Robert Breck), and the fourth, and current, Meeting House was built in 1819. The dedication of the building took place on August 19, 1819. Three thousand people, essentially the entire population of Springfield and the surrounding area were in attendance.

Old First Church is the "mother church" for 15 congregations throughout the Connecticut River valley and over 30 churches can trace their roots to Old First Church. Several of the churches were established for reasons of theological difference and sometimes because of differences relative to a particular pastor's style and perspective. Among the active "daughter" churches are: First Church of Christ, Congregational, Suffield, CT; Enfield Congregational Church, Enfield, CT; First Congregational Church UCC, West Springfield, MA; Wilbraham United Church, Wilbraham, MA; First Congregational Church, Brimfield, MA; First Congregational Church UCC, Chicopee, MA; First Church in Ludlow UCC, Ludlow, MA; The Thirds Congregational Society; South Congregational Church UCC in Springfield, MA; and First Church in Longmeadow, MA. The members of Old First Church hope that their legacy, which includes a commitment to social justice and to serving the people of Greater Springfield in countless ways, will continue through the members of those "daughter" congregations.

The current Meeting House was designed and built by Captain Isaac Damon, with a steeple alter the manner of Christopher Wren. Captain Damon originally traveled to Western Massachusetts from Weymouth, MA, to work on the First Church of Christ in Northampton. Subsequently he worked on additional projects in the Northampton area and it was his work in that area that caused the members of Old First Church to seek him out.

From its position atop the steeple of Old First Church, the Rooster weathervane (which was first placed on the third Meeting House in 1768 and on the current Meeting House when fully constructed in 1819) has been a witness to Springfield's rich and important New England history including: George Washington passing by on June 30, 1775, to take charge of the defense in Boston; the travel of Henry Knox and his train of artillery on January 26, 1776; the selection of Springfield as the site for the first United States Arsenal; General Burgoyne's army after its defeat in Saratoga, New York in 1777; and the defense of the Springfield Armory from rebel forces lead by Daniel Shays in 1787. In more current times, it has gone on to witness community celebrations and commemorations, demonstrations and festivals. It has remained steady and devoted to the City of Springfield and its citizens, just as the members of the Congregation of Old First Church have for hundreds of years.

There are many events and activities of note which have taken place at Old First Church over the centuries, which include the

body of President John Quincy Adams laying in state, and the famed Swedish soprano, Jenny Lind, performing at the Church in July 1851. Samuel Chapin, the subject of the St. Gaudans "the Puritan" statue, was an early deacon of the Church. Old First Church played a role in the Underground Railroad. In fact, Reverend Osgood brought in leading abolitionists from England to give speeches advocating against slavery. Daniel Webster attended Old First Church on more than one occasion.

The church also organized and annually hosted a series of musical presentations called "Music at First" which featured individual artists, chambers music, ensembles and choral groups. The New England Academy of Academic Artists was also annually provided with a venue for its Juried Show.

Old First Church, until its closing, hosted the largest and longest established Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in Western Massachusetts.

Beginning in 1977, Old First Church began to house "Open Pantry" the largest food distribution service for the needy in the Greater Springfield area. It also hosted and regularly staffed "Loaves and Fishes" providing two meals for the homeless each Saturday and Sunday. In recent years, during the winter months, the Church opened its door to "The Warming Place" supplying emergency shelter to the area's homeless.

Public Vigils to raise consciousness surrounding the issues of AIDS, domestic violence and other social issues have regularly been held at Old First Church as well as memorial services for the New England Association of Fire Chiefs.

The members of the congregation embraced and actively participated in "Walking United" a program designed to gather and distribute unused prosthetic devices in the United States to a clinic it established to aid the people of Nicaragua who suffered as a result of land mine and other catastrophic injuries.

Despite its conservative New England roots, Old First Church has been among the most socially progressive churches in Massachusetts. It has been a church which has paved the way for other congregations to follow and one that has always provided unconditional resources and support to those in need within and beyond the City of Springfield.

At the "Celebrations of the Life of Old First Church 1637 to 2007" those in attendance were invited by the Reverend Dr. J. Thomas Gough, the 23rd settled pastor of Old First Church, to come forward and accept "packets of seed" while offering this prayer:

"Gracious God, Creator of earth and sky, author of all living things, spirit of hope and grace and promise, be part of us now as your people here at Old First Church prepare to offer themselves as seeds of your love. Bless these packets of seed as symbols of your intention for us that we might venture forth into the world bearing what is necessary to grow in other soil.

"May it be your breath that blows us to other places. May it be your call that leads us to go forth from this place to be your people scattered in the world. May we follow in the paths you set before us and take root where next you plant us. Help us, above all, to flourish in new places and to bring the fruit of Old First Church to ripeness in other communities of faith. Let what we have learned in this place, what has given us life and meaning and purpose, create new and holy spaces wherever we are taken in your name."

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that Old First Church will continue to remain a historic landmark and preserved, as it is truly one of the most significant buildings in the city. The parish house has potential valuable uses for the city and it would be a tragedy if we did not do everything in our power to preserve this building. The memories made at the church will continue to live on in the hearts and spirits of the members.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 12, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for Rollcall Nos. 124–134.

Had I been present I would have voted:
Rollcall No. 124—"no"—On Motion to Adjourn.

Rollcall No. 125—"no"—Resolution Raising a Question of the Privileges of the House.

Rollcall No. 126—"no"—On Motion to Adjourn.

Rollcall No. 127—"no"—On Motion to Adjourn.

Rollcall No. 128—"yes"—On Motion to Table the Resolution.

Rollcall No. 129—"yes"—Providing for the consideration of H. Con. Res. 312, Congressional Budget for the U.S. Government for Fiscal Year 2009.

Rollcall No. 130—"yes"—Providing for the consideration of H. Con. Res. 312, Congressional Budget for the U.S. Government for Fiscal Year 2009.

Rollcall No. 131—"yes"—Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act.

Rollcall No. 132—"yes"—Providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses.

Rollcall No. 133—"yes"—Honoring the 200th anniversary of the Gallatin Report on Roads and Canals, celebrating the national unity the Gallatin Report engendered, and recognizing the vast contributions that national planning efforts have provided to the United States.

Rollcall No. 134—"yes"—To temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

HONORING FRANKLIN SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED AN ILLINOIS SCHOOL OF HONOR

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Franklin School, in Belleville, Illinois, for being named an Illinois School of Honor, one of only two schools in Illinois to receive this award.

The University of Illinois Extension has teamed with the Character Education Partnership (CEP) to conduct an award competition that recognizes schools that have implemented outstanding programs in character

education. Franklin School was selected in the state competition as one of only two Illinois Schools of Honor. This is a prestigious honor for Franklin School and brings well-deserved recognition to their very successful character education program.

With the emphasis in recent years on testing and meeting aggressive educational standards, it is refreshing to see that schools also realize that character counts. These schools demonstrate that well-rounded students can be developed by instilling values of respect for others and good moral judgment while also focusing on instruction in academic subjects.

The application process for the State School of Character competition is very rigorous and there are specific, objective criteria that must be met to qualify. In order to be considered, a school must demonstrate that they have implemented a comprehensive, effective and successful program for incorporating character development into their school environment. Winning this award reflects positively on the entire Franklin School community, administration, faculty and staff, students and families. All worked together to achieve this honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the administration, faculty, staff, students and families of Franklin School for their recognition as an Illinois School of Honor.

FREEDOM FOR RANDY CABRERA MAYOR

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Randy Cabrera Mayor, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Cabrera Mayor was imprisoned by the Cuban totalitarian dictatorship in 1989, a month before his 19th birthday. For his refusal to join the dictatorship's armed forces.

Eight months after his imprisonment, Mr. Cabrera Mayor courageously escaped the atrocious confinement facility known as "Ganusa", located in San Jose de las Lajas. He promptly built himself a makeshift boat and attempted to reach freedom in the United States. Unfortunately, Mr. Cabrera Mayor was caught ten miles off the coast of Matanzas by agents of the communist dictatorship. He was convicted by a sham tribunal on charges of "treason" and "illegal departure from the island." This would mark the first of many unsuccessful attempts by this brave political prisoner to achieve his god-given right to freedom.

My colleagues, I wish to bring to your attention the inhumane conditions Mr. Cabrera Mayor is currently living in. The food he is being provided is consistently under an advanced stage of decomposition to the point that it is propagating intestinal diseases. He spends long periods of time in solitary confinement without access to a bathroom and shackles have been attached to his ankles to hinder his movements. When not in solitary confinement, Mr. Cabrera Mayor and other political prisoners are held in the same cells as common criminals of the most dangerous kinds.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Randy Cabrera Mayor has engaged in numerous hunger strikes to

protest his conditions and those of other prisoners, and he has been met with threats of beatings and withholding of sustenance, all in accordance with the usual treatments that the brutal regime that currently oppresses Cuba affords its political opponents in the dark and cruel world of Castro's gulags.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, the conditions in which prisoners of conscience in Cuba are held are abominable and condemnable. We must demand the immediate release of Mr. Cabrera Mayor and all unjustly incarcerated prisoners, including all the political prisoners in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING DR. MONA PERVIL
ULYSSE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mona Pervil-Ulysse, a native of Cap-Haitien, Haiti who arrived in the United States at the age of eleven where she attended elementary, junior and high schools in Brooklyn, New York.

Subsequently, Dr. Ulysse pursued her pre-medical requirements in the Sciences as a Biology Major at Brooklyn College and completing the Basic Sciences years of medical school at the Universidad del Noreste in Mexico. The last two years of medical school were pursued at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and the Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center in New York. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Kings County Hospital and SUNY Downstate Medical Center, where she proceeded to specialized training in Rheumatology.

Dr. Mona Pervil-Ulysse is Chief of Rheumatology at Interfaith Medical Center since 1997. She is a clinical instructor at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and attending physician at the New York Methodist Hospital. She coordinates a well-organized arthritis clinic, (Orris G. Walker Clinic) and is a mentor to medical residents in training who rotate through the Rheumatology Division at the Interfaith Medical Center. She provides Rheumatology consulting services at various nursing homes and is in private practice. Dr. Pervil-Ulysse has been a co-principal investigator of different research projects during her specialized training in Rheumatology. Her clinical presentations and professional activities have received recognitions in medical journals and newspapers. She is a frequent lecturer of the various rheumatologic diseases, notably Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Osteoarthritis, among many others.

Dr. Mona Pervil-Ulysse holds various leadership positions. She is the president of the Christian Community Health Team, the New York Chapter of the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship from the Southern Baptist Convention. Also, she is president of the Aesclepius Medical Society and administrator of L'ASCH, a Brooklyn partner of the Lupus Foundation. Dr. Pervil-Ulysse participates in health fairs, lectures in schools in the tri-state area and conducts an annual health fair in Haiti with the French Speaking Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, it behooves us to pay tribute to this incredible doctor who has dedicated

her entire career in caring for the ill and for her endless support of the struggle against health care disparities. Dr. Mona Pervil-Ulysse is a remarkable person and I am proud to recognize her today.

MISHA MAZURKEWYCZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Misha Mazurkewycz of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Misha is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Misha has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Misha has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Misha Mazurkewycz for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
JERED CAMPBELL

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, LCpl Jered Campbell.

Lance Corporal Campbell recently returned from Haditha, Iraq, where he served a 7-month deployment. He was assigned to Company "E" of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment of the United States Marine Corps.

The city of Haditha saw unprecedented improvements where Lance Corporal Campbell's Company E served. Upon arrival, Haditha was considered one of the most dangerous regions in Iraq. By the end of Lance Corporal Campbell's deployment, the police force was rapidly growing, attacks on Iraqi police and Marine patrols were steadily decreasing, and relations with the Iraqi people were improving.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Lance Corporal Campbell, whose selfless actions benefit all Americans. Our Nation owes Lance Corporal Campbell and his fellow Marines a great debt of gratitude for their service.

HONORING LARRY FURROW IN HIS
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT RETIREMENT

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great achievements of Lt. Larry Furrow. In the 41 years that Larry has served the U.S. military and Government, he continually showed great dedication, knowledge, and skill. I greatly admire his dedication to his work. His many years of education and lifetime of experiences make Mr. Furrow a noteworthy man and an exceptional example to other people.

Mr. Furrow's service to his country did not stop in the military after he gained the rank of lieutenant in 1993. He went on to become the chief of public affairs for White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. These are all reasons to honor Mr. Furrow, but he is also admired for his great sense of humor that attracted people to him—whether it was in the military, flying people around, or working in public relations for White Sands Missile Range.

Among his many respectable traits, Mr. Furrow is also an enthusiastic outdoorsman who likes to spend time snowshoeing, skiing, and running marathons. He is not only adventurous and dedicated, he is also a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

In all of the years that Mr. Furrow has been in the workplace, he has exemplified hard work, dedication, and commitment to duty and country. It is inspiring to know and a privilege to honor Mr. Furrow in his time of retirement. On behalf of the people of the Second District of New Mexico, I congratulate Mr. Furrow on his outstanding career and know that he will continue to inspire others with the intelligence, leadership, thoughtfulness and humor that he displayed to so many throughout the years.

HONORING ANGEL DIAZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor a civic leader, innovative visionary, loving father and grandfather—Angel Diaz.

Angel was born in Los Angeles, CA, and eventually moved to Richgrove with his family where he attended Delano High School. After graduating from Porterville College in 1961, he served in the United States Army and received an honorable discharge in 1964.

Upon Angel's return to the Delano area, he began an inspiring life of activism due to his passion and fervor for community betterment.

As a founding member of the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, he also founded Adelante, a networking database that connects over 2.5 million registered Latino households in order to relay important community messages with the greatest priority necessary. Having sat on numerous boards in positions of authority, Angel is regarded with the utmost respect by community members and leaders alike. In the past, he has served as

California State president of Adelante, commissioner on the Civil Service Commission of Kern County, president of MAPA of Kern County and State 15th Senate District, State and National vice president for the Mexican American Political Association, and State vice president of the Latino American Political Association, in addition to being a member of many more.

Furthermore, Angel's influence in the Central Valley as a successful advocate for health safety regarding water contamination distinguishes this man as a genuine fighter and champion for Latino children and families everywhere.

Apart from owning Diaz Enterprise. Angel is also the founder and CEO of California Migrant Leadership Pre-school. It is through this school that Angel is able to successfully convey the importance of establishing a solid foundation for the educational development needs of children in order to prepare them for further academic advancement. As a result of his involvement with this school, Angel has met with a wide spectrum of politicians and community leaders to compel them to recognize the positive ripple effect it creates for our society.

Angel Diaz is not only an empowering leader, but a true friend not only to me and my family and the Latino community. I am grateful for Angel's admirable dedication to instilling positive change and leading an exemplarily life, one of whose footsteps we all hope to follow. God Bless him for love of country and mankind.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE
FOUNDING OF FORT FAIRFIELD

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the families who 150 years ago came to the banks of the Aroostook River following the Aroostook War and the Webster-Ashburton Treaty which paved their way. Working together in the midst of wilderness, the community supported a school and increasing amounts of small businesses. Finally, in March, 1858, the Secretary of State certified that an act to incorporate the Town of Fort Fairfield had been signed by Governor Lot M. Morrill.

Today, equipped with the same community spirit and sense of common purpose, the people of Fort Fairfield continue to embrace the challenges and opportunities of living and working on the border in northern Maine. Their commitment and the commitment of their ancestors are to be commended. It is these individuals and families along with the many other hardworking people of Maine that I remember every time I cast a vote here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Fort Fairfield and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help this community celebrate its 150th Anniversary.

HONORING ELLA RILEY GARDNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ella Riley Gardner who after thirty-four years of service with the New York City Department of Education retired in 2004. Born in Beaufort, South Carolina, she is the only child of Dan and Idelle Riley. She is a wife and mother of Elliot, Michelle, and Deisha, all college graduates and the grandmother of Shantrelle, Jonelle, Terrell, and Michaela.

Ella's motto, "Love your calling with a passion; it is the meaning of your life" saw her teaching English for twenty-three years where he enjoyed the richness of literature, poetry, novels, short stories, essays, etc. from all over the world. Her greatest joy was to see the expression of awe and wonder on the faces of her students as he unfolded the themes and life lessons derived from literature. Her greatest satisfaction was to know that they had learned and achieved as a result of her diligent and thorough instruction.

Ella received many accolades during her tenure as teach, including "Teacher of the Year" in 1992. From that year until her retirement, were spent in various capacities of administration and supervision: Site Facilitator for District 5 Professional Development Laboratory; Department Chairperson, Literacy Staff Developer, Assessment Coordinator, Assistant Principal at I.S. 195 and administrator of a \$350,000 Comprehensive School Reform Technology Grant from 2002 until her retirement.

As an avid community servant, Ella serves children and women in two community-based shelters, adopted schools and other community concerns through two professional organizations; the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs. She is currently in her second term as President of the Brooklyn Club. There, she was instrumental in securing an endowment fund that provides \$22,000 yearly for five years to Brooklyn Club scholarship applicants.

Madam Speaker, Ella Riley Gardner's educational preparation includes a B.A. in English, City College New York (1971); MA in Reading CCNY (1973); MS in Educational Administration and Supervision, Pace University (1987); Paralegal Certificate, Long Island University (1989); Professional Diploma in Teacher Leadership, Teacher Leadership Institute at NYU (1993). As a lifelong learner, Ms. Gardner continues to enhance her knowledge and often-times attends countless workshops and seminars that expound the latest developments in literacy.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to pay tribute to Ella Riley Gardner for her selfless dedication to her passion—her calling as a teacher.

DANIELLE LEEPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Danielle Leeper of Kingston, Missouri. Danielle is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Danielle has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Danielle has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Danielle Leeper for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF PEGGY DODDS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize Peggy Dodds, a native South Carolinian for her service, loyalty, and dedication upon her retirement from the South Carolina Research Authority, SCRA.

Before her commitment to SCRA, Mrs. Dodds worked for Columbia College for 13 years, concluding her tenure as the executive assistant to the president.

On its upcoming 25th anniversary, SCRA is looking forward to celebrating its two and a half decades of building and managing multi-organization teams for industry, government, and academia to advance our country's technical competitiveness. During Mrs. Dodds' service to SCRA, she dedicated herself to the premise that SCRA was founded upon—to more quickly deploy our research successes for practical and competitive uses. This is still the bedrock of the organization across many disciplines, which include: manufacturing, shipbuilding, composites, law enforcement, homeland security, health care, and energy.

