

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE JUNIOR GROUP EXHIBIT TEAM FROM CHUCKEY-DOAK MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THEIR FIRST-PLACE PERFORMANCE IN THE TENNESSEE HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior Group Exhibit Team from Chuckey-Doak Middle School for their first-place performance in the Tennessee History Day competition. They will now move on to the national competition next week.

The Chuckey-Doak Middle School team, composed of students Emily Frazier and Katie Adams, also took first place with their performance on Women's Suffrage: The Conflict Within.

To understand and present these topics in an articulate way is a noteworthy and outstanding accomplishment. The students have represented Chuckey-Doak Middle School and East Tennessee in an exceptional way.

With their first-place performance, the team will travel to the University of Maryland and compete against other students from across the country at the 2007–2008 National History Day competition.

It is a pleasure to see that these students are taking the initiative to represent their schools in the most upstanding way. Their dedication to knowledge, excellence and hard work is honorable and I congratulate them on their successes.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Emily Frazier and Katie Adams and in wishing them the best of luck at next week's National History Day competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I missed several rollcall votes on June 12, 2008. I would like to enter into the record how I intended to vote on these rollcall votes had I been present:

On #405, on ordering the previous question on the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 6063, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, I would have voted "yea."

On #406, on agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 6063, I would have voted "yea."

On #407, on ordering the previous question on the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 5749, the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act, I would have voted "yea."

On #408, on agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 5749, I would have voted "yea."

On #409, on passage of H.R. 1553, the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, I would have voted "yea."

On #410, on the motion to table the appeal, I would have voted "yea."

On #411, on the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 5749, I would have voted NAY.

On #412, on passage of H.R. 5749, I would have voted "yea."

On #413, on passage of S. 2146, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE FALLEN HEROES OF 1-34 BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 20 heroes who served the people of our Nation valiantly in Operation Iraqi Freedom and who this past weekend were honored at the Fallen Heroes Memorial in Bloomington, Minnesota.

SPC Benjamin J. Slaven, SGT Brent W. Koch, SPC Kyle R. Miller, Staff SGT Jeffrey J. Hansen, Staff SGT Joshua R. Hanson, SGT Germaine L. Debro, SPC Kampha B. Sourivong, SGT 1st Class Scott E. Nisely, SGT Bryan T. McDonough, and SGT Corey J. Rystad.

SGT Nicholas D. Turcotte, Staff SGT Thomas W. Clemons, Staff SGT James M. Wosika, Jr., SPC Carla J. Stewart, SGT MAJ Michael C. Mettelle, SGT 1st Class David R. Berry, Staff SGT Greg N. Riewer, SGT Joshua A. Schmit, SGT Brandon L. Wallace, and Staff SGT Robert J. Basham.

Each made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms and each deserves a special place in America's history and America's heart. I join with their friends, family, and comrades who were in attendance this weekend in honoring their memories.

A TRIBUTE TO DENNIS HAWTHORNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dennis Hawthorne, owner of Dennis Shipping, a renowned shipping company located in Brooklyn, NY.

Hawthorne is a native of Jamaica, NY and migrated to Brooklyn, NY in 1985 where he founded Dennis Photography and Shipping. In addition, Hawthorne founded the Caribbean American Shippers Association which is now

the largest Caribbean American shipping company in Brooklyn.

Hawthorne's success has led him to pursue various humanitarian efforts in Brooklyn and its East Flatbush community. Hawthorne once stated "give a community of good people, good services, respect and opportunity, and the potential for growth is inevitable." Hawthorne has committed to service and supports various outreach programs; he has donated time and money to community organizations including the East Flatbush Friends Education, Caribbean American Outreach Association, Children Outreach of Jamaica, Kings Highway Development Project, local churches, senior civic organizations, and schools.

It is important that we recognize Hawthorne, not only for his success through his Brooklyn-based business, but also for his commitment to serving the citizens of Brooklyn.

INTRODUCTION OF VETERANS AND SURVIVORS DENTAL INSURANCE ACT OF 2008

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Veterans and Survivors Dental Insurance Act of 2008. This legislation would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to offer a voluntary dental insurance plan for certain veterans, their survivors and dependents.

Under current law, veterans with service-connected dental conditions, a total service-connected disability, and former Prisoners of War are eligible for lifetime, comprehensive dental care from VA. Newly discharged veterans are eligible for a one-time, comprehensive dental evaluation and restorative services. Additionally, veterans with dental problems negatively impacting a medical condition, disabled veterans receiving vocational rehabilitation training, and certain homeless veterans are eligible for limited dental care. VA also provides inpatient emergency dental treatment at its medical facilities.

In 1997, Congress first authorized the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP). As Chairman of the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee during the 105th and 106th Congresses, I helped champion the TRDP program. It is a voluntary, all-enrollee-paid dental program that currently covers over 800,000 retired members of the uniformed services, including National Guard and Reserve personnel, and their families. This program offers military retirees an affordable comprehensive dental benefit program that covers diagnostic and preventive services, basic restorative services, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery, and dental emergencies.