Mrs. Dodds rose to the position of director of corporate relations and has been an integral contributor, often behind the scenes, to SCRA's many successes. As Bill Maloney, SCRA's CEO and president, has said, "in a variety of ways and across a variety of programs, Peggy has provided consistently effective interface and execution capabilities on behalf of both the CEO and the entire company, punctuated with a unique signature of polite, pleasant professionalism."

During Mrs. Dodds' 18 years of service to SCRA, she has skillfully served and admirably performed in her capacity. Mrs. Dodds actively coordinated official business matters with the State's General Assembly and the South Carolina congressional delegation on behalf of SCRA presidents. Other responsibilities included scheduling and interaction with the

SCRA trustees and chairman, recording secretary for the company and the All-Associates' meetings, and program management for the South Carolina Nutrition Research Consortium. Mrs. Dodds also assisted program management for SC Launch!, which is working to expand the knowledge economy of South Carolina. Additionally, she has contributed significantly to not only the day-to-day execution, but also the long-term transformation of SCRA. Her integrity is reflected in the thoughts and comments of her peers. Robert Henderson, past president and CEO of SCRA, has remarked that "she was a great friend and an astounding organizer." Another former president and CEO of SCRA, Larry Druffel, says it best with "Peggy was not only the soul of the organization but she knew the history, the people and most importantly the culture, which she worked to nurture."

I am grateful for Peggy Dodds' service to the South Carolina Research Authority and her service to the many lives she has helped to improve in the State of South Carolina and the Nation. I know Peggy looks forward to focusing on her family and her church as well as traveling with her husband, Dave. I wish her good health and Godspeed for her future.

**SUPPORTING PSORIASIS
RESEARCH AND CARE**

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of H.R. 1188, the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act, and encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

As many as 7.5 million Americans are affected by psoriasis—a chronic inflammatory, painful, disfiguring and disabling disease for which there are limited treatments and no cure. Between 10 percent and 30 percent of people with psoriasis also develop psoriatic arthritis, which causes pain, stiffness and swelling in and around the joints.

Brian Lehrschall, coleader of the Triangle Psoriasis, Education, Advocacy, and Support group in my congressional district, is just one of my constituents living with psoriasis. Diagnosed with plaque psoriasis at age 13. Brian underwent many courses of treatment to address his severe condition, including several different topical medications and ultraviolet radiation. Through the years, Brian has remained active in his local psoriasis support group and been a staunch advocate for the National Psoriasis Foundation's work to increase psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research.

H.R. 1188 would direct the National Institutes of Health to expand and intensify research and related activities of the Institutes with respect to psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Specifically, the bill would direct the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases to conduct a number of research activities related to psoriasis. The bill also would establish a national psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis patient registry through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and would direct the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary to con-

vene a national summit on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research. Finally, the bill would authorize a study by the Institute of Medicine regarding medications and treatments for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

I appreciate the work Brian and his colleagues have done on behalf of so many individuals living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1188, the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act.

**HONORING ST. FRANCIS PARISH
AMARILLO, TEXAS 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY**

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Francis Parish, in Amarillo, Texas, on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

The history of the St. Francis Parish can be traced to the early 1900's when Texas sold public lands to encourage development in the region. In 1907, the Reverend Francis J. O'Reilly decided to establish a "Catholic colony" in the Texas Panhandle. After an extensive search, a site was selected to serve a growing number of parishioners settling the area. By 1908, over 13,000 acres on the Potter-Carson County line were purchased to develop a town.

The community boomed with families who were attracted to West Texas to work the land as faithful farmers and ranchers, and the first Catholic church was built there in 1908. The parish continues to flourish with a current congregation of about 65 families.

Over the years, the community and parish experienced both the blessings and challenges of life in West Texas. Dealing with unpredictable weather, crops, and economic conditions served to help parishioners become even more steadfast in their faith. The strong agricultural community set deep roots in the area, and many descendants of those first families still call the Texas Panhandle and St. Francis home.

The St. Francis Parish continues to actively celebrate and embrace its history of faith and community. In 1983, they commemorated their 75th Anniversary, which included the placement of a historical marker and the publication of a hardbound history book entitled "Harvest of Memories—The St. Francis Story."

Faith, family, and fellowship make our communities strong and provide us with hope. As St. Francis Parish celebrates its past and looks ahead to the future, I join with the community to wish them a joyous 100th Anniversary.

HONORING DEPUTY DAVE MILLS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Deputy Dave Mills of Gallatin County, Illinois. Deputy Mills passed away suddenly on March 11, 2008.

Deputy Dave, as he was affectionately known to the students in Gallatin County, was the Gallatin County School District DARE Officer. I received a letter from a student in Gallatin County, Taylor Jackson, who had this to say about Deputy Dave; "He was really close to me and most of the students of my school." Taylor went on to write, "he was a great man and a huge influence to me and my teachers and my fellow students . . . I'm only 13, but he really meant the world to me and many others."

As we can tell from Taylor's words, Deputy Mills' work certainly had an impact that will be forever etched into the hearts and minds of those whose lives he touched. I extend my sympathy to the family and friends of Deputy Dave Mills. My prayers will be with them and the Gallatin County community as they mourn this great loss.

**HONORING VERONICA
MONTGOMERY-COSTA**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Veronica Montgomery-Costa, the Harlem-born, third-term President of Local 372 and District Council 37 who assumed leadership of more than 26,000 union members on July 15, 1999. Local 372 represents the school-based Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialists, part-time School Aides, Family Paraprofessionals, Community Coordinators, School Lunch Workers, School Crossing Guards, and school-based Health Service Aides. Ms. Costa hit the ground running and fulfilled more than her campaign promises. She kept her promise to rebuild Local 372, which had been under the administration of its parent union, AFSCME, by implementing much-needed economic and administrative reforms.

Veronica transformed Local 372 into a fiscally sound, ethically administered organization wiping out an inherited \$5 million deficit, restoring an effective grievance procedure, training for Grievance Representatives and Shop Stewards and increasing the number of members involved in standing committees. Local 372's integrity was restored along with its bargaining power and its members won record salary increases, improved health, retirement benefits and job security for full-time and part-time workers. With Ms. Costa's determination, Local 372 worked with parents and community groups to block the NYC Board of Education from turning over the management of five public schools to a private, for-profit corporation. Ever in the forefront of the fight against school vouchers, Veronica and Local 372 used its phone bank to support an effort which resulted in the House Education and Workforce Committee dealing President Bush and conservative Republicans a critical blow by voting to strip a private school voucher provision from the House Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Veronica Montgomery-Costa started a Local 372 Scholarship Fund for Members' children, fought off privatization of the School Lunch Program, successfully lobbied to restore \$3.1 million to the School Based Prevention Program in the state budget, and played a role in

fighting for the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Program without any cuts to the program. In conjunction with the Community Food Resource Center, Veronica spearheaded an innovative pilot project to help 500 Local 372 members take advantage of their eligibility for Earned Income Tax Credit.

Madam Speaker, Veronica Montgomery-Costa was unanimously elected for three consecutive terms as President of the 125,000-member District Council 37 by the Council's delegates and also serving in her second term as a member of the Steering Committee of the Municipal Labor Committee. It is an honor to pay tribute to her exceptional leadership on behalf of working men and women. She is most deserving of our recognition today.

ELSIE LEE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elsie Lee of Kansas City, Missouri. Elsie is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Elsie has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Elsie has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elsie Lee for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

SPEECH OF

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I wish to acknowledge Tuesday's consideration and passage of H. Res. 1024, a bill recognizing the 187th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

I am honored to support a bill whose significance is so extensive and which has such enormous personal meaning to me. I am immensely proud of my Greek heritage, and the profound influence this legacy has had not only on American democracy but on governments around the world.

Early on, America's Founding Fathers looked to the ancient Greeks and their enlightened society for inspiration in forming a new government. As we know, American representative democracy is rooted in the philosophy and ethos of Greek government.

It is this example of freedom and representation that so many governments strive to emulate today. And now, more than ever, it is imperative for that message to be heard.

The Greek American community continues to work admirably to connect Greek culture and heritage with the global society of today. They have grown that symbiotic relationship into an extensive Greek-American legacy.

This legacy is made of the contributions of millions of Greek-Americans, such as my paternal grandfather who emigrated from Greece in the early 20th century and earned his citizenship in his new country by fighting in World War I. My father, Socrates, continued the Space family's patriotic tradition by serving in the Marines during the Korean War. After the war, my father attended Ohio State's law school, thanks to the GI Bill, thereby paving the way for his future family—for me.

The opportunities afforded to my father and my grandfather in America were—in my opinion—a result of the democratic by-products of freedom and liberty that Americans enjoy, thanks to the Greeks.

Today, as we celebrate the anniversary of this wonderful nation's independence, it's important that we continue to recognize the significance of Greek contributions to the global society. Needless to say, as a Greek-American, I very much support H. Res. 1024.

HONORING SAN MARCOS HIGH SCHOOL MADRIGAL SINGERS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional high school choir in my district, the San Marcos High School Madrigal Singers of Santa Barbara, CA, which was chosen to perform at New York City's legendary Carnegie Hall on March 10, 2008.

The San Marcos high School Madrigal Singers were selected out of dozens of high school choirs across the country for this performance. The concert featured 200 students from four states, and is the capstone of Carnegie Hall's yearlong National High School Choral Festival. The concert was conducted by Dr. Craig Jessop, esteemed Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, who has been working with the choirs and their conductors throughout the year. Apart from their world-renowned performances, Carnegie Hall brings innovative music education programs to students across the Nation. I am delighted that these young people have been given this opportunity.

Led by Carolyn Teraoka-Brady. The Madrigal Singers, one of 5 choral groups at San Marcos High School, performs a varied repertoire of choral literature, Renaissance to contemporary, for the community and at festivals. In the last 4 years, the group has consistently received superior ratings at State and regional festivals in CA. In 2006, the group received a first place score at the invitational "National Festival of Gold" in New York City, featuring some of the country's finest ensembles. In addition to choral activities, these students are also leaders in the school's theatre productions, student government, Mock Trial, school newspaper, and CIF sports. The Mad-

rigal Singers have performed for Donald Brinegar, Lynne Gackle, Anton Armstrong, André Thomas, and Weston Noble.

I am honored to have one of the 4 schools in the Nation chosen for the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival come from my California district. The Madrigal Singers should be proud not only of their musical achievement, but their embodiment of the quality musical education the State of California provides. I commend these students and their leaders for their success.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, the time has come to enact the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act. We need to end discrimination against those with mental illness and substance use disorders, just as we have worked to end discrimination more broadly. I regret that I could not be here to vote on its passage out of the House.

If you cannot be moved by a sense of compassion to support this important legislation, then maybe you can be moved by the statistics. More than 57.7 million Americans suffer from mental disorders. That's one in five Americans—people in our families, our friends, and coworkers. Mental disorders and addictions affect us all—regardless of race, gender or socioeconomic status. H.R. 1424 ensures that health insurers and group health plans treat mental disorders and addiction no differently than any other disease.

This is not a mandate. The Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act simply says that if plans choose to offer mental health coverage, then that coverage must not be subject to different standards than the coverage for treatments of physical disease. Parity will ensure that treatment for mental disorders and addictions will be no more restrictive than treatment limits applied to comparable medical and surgical benefits.

Opponents of true parity claim that H.R. 1424 could result in decreased access to employer provided health insurance. That is merely a scare tactic designed to undermine the broad-based support for the bill. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that the impact on premiums is just two-tenths of one percent. Statistics show us that depressed workers lose 5.6 hours a week of productive work time. This translates into tens of billions of dollars annually in lost productivity for employers.

We also know that every dollar spent in treatment saves up to \$12 in health care and criminal justice costs alone. Do the math, and you'll see that treating mental health and addiction disorders is a wise investment. No one in this day and age should lose years of their lives in the fog of mental illness and addiction when help is available. We would never think of denying diabetes patients insulin. Yet, it seems to be acceptable to erect financial barriers or take other steps that ultimately deny patients with physical and chemical imbalances treatment for their mental illness. That

is wrong, and this legislation would end these discriminatory practices. I look forward to negotiating a strong compromise with our Senate colleagues.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD
PROTECTION IMPROVEMENTS
ACT OF 2008

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about the introduction of the Child Protection Improvements Act of 2008. I introduced this bill today with my colleague Congressman MIKE RODGERS of Michigan to allow youth-serving organizations to perform Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprint-based background checks on prospective volunteers. We are joined by Senator JOSEPH BIDEN, Senator ARLEN SPECTER, and Senator ORRIN HATCH, who are introducing identical legislation in the Senate.

A positive, stable influence can make an incredible difference in a child's life, and we are lucky to have millions of Americans eager to serve their community. In 1986, as a young lawyer, I volunteered as a Big Brother and was paired with a wonderful seven year-old named "David." That relationship has been one of the most rewarding and enduring in my life. It also taught me first hand the trust that we place in the adult in a mentoring situation. Groups like Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Girl Scouts, and thousands of agencies, large and small, are doing amazing work for children across America. This bill is about giving them the tools they need to protect children and to accomplish their mission.

The Child protection Improvements Act will allow organizations that pair volunteers with children, whether as mentors, Little League coaches, or Scout Masters, to perform quick and accurate background checks through the FBI's fingerprint-based system. It will be simple for organizations to request a check, it will cost non-profits a maximum of \$25, and they will receive a result in less than a week.

This legislation arose from the lessons we learned from a 2003 pilot program established in the PROTECT Act. The pilot gave certain mentoring and youth agencies the ability to submit fingerprints directly to the FBI to receive a determination if the volunteers criminal record made them unfit for the role. In 2003, and earlier, state law enforcement agencies have been able to access the FBI system, but as of today only one-third of states have the infrastructure in place for a mentoring agency to get an FBI background check in an affordable and timely manner.

The PROTECT ACT pilot demonstrated the need for background checks to protect children from predators. Six percent of checks conducted came back with serious criminal records, in many cases records that would not have turned up through a search of a state database or through a name-based, commercial search. There are cases around the nation in which applicants were sex offenders, repeat felons, and child abusers. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) reviewed tiles in which an applicant had a criminal record in four states, including a con-

viction for murder, which they didn't reveal when they applied to be a volunteer.

The pilot also taught us that youth serving organizations want to watch out for children and they want access to affordable, accurate, and prompt background checks. And that was exactly what the pilot provided, returning a fitness determination in an average of three to five days for less than \$20.

The Child Protection Improvements Act also protects the privacy rights of volunteers. No criminal records will be transmitted to anyone other than NCMEC without the consent of the volunteer, so their right to privacy will be protected. If they believe their record contains errors, or if they disagree with the determination of NCMEC, they can challenge the completeness of the record or request its full release.

There is a clear and compelling need for this legislation. By passing the Child Protection Improvements Act, Congress will take an important step forward in protecting children and supporting the service of thousands of community-based youth serving organizations around the country.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SADDAM
HUSSEIN'S ATTACK ON
HALABJA, IRAQ

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House to the 20th anniversary of Saddam Hussein's attack on the city of Halabja with chemical and biological weapons. On March 16, 1988, these weapons killed some 5,000 Kurdish men, women and children, as part of Hussein's Al-Anfal campaign to kill and displace the Kurdish population in northern Iraq.

According to a comprehensive study by Human Rights Watch, the 1988 Al-Anfal campaign consisted of approximately 40 gas attacks and resulted in the deaths of at least 50,000 and perhaps as many as 100,000 Iraqi Kurds. The worst in this series of attacks was on Halabja.

The attack in 1988 has left behind a cruel and persistent legacy on the village of Halabja, where inhabitants experience a high instance of life threatening medical conditions due to the persistence of noxious poisons in the food and water supply. I ask that our colleagues remember this day, which exemplifies the legacy of brutality and human rights abuses that characterized the regime of the late Saddam Hussein.

HONORING LOUVENIA POINTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Louvinia G. Pointer who enjoyed a successful career on the Broadway stage. When Noel Coward heard Louvinia's voice, he wrote a part for her to sing in his musical, "Set To Music," starring Beatrice Lillie. After that, she appeared with Alfred Lunt and Lynne

Fontaine on Broadway in "The Pirate." Highly esteemed among her peers as a singer, teacher and choral conductor, her fulfilling career includes work with some of the country's outstanding teachers including Rosalie Miller, Samuel Margolis, Sarah Lee, Modena Scoval, and her long-time friend, coach and accompanist, the late Sylvia Olden Lee.

Louvinia's exceptional work as choral director of the National Youth Administration Radio Workshop won praise from notables such as Harry T. Burleigh, Fritz Mahler, Robert Hufstader, Hall Johnson, Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune. Mrs. Pointer took her love of music to the New York City School system, where for many years, she was privileged to share her love of music and teaching gifts with the children of New York City. She taught in Public School 21, Lefferts Junior High School, Girls High and Tilden High Schools. During her 26 years teaching, she received numerous awards for her outstanding work.

Now retired, Mrs. Pointer is committed to the revival and preservation of the "Nego Spiritual." Her dream of establishing an organization to preserve the Negro Spiritual became a reality in 1987 when the Great Day Chorale was formed. Now in its twentieth season, the group, through the positive messages of these songs, has been an inspiration to listeners everywhere.

In 1994, Mrs. Pointer was chosen to take part in the Crown Heights Project, which was a collaboration of the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the Historical Society and the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant History. Among her many awards, she received citations from the Honorable Howard Golden, former Borough President and the present Borough President, Marty Markowitz. Louvinia has been awarded for her work with Brooklyn-based arts organizations, including Celebrate Brooklyn, BACA, Welcome Back to Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, and as a member of the board of the Brooklyn Music School.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to honor Louvinia G. Pointer for her remarkable achievements and luminous career in the musical arts. She has directed two albums and even arranged the song, "In the Garden" by Bob Dylan on his album "Gotta Serve Somebody."

STEPHANIE HULL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephanie Hull of Liberty, Missouri. Stephanie is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Stephanie has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Stephanie has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stephanie Hull for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STATE SECRET PROTECTION ACT OF 2008 PROTECTING NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE RULE OF LAW THROUGH SAFE, FAIR, AND RESPONSIBLE PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, the state secrets privilege is a common law doctrine that allows the Government to protect sensitive national security information from harmful disclosure in litigation.

This privilege was first recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1953 case of *U.S. v. Reynolds*, a case brought by the widows of three civilian engineers against the U.S. Government for negligence in a military airplane crash. The Government refused to produce an accident report of the crash, claiming that disclosure of the report would reveal secret military information harmful to national security. The Court accepted the Government's state secret claim and allowed the Government to withhold the report without ever reviewing it. When the report was discovered through an internet search 50 years later, it did not reveal any secret military information but, instead, showed the Government's negligence in the crash.

Unfortunately, *Reynolds* is not the only instance where the secrecy claims have been abused. Exaggerated claims of national security were made in an effort to conceal information about U.S. conduct in Vietnam and the bombing of Cambodia in the "Pentagon Papers" case and to prevent prosecution for the unlawful sale of arms to Iran and the funneling of proceeds from those sales to the Nicaraguan Contras. In the "Pentagon Papers" case, *N.Y. Times Co. v. United States*, 403 U.S. 713, Solicitor General Griswold warned the Supreme Court that publication of the information would pose a "grave and immediate danger to the security of the United States." Eighteen years later, he acknowledged that he had never seen "any trace of a threat to the national security" from publication of the information and that "there is very rarely any real risk to current national security from the publication of facts relating to transactions in the past, even the fairly recent past."

What these examples teach is that when a government is allowed to escape accountability by hiding behind unexamined claims of national security, it often will, making judicial oversight of state secrets privilege claim critical to our constitutional system of checks and balances. Unfortunately, in the years following *Reynolds*, courts have proven reluctant to test Government claims of secrecy, often failing to examine evidence independently and accepting the Government's secrecy claim at face value.

Concerns about the lack of judicial oversight of the state secrets privilege have increased

as the current administration has responded to cases challenging the most troubling aspects of its "war on terror"—including rendition, torture, and warrantless wiretapping—with blanket claims that these cases must be dismissed outright, before any discovery can proceed. As a result, injured plaintiffs have been denied justice and the courts have failed to address fundamental questions of constitutional rights. Take, for example, the case of Khaled el-Masri, a German citizen who was kidnapped, rendered to a CIA black site, and tortured before the administration realized that it had the wrong man. There is extensive public evidence supporting Mr. El-Masri's case, including a Council of Europe report verifying the accuracy of Mr. El-Masri's claims and the administration's public disclosure and defense of the rendition and interrogation of terror suspects as a valuable tool in its "war on terror." Yet the administration successfully argued that Mr. El-Masri's case should be dismissed before any discovery could occur based on the state secret privilege.

The transformation of a governmental privilege to withhold specific items of evidence into a claim of absolute immunity, and the overall lack of consistency in how courts handle state secret claims, requires Congressional reform. In 1980, Congress enacted the Classified Information Procedures Act—known as CIPA—to provide courts with clear statutory guidance on handling secret evidence in criminal cases. Congress also authorized courts to review and rule upon sensitive materials under the Freedom of Information Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. For the past several decades, courts have effectively and safely applied these laws—under the procedures and standards articulated by Congress—to protect sensitive information while also respecting the rule of law and providing fairness and justice to litigants.

It is time to enact procedures and standards for civil cases similar to those that we already have provided for criminal cases. Many have called for this reform, including the American Bar Association, which recently issued a report calling upon Congress to enact procedures and standards that promote meaningful, independent judicial review and "bring uniformity to a significant issue on which courts have adopted divergent approaches." The bipartisan Constitution Project has similarly urged us to "craft statutory language to clarify that judges, not the executive branch, have the final say about whether disputed evidence is subject to the state secret privilege," reminding us that "reforms are critical to ensure the independence of our judiciary and to provide a necessary check on executive power."

In a recent hearing held by the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, which I chair, experts like retired Federal judges Patricia Wald and William Webster supported legislative efforts to require independent judicial review. According to Judge Webster:

"As a former Director of the FBI and Director of the CIA, I fully understand and support our government's need to protect sensitive national security information. However, as a former federal judge, I can also confirm that judges can and should be trusted with sensitive information and that they are fully competent to perform an independent review of executive branch assertions of the state secrets privilege. Judges are well-qualified to re-

view evidence purportedly subject to the privilege and make appropriate decisions as to whether disclosure of such information is likely to harm our national security."

The State Secret Protection Act of 2008 provides much-needed reform by establishing rules and standards for determining state secret privilege claims. The act will strengthen national security by ensuring that legitimate secrets are protected from harmful disclosure, and it will strengthen the rule of law by preventing abuse of the privilege and maximizing the ability of litigants to achieve justice in court.

Modeled on CIPA, but adjusted for civil litigation, the State Secret Protection Act provides for secure judicial proceedings and other safeguards to protect valid state secrets. Under the act, a judge may not blindly rely upon assertions of secrecy and harm contained in an official's affidavit. Judges must review the information that the Government seeks to protect, along with any other evidence or argument relevant to the claim, to determine whether the harm identified by the Government is reasonably likely to occur. Where this standard is met, a judge may not order disclosure of the information. The judge must, however, consider whether a non-privileged substitute can be created that would allow the litigation to continue.

If a substitute is possible—for example, a redacted version of a document or a summary of the information—the government has the choice of producing the substitute or having the court resolve the issue to which the evidence is relevant against it, as happens in CIPA. Where there is no possible substitute, the judge may issue appropriate orders, including dismissing a claim or finding for or against a party on a factual or legal issue. The act allows the Government to raise a claim of privilege to avoid answering allegations in a complaint but prevents premature dismissal of claims before all issues of privilege are resolved and the parties have the opportunity to conduct non-privileged discovery.

Through these procedures and standards, the act allows parties the opportunity to make a preliminary case and provides courts with the flexibility to craft solutions that protect valid state secrets from harmful and serve the interests of justice. Congress has clear constitutional authority to establish rules of procedure and evidence for the courts, and reform of the state secrets privilege in civil litigation is long overdue. I urge all of you, my colleagues in the House, to join us in this important effort.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today in recognition of the Central Valley Health Network as they celebrate their tenth anniversary. Comprised of 13 private, non-profit community health center systems, the Central Valley Health Network currently operates 116 clinic sites throughout 20 counties in California, providing high quality health care to those most in need.

In the 10 years since its inception, the Central Valley Health Network has provided families throughout the region with health care that is cost-effective, accessible, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally competent. Serving more than 530,000 patients, the Central Valley Health Network facilitates 2.1 million patient visits annually, providing care for low-income individuals, of which 75 percent are at or below the Federal poverty level, 50 percent of whom are enrolled in Medi-Cal, and 35 percent who are uninsured. Combined, it is the chief health care system for low-income families throughout the Central Valley, and in many communities the Central Valley Health Network's clinics are the only primary health care option available.

The Central Valley of California consistently experiences far greater physician shortages and dramatically increased rates of chronic diseases than other regions in the State. To address these imbalances, the Central Valley Health Network's mission is to support their member community health center systems in the effective delivery of high quality accessible health care with a special focus on advocacy for attaining optimal health for the medically underserved. Furthermore, the Central Valley Health Network's presence in the region has made a significant impact in local economies, generating over \$200 million in Federal funds and creating over 2,000 jobs.

The Central Valley Health Network contributes greatly to the improvement of the overall quality of life for families throughout the Central Valley of California. Madame Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to rise and join me in thanking everyone involved with the Central Valley Health Network for the work they do each and every day to provide the people and families of our communities with essential health care services. There is no more important or rewarding work than helping a fellow citizen in need, and through their dedicated and compassionate efforts, thousands of lives have been touched. We all owe them a great debt of gratitude, and I am proud to represent their efforts in Congress.

HONORING KAREN BASS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the newly elected speaker of the California State Assembly, the Honorable Karen Bass. It is with great pride and pleasure that I applaud her accomplishments and wish her much future success.

At the end of this legislative year, Karen Bass will break glass ceilings in California and across the Nation by becoming the first African-American woman speaker of a State legislative body. Speaker-elect Karen Bass, who is respected on both sides of the aisle, received unanimous vote of the members to become the first Democratic woman elected to this position in California's history.

Throughout her career, public service and social justice have been the common threads around which her life revolved. Understanding the importance of education, Speaker-elect

Bass taught as an adjunct instructor at her alma mater, California State University, Dominguez Hills. She also served as the clinical instructor at the Southern California School of Medicine and as the project director for the health careers opportunity program. A graduate of the University of Southern California's, USC, School of Medicine-Physician Assistant Program, Speaker-elect Bass worked in our country's largest trauma center, Los Angeles/USC Medical Center. It was here that she witnessed firsthand the havoc wreaked upon the community by the crack cocaine epidemic.

In 1990, Speaker-elect Bass took action by leaving the medical profession and founding the Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. She served as its executive director for 14 years. After the 1992 civil unrest in Los Angeles, the coalition united and succeeded in transforming the social and economic conditions in south Los Angeles.

Speaker-elect Bass turned to politics when she concluded that the best way to implement change was to become an elected official herself. At the time of her election, there were no other African-American women in the California legislature, but her leadership potential was recognized immediately. During her first term, she was appointed majority whip during the 2005–2006 legislative session. During her second term, she became the first woman and first African-American appointed to the position of majority leader.

As vice chair of California's Legislative Black Caucus, Speaker-elect Bass pressed for the creation of the State of Black California Report, which measured economic and social conditions of California's African-American population. The Speaker-elect also created the People's Council to engage citizens in the debate on public policy and the political process. The Council was composed of four commissions, which examined education, environment, small business, and health issues in the State.

Always reaching for the highest goals, I am certain that Speaker-elect Bass will lead the California State Assembly with the same commitment and dedication that she has demonstrated throughout her entire career. In closing, Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the achievements of Speaker-elect Karen Bass and wishing her continuing success.

HONORING ERMA ROLLE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Erma Jean Rolle, a passionate effective advocate for the needs of minorities, women and children. Moreover, we note her strong commitment to God, her family, her church and her community.

Erma Jean Rolle was born in Little Rock, Arkansas moving to Milwaukee Wisconsin where she graduated from North Division High School. After graduation, she moved to New York with big dreams and goals to be accom-

plished. Erma joined the New Lots Community Church where she served as: an Elder; Clerk of the Consistory; President of the Women's Ministry; Youth Ministry Leader; member of the Women of Faith choir; Confirmation teacher; Vice-President of the Women's Brooklyn Classical Union; Music and Worship Committee; and a member of the Racial Justice Task Force.

As a community activist, Erma has served on Community Board #5, Vice-President of the Meadow Wood at Gateway Condominiums and Treasurer for the Jamaica Armory Gun Club. Moreover, she helped to organize and start the East New York Drum & Bugle Corps for sixty boys and girls. In addition, she was part of a committee that marched to stop domestic violence against women in the sixties and seventies.

In 2001, Erma retired from the New York City Board of Education as a bus driver. In that same year, she celebrated another milestone—graduating from the College of New Rochelle with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology.

Erma Jean Rolle is a role model for African-American families, especially hers. She has four children; Marshall, Cheryl, Fernanda, and Cassandra. She is also the proud grandmother of James, Kadrian, Brandon, and Kyran. In her leisure time, Erma enjoys going to the rifle range, shopping, bowling and traveling.

Ms. Rolle lives a full and productive life gathering comfort from one of her favorite Biblical passages (Isaiah 40:31): "But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Madam Speaker, I am proud to cite Erma Jean Rolle for her invaluable contributions to the New Lots Community Church, her service to the community and her open-heartedness. Even today, she volunteers especially for causes that involve children, at the Johnny Ray Youngblood Academy.

CARRIE HOTTEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carrie Hottel of Liberty, Missouri. Carrie is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Carrie has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Carrie has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Carrie Hottel for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ETHEL M.
HENDERSON TAYLOR

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Ethel M. Henderson Taylor, on the occasion of her retirement after 58 years in broadcasting, 51 years in public education and a lifetime of community service is a testament to her commitment to excellence and her personal belief that service to others is the key to happiness in life.

Dr. Ethel Taylor is the first female African-American radio announcer in South Carolina. Her voice was the first one heard on Columbia's heritage radio station WOIC—where she served in multiple capacities for 44 years. Mrs. Taylor then joined the staff of Glory Communications' WFMV/95.3 where she has hosted Golden Gospel Memories for the past 14 years.

Ethel Taylor used her barrier breaking achievement with WOIC in the 1950s, to connect WOIC with its African-American listeners and the community at large. She quickly made headway in the African American community with her weekly Saturday morning show A Date with Ethel. The program drew hundreds of listeners through its skillful mix of soulful music, highlights of community events, and its warm down-home feel that listeners could connect to throughout the midlands. Throughout her career, Dr. Taylor received numerous awards for her broadcast and community accomplishments.

A native of Laurens, SC, Ethel Taylor brings great pride to my home state. She is a 1946 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Benedict College, taught english in the Richland County Public School system for 30 years, earned her masters of education degree in english from the University of South Carolina, and now serves as assistant professor of english at Benedict College. Throughout these years, she served on numerous faculty and community boards in many roles of leadership.

Along the way, Mrs. Taylor and her deceased husband, John B. Taylor, raised nine children. She is a grandmother of 15 and great-grandmother to 4. Mrs. Taylor celebrates her 85th birthday on March 27, 2008.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the great lifetime achievements of Mrs. Taylor. Today, her retirement from broadcasting only means that Dr. Ethel M. Henderson Taylor is poised to write another chapter in her phenomenal story of service to God, her family and community. I wish her continued success and Godspeed.

HONORING THE DUBUQUE
WAHLERT GOLDEN EAGLES BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BRALEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Dubuque Wahlert Golden Eagles bas-

ketball team at the Iowa State Boys Basketball Tournament in Des Moines this past weekend.

With 2 seconds left in the championship game, No. 2 ranked Wahlert and No. 4 ranked Harlan were tied at 67. Wahlert called a time out and Billy Scherr threw a full-court inbound pass to teammate Eric May; Eric squared up to the basket and nailed a 35 foot 3-point-jumper at the buzzer. It was a magic moment!

I congratulate the Golden Eagles for winning the Iowa Class 3A state championship. This thrilling 70-67 victory by Wahlert gives Dubuque its first state champion since 1931. The Golden Eagles now have a third basketball state championship trophy to add to the case.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Wahlert basketball team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team says it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This past weekend, Wahlert proved just that.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber yesterday afternoon, March 12, 2008, due to an urgent family matter. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, and 134.

HONORING KILEY SLATER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kiley Slater of Trenton, Missouri. Kiley is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Kiley has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Kiley has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kiley Slater her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, throughout the month of March we

observe National Women's History Month, which pays tribute to the contributions of women in this Nation. I rise today to recognize the women of our country, who have played an important role in shaping America's history.

During the month of March we have the opportunity to take pause and celebrate the important contributions of all women, past and present. Not only have women been leaders in securing their rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but they have played a crucial role in the abolitionist movement, labor movements and the Civil Right's movement.

Leading women in history from Abigail Adams, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Sojourner Truth, and Eleanor Roosevelt have paved the way for contemporary figures such as Nancy PELOSI, the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives. Connecticut has been the proud home of significant women such as Americas first female governor to be elected in her own right—Governor Ella Grasso, and the long-serving champion of the First District and my predecessor, Congresswoman BARBARA KENNELLY—the first woman in American history to serve as a Deputy Majority Whip and to serve on the House Intelligence Committee.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the contributions of Elizabeth Colt, often referred to as the "First Lady" of Connecticut. Elizabeth Colt lived in a pre-women's suffrage era, but she refused to surrender to the pervasive gender inequalities of her day. The wife of American inventor and industrialist Samuel Colt, she carried on her husband's dream and life's work after his death and successfully ran their industrial empire. She was an entrepreneur, patron of the arts, philanthropist, and staunch advocate for women's rights—she will long be remembered for her contributions to the Hartford area.

There are many women, named and unnamed throughout American history that have broken glass ceilings and gender barriers for the next generation. As the father of two daughters, I honor the historical women of our country and take great pride in the fact my daughters can grow up in a country where anything is possible for them.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the trailblazers who have paved the way for women's equality and recognizing the many contributions that women have made to our Nation and to the entire world by promoting the ideals celebrated in National Women's History Month.

RECOGNITION OF TIM HOFFMAN,
SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE
ADEL-DESOTO-MINBURN SCHOOL
DISTRICT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Tim Hoffman, Superintendent for the Adel-Desoto-Minburn School District, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the youth of Iowa.

For the past 25 years, Tim has contributed his time and his talents to the betterment of young Iowans. During his time as superintendent there have been many district-wide

improvements, and a new high school was built. Over the years, the school curriculum has also been significantly modified to create greater consistency and to focus on essential learning material, which has in turn helped raise student achievement scores. He credits much of his success to having quality school board members, great administrators, and dedicated employees in the school district. Nearly all the current school district employees were hired by Tim.

During his service, Tim has made a significant impact on the students and the entire surrounding community. His leadership will certainly be missed. I consider it an honor to represent Tim Hoffman in Congress, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE AS A NATIONAL AMERICAN MUSIC CENTER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Murfreesboro, Tennessee as a national center for traditional American music.

The objective for the national center is to educate, market and preserve traditional American music, including old-time music. A learning center will offer concert and performance venues for individual artists.

The Uncle Dave Macon Day Festival has 30 years of experience promoting and developing the traditional music and cultural heritage of Middle Tennessee. Traditional American music includes folk music, blues, gospel, dance music and any kind of acoustic that is learned primarily from oral tradition.

With the aid of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro can offer the community highly qualified graduates to manage and staff the national center for traditional American music.

MTSU College of mass Communication offers young people the chance to become major players in recording industry, journalism, photography, television and radio-all media on which Uncle Dave Macon Day depends.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GLADYS MUHAMMAD-WARD OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of South Bend, Gladys Muhammad-Ward, who devoted her life to the service of her community. Her impact on the city is immeasurable, the result of her unflagging efforts to improve the quality of life for all its citizens. She has been a blessing to her large and loving family as well as to the extended family of those whose lives she has changed.