Madam Speaker, this legislation would simply provide eligible veterans, survivors, and

• 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.

dependents the option of enrolling in a high-quality and affordable dental care plan similar to what is available for military retirees under TRDP. I assure my colleagues that nothing in this Act would diminish the responsibility of the Secretary to provide dental care under current law. Eligibility for VA dental benefits according to law would not change.

Important to overall health and quality of life is maintaining good dental health. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Veterans and Survivors Dental Insurance Act of 2008.

HONORING RAQUEL GONZALEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Raquel Gonzalez, for her commitment to the small business community in Laredo, Texas, and her tenure as the longest-serving member of the board of trustees at the Laredo Community College.

Raquel spent her early years learning the value of hard work at her father's business, J.B. Gonzalez Garage. Upon graduation from high school, she became the full-time manager of her father's business, which she turned over to her brothers so she could concentrate on other ventures. Raquel invested in real estate, forming the Southgate Subdivision to develop affordable housing in South Laredo, and also invested in oil and gas wells in South Texas. In 1980, Raquel began serving as a trustee on the Trustee Board of the Laredo Community College, and has honorably worked to promote the value of education in empowering the lives of young people in Laredo, Texas. Her dedication and hard work helped the Laredo Community College become one of the most acclaimed community colleges in the nation.

Ms. Gonzalez has also received many accolades from the business community in Laredo for her successful entrepreneurship and civic involvement. She was the first female director of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce in 1983, served as the Director of the Falcon National Bank, and was recognized by the Republican National Hispanic Assembly for exceptional service to the community. She also received the Congressional Certificate of Merit in 1992, and was named the Small Business Person of the Year and inducted into the Laredo Women's Hall of Fame in 1995. Ms. Gonzalez remains an active member of the Financial Women International, Rotary Under Seven Flags, the Texas Land Title Association, and the Women's City Club.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Ms. Raquel Gonzalez to the small business community in Laredo, Texas, and her contributions to higher education as a member of the Board of Trustees at Laredo Community College.

TRIBUTE TO RENDY AND RENEE MAO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts and dedication of Rendy and Renee Mao. Throughout the past months, Rendy and his sister Renee have worked tirelessly to raise money to feed victims of the devastating earthquake which hit Sichuan Province, China on May 12, 2008.

The Maos' idea of fundraising for earthquake relief began from within the classroom. One of the student's teachers suggested looking further into current events occurring across the globe. Teachers across America plant important seeds in the minds of children, and Rendy's German teacher at Mercersburg Academy is no exception. Through educational discussions about the importance of global awareness and global connections, a teacher sparked the mind of not only Rendy Mao, but also Renee Mao. Together, these students realized the immensity of the devastation which ravaged rural China and felt the need to act. Their decision to act led them to set a goal of raising five thousand dollars by June 30, 2008 for the victims of the Sichuan earthquake. If this goal is reached, over five thousand earthquake victims will be fed for a day. This laudable decision has set an example for all of us.

In order to make their dream of helping others a reality, Rendy and Renee began to increase awareness in their community through several steps. First, they focused on alerting the public to the events which had crumbled part of a nation, through word of mouth and flyers. The flyers provided a variety of information on the earthquake as well as outlined their planned actions for the funding of their effort. As their message spread, the number of volunteers throughout the community increased, which multiplied the effectiveness of their efforts. The goal of this drive is not only to raise money to support the needs of the victims, but also to assure the victims that their plight has not gone unnoticed and will not be ignored. The teens have collected hundreds of signatures to demonstrate to the victims that residents of Franklin County, Pennsylvania support them by sending not only financial aid but also their thoughts and prayers.

These students have truly practiced what they have been taught and have set an example for communities throughout this nation and the world. As Rendy and Renee reflect upon their work and their dedication to helping others, they can certainly be proud of their service to the community of the Sichuan Province. These two students are wonderful representatives of Pennsylvania. They have exhibited compassion and determination to help others who are less fortunate than themselves. The Maos, along with the community of Franklin County, all deserve our thanks and congratulations on their hard work toward giving an extraordinary \$5,000 contribution to the victims of the Sichuan Province earthquake. I would like to wish Rendy and Renee the best in their future endeavors as they continue to serve Franklin County and the world. I thank them for their far-reaching commitment and service

as they continue to add greatness to their community.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A SENSE OF THE HOUSE RESOLUTION CONCERNING SPECULATION IN CRUDE OIL MARKETS

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing a resolution calling for the U.S. Government to lead a global diplomatic initiative to limit the incentives for speculation in crude oil futures through the adoption of international standards for margin requirements on speculative trading in oil futures. By establishing this policy we can moderate surging oil prices and bring relief to consumers around the world.

Margin payments are paid to an exchange when purchasing a futures contract. Akin to an escrow deposit in a real estate transaction, margin requirements are set by exchanges and not government regulation. On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the purchase of a standard oil futures contract for 1,000 barrels carries a margin requirement of just over \$10,000, a small percentage of the value of a contract with a settlement price this week of \$135,000 for oil priced at \$135 per barrel.