Whether on the grassroots or executive level, Mrs. Muhammad-Ward's vision, talent

and energy have benefited young and old alike. In 1978 she helped establish and became the first director of the YWCA's Battered Women's Shelter, a post she held for six years. Subsequently, as the Deputy Director of South Bend's Code Enforcement, she was instrumental in helping to develop what had been a drug infested and dangerous neighborhood into sixty-five units of affordable housing and cultivating the Charles Martin Youth Center.

Mrs. Muhammad-Ward's influence extends to the national level. She was in the first class of the Washington D.C.-based Center for Community Change's "Change Agent Project." She was also invited to participate in President Clinton's roundtable on neighborhoods held in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Locally, Mrs. Muhammad-Ward has lent her talents to many organizations and served on numerous boards, including The Martin Luther King Jr. Foundation, the Saint Joseph County Democratic Party, the African American Community Fund, the Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center, Bridges Out of Poverty Committee and the Memorial Health Foundation Board of Directors.

Gladys Mohammad-Ward was awarded the key to the City of South Bend in 2007 and the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1998, and in 1994 she was inducted into the South Bend Hall of Fame and named YWCA Woman of the Year. In addition, she was named Citizen of the Year by the National Social Worker Association in 1999 and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Indiana University South Bend. She has been honored by WNDU-TV, The Indiana Black Expo, Essence Magazine, Kiwanis Club and the YMCA.

So, today, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Second District, I thank Gladys Mohammad-Ward for her years of selfless dedication. As she continues her work on behalf of all of our citizens, regardless of race, gender or socio-economic class, let us pay special tribute to this outstanding woman who serves as a role model to us all.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IS VITAL TO HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORTS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Homeland Security shouldn't be left strictly to the Federal Government but requires the vigilant assistance of State, county and city police departments. When local law enforcement agencies choose not to detain criminal aliens for immigration enforcement officials, it is like a city police officer ignoring a bank robbery because it is a Federal crime. That kind of head in the sand mentality is ridiculous and will not make our Nation safer.

In Houston, Texas, Harris County Sheriff Tommy Thomas is blazing a path with a common sense approach to dealing with illegal aliens arrested for committing crimes. Sheriff Thomas recently announced that employees at the Harris County's Inmate Processing Center will receive Section 287(g) training from U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement officials.

This program will train deputies to identify, process and detain illegal aliens arrested for criminal activity in Harris County. Instead of catch and release, this new training will allow deputies to catch and begin the deportation process for criminal aliens.

This program will help take more illegals off the streets and make the county safer for Texas families. For example, illegal aliens will no longer have the opportunity to continuously endanger lives by getting arrested multiple times for DWI. The deportation process will start in the county jail the first time they are arrested.

Besides trespassing into our Nation, illegal aliens commit many other crimes such as driving without car insurance, drug trafficking, human smuggling, theft, burglary and murder. As a result, American citizens and legal immigrants end up carrying the financial burden created by illegal aliens such as increased medical and prison expenses.

Empowering local law enforcement officials to start the deportation process immediately after an illegal alien is arrested, sends a clear message that international trespassing will not be tolerated. Protecting citizens and legal immigrants from criminal acts by illegal aliens is the essence of Homeland Security.

By not passing off responsibility for dealing with criminal aliens to the Federal Government, like in some cities, Sheriff Tommy Thomas is finding solutions to reducing crime in Harris County instead of making excuses. He is setting an example that other agencies should follow.

He is a great sheriff who's recent actions demonstrate that he is committing to protect our communities from both foreign and domestic criminals. It will take the leadership of other sheriffs like Thomas and police chiefs with the backbone to enforce all of our Nation's laws, instead of just the ones they prefer, for effective Homeland Security.

Today, I salute Sheriff Tommy Thomas for his local efforts and leadership in moving Harris County, and the rest of our Nation, in the right direction to protect citizens and legal immigrants from criminal aliens.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS G. BOLERJACK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Thomas Bolerjack's memory and his lifelong contributions to his community, family, and country.

Tom's passion for life was apparent to everyone who met him. A man with a tremendous love for flying, it should come as no surprise that, at 16 years old, Tom was sitting in the cockpit of a plane testing for his pilot's license. He later enlisted in the Air Force, where he worked his way through the ranks and retired as a Colonel.

Tom's enthusiasm, both for flying and serving others, did not diminish upon his retirement from the Air Force. Aviation was an interest that brought Tom obvious joy for the remainder of his life, and his penchant for service became focused on local endeavors.

Working with the Boy Scouts of America was a joy Tom shared with his entire family. The Bolerjacks' two sons have been scouts for several years, and Tom was an active part of their experience. He served as an assistant den leader for Pack 170 and was the driving force behind Troop 589, starting the troop a few years ago with a handful of boys. Under Tom's leadership, both troops expanded their memberships to approximately thirty scouts.

In addition to serving as Cubmaster, Webelos leader, and Den leader, Tom was also very involved in Boy Scout training for youth and adults. Tom was the Cub Scout Leader Training Chair, the Boy Scout Leader Training Chair, Troop Committee Chair, and the Mustang District Training Chair. Tom also served on the Baloo, Arrowhead & Twin Arrows staff, and was a trainer for the youth protection and new leader programs. He assisted in the Trainer Development Conference. Tom earned his Wood Badge Beads and went on to staff Wood Badge as a Troop Guide. He also served on the organization's Twin Arrows/National Youth Leadership Training and was very active in the Order of the Arrow. Over the years he was honored with multiple awards, including the Cubmaster Award and the Den Leader Award.

Tom has been described as a giver, an outstanding example to others, and an inspiration to everyone who knew him. His friend Graham Crudgington described Tom best when he said, "His energy, his spirit, his dedication are all things that I admire, and are things that have pushed and inspired me to do things I wouldn't normally have done." Tom's ceaseless devotion to the community motivated others to get involved; his passion encouraged the passion of others.

I extend my sincerest condolences to Tom's wife Becky and his two sons, Tommy and B.J. My thoughts and prayers are with Tom's many friends and family members as they endure this difficult time. The North Texas community has lost a devoted citizen and a great man. He leaves behind a legacy of generosity and kindness. The compassion, commitment, and selflessness shown by Mr. Thomas Bolerjack are truly remarkable, and he should serve as an example to all. He will be deeply missed, but his service and dedication will always be greatly appreciated.

BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT OPENS
ON WEST COAST

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, the United States Capitol Historical Society has prepared a fascinating exhibit of artifacts and interpretative materials entitled "From Freedom's Shadow: African Americans and the United States Capitol" which is being displayed across America this year. It is a depiction of what is truly one of the better kept secrets in our Nation's history: that the construction of the United States Capitol, and even the casting of the Statue of Freedom that sits atop the dome, was accomplished with the help of slave labor.

Earlier this month the exhibit opened on the West Coast, at Olympic High School in my

congressional district, and it has given everyone in my home community an interesting, yet disturbing, insight into one of the most troubling contradictions of American society in the 18th and 19th centuries. We were a society founded on the principle of freedom and yet even in the construction of the iconic seat of this Government we tolerated and benefited from the labor of people who were deprived of the essential freedoms that were celebrated beneath the Capitol Dome.

This is an important and instructive exhibit, Mr. Speaker, and I am honored to submit for the RECORD an article from the Central Kitsap Reporter that was published on March 1st, entitled "Black History exhibit at Oly exposes 'cruel irony'."

[From the Central Kitsap Reporter, Mar. 1, 2008]

BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT AT OLY EXPOSES
"CRUEL IRONY"

(By Paul Balcerak)

Central Kitsap School District board members, employees and educators had the tables turned on them Wednesday night.

It was their turn to learn as they got one of the first looks at the U.S. Capitol Historical Society's traveling exhibit, "From Freedom's Shadow: African Americans and the United States Capitol."

The exhibit, a production of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, offers insight into one of the better kept dirty little secrets in American history: that the U.S. Capitol was built with help from black slave labor.

The exhibit put front-and-center a jarring truth which the historical society's Web site called a "cruel irony."

"It's a real tangible experience of the history that most people don't know," Olympic Principal Bob Barnes said.

Barnes admitted unawareness of the history before being introduced to the project during the plan to bring it to CKSD last year.

"In mainstream history, you get little snippets of things, but you don't really get a feel (for what things were actually like)," he said. "There are lots of little facts out there that our history, as it's written, doesn't necessarily reflect."

Documents showcased at the exhibit cover a period from 1794-1800 and shed light on some of the people history has forgotten. People like Philip Reid, a slave who, ironically, helped cast the five sections of "Freedom," the statue that sits atop the Capitol, in bronze.

The title of the exhibit is in reference to the statue itself.

It wasn't easy unearthing stories such as Reid's, as evidenced by the work exhibit curator Felicia Bell and her colleagues did to bring the exhibit to life.

"It was a lot of primary source research, but also secondary source research (to understand the context of the primary sources)," Bell said.

Also director of education and outreach for the historical society, Bell has spent countless hours at the National Archives, Library of Congress and various historical societies searching for any remnants of information that could contribute to the exhibit. Some of it is scant, but striking; Bell showed off an old timecard used to track all workers' hours that used an "N" next to slaves' names to denote them as "negroes."

The small document offered a blunt lesson: even timecards were segregated.

"It's chilling, but I think it's important to understand so we don't make those mistakes again," CKSD Curriculum Specialist Jeni Zapatka said.

Zapatka was responsible for discovering the exhibit and pushing to have it brought to

CKSD. Thanks to donations from UPS, the exhibit is shipped across the country for free and the only cost to the district was to bring Bell to the area to showcase the exhibit.

"It's fun to see how students from various locations and various backgrounds react to the exhibit," Bell said. "I think that it was kind of an eye-opener for students and adults."

She has traveled with the exhibit to various locations around the United States. Its arrival at Olympic, however, marks the first time either have ever been to the West Coast.

The exhibit is now in the hands of students at Olympic, who spent Thursday being trained as docents by Bell. They'll be the ones to pass information along to the public, which has a few opportunities to see the exhibit between now and March 19 (see gray box).

Students were equally outspoken and struck by the exhibit during their training day.

"I never knew anything about the Freedom statue and all the things the enslaved people had to go through to build the Capitol," junior Amanda

Vincent said. "As it stands now, this exhibit being here is top rate for me."

"I like that it's at our school because our school, in the district, is kind of known as the most diverse," junior Kylee McWilliams added.

The exhibit got high marks from those who saw it Wednesday and several involved expressed excitement for the project's value to students and the public.

"I'm just sorry we don't have it in a place that will be open more hours," school board member Christy Cathcart said. "There was . . . quite a lot of introspection going on (at Wednesday's showing)."

"Everyone went away with some knowledge that they didn't have before."

"From Freedom's Shadow" public viewing times

March 3, 5-7 p.m.

March 11, 6-9 p.m.

March 19, 6-9 p.m.

The exhibit is located in the Olympic High School library.

The exhibit also can be previewed online at <http://uschsonline-exhibits.uschs.org/freedom> (no "www.").

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL REAUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a bill to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act.

The National Sea Grant College Program originally was established in 1966 upon the enactment of the National Sea Grant College Act, 33 U.S.C. 1121-1131, to improve marine resource conservation, management, and utilization. The act was last reauthorized by an act of the 107th Congress in 2002, and current authorizations of appropriations expire at the end of fiscal year 2008.

The National Sea Grant College Program is patterned after the Land Grant College System, which was created in 1862. Although originally assigned to the National Science Foundation, NSF, the National Sea Grant College Program was transferred in 1970 to the

newly created National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, within the Department of Commerce. Currently, there are over 30 Sea Grant College programs that represent a network of researchers, educators, and marine extension agents at some of the Nation's top academic institutions. Sea Grant Colleges sponsor a wide range of applied and basic marine science research, education, and training and technical assistance programs promoting the understanding, assessment, development, utilization and conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. Sea Grant Colleges also provide yearlong fellowships to graduate students in marine-related disciplines for placement in congressional offices and Federal agencies.

The bill introduced today would refine the act to modestly expand and clarify the scope and purposes of the National Sea Grant College Program. The bill would provide the national program with the ability to promote, encourage, plan, and implement collaboration among groups of Sea Grant programs, strategic partners, and stakeholders. The bill includes amendments to the act that would describe in more detail the role of Sea Grant in addressing important issues of regional and national concern as identified in the National Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy.

The bill would invigorate oversight and accountability by expanding the responsibilities of the National Sea Grant Review Panel, established by an earlier reauthorization of the National Sea Grant College Act. The bill renames this panel as the "National Sea Grant Advisory Board" to more appropriately and accurately describe its purpose and function. The bill would further authorize the Board to extend participation to non-panel members, principally through the establishment of subcommittees for the purpose of receiving advice and guidance. The revised title and afforded level of new participation reflects a broader and ongoing responsibility on behalf of the National Sea Grant College Program. The Board would be also charged with providing advice to the Secretary of Commerce as to how the National Sea Grant College Program can be best strengthened to ensure the activities of Sea Grant Colleges are consistent with and supportive of national objectives.

The bill would amend Sea Grant program performance review standards. Adopted as part of the 2002 amendments, the review requirements have had the unintended consequence of creating a disincentive for programs to work cooperatively or form partnerships. Implementation of new measures for program review combined with policies aimed at advancing "continuous program improvement" should ensure effective program assessments.

In addition, the bill would increase the percentage of funds exempt from the non-Federal match requirement from the current 1 percent to 5 percent. Many Sea Grant programs address issues of local as well as national concern. In the case of local Sea Grant projects within States, the general match requirement is appropriate. However, the match requirement makes it difficult for Sea Grant to participate in joint competitive programs with other NOAA offices or other Federal agencies because incoming proposals for Sea Grant funding require a match, while proposals from the other agencies often do not.

The bill would also exempt the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program

from having to match grant awards in order to achieve parity between fellows placed in congressional offices with those fellows placed in Federal agencies.

Finally, the bill also supports reasonable and justifiable increases in authorized appropriations for Sea Grant. Authorized funding levels would increase from \$66 million to \$100 million for the period between Fiscal Year 2009 through Fiscal Year 2014.

The National Sea Grant College Program has established an impressive record over the course of its 38-year history. The reauthorization bill introduced today builds on the sensible recommendations of the Sea Grant Association, the Sea Grant Review Panel, other stakeholders, and consultations with personnel assigned to NOAA's Sea Grant Program Office. Sea Grant provides countless benefits to the American public, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reauthorize and strengthen this important extramural marine conservation program.

HONORING MR. PEDRO JOHNSON
FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE IN
CONNECTICUT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to my dear friend, Pedro Johnson, who has recently decided to retire from his service for his tribe, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

I have known Pedro Johnson for many years and have seen firsthand how he has dedicated himself to improving the lives of others and this Nation. Pedro honorably served in the United States Air Force prior to joining the University of Connecticut Police Department in 1966. He dedicated over 20 years of service to the UCONN police, holding the positions of department liaison, martial arts instructor, and police photographer, before retiring in 1992 at the rank of sergeant.

Retirement would be short-lived for Pedro, and it would not be long before he continued his life passion of public service. As a member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, Pedro was elected to three terms on the Tribal Council including one term in the prestigious position of treasurer. During his time on Tribal Council, Pedro worked with his fellow council members on an incredible transformation that has made the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe into one of the most respected Tribes in the Nation.

Under Pedro's leadership, the Tribe has become a major economic and cultural focal point in the region. They have become one of the largest employers in the State of Connecticut and opened the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, which contains one of the largest collections of indigenous artifacts in North America. The dedication and commitment of Pedro Johnson has been instrumental in shaping the Tribe's vision for the future.

Pedro has always been involved in public service. Over the years he has sat on the board of directors of the Foxwoods Development Company, Natchaug Hospital, Eastern Connecticut State University, Bushnell Theater, Old State House, and the Savings Institute Bank. He was also a member of the Ma-

sons Fraternal Order and held the position as worshipful master of his lodge for several years.

We could not pay proper respects to Pedro without mentioning his lifelong partner, his wife Linda. Pedro and Linda recently celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary, and I know they have been a source of strength and love for each other for nearly five decades. They have two children, Michael and David, who have brought them great joy over the years.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to pay tribute to a man who has done so much to improve the quality of life for his Tribe and indeed, the people of Connecticut. I know that Pedro is retiring from his position at the Tribe, but I know he will continue to be an active member of our community and I look forward to working with him in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 2007 NATIONAL
PRINCESS OF THE AMERICAN
MINIATURE HORSE REGISTRY,
ALYSSA PALAS OF STORY CITY,
IOWA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the 2007 National Princess of the American Miniature Horse Registry, Alyssa Palas of Story City, Iowa.

In September 2007, Alyssa was crowned at the National Miniature Horse show in Tulsa, Oklahoma. As princess, Alyssa presented all the awards during the show, including presenting her mother with Reserve National Champion honors for their two-year-old gelding. She will reign until the 2008 national show.

Alyssa and her family have been involved in the miniature horse business for six years. The Palas family competes across the country under the farm name Royal Palas Miniatures. They received 31 National Top Ten placings at the 2007 national show.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending and congratulating Alyssa Palas. I consider it an honor to represent Alyssa and her family in Congress and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ROAD RUNNERS
CLUB OF AMERICA

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Road Runners Club of America. The initial organizational meeting took place on February 22, 1958, in a small hotel room in New York City. Five running clubs emerged from that meeting. Today, the RRCA has more than 700 member clubs, representing 180,000 distance runners nationwide. Included among these are 18 clubs from

Tennessee with a total of 5,600 members. The Murfreesboro Pacers and the Murfreesboro Half Marathon are among them.

In the late 1950s, jogging for health and fitness was practically unheard of and there were very few distance racing events in the United States. The Long Distance Log, publication with a circulation of 126 readers, was the chief means of communication with distance runners. In the August 1957 issue of the Long Distance Log an editorial by Olympian Browning Ross proposed developing an organization for American distance runners. The concept was modeled after the Road Runners Club of the UK, which was founded in 1952. He suggested that membership include not only runners, but also officials, race sponsors, coaches and more. Ross envisioned the group would encourage running, meet regularly, raise funds, coordinate schedules, recruit sponsors and promote competition in long-distance races.

Response to the concept was positive; meetings were held in December 1957 and shortly thereafter, the Middle Atlantic Road Runners Club was established. And on February 22, 1958, the Road Runners Club of America was born.

Meeting at the Paramount Hotel in New York City, Ross and nine others discussed the general direction for the organization and developed the basic operating structure. Ross was named acting provisional president. The first RRCA National Championship races were awarded, and events were held in Chicago, New Jersey and Philadelphia.

Interest in the RRCA increased and by April 1958, the New York Road Runners Club, now the New York Road Runners, was established with 29 members. In February 1959, the Michigan Road Runners Club was established in Detroit by Hugh Jascourt and Frank McBride. Several months later, the RRCA held an annual meeting at the Paramount Hotel in New York City. The group elected president Dick Donohue, treasurer Steve Thomas, and co-secretaries Tom Osler and Browning Ross. They served as the first officially elected officers of the RRCA.

At the 1960 annual meeting Ted Corbitt was elected president. "Those were tough days, days of survival [for the RRCA]," Corbitt wrote. "Instead of recognizing the good work the RRCA was doing to promote distance running, the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) refused to admit the RRCA as a member club and took the position that the RRCA was illegal." In those days, the AAU was the ruling body of sport; they advised the RRCA to function solely as a social or fraternal group and not conduct races.

The early 1960s saw the development of new running clubs around the country. By the end of the RRCA's third year, its members had hosted over 600 races around the country compared to the previous handful of races.

Over the years, the RRCA has been credited with developing course certification programs, establishing the first events for recreational joggers, removing age requirements for racing, encouraging competitive opportunities for women, creating a Hall of Fame for distance runners, and obtaining insurance and IRS tax-exempt status for member clubs.

Many important publications have been developed by the RRCA including fact sheets on cold and hot weather running, safety for runners, guidelines for buying a pair of running

shoes, tips for helping children start running and many more.

By the 1980s, RRCA membership included 400 clubs and elected its first woman president, Henley "Gibble" Gabeau. The first edition of the RRCA Children's Running Booklet and the Parent & Teacher's Curriculum authored by Don Kardong, an Olympic marathoner and future RRCA president, and Jim Ferstle were circulated to thousands for clubs, teachers, schools and more.

More recently the RRCA has developed a coaching certification program, as well as the Roads Scholar Program to support aspiring international caliber American distance runners. In 1997, the RRCA gave a grant through the new Roads Scholar Program to Deena Drossin (Kastor), a young distance runner who went on to win the bronze medal in the 2004 Athens Olympic marathon.

Over the last 50 years, the RRCA has stayed true to its mission. The future of long-distance running and the RRCA's impact on the sport will continue to be written for years to come.

CONGRATULATING THE YMCA OF
MICHIANA ON ITS 125TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I wish to congratulate the YMCA of Michiana. On March 19, 2008 the Michiana YMCA will celebrate 125 years of steadfast dedication to building strong individuals, families and communities.

The YMCA was launched in 1882 back when Clement Studebaker was president of the Studebaker Company and local resident Schuyler Colfax was the Vice-President of the United States. In order to celebrate Studebaker's 50 years of success in the community and in business, the Studebaker Company established the YMCA, beginning a proud tradition of service. Sports programs flourished over the coming decades. Famed Notre Dame coach Knute Rockne even taught football during the summer at the Michiana YMCA affiliate Camp Eberhart.

Michiana was blessed with an especially successful YMCA. During the 1950s it developed the nation's largest Indian Guide program and started the Indian Maiden program. An impressive tennis program was also developed that rivaled the nation's best. During the 1960s, two newer facilities were built, a more family oriented approach was pursued to encourage both girls and boys to participate and the Urban Youth Services Program was started. Today the YMCA offers physical fitness activities, aquatics, youth and adult sports leagues and many other programs that improve the lives of people of all ages.

These are exciting times for the YMCA as a new three-year Strategic Plan is being implemented. The Michiana community has benefited from the positive influence of the YMCA on the community for over a century. Today I salute the Michiana YMCA and wish them continued success.

DR. VIDA DAVOUDI—CHANGING
THE WORLD ONE STUDENT AT A
TIME

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I have the privilege to recognize Dr. Vida Davoudi of Kingwood, TX. Her life as an Iranian immigrant turned proud American citizen is an inspirational tale of not only living the American Dream but of someone who diligently works daily to improve it for others.

Her journey to success in America began early. With encouragement from her parents, they told her to dream big and that the key to great achievement was to obtain an education. While in high school, Davoudi became a foreign exchange student to the United States through the American Field Service Program as well as a sponsorship from a Rotary Club. For one year, she lived with an American family and fell in love with the democratic political system of the United States.

After returning to Iran to graduate from high school, Dr. Davoudi participated in a competitive exam conducted by American International Development and was awarded a four-year, full scholarship to attend American University of Beirut. Continuing her journey of academic excellence, she returned to the United States to attend graduate school at Southern Illinois University.

After Dr. Davoudi earned her masters and doctorate degrees in political science, she returned to her country and ran for a seat in the Iranian Parliament. Davoudi won and become the youngest member ever elected. She served for three years in the national assembly representing the city of Tehran and championed issues such as the abolition of polygamy and divorce law reform. She left Iran for the United States shortly before the Shah of Iran was overthrown in 1979.

When Dr. Davoudi arrived in the United States, the only things she brought with her were a suitcase, her nine-year-old son and her education. Davoudi credits her education as the key ingredient to her success.

"Education was the only thing that enabled us to survive," she said. "I have no doubt that education is the key to opening doors and improving lives financially and intellectually."

She was hired as a government professor at Kingwood College in 1989 and has used the opportunity to impact the lives of numerous young people.

For example, a recently divorced student approached Davoudi one day in tears. The young woman told her that she was having great difficulty coping with her divorce and wanted to drop her class. Davoudi told the woman that she would not let her withdraw, but instead would provide her with flexibility and whatever she needed in order to complete the course. The young lady successfully finished Davoudi's class and eventually became a practicing nurse. Years later, she was very thankful to Davoudi for not letting her quit during a difficult time in her life.

Davoudi is also the faculty sponsor for the college's Student Government Association. She fosters leadership development in her students by actively encouraging them every year to seek state-level positions in the organization. Through her diligent efforts and advice,

one of her former students was even elected to the highest level of State leadership as president of the Texas Junior College Student Government Association. She teaches her students not to simply attend college but to become leaders.

In addition to pursuing state office positions within the organization, Davoudi has led the students of SGA at Kingwood College in multiple community service projects such as food, clothing and toy drives for non-profit organizations and local area shelters for abused women and children. In the words of one of her colleagues, Dr. Davoudi is "changing the world one student at a time."

I salute Dr. Vida Davoudi for being a shining example of a distinguished scholar and advocate for lifelong learning. Her life and eternal gratitude for living in a country so richly blessed with opportunity and freedom is an inspiration to us all.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
DR. WILLIAM "DOC" WILKERSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Dr. William "Doc" Wilkerson. Dr. Wilkerson, who passed away on February 29, 2008, was one of the founders of Flower Mound, Texas and also the town's second mayor.

Doc Wilkerson was born in Madill, Oklahoma on December 21, 1917, and began working for a locksmith at age ten. This prompted his mother to enroll him in the Boy Scouts of America, where he later achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in 1935.

In 1954, Doc bought 150 acres of unincorporated rural land north of the newly-created Grapevine Lake. It was here that his fight for Flower Mound began. During the early 1960s, Wilkerson worked tirelessly to halt Irving's attempt to annex what is now the town of Flower Mound. Doc was ultimately successful in stopping the annexation. After this success, he worked to incorporate present-day Flower Mound.

Dr. Wilkerson was elected mayor of Flower Mound in 1968. He was only the second individual to hold the position of mayor for the young town, and he held this office until 1973. In honor of his passing, the town of Flower Mound will fly its flags at half-staff.

The first mayor of Flower Mound, Bob Rheudasil, once said about Doc, "No words are big enough to talk about him." This is certainly true; Doc's tireless dedication to Flower Mound greatly contributed to turning the small town into the thriving community it is today.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Doc's two sons, his brother and three sisters, as well as a long list of family members and friends. North Texas has lost a long-time friend and advocate. While Doc Wilkerson will be greatly missed by the community he helped found, he will forever be remembered for his dedication to the city of Flower Mound.

TRIBUTE TO THIRD DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last fall I invited high school students living in the Third Congressional District to join the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. The goal of the CYAC is to foster civic involvement and to encourage students to unleash their passions for America. Each meeting, they exceed my expectations and make me hopeful for the future.

The students who serve on the CYAC represent the best and the brightest in north Texas. Students are leaders, athletes, musicians, volunteers, and activists. They are the voice of their generation to Congress. They make a difference at each meeting, and I'm proud of them.

For this year's community project, students interviewed a veteran and wrote essays. A summary of some of the submitted essays follows.

It is my hope that some day the Congressional Youth Advisory Council will be associated with excellence and one of our highest standards of civic pride for young people in north Texas. I commend the students for volunteering their time on the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Without a doubt, every student will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and America and north Texas will continue to benefit from their dedication, smarts, and service.

To the members of the 2007–2008 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Thank you. I salute you; God bless you and God bless America.

I interviewed Mr. Keith Fannon. He served in the United States Air Force. His beginning rank was just a basic airman, but he was able to rise all the way up being a Staff Sergeant when he finished his time of service. He served in the Korean War. Mr. Fannon may not have seen too much on the battlefield in itself, but he performed search and rescue missions for airmen who had been shot down through the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), helped civilians in need in Korea, and had been through six major offensives during his service time. Mr. Keith Fannon has been a family friend for about four years now, and I've solely gotten to know him for the person he is today. To be able to learn of Mr. Fannon's past in the Air Force, though, was a fascinating experience. It gave me more insight to Mr. Fannon as a whole, and I enjoyed every bit of it. Having the ability to learn even more about a friend, a veteran, and America's history from a first-person point of view all at the same time was mind-blowing. I would like to thank Mr. Keith Fannon and the Congressional Youth Advisory Council for giving me such a great opportunity.—Patrick Foster

For the Veteran's History project, I interviewed retired Lieutenant Colonel James Megellas, the most decorated Army officer of the 82nd Airborne, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Lt. Col. Megellas and his regiment fought through Europe in World War II from January 1943 to the end of the war in 1945, and were welcomed home to a victory parade in New York on January 12, 1946. He led his men as a Platoon Leader in many fa-

mous battles, including the Battle of the Bulge, Operation Market Garden, and the battle for Anzio, and he eventually participated in the American occupation of Berlin. Interviewing such an influential and heroic veteran truly affected my life in an undeniable and poignant way. Though Lt. Col. Megellas said that he does not agree with those who call him part of the "greatest generation," getting the chance to interview him reminded me that unbelievable heroism, valor, and selflessness can still exist in the face of a world where people's worth is often judged by their money and power in society. Whether he agrees with me or not, I believe that soldiers like Lt. Col. Megellas, including the brave men and women fighting in the military for America today, are the greatest of any generation in American history. As Lt. Col. Megellas put it, "We're blessed in many ways, but not more so than the quality of the young men and women who will step forward whenever we're been in trouble. They are the best of this generation."—Stephen Hayes

Howard Montfort, known to all his friends as Dusty, was born in Carrolton, Texas and has lived in Texas all his life, except for his time of service. He was originally drafted in 1966, but was unable to comply with his draft notice due to an infection of viral encephalitis. After recovering, he was given pardon and transferred from Texas A&M, where he had been going to school, to NTSU. There he was drafted a second time, but decided instead to visit the school's recruiter to join a program which allowed him to finish school while training for the Air Force. Dusty entered the Air Force in 1969, flying the infamous B-52. After joining the Vietnam Conflict, he quickly rose from Second Lieutenant to Aircraft Commander, and flew numerous Tours for a total of 141 combat missions. Dusty received the Air Medal and seven Oak Leaf clusters during his service. In addition, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in December 1972 for "Heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

In March of 1974, Dusty left the service after flying for five years. He is now married to Gila Montfort, his wife of thirty-eight years. Together, they have a son, Steven Montfort, who lives in Los Angeles and works as an actor. By conducting this interview, I have heard first-hand the experiences of an American veteran. These people have served our country. They have died to pay for our freedom, and I had the opportunity to speak to one of them. In addition, I learned more about the Vietnam Conflict than I previously knew. I am extremely thankful for the experience.—Weston Barker

Mr. Billie Bob Norris proudly served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps for 19 months during the Korean War. He was a member of the First Marine Air Wing, Fleet Marine Force, Marine Air Group 12, Service Squadron 1. During that time, he was stationed in the frigid area of Wonsan, North Korea, shortly after its liberation by the South Korean forces. He then joined with the K27 Yonpo Airdrome as they went to Hamhung-Hungnam as part of the "Frozen Chosin" or "Chosin Few." He was also stationed in Pusan, South Korea, and later worked as a radio-radar technician in Japan for the duration of his service. Mr. Norris currently holds a bachelor's degree in industrial art, a master's degree in secondary school administration, and a specialist degree in vocational education. He is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and lives in Frisco, Texas with his wife, Armetha.

Throughout the process of writing this essay I have earned both a greater respect

for this Nation's veterans and a greater understanding of one war in our country's history that is, sadly, looked over by many people. The United States' veterans have gone through experiences that neither I nor anyone in my generation can truly begin to imagine. And for that, we can never thank our troops, both past and current, enough.—Ashley Newton

Lloyd was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 10, 1923. At age 11, his family moved to Peacedale, Rhode Island. Some seven or so years later Lloyd voted for his first presidential candidate, Harry S. Truman, for his second term. Then in the November of his nineteenth year, he enlisted in the Navy. He was a payroll officer, and a soldier. When it was necessary, as it was for the Japanese invasion, the payroll was to be set down, and they would fight with the rest of the outfit. When the war was ended, Lloyd decided to stay in the army, and was assigned to Okinawa. Soon thereafter, he sent for Dorothy and their fourteen month-old daughter, Carol. When they arrived, it was the first time Lloyd had ever seen Carol. In January of 1951, he was called to active duty and was stationed at the Air Force base in Miami. Although he was still a payroll officer, his outfit supported the troops in Japan facing Korea. Lloyd retired from military service on a Sunday in 1965 as a senior master sergeant, and began work at the PANTEX Ordnance Plano the very next morning in Amarillo, Texas. He retired from his job in 1986. Lloyd died on February 24th, 2008, in the center of a circle of family members. This project came at the perfect time. I may have missed my chance to learn about him had I not conducted this interview. There was an opportunity for closure, and I'm beginning to see how quickly we are losing the WWII generation.—Bethany Johnston

For the Preserving History project I interviewed Sergeant Quentin Higgins. Higgins served as a tank commander in World War II throughout England, North Africa, and Italy and earning several medals. In addition, he has written a memoir, reached the age of ninety years old, and blessed the lives of many people. Through this experience I have learned more about the dedication of our military to preserve our liberty in the United States that can often be taken for granted. I was initially stunned and amazed that the man I was speaking to went through intense front line combat in World War II and lived to tell about it at ninety years old. While I had read and heard second hand about World War II stories, the reality of the events and experiences of the soldiers came alive in my mind when I spoke with Mr. Higgins. I have acquired a greater appreciation for our troops who sacrifice their lives daily for their country and a deeper comprehension of the traumas of war. Most importantly I gained a fuller gratefulness as Higgins stated "appreciate life and count your blessings."—Stephanie Tison

I had the pleasure of interviewing Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Aikens, formerly of the United States Army, on 29 February 2008, at his office in Plano Fast Senior High School. He provided me with his personal history, from his many academic achievements in high school, his introduction to the military during college, and some of his more memorable experiences as an officer in the United States Army. I have also had the opportunity to work with Lieutenant Colonel Aikens for the past four years, and I have found him to be a great example for the students he leads, and very helpful in my own pursuit of goals for the future, as well as instrumental in the roads to success for several other students, my peers, and those who have gone before. His life has been and con-

tinues to be one of dedicated and energized service to those around him, to his community, and to his country.—David Paxman

For my Preserving History: Veteran's Interview. I am honored to have received the opportunity to interview Wesley C. Browning. This remarkable individual served in the Iraq War for a nine month period. He was titled as a civilian and worked with the Hazardous Material Management in Baghdad, Iraq. Mr. Browning conquered many challenging obstacles and accomplished well respected goals. He faced the boot camp, bombings, and hardships like the hero he truly represents. During the time he spent in Iraq, his primary task was to assist the soldiers so they could concentrate on defending their country. Mr. Browning dealt with the contamination of foods after battle and vermin localized around the camp. He handled weapons, bomb materials, and fought adjacent to the soldiers while participating in the war. Mr. Browning has gained a wide breadth of experience from joining the Iraq War. He not only has made lifelong friendships, but has learned about the various cultures and traditions in other parts of the world.

I have the utmost respect for anyone that risks their life to defend their country. Conversing with Mr. Browning has allowed me to gain an innovative view of the world and our society. Hearing him discuss passionately his values and morals was very impressive and refreshing. I have learned from this war hero that the materialistic side of life is submissive to the people and relationships present and nothing is worth being taken for granted.—Ally Crutcher

Non-commissioned Officer Josh Bomar joined the United States Marine Corps to find discipline and focus. Bomar served two terms of seven months each in Iraq. The Marines protected, patrolled, and regulated the areas. Bomar's assignments were gunner, who lies on top of the humvee and shoots a machine gun, and vehicle commander, who is in charge of an entire humvee. Bomar's family was very encouraging, both extending and immediate family supported his decision to join the service. Bomar is now attending the University of Texas at Dallas where he is studying criminology. Bomar's military experiences has made him more confident. Becoming a Marine has given Bomar the tools to do better in his life. He now has the discipline to accomplish everything he wants to in the future. Bomar feels fortunate to have been part of the United States Marine Corps and is thankful for all the opportunities he has been given.

By interviewing Josh Bomar, I have gained a better understanding of how joining the service can change your life. This opportunity allowed me to learn about the daily life of soldiers and the realities of combat during the war. I admire the courageous men and women who sacrifice their lives to protect our country.—Emily Buss

Command Sergeant Major Robert F. Donahue epitomizes everything it means to be a proud American. Even after two tours of duty in Vietnam and another in Iraq, he loves to share his experiences and wisdom gained from his time in the military. People are always trying to find someone who can be a great role model for today's young people. CSM Donahue is exactly that. Born into a military family with a career soldier for a father and a World War II nurse for a mother. CSM Donahue was born in North Carolina. He moved many times during his early life and spent most of his high school life in Lawton, Oklahoma. Growing up in Lawton. CSM Donahue didn't know a life other than the one he was living, of military orientation, very regimented and discipline oriented. Prior to his last year of high school, the Tet Offensive happened in Vietnam. Once

he graduated from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, heading off to Vietnam for ten months on separate tours of duty. After Vietnam, he stayed in the army reserve up until his time in Iraq. I gained many things from my experience interviewing CSM Donahue.—Michael Buss

I chose to do my biography on Matthew Edward Rice, my dad. In August 1981, at nineteen years old he went to Basic Training at Ft. Gordon. He then went to AIT where he learned to be a Telephone Switchboard Technician, and then he was stationed in Darmstadt, Germany in May of 1982 with the C Co. 44th Signal Battalion. He then received orders to go back to Ft. Gordon for new advanced digital telephone switch training. He was then assigned to Ft. Bragg with orders to the 327th Signal BN. However, he was transferred to B Co. 50th Signal BN, for the liberation of Grenada. He was reassigned to A Co. 327th Signal BN. My dad went to Germany in 1984 and attended Primary Leadership Development Course. He then was transferred to the 17th Signal BN. He then returned to Ft. Gordon as an Instructor. His last assignment was with Headquarters Co. 304th Signal BN South Korea from May of 1991 to June 1992. I have learned a lot about dedication, hard work and responsibility from my father and his stories of his time in the Army. My dad has instilled in me the values that the military has instilled in him.—Allyson Rice

Larry Lucido joined the Marine Corps. He began as a private in the Marine Corps and ended his service as a Sergeant. During his nine month tour of duty in the Korean War he saw a lot of action and fought in several battles including the battle of Chosin Reservoir where the Chinese entered the war and surrounded the Marines until the Marines managed to break out. He was awarded two Purple Hearts during his tour. The first Purple Heart was awarded to him after he was shot in the back. His second Purple Heart was awarded to him after he went to go help one of his injured friends and he stepped on a land mine that took off his leg. He also captured a North Korean soldier than gave them information about the other North Korean Troops in the area.

From this experience I have gained a greater respect for those who serve in our country's armed forces and fight to keep this and other countries free. His service in the Marine Corps is a great inspiration. How he was shot in the back and lost his leg in the service of our country shows how high the price of freedom can be and how we must respect those who fight to protect it.—Brian Bruck

My name is James Garrett Follette and I interviewed Captain Ralph Peter "Pete" Langenfeld on January 26, 2008. Pete enlisted with the Air Force in the summer of 1942 and saw active duty in January 1943 as a 2nd lieutenant. Pete was assigned to the 785th Bombardment Squadron of the 466th Bombardment Group of the 8th Air Division stationed in England as a bombardier for a B-24 Liberator. His last day of service was on December 19, 1945. For two years, Pete also flew B-29 Bombers during the Korean War. He held the rank of Captain when he was discharged on April 14, 1951.

On August 24, 2006 he received the Distinguished Flying Cross with valor for his heroism on January 2, 1945. On his 31st combat mission over Remagen, Germany, one of the live 2,000-pound bombs on his B-24 Liberator did not release. Pete removed his parachute and oxygen mask so he could move to the open bomb bay and manually release the weapon. Interviewing Captain Langenfeld has been an incredible experience. To listen to the thrill and patriotism in his voice is

contagious. It makes one realize how important history is and we do not want to lose these experiences.—Garrett Tollelle

The tributes, memories, and lives of those who serve or have served in the armed forces must be exalted and above all else never forgotten. Thanks to this interview of United States Marine Corps Major John Lauder, I have first hand insight on the life of a true patriot. Major John Lauder went from only a Cadet, to Captain, 1st Lieutenant, 2nd Lieutenant all the way to where he is now at Major. As I listened to the memories and experience of Major Lauder, it occurred to me the massive amount of courage, dedication, and perseverance it takes to serve. As a marine he has served four tours of duty thus far and is still an honorable member of the Marines. It is to him I owe my understanding of the true hardships that one must take on as a Marine. I hold people like Major John Lauder responsible for my feelings of security and pride in such a beloved country.

The memories of our men in service and veterans are important ones. They are memories that should not be lost. These people have put their lives on the line and triumphed over all odds. I proudly say that Major John Lauder is one of these people. While serving, Major Lauder has truly excelled as a Marine, earning awards such as Iraqi and Afghan campaign medals as well as being decorated for valor. Not only those, but he has also received the Global War on Terrorism Service medal, expeditionary medals, along with a combat action ribbon. Major John Lauder is a truly exemplary person and I give thanks to God for people like him.—Amanda Dees

Colonel James E. Gilliland grew up in a changing time throughout the tides of war and peace. He entered the Air Force as the Korean War had ended, but answered the call to defend his country during the Vietnam War, flying 100 vital reconnaissance missions over North and South Vietnam war zones in a very short amount of time. The dangerous missions which he completed helped to contribute to the key strategies during the war, saving countless American lives. Throughout his tour in enemy skies, he was a highly decorated RF-4C pilot in the United States Air Force, which includes the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Air Medals. Even after his combat tours in Vietnam, Colonel Gilliland continued to hold senior command and staff positions in Saigon, Hawaii, Colorado, Texas, England, and eventually Belgium. Not only was this man a hero throughout his career with the Air Force, but he is also my grandfather, a man I hold in the highest regard. Hearing his story, which even now is hard for him to tell, has helped me to better understand just how much he has sacrificed for his country.—Trevor Ede

What Corbett Reagan accomplished was a 6 month tour (1990–1991) of duty in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm where he specialized in anti-tank gunning. He was the recipient of the Meritorious Unit Award, the Valorous Unit Citation, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal. What I gained from this interview experience was how committed Corporal Reagan was to his country. It was part of his heart and soul to be a Marine and serve our nation, particularly growing up in a military family. I also was struck by the influence the Marines and his overall service in Kuwait/Iraq during Operation Desert Storm had in molding him into a man of character. Being in the Marines shaped his life in many ways, particularly in helping him understand the issues of life and death, obtaining his education, the importance of family and friends, as well as gaining an appreciation for what it means to live in this great nation of ours.—Lauren Hill

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Castle was born in 1946 in Rochester, New York. His decision to join the Army was voluntary but also influenced by his family. His grandfather had served in the Navy during WWI while his own father had been a captain in the air corp. Even his brother had served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Richard served in the Vietnam War as a logistics officer. During his entire military career, Richard reached the position of 5th corp commander under a three star general. At the end of his military career, he reached the position of lieutenant colonel for his incredible service. The things I learned from Lieutenant Colonel Richard Castle were so astounding and intriguing. He seemed like a man who genuinely cared about his country and had loved serving in the Army. It made me gain a much greater appreciation for the men and women in the service right now. Talking on the phone with him, I realized how much of an ordinary person Mr. Castle was. Yet for him to have done so much for the Army is absolutely amazing. His story truly shows that anyone can serve the country and be an inspiration.—Lisa Hu

Colonel Vernon David Gores was born on December 27, 1929 in Bisbee, North Dakota. He grew up exposed to the agricultural environment of North Dakota, in addition to the small city life of Fargo, North Dakota. Vern Gores graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in civil engineering in 1951. While there he attended ROTC, then entered the United States Air Force as a second lieutenant and attended flight school. Vern served in several capacities for the Air Force. For most of his Air Force career, Vern served as a pilot for transport (C-46) and reconnaissance aircraft (EC-121). He also advised an ROTC unit. He held positions of operations officer, commander advisor to the National Guard, and inspector general. Vern lived across the nation and internationally during his career. After North Dakota he lived in Alabama, Oklahoma, Illinois, Vermont, California, Massachusetts, Florida, and Ohio. He also served in several foreign countries: Japan, South Korea, Libya, Vietnam, and Thailand. Vern served in the Korean conflict and Vietnam. He remembers the Cuban Missile Crisis and the “ongoing” Cold War.

Vern retired from the Air Force at the rank of Full Colonel in 1979 at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio after 28 years of service. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Air Medal, and Bronze Star recognitions. Today Colonel Gore lives in the Villages of Lady Lake, Florida with his wife Colleen. They have been married for more than fifty years. They have one son, two daughters, and five grandchildren. His family is very proud of his accomplishments. He served with untiring effort, superior intellect, and uncompromising values of honesty, integrity, and loyalty. The nation and our family are fortunate to be associated with him.—Garrett McDaniel

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 120, on motion to adjourn, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATHWAY FOR BIOSIMILARS ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, the field of biotechnology is the future of medicine. Scientists and doctors are just beginning to scratch the surface of the potential to harness the extraordinary power of biology and the astounding natural processes which occur in the human body, in animals, and in other living organisms to advance breakthrough medical discoveries and treatments. While ordinary pharmaceuticals primarily treat the symptoms of a disease or illness, biotechnology products—“biologics”—can be manipulated to target the underlying mechanisms and pathways of a disease.

Through the study of biotechnology, we will develop effective treatments for cancer and AIDS, many of which are already saving lives. We will cure diabetes. We will prevent the onset of deadly and debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer's, heart disease, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and arthritis. We will save millions of lives and improve countless more.

The development of biologics is expensive and extremely risky. Bringing a biologic to market can require hundreds of millions of dollars in research and development costs and can take several years. For every successful biologic, there are another 10 or 20 that do not pan out, making the incentives for investment in this field extremely sensitive to any changes in the regulatory structure for biologics.

In the relatively young industry of biotechnology, many of the original patents on biologics are beginning to expire and it's appropriate for Congress to consider how “follow-on” biologics or “biosimilars” are considered and approved by the FDA, and the impact these products will have on patient health and safety, health care costs, and incentives for innovation.

As a primary matter, it's important to recognize that traditional “small-molecule” pharmaceuticals and biologics are fundamentally different in their development, their manufacture and their chemical makeup. A traditional small-molecule drug is manufactured through synthesis of chemical ingredients in an ordered process, and the resulting product can be easily identified through laboratory analysis. A biologic is a large, complex molecule, which is “grown” in living systems such as a microorganism, a plant or animal cell. The resulting protein is unique to the cell lines and specific process used to produce it, and even slight differences in the manufacturing of a biologic can alter its nature. As a result, biologics are difficult, sometimes impossible to characterize, and laboratory analysis of the finished product is insufficient to ensure its safety and efficacy.

The pharmaceutical drug production process is easily replicated and a “generic” drug product is virtually identical to the original innovative product, so generic drug manufacturers are permitted to reference the original testing data submitted by the innovator companies when the original drug is submitted to the FDA for approval. With biologics, the manufacturing process is unique to each biologic and is not

generally disclosed as part of the published patent. A biosimilar manufacturer would have to have intimate knowledge of these proprietary processes in order to “duplicate” the biologic product, and even then it is extremely difficult—no two living cell lines are identical, so no two biologics manufacturing processes have identical starting materials or proceed in the same way.

It's also important to note that because biologics are produced with cells from living organisms, many of them can cause an immune reaction which is normally benign and does not affect safety. However, some of these reactions can negate the effectiveness of the biologic or even cause side effects that are more dangerous. Most of these reactions can only be observed through clinical trials with real patients.

Any expedited regulatory pathway for biosimilars must account for all these factors and I'm proud to join with the Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. JOE BARTON, to introduce the Pathway for Biologics Act. Our bill builds on the significant progress the Senate, led by Senators KENNEDY and ENZI, has already made, as well as the significant level of consensus we have heard on our Committee about this issue. The Pathway for Biologics Act will establish a new statutory pathway for biosimilars guided by three principles:

1. Legislation to facilitate the development of biosimilars should promote competition and lower prices, but patient safety, efficacy and sound science must be paramount.

2. We must preserve incentives for innovation and ensure that patients will continue to benefit from the groundbreaking treatments biotechnology alone can bring.

3. We must strive to protect the rights of all parties and resolve disputes over patents in a timely and efficient manner that does not delay market entry and provides certainty to all parties.

The regulatory pathway set forth in the Pathway for Biologics Act embodies each of these principles and sets forth a sensible, scientifically sound process for approval of biosimilars. The legislation allows for input from all interested parties and provides FDA appropriate flexibility to protect patient health by requesting analytical, animal and clinical studies to demonstrate the safety, purity and potency of a biosimilar. The FDA will be empowered to require the tests and data it deems necessary, but the results of clinical testing for immunogenicity will always be required as part of this data unless the FDA has published final guidance documents advising that such a determination is feasible in the current state of science absent clinical data and explaining the data that will be required to support such a determination. Since biologics are derived from human and animal products, immune reactions are a major concern for any new biologic product and are now impossible to detect without actual human testing.

Our legislation also addresses the important issue of interchangeability of biosimilars for the reference product. Some legislative proposals would allow the FDA to permit pharmacists and insurers to substitute a biosimilar for a physician's prescription for an innovator biologic product even when they cannot be demonstrated to be identical in their composi-

tion or effectiveness. Interchangeability of generic pharmaceuticals for brand name drugs is entirely appropriate since traditional generic drugs are chemically identical to the reference product. However, if the state of science is such that a complex molecule cannot be fully characterized and a precursor biologic cannot be adequately compared to a proposed biosimilar, then the biosimilar should not be fully substitutable for the precursor product without a physician's direction. The Pathway for Biologics Act makes it clear that the FDA cannot make a determination that a biosimilar is interchangeable with a reference product until it has published final guidance documents advising that it is feasible in the current state of scientific knowledge to make such determinations with respect to the relevant product class and explaining the data that will be required to support such a determination. This requirement is consistent with the recommendations of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

An essential element of any new regulatory scheme for the biotech industry is a careful balancing of incentives for innovation and opportunities for new entry by competitors. To preserve incentives for innovation, the Pathway for Biologics Act provides 12 years of data exclusivity for new biologic products, which ensures that biosimilar applications that rely on the safety and efficacy record of existing biologic products will not be permitted to enter the market for 12 years following the approval of the innovator product. The 12-year exclusivity period is meant to preserve existing protections biotech companies receive from patents. The Congressional Budget Office has found that the effective patent life for pharmaceuticals is about 11.5 years, so a data exclusivity period of 12 years is consistent with that finding. Data exclusivity is necessary to provide additional protections and incentives for biologics because biosimilars—unlike generic drugs—will not be chemically identical to the reference product and will be less likely to infringe the patents of the innovator.

The legislation also includes incentives for additional indications and pediatric testing. New indications are critical for biologics and are often more significant than the indications for which approval was granted. Incentives for continued testing on new indications must be included to promote access to new treatments and cures, and this bill provides an additional 2 years exclusivity for new indications. I also believe it's important to provide incentives similar to those given traditional pharmaceuticals under the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act to biologics, so the legislation provides an additional 6 months of data exclusivity for testing for use in pediatric groups.

In order to protect the rights of all parties and ensure that all patent disputes involving a biosimilar are resolved before the expiration of the data exclusivity period, the Pathway for Biosimilars Act establishes a simple, streamlined patent resolution process. This process would take place within a short window of time—roughly 6–8 months after the biosimilar application has been filed with the FDA. It will help ensure that litigation surrounding relevant patents will be resolved expeditiously and prior to the launch of the biosimilar product, providing certainty to the applicant, the reference product manufacturer, and the public at large.

The legislation also preserves the ability of third-party patent holders such as universities and medical centers to defend their patents.

Once a biosimilar application is accepted by the FDA, the agency will publish a notice identifying the reference product and a designated agent for the biosimilar applicant. After an exchange of information to identify the relevant patents at issue, the applicant can decide to challenge any patent's validity or applicability. All information exchanged as part of this procedure must be maintained in strict confidence and used solely for the purpose of identifying patents relevant to the biosimilar product. The patent owner will then have two months to decide whether to enforce the patent. If the patent owner's case is successful in court, the final approval of the application will be deferred until the patent expires.

Madam Speaker, I believe the Pathway for Biosimilars Act sets forth a straightforward, scientifically based process for expedited approval of new biologics based on innovative products already on the market. This new biosimilars approval pathway will promote competition and lower prices, but also ensure that patients are given safe and effective treatments that have been subjected to thorough scrutiny and testing by the FDA. The Pathways for Biosimilars Act will also protect the rights of patent holders and preserve incentives for innovation in the biotechnology sector to develop the next generation of life-saving, life-changing therapies.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Pathway for Biosimilars Act.

RECOGNIZING MARCELLA POTTHOFF OF INDIANOLA, IOWA, AS THE GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY'S 2007 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Marcella Potthoff of Indianola, Iowa, as the Good Samaritan Society's 2007 Volunteer of the Year.

Marcella volunteers three days every week at the Indianola Good Samaritan Center. She performs a variety of tasks for residents, which includes making food, pushing wheelchairs and playing games. She especially enjoys bingo. According to Trudie Wood, the activity director and volunteer coordinator at the Good Samaritan Center, Marcella's eagerness to serve, and her patience and availability at short notice is what makes Marcella deserving of this award.

Marcella has dedicated her life to improving her community. Her past volunteer work includes teaching Sunday school, hosting a Bible study, helping with youth activities, leading a Girl Scout troop, and being an active member in a quilt club and a singles club. She is a great example for her community, and I commend her on her enduring commitment.

I consider it an honor to represent Marcella Potthoff in Congress. I commend Marcella's willingness to volunteer and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

NEW DOGS IN OUR BACKYARD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, our own backyard is in jeopardy. Recently Colombia, our ally in the war on drugs and in combating Marxist rebels bent on undermining democracy in the Americas, was threatened with military action by its neighbors Venezuela and Ecuador. Colombia had taken the military initiative to eliminate a FARC commander across the border in Ecuador in order to maintain its own security. Yet the leftist and anti-U.S. leaders from Venezuela and Ecuador took grave offense to the killing of one of their comrades in arms, and rolled up tank battalions to the border to try to intimidate Colombia. Thankfully, cooler heads prevailed in this round, yet the United States should be concerned from some emerging big dogs in our own backyard.

With our attention turned elsewhere around, other nations and interests have been undermining US influence in the Americas. As seen already, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has been trying to gather support of other Latin American leaders to oppose the U.S. This latest incident in threatening our ally is a prime example.

Yet there is an even bigger dog, and it is hungry. China is growing in influence in Latin America. Seeking trading, political, and military ties with Latin America nations, China's hunger for expansion is part of its goal to be a chief player in world politics. As China seeks greater ties and influence in South America, it will naturally rely on its Communist ties with Marxist and leftist leaning groups.

What is the result of these two big dogs in our backyard? US influence is lessening in Latin America. For decades we stood by and militarily backed our Monroe Doctrine. In essence, we claim that the Western Hemisphere and the Americas is our sphere of influence. While we were able to keep Europe out, we are failing to keep the Far East and Communism out. Theodore Roosevelt added his corollary to the Doctrine, stating that the US reserves the right to intervene in Latin America. American foreign policy should take notice of this situation. While we have our chickens outside grazing, the coop is empty and under threat. We should hold fast to our Monroe Doctrine, and include all emerging threats, whether from Europe, the Far East, or ideas such as Communism and radical Islam. Strangers in one's backyard do not make for a secure household.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING JACK AND DONNA CLARK FOR THEIR SERVICE TO FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jack and Donna Clark, long time administrators of Flower Mound High School. The Lewisville Independent School

District is honoring their service by naming Flower Mound High School's auditorium the Jack and Donna Clark Auditorium.

Naming the Flower Mound High School auditorium after Mr. and Mrs. Clark is especially fitting because they both enjoy and have an interest in the performing arts. Donna was a member of the world-famous Rangerettes at Kilgore College in Kilgore, Texas. The couple met when both were teaching at Lake Highlands High School in Dallas, Texas. Donna was an English teacher and director of the Highlandettes Drill Team and Jack was the head basketball coach.

The Clark family moved to Flower Mound in 1999 to help open Flower Mound High School. Four years later, Mr. Clark was named principal, the same year the couple's son, Cody, graduated from Flower Mound High School. Additionally, Mr. Clark was named Principal of the Year by Lewisville ISD.

The final paragraph of the nominating letter, which was signed by every assistant principal and member of the counseling staff, states: "The dedication that Jack and Donna Clark have shown through their years of education and to Flower Mound High School should not go unnoticed." This dedication is a great way to honor this couple for their devotion to the community of Flower Mound.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today and pay tribute to Jack and Donna Clark and their legacy of service to the arts. I am proud to represent this couple in the 26th District of Texas and I am glad to know that their legacy will continue to live on.

REGARDING MARCH AS NATIONAL PEANUT MONTH AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEXAS PEANUT PRODUCERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in appreciation of the Texas peanut industry.

March is National Peanut Month, and it is timely to thank peanut farmers all over the great State of Texas for the work of their hands. Texas ranks second in the Nation in peanut production. The annual value of peanuts to our State is more than \$96 million.

As baseball is America's favorite pastime sport, what would a day at the ballpark be without a bag of peanuts? How would a child's favorite sandwich taste without the creamy goodness of peanut butter?

Few can deny the deliciousness of peanut brittle, peanut butter cups, plain roasted or boiled peanuts. The legumes are used in a great variety of ways and are an important industry to our State and Nation.

Texas peanut farmers produced nearly 370,000 tons of peanuts last year. The primary uses of peanuts, nationwide, are for popular confections. Peanuts are roasted and packaged in plastic bags or sealed cans. They are also used in significant quantities for peanut butter.

Texas is a state of grand scale. There were 190,000 acres of peanuts grown in Texas in 2007; the varieties include Runner, Spanish, Virginia and Valencia. Agriculture and cattle

ranching are major Texas industries, and it is fitting to recognize those who work the fields so that people everywhere can enjoy the products of their labor.

Madam Speaker, the Texas Peanut Producers Board and the Western Peanut Growers Association are valuable assets to Texas as leading producers in their industry. It is my privilege to recognize their contributions to our State's economy.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF RIVERDALE TOYS CAMPAIGN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, for the past 8 years children in Babies and Children's Hospital of Columbia Presbyterian, Bronx Lebanon, Jacobi Medical Center, North Central Bronx Hospital, Lincoln Medical Center, Montefiore Medical Center, St. Barnabas Hospital, and Our Lady of Mercy Hospital have had their holidays brightened with gifts from the Chabad Lubavitch of Riverdale Toys Campaign.

Heartfelt gestures such as these have raised some from the despair of illness in a hospital during the holiday season to bring them hope and laughter. Toys are also given to children of more than 180 families living in homeless shelters in the Bronx.

This mitzvah, this kindness for those who are in need at that most special time of the year for joy and happiness, has earned the Chabad Lubavitch of Riverdale Toys Campaign the Community Organizational Award from the Riverdale Jewish Community Council.

HONORING PASTOR W. JAMES THOMAS II OF SHILOH CHURCH IN MEMPHIS, TN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, our pastor today was Pastor W. James Thomas II.

Pastor Thomas is God's visionary for Shiloh Church of Memphis, located in Memphis, Tennessee. Serving as Senior Pastor since 1994, his consistent obedience to God has taken the Shiloh congregation from glory to glory. The membership has grown from 75 to 600 and counting. During these years, Pastor Thomas has been preaching and teaching God's uncompromising Word with a boldness that has changed the lives of the people at Shiloh and throughout the country.

To accommodate the vision and growth of the church membership, Pastor Thomas led the congregation in the acquisition of a 19,000 square foot worship and educational facility in 1998. In 2003, the sanctuary was completely renovated and office complex expanded to accommodate staff and daily operational needs.

Spiritually, Pastor Thomas was saved and received much of his spiritual development in the Church of God in Christ. He was called to the ministry at the age of 14 and began pastoring at the age of 18 in Knoxville, TN.

Educationally, Pastor Thomas graduated cum laude from Crichton College in Memphis, Tennessee with a bachelor of science degree in biblical studies and is currently a candidate for the masters of divinity degree. He has also been awarded a doctor of divinity degree from St. Thomas Christian College in Jacksonville, FL. Pastor Thomas was selected from among 300 clergy nationally to participate in, and has completed the first Graduate School of Theological Studies Special intensive at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, MA in September, 2005 and Yale School of Divinity in September, 2006.

Pastor Thomas has accomplished many tasks on the local and national level. He is the founder and CEO of Grace Community Development Corporation and Grace for Living Ministries International and currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Marchell Foundation, a regional scholarship granting foundation. In July of 1998, he was appointed and installed as the District Overseer for the West Tennessee Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship. Apostolically, he serves as the overseer of True Praise & Worship International Church in Raleigh, NC and Fresh Anointing Christian Fellowship Church in Clarksville, MS. He is a member and chapter officer of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He's very active in our community in Memphis, Tennessee. He is married to Minister Antonia R. Thomas, who serves alongside him in the ministry. And even possibly more important than his congregation, Pastor Thomas has two children. One is Private First Class Reginald Cleveland, who has been serving this Chamber for the past 4 years as an officer with the Capitol Police. His daughter Joshlyn Thomas is a student at Craigmont Middle School in Memphis.

Generations are changed because of his passion for mentoring youth, empowering the saints and serving as a spiritual father for Pastors. Through the ministry of Pastor Thomas, people are discovering their destinies. His favorite Scripture is Psalms 37:4—"Delight thyself also in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."

I appreciate Pastor Thomas serving the United States House of Representatives as our pastor this morning.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAYNA LYNN
AHERN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of my friend Dayna Lynn Ahern, whose passion for life was an inspiration.

Dayna was a native of Las Vegas who was a student of fashion merchandising at the Fashion Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada. Prior to enrolling in the Fashion Institute, Dayna had earned an Associates Degree from the prestigious Le Cordon Blue College of Culinary Arts in Las Vegas.

Among Dayna's many passions was traveling and music. These dual talents provided her with a number of unique opportunities, such as performing for the Pope at the Vatican and traveling with her high school choir to

perform at various locals in Europe. Dayna was also an active member of her Church, and had a strong sense of spirituality.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Dayna. On March 30, 2006, Dayna passed away but her enthusiasm and passion for life will serve as an inspiration for all who knew her. She will be greatly missed, but her legacy as a caring and motivated individual will live on.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES CITY,
IOWA POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATOR TODD SMITH AND MASON CITY POLICE OFFICER STEVE KLEMAS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles City, Iowa Police Department Investigator Todd Smith and Mason City Police Officer Steve Klemas as recipients of The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor for saving another's life by risking their own.

The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor Program was established in 1977 to recognize peace officers and firefighters, who while serving in an official capacity, distinguished themselves by performing a heroic act while fully aware of a threat to his/her personal safety. The strict nomination process includes background investigations, and the final determination is made by the Governor of Iowa.

On June 18, 2007, Officer Klemas and Investigator Smith responded to a request by the Wright County sheriff to assist in an armed stand-off that occurred after the office attempted to serve a committal order on an individual. After failed negotiations, two rounds of tear gas, and a five-hour stand-off, Officer Klemas and Investigator Smith led a team of eight into the house. Investigator Smith served as the shield person, and was shot at three times as Officer Klemas fired on the individual to subdue him and take him into custody.

Investigator Smith and Officer Klemas' bravery goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. Their courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans; willing to risk their own lives for the safety of our fellow citizens. For this I offer them my utmost congratulations and thanks.

I commend Officer Steve Klemas and Investigator Todd Smith for their bravery. I am honored to represent them in Congress and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

CONNOR KONZ ENDURES FIJI

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize a young constituent of the Second Congressional District, Mr. Connor Konz, for his participation in the Discovery Kids Channel competition Endurance Fiji.

Connor is a 15-year-old sophomore at Atascocita High School in Humble, Texas. He was selected in June of this year as a participant after submitting a five-minute video de-

scribing himself and how he spends his free time.

The game consists of teams collecting 13 pyramid pieces which are essential inner qualities to complete the Pyramid of Endurance. They are Strength, Heart, Courage, Perseverance, Luck, Trust, Leadership, Discipline, Knowledge, Commitment, Teamwork, Ingenuity and Friendship. The first team to collect all 13 pieces wins the game. The teams earn pieces by winning physical and mental competitions.

Connor and his mother, Debbie Konz, were flown to Fiji on Aug. 12. After arriving, he was taken by boat from the airport to an island hotel and from there to another island for the competition.

By no means was this tropical island competition a Sunday picnic or vacation for Connor. He was without all of the daily teenage essentials such as no cell phone, MP3 player or digital camera the entire time he was on the island. He slept in a sleeping bag, in a bamboo hut with a thatched roof and no air conditioning. Connor said that the worst part of the experience was no electricity or indoor plumbing.

The teens also faced isolation by sleeping on a separate island away from their parents and didn't get to see them again until they were kicked off the show for losing a competition.

Connor had to use his physical and mental abilities to overcome the obstacles and challenges in the competition. It was an experience that pushed him farther than he thought he could go and resulted in lifelong friendships with the contestants.

Connor not only represented his family in the competition but Humble, Texas as well. I salute Connor Konz for ending it in Fiji.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING THE DENTON
COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) of Lewisville, Texas. The DCTA was recently awarded a Federal Transit Administration Ridership Award.

The Federal Transit Administration Ridership Awards honor and acknowledge the industry's commitment to excellence. The recipients of the Ridership Award are transit systems that have substantially increased their ridership since 2003 through a variety of techniques and innovations. The DCTA is one of four agencies being recognized that service an area with a population between 200,000 and 1 million people.

The Denton County Transportation Authority is a synchronized county transit agency that provides a wide variety of local services to Denton and surrounding communities, as well as a commuter service to downtown Dallas. The DCTA has strong relationship with the community. In 2005, the DCTA took over the daily operational and management responsibility of the campus shuttle service for the University of North Texas. The DCTA and the

University worked together to provide free fares for students, and ridership on the shuttles increased by 15 percent between fall 2005 and fall 2006. The program was expanded in 2006 to allow free access onto the DCTA Commuter Express service and to expand the service on campus by two stops. The number of students, faculty, and staff that rode transit increased substantially in 2006 and, by the end of the year, 35–40% of passengers on the Commuter Express were associated with the University.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the Denton County Transportation Authority. Their commitment to improving the public transportation system is to be commended and I hope other transit agencies will follow in their successful, innovative footsteps.

SUPPORTING OUR NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WITH THE TOOLS THEY NEED

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the bipartisan Senate-passed update to the Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act, a chief component of national intelligence.

Three weeks have passed since our national security community lost the ability to track valuable intelligence without going through slow and burdensome bureaucratic hurdles. That's more than 3 weeks of terrorist communications that cannot be recovered. Yet, the Democratic House leadership under Speaker NANCY PELOSI refuses to debate a bipartisan Senate bill, which would give intelligence officials expanded authority to track terrorists outside of the United States. Since August last year, a temporary set of new laws authorized this program, but it expired on February 15, 2008.

Violent extremists operating around the world have one aim—kill Americans. I am committed to providing responsible and appropriate tools to our intelligence community to protect and defend Americans at home and abroad. It is not a coincidence that the U.S. has not been attacked at home since September 11, 2001. American intelligence officers protected us, and Congress must provide the tools and techniques they need to meet the long-term challenges that remain. Those standing on the frontlines battling these terrorists must have the ability to quickly intercept foreign communications to stop terrorists.

The Democratic leadership in the House has said, "there is no urgency" on updating our Nation's intelligence laws. I vehemently disagree, allowing this law to expire is completely irresponsible. I will continue to stand up for our men and women who defend us against future terrorist attacks.

I urge my colleagues to adopt the Senate-passed bill to expedite this necessary and timely update to the FISA law. Another day should not pass without our passing this bill.

HONORING THE MIAMI MEDICAL TEAM FOUNDATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a wonderful organization in my home State and district in Florida, the Miami Medical Team Foundation, M.M.T.F. The M.M.T.F. is celebrating their 25th year as a local organization with worldwide significance and deserves more than a moment of recognition for their service.

The Miami Medical Team Foundation is a group of wonderful people that have formed a nonprofit, humanitarian, self-supported organization whose goals are the improvement of the sanitary and medical conditions in Third World countries.

The M.M.T.F. is composed at its core by medical doctors of all specialties, but as well, nurses, physical therapists, medical technicians, and Pharmacists. Founded in the early 1980s when refugees began piling in the borders between Nicaragua and Honduras, the group has since been involved in many different scenarios of tragedy in five continents of our planet, providing assistance to a total of 19 countries and makes available medical and surgical teams and the shipping of donated medicine and medical equipment. Members of the M.M.T.F. have always covered the costs of each and every humanitarian operation they embark on.

With the strong leadership of their president, Dr. Manuel A. Alzugaray, they have seen their efforts put to amazing use. Manuel is a dedicated individual with a professionalism that can not be easily matched. I know that it will be with his guidance that the M.M.T.F. will continue to play a vital role in making sure the world's most disadvantaged populations receive the timely care that they so desperately deserve.

Again, I praise the Miami Medical Team Foundation for all their successful initiatives across the globe and moreover, I commend them for their willingness to operate as a financially independent organization that could not exist without its members' dedication to the noble principles that they hold so dear. For all that the Miami Medical Team Foundation has done in support of their global humanitarian mission, and will certainly continue to do, I thank them so very much.

EXCERPT FROM THE WORLD OF WATCHERS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the attached article is submitted at the request of the American Center of Polish Culture.

[Excerpts from *The World of the Watchers* by Edward Pinkowski]

INTRODUCTION

Almost a century after it was created, the equestrian statue of General Casimir Pulaski

in Washington, D.C., has overshadowed discussion of many subjects. For example, very few are familiar with the Polish roots of Frank C. Watcher, who was elected in Baltimore, Maryland, as a Republican to the 56th Congress in 1898 and was reelected three successive times. None of the other congressmen then had a drop of Polish blood.

When Abraham L. Brick, who came from South Bend, Indiana, to Washington at the same time as Watcher, introduced a bill for the erection of the monument to Pulaski, Watcher saw that it had little support. He realized that if he didn't speak out, none of his colleagues would pay attention to the bill to honor the Polish hero of the American Revolution. He was known as an efficacious man, with a cheerful smile, who easily won others to his side. "On the last day of the session the Speaker of the House brought it up for consideration," he told a reporter of the Baltimore Sun in 1902. "The bill passed."

It took years after that for the federal government to set up a commission, find a site for the Pulaski monument in the nation's capital, and work out the rest of the details. The sculptor was Kazimierz Chodzinski, who had studied under the famous Matejko in Krakow, Poland, and was the one who carved the Kosciuszko statue before in Chicago. When his equestrian statue of Pulaski was unveiled in 1910, critics said it was the best they ever saw.

CITY OF BALTIMORE

Frank Charles Watcher was born September 16, 1861, in South Baltimore, where the Baltimore and Ohio company built the largest railroad station in the world in 1852 and the stockyards butchered more hogs than any other city on the Atlantic coast. Built on the Patapsco River not far from the Watcher home, Fort McHenry, which Francis Scott Key immortalized in the Star Spangled Banner, was used in the 1860s to hold thousands of Confederate prisoners of war.

When he was growing up, Frank Watcher dreamed of being a tailor like his father. Upon graduation from St. Paul's German English School, however, he got a job as a clerk for \$1.50 a week in a clothing store. In time, because of his energy, determination, and brains, he managed a business.

POLITICAL CAREER

The first important campaign of his life came in 1898 when he received the Republican nomination for Congress. Nobody expected him to win. One of the issues in his favor was immigration. The Democratic Party, largely in Irish hands, was against new immigration because the immigrants who came mostly from Poland and Italy were taking the places of Irish workers in mines and factories and working for less money. In the coming election, the Polish citizens of Baltimore, most of whom previously supported Democrats, voted in large part for Watcher. He was elected to the Fifty-sixth Congress by a majority of 122 votes.

Watcher ran again two years later and won by more than 2,071 votes. After three terms in Washington, he ran for mayor of Baltimore. He won in the primaries and lost in the general election by less than 500 votes.

His family was at his bedside when he died on July 1, 1910. His body was followed to Loudon Park Cemetery by a long cortege of political and business associates. The honorary pall bearers included Speaker of the House Joseph G. Cannon.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES CITY,
IOWA, CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Charles City Police Department and the graduates of the first ever Charles City, Iowa, Citizens Police Academy.

On November 13, 2007, seventeen residents of Charles City graduated from the first Charles City Citizens Police Academy, a ten week program facilitated by the Charles City Police Department and North Iowa Area Community College. The Charles City police officers took time to study specific aspects of police work and polished their presentation skills before instructing the classes. The Academy participants learned about the rigorous education and training police officers go through to do their jobs effectively. They also gained knowledge in various topics including; handling stressful situations, law enforcement operations, jurisdiction, the use of force and liability, terrorism training, and self-defense techniques.

This inaugural program has helped citizens better understand all that police do to protect and serve communities and has brought the police and citizens of Charles City closer together. The Academy is a characteristic of what Iowa is all about—regular citizens motivated to protect and cooperate with one another for the betterment of their communities.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending and congratulating the Charles City Citizens Police Academy and Charles City Police Chief, Mike Wendel. I consider it an honor to represent each member of the Academy and the Charles City Police Department in the U.S. Congress, and I wish them all the best as they work together to make Charles City a safer place.

RECOGNIZING BUD SCHRIER, THE
2008 CARLISLE, IOWA, CITIZEN OF
THE YEAR.

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bud Schrier for his longtime service to the community of Carlisle, Iowa, and being named 2008 Carlisle Citizen of the Year.

Bud was born in 1930 and grew up on a farm west of Carlisle. After graduating high school, he entered the army and fought in the Korean War. He then came back to Carlisle to marry his wife, Betty, and began a 35 year career as an automotive parts salesman for NAPA. Since 1954, Bud has been an active member of the American Legion, promoting patriotism in his community. He also has dedicated a significant amount of time to volunteering for the needy. Since 1977, Bud has also been involved with the Boy Scouts of America in Carlisle as a Scoutmaster.

Around town, Bud is known for having a deep respect for the American flag. He en-

sure the respectful and proper display of each flag in town and kindly reminds townspeople when their flags need to be replaced. Bud's profound reverence for our country certainly sets a wonderful example for all of us.

Bud's dedication to his community and his commitment to volunteer service should be commended. I consider it an honor to represent Bud Schrier in the U.S. Congress, and I wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE FORT
WORTH TRANSPORTATION AU-
THORITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fort Worth Transportation Authority of Fort Worth, Texas on being recognized by the Federal Transit Administration with the 2008 Ridership Award.

The Federal Transit Administration Ridership Awards honor transit systems that have substantially increased their ridership over the past five years through a variety of methods and improvements. The awards acknowledge the industry's commitment to excellence. The Fort Worth Transportation Authority is one of four agencies recognized that service an area with a population between 200,000 and 1 million people.

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority's bus system, known as "The T," has experienced a significant increase in ridership since the agency executed an advertising campaign aimed at automobile commuters. The effective campaign's goal used fuel prices to show commuters the cost of driving to work by car compared to the cost of using The T system. Additionally, the Fort Worth Transportation Authority partnered with the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) and Texas Christian University (TCU) to promote public transportation use among students of all ages. Fort Worth school teachers were provided with free day passes for field trips, and all TCU faculty, staff and students, as well as FWISD ninth graders, were given a free annual transit pass. The actions taken by the Fort Worth Transportation Authority improved student ridership and established the convenience of public transportation with the future labor force.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize the Fort Worth Transportation Authority for receiving this honor. Their diligence and commitment to promoting public transit benefits both the community and the environment, and I sincerely hope other agencies follow their example.

A COALITION TO BUY STARRETT
CITY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. CLARK. Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to rise today to support the efforts of

a coalition of labor, faith-based, and other community groups to buy Brooklyn's Starrett City. This coalition, consisting of the Christian Cultural Center, the Central Labor Council, and the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty intends to keep the community's interest in mind by making certain that the diverse apartment complex remains affordable for renters.

Since 1974, Starrett City has provided affordable housing to more than 90 percent of the tenants through Government assistance including Federal subsidies. In fact, Starrett City is currently the largest federally subsidized rental complex in the United States.

However, in November 2006, Starrett City residents began to fear the worst as talks began about the possible sale of the 153 acre property. Many believed that the new owners would increase their rent so much that they would no longer be able to live there, and as a result, forcing them to move and possibly making them become homeless. This has been a great concern to many of my New York colleagues such as Congressman ED TOWNS and Congressman ANTHONY WEINER and last year, Representative MAXINE WATERS held a field hearing in Starrett City to examine how Congress can preserve this great treasure for many low and middle income families.

That is why Madam Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to hear that a partnership, spearheaded by the Christian Cultural Center's founder, A.R. Bernard, plans to make a bid to ensure that Starrett City would remain affordable for tenants who cannot pay the skyrocketing rental rates throughout New York City. As he stated, "the coalition's goal is protecting affordability and raising the quality of life for Starrett as a community."

In conclusion, I want to extend my sincerest gratitude and support to this coalition as well as commend them for their efforts to save one of "Brooklyn's last affordable housing frontiers."

NATIONAL LINK AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to bring awareness to the link between animal cruelty and other forms of societal violence by designating the month of September 2008 as National Link Awareness Month.

This resolution would highlight the need for more attention and resources to be focused on how violence toward animals is indicative of other violent tendencies. By investigating the link further, information could be gathered that will help mitigate societal violence.

Psychological, sociological, and criminological studies have shown that violent offenders frequently had a history of abusing animals during their childhood and adolescence. The FBI has recognized the connection since the 1970s, when its analysis of the lives of serial killers suggested that most had killed or tortured animals as children. Research has also shown patterns of animal cruelty among perpetrators of child abuse, spousal abuse, and elder abuse. In fact, the American Psychiatric Association considers animal cruelty

one of the diagnostic criteria of conduct disorder.

The link between animal abuse and domestic violence is a recognized fact. Each year, defenseless pets face the sad and disturbing reality that they will be victims of cruelty and abuse. Domestic abusers commonly torture or kill family pets as a method of exerting control and ensuring submission. This causes victims, children and adults alike, to remain in violent households in order to ensure their beloved pets are not harmed further.

Research indicates that children who are exposed to domestic violence are nearly three times more likely to mistreat animals than children who are not exposed to such violence. Tragically, this behavior is often symptomatic of future abuse toward other animals or human beings. Significant research documents a relationship between childhood histories of animal cruelty and patterns of chronic interpersonal aggression.

Due to the correlation between animal abuse and other forms of family and community violence, animal abuse must be taken very seriously. Human services, animal services, and law enforcement agencies must share resources and expertise to address animal and human related violence in communities. By effectively and comprehensively addressing the link between violence towards animals and other forms of societal violence, we can learn information that will help stop violence in the home as well as the community at large.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the designation of September 2008 as National Link Awareness Month so that more awareness will be brought to the link between animal cruelty and other forms of violence in society.

RECOGNIZING LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN CLEAR LAKE, IOWA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the 115 second grade students at Lincoln Elementary School in Clear Lake, Iowa, for their efforts in making the holidays brighter for our U.S. troops overseas.

The second grade class participated in a project called "Operation Stockings for Soldiers." The children donated their own time and money to fill stockings with video games, DVD's, razors, stationary and a variety of other items. Each student also wrote inspiring letters, thanking the soldiers for protecting America and wishing them happy holidays. Some of the students' families donated money for the postage on the stockings.

This collective effort at Lincoln Elementary School is a characteristic of what Iowa is all about—citizens motivated and dedicated to improving the lives of others. I commend all the students, their families and especially their teacher, Kim Williamson, who organized this heartwarming effort to help our Iowa soldiers overseas. The effort of Kim and her students has reinforced the importance and joy of giving to others. I consider it an honor to represent each of the second graders, teachers

and parents of the Lincoln Elementary School community involved in the "Operations Stockings for Soldiers" project in the U.S. Congress, and commend them for their great act of compassion. And I know my colleagues join me in thanking them for their wonderful work.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the GIVE Act and congratulate Speaker PELOSI and Chairman MILLER in bringing this important reauthorization to the floor.

National service builds character and communities. Volunteers in our communities help children succeed in schools, assist in providing social services, green our communities and rebuild after disasters. And the volunteers gain valuable experience and the satisfaction of having made a real difference.

H.R. 5563 strengthens national service opportunities by recruiting 25,000 more volunteers through a new Office of Outreach and Recruitment. This office will promote the recruitment of babyboomers and veterans. The bill also provides a new focus on youth opportunities. Too many youth in our communities are without positive activities during the summer. H.R. 5563 offers summer service opportunities, including a \$500 educational award for college expenses.

Volunteerism is also an important part of emergency preparedness efforts. This bill encourages more collaboration with national, state, and local units of government and creates a "Reserve Corps" of Americorps alumni for times of national need.

With the many challenges facing the United States—both at home and abroad—it is more important than ever that we provide incentives and opportunities for Americans to give back. We saw the best of ourselves in the outpouring of volunteers after 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and the bridge collapse in Minneapolis. Reauthorization of the Corporation of National Service will provide that kind of help for families and communities on an ongoing basis in a very cost-effective way.

This is a bipartisan, widely supported bill. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC SPENDING: EFFECTS ON JOB CREATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, last week's report of the February jobs figures—a net loss of 63,000 jobs—is yet another sign that we need to act to spur employment. We need to stimulate the economy and to create the good jobs that will help working families across the country achieve the American dream.

I would like to bring my colleagues' attention to a recent study that gives us new information on how to achieve that goal. The study, completed by economists at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, evaluates the economic relationship between public spending and job creation. The study, "The U.S. Employment Effect of Military and Domestic Spending Priorities," concludes that public dollars invested in health care, education, mass transit or construction for home weatherization and infrastructure create more jobs than investing an equivalent amount in either military or personal consumption through tax cuts.

The study evaluates the relative effects on job creation of investing an equivalent amount of federal dollars in three scenarios: (1) private consumption through tax cuts, (2) the military, and (3) domestic investments. This important study finds each billion dollars of federal funding would create: 10,799 jobs if spent on tax cuts designed to spur personal consumption; 8,555 jobs if allocated for military spending; 12,883 jobs if invested in health care; 17,687 jobs if invested in education; 19,795 jobs if invested in mass transit; 12,804 jobs if invested in home weatherization and infrastructure.

The bottom line is that public dollars invested in health care, education, mass transit, or construction for home weatherization and infrastructure create more jobs than investing an equivalent amount in either the military or personal consumption.

I hope that my colleagues will review this study, and I would like to thank the Women's Action for New Directions (WAND), the Institute for Policy Studies, and the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for their work in this area.

INTRODUCTION OF TRANSITIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE SELECTED RESERVES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Representatives STEVE BUYER, GENE TAYLOR, JEFF MILLER and 41 additional members, to introduce legislation to provide transitional health care for the Selected Reserves.

When an active duty soldier is involuntarily separated from the Army, he or she is afforded 180 days of transitional health care at no cost. Unfortunately, those soldiers who have served honorably and simply leave active duty at the end of their contractual agreement with one of the military services are not afforded transitional health care.

The brave men and women who join the ranks of our proud military deserve every consideration upon their release from active duty. This legislation provides an important measure to the servicemembers and their families as they move to civilian life. It seeks to keep the skilled military members in the Guard and Reserves.

Without our dedicated Guard and Reserves forces, it is impossible to keep the threat of terrorism at bay and sustain the Global War on Terrorism. Retaining these highly skilled men and women is paramount in maintaining

our Nation's security. Skills learned while serving on active duty and carried to the Guard and Reserves will provide for future national and world threats. This small incentive allows departing service members a period of adjustment without worrying about a sudden illness or a health emergency.

It is interesting to note that since September 11, 2001, we have had over 600,000 members of the Guard and Reserves called to active duty. Without the Selected Ready Reserves, our ability to defend against enemies foreign and domestic would be greatly reduced. The strength of our Guard and Reserves has always been those former active duty servicemembers who join their ranks.

Those servicemembers also represent a trained pool of military talent available to serve our Guard and Reserves in a different capacity . . . a citizen patriot. Congress should act quickly to help support our Guard and Reserves by passing this bill. I am proud to sponsor this bill along with the many co-sponsors and encourage you to support this important measure.

RECOGNIZING AMES, IOWA POLICE OFFICER CLINT HERTZ AND LT. JEFF BRINKLEY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ames, Iowa Police Officer Clint Hertz and Lt. Jeff Brinkley as recipients of The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor for saving another's life by risking their own.

The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor Program was established in 1977 to recognize peace officers and firefighters, who while serving in an official capacity, distinguished themselves by performing a heroic act while fully aware of a threat to his/her personal safety. The strict nomination process includes background investigations, and the final determination is made by the Governor of Iowa.

On December 27, 2007, Lt. Brinkley and Officer Hertz responded to a 911 call of a car on fire in the North Grand Mall parking lot. When Lt. Brinkley arrived, he realized the inside of the car was full of black smoke and the back half of the car was in flames. He quickly ran to the car and broke the passenger window, but because of the thickness of the smoke, he was unable to see if there were any passengers inside the car. Officer Hertz then arrived and also ran to the car to check for passengers and found a man trapped inside the car. Officer Hertz then opened the passenger-side door and Lt. Brinkley helped him pull the man to safety. Moments later the car was completely engulfed in flames.

Lt. Brinkley's and Officer Hertz's bravery goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. Their courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans; willing to risk their own lives for the safety of their fellow citizens. For this I offer them my utmost congratulations and thanks.

I commend Lt. Jeff Brinkley and Officer Clint Hertz for their heroism. I am honored to represent them in Congress and I wish them the best in their future service with the Ames Police Department.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS ACT OF 2008

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague and co-chair of the Congressional Fitness Caucus, Representative ZACH WAMP, I am introducing the "Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Act of 2008." If enacted, this bill will make important improvements in the way that we measure and promote health and fitness in our communities.

Health care has become one of the most prominent issues of our time, and coming up with solutions to curb rising costs and address the growing numbers of uninsured Americans will take a great deal of hard work and debate. Whatever our disagreements about the best ways to fix these problems, there are simple principles upon which we can all agree. This bill focuses on one of those simple principles: that exercise makes Americans healthier.

Many of us are familiar with Dietary Guidelines for Americans, a report released every five years by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture. These are recommendations that help guide the way that physicians and nutritionists talk to their patients and clients about their diets and how to think of healthy food as a way of life. Similarly, HHS also releases a report entitled Physical Activity Guidelines, which summarizes current knowledge about the relationship between exercise and fitness.

I would argue that these publications are of equal importance, as diet and exercise are the pillars of a healthy lifestyle. There is one difference, though, that I believe by fixing we can further promote healthy living for Americans. The difference is this: where Dietary Guidelines is mandated to be updated every five years. Physical Activity Guidelines has no such requirement. Fixing this difference will ensure that Americans have the most up-to-date information about the role and importance of exercise in their lives, just as they do now for their diets.

This bill seeks to accomplish that fix. It would equalize the way that the federal government dispenses information about diet and exercise, and it would benefit ordinary people by giving them relevant information about how to become healthier. As I said, curing all of our health care ills will require a great deal of work, thought, and debate, but I believe that we can get off to a good start simply by helping Americans exercise more and, by staying healthy, go to the doctor a little less. Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this simple measure to help achieve that simple goal.

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE BRACKIN SMITH AS FLORIDA'S SCHOOL-RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Debbie Smith, Florida's School-Related Employee of the Year.

As the Physical Education Assistant at Shalimar Elementary School, Ms. Smith works with hundreds of children everyday. Expanding upon the opportunities provided by her position, she has constructed several new physical education programs that heighten student exercise. The "Miler Club," a new program in which students earn "toe tokens" for every five miles that they run, promotes athleticism and encourages students towards physical activity. Ms. Smith is also instrumental in the school's Field Day, a day devoted to outdoor activity.

In addition to teaching physical education, Ms. Smith also assists in the classroom. Utilizing small group instruction, she works with students requiring extra attention in reading and math.

Ms. Smith's instruction has unbounded influence. Her dedication and devotion have led countless students to a greater understanding of physical education and fitness. Ms. Smith's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great educators in Northwest Florida, and the Okaloosa County School District is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Debbie Smith on her exemplary service in Northwest Florida.

MARCH: CRIMINAL JUSTICE MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 945, a resolution that establishes March 2008 as "National Criminal Justice Month."

Prior to joining this body, I worked for 33 years as a member of the King County Sheriff's Office, eventually becoming the elected Sheriff of King County in 1997. I could not agree more with the sentiments of this Resolution and want to personally thank each one of the approximately three million Americans working within our nation's criminal justice system today.

I know a job in the criminal justice system, no matter what it is, can often be thankless and tiring. The pressures of family, life and service can be overwhelming. I also know the physical and mental toughness that is required to perform these duties. However, the excitement of a job well done and the respect given to these heroic men and women outweigh the sometimes unpleasant challenges they face.

Those who serve in our criminal justice system today are tasked not only with protecting our communities and neighborhoods but also with protecting our homeland and serving on the front lines of our war against terrorism. Within this framework, the job these brave public servants are doing is truly remarkable. Although sometimes it is hard to feel and see, the gratitude of the American people and this body for our dedicated public servants will not waver.

I ask—as the Resolution does—that we all look seriously at how we as individuals can prevent and respond to crime to help the public servants we too often take for granted.

RECOGNIZING PIERCE BROS.
REPAIR OF INDIANOLA, IOWA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the repair and welding shop, Pierce Bros. Repair of Indianola, Iowa, on celebrating their 50th Anniversary and to express my appreciation for their commitment to providing important services to Iowans in the area.

In 1958, brothers Lee and Gene Pierce opened an old-style blacksmith shop, primarily repairing farm equipment. Current owner Kurt Wells now has a five-man crew doing various jobs in the area, including repairing lawn mowers, grills, trailer hitches, and other projects.

Kurt joined the company in 1960 at age ten and bought the shop in 1972.

Pierce Bros. Repair's success has come by sticking to their original niche and only upgrading the necessary modern modifications. Although the shop has expanded twice since 1958, there are no computer-run tools, and the shop is still heated today by a wood burning stove. Kurt's managing secret is to work with his employees, not boss them. It is a secret that has generated 130 years of experience at the shop between the five current employees.

For 50 years, Pierce Bros. Repair of Indianola has benefited Iowans by providing important, reliable, customer-oriented service, and for this I offer them my utmost congratulations and thanks. It is an honor to represent Kurt Wells and all members of the Pierce Bros. crew in Congress, and I wish them continued success in serving the Indianola community.