This relatively small amount of capital required to purchase a contract and reap potentially sizeable gains from the daily movements in the price of crude oil is an attractive invitation to speculative investors. Higher margin requirements would reduce this incentive by limiting such opportunities for gain. By removing speculative money from the crude oil market, we can begin to bring down oil prices and relieve the pain our constituents feel at the gas pump.

Currently, there is a heated debate of whether a growth in speculative trading is showing up as part of a "speculative premium" built into the price of crude oil. Because so much trading in energy futures takes place in unregulated exchanges, there is a shortage of good information, and we lack the empirical evidence necessary to make a firm conclusion.

In the absence of such firm data, some have argued that tight supplies and high demand are the only explanation for high prices. On the other hand, many have suggested that heightened speculation has resulted in adding anywhere from \$10 to \$35 to the price of each barrel of oil. The market indications cited by supporters of the market speculation theory are impressive and include:

April 2008 oil stocks held by the U.S. and its fellow members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development totaled 2.562 million barrels, above recent averages and sufficient for 53.4 days of consumption.

The president of OPEC, Chakib Khelil of Algeria, in declining to commit the organization's members to a production increase, noted that supply was exceeding demand by one-half million barrels per day.

OPEC has also lowered its forecast of average daily global consumption of oil by 60,000 barrels, the third time this year that the oil cartel has reduced its estimate. This view coincides with that of the International Energy

Agency whose monthly Oil Market Report for June reported that oil consumers would use 70,000 barrels less per month than it had previously estimated.

An economist with WTRG Economics was quoted by MarketWatch as observing, "We had another week of uncertainty, with oil trading more as a currency and inflation hedge than based upon the fundamentals. This will continue to be the case as long as the long-only index funds are allowed free rein in the futures market."

Since 2003, investment in commodity index funds has risen from \$13 billion to \$260 billion.

National Journal has cited the writings of Anit Anand of brokerage firm KRChoksey in reporting the number of current energy hedge funds as 634, up from 180 in October 2004.

Recognizing the significance of these trends, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission has announced the formation of an interagency task force to examine investor practices, supply and demand factors, and the role of speculators. Additionally, on June 14, 2008, the International Monetary Fund, responding to a call from Group of Eight finance ministers, agreed to look into the role that futures trading has played in pushing crude oil prices ever higher.

Certainly, other factors influence the price of oil, and it is only fair to examine whether any is responsible for the current situation.

Oil prices are subject to a "political risk premium" caused by instability and the threat of violence in countries producing significant quantities of oil. While the political climate in these areas remains tense, it cannot be said to have changed appreciably for the worse over the past five years.

Long term supply questions also are part of today's crude oil price. Yes, there are fears that supplies are diminishing, encouraged by peak oil theorists, but there has been no new dramatic information on this point that would explain the 94 percent price boost that Bloomberg Financial has reported over the past year.

Finally, some point to the drop in the value of the dollar to explain the price pain felt by U.S. consumers. This explanation, too, falls short of providing a satisfactory answer. While the dollar price of crude oil is 4.3 times higher than it was in 2004, Europeans also are paying 2.7 times more for oil purchased with the much stronger euro.

In the final analysis, it's clear that among these components of the price of oil, only commodities trading has seen a dramatic change of pace. It is hard to escape the conclusion that financial trading plays a contributing role in having pushed crude oil prices up 94 percent in the past year.

We need to take action to restore the market for oil futures to its intended purpose—not as a speculative vehicle for energy hedge funds. At the same time, we need to recognize the international nature of energy trading and implement market reforms globally. My resolution calls upon the diplomatic and financial leadership of the U.S. government to begin this process. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C.
DESOUZA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Robert C. DeSouza, a very special resident of the Springfield Gardens Community.

Bob, as he is affectionately known through the area was born in Clarendon, Jamaica. He graduated from Kingston College and then went on to pursue an education in Business Management at the University of the West Indies before he came to the United States in 1982. Here he earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Iona College in Westchester, New York.

Mr. DeSouza, the CEO of Trans Continental Express Shippers, has garnered the respect of his peers, his immediate community and the Jamaican Diaspora at large. He is largely responsible for the awareness and education of the Shipping Fraternity which he has been associated with for over 25 years. His company sponsors countless public and private events, offers scholarships and financial support to community residents locally and in the Caribbean region. He is the epitome of humility and character.

His commitment and unwavering service and dedication to the community have earned him numerous awards and accolades such as The Jamaica Consul General Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Jamaican and Caribbean Community. His other accomplishments include: The Proclamation Honor by the City Council of New York, The Proclamation Award by the Brooklyn Borough President, The Corporate Award of Excellence from Empire State Grand Chapter, and the Man of the Year Award for Outstanding Community Service from Heartbeats of Jamaica (Father Gregory Ramkissoon-Mustard Seed), to name a few.

He is a member of the New York State Board of Realtors, American Society of Notaries, Cambria Heights Civic Association, St. Albans Chamber of Commerce and the Treasurer for the Kiwanis Club of Rosedale/Laurelton Queens, New York.

Despite his busy and hectic schedule, Bob finds the time to share with the elderly, the Little League Baseball of South East Queens, and assists with youth counseling within the community. He is a person who you will always hear saying something uplifting and positive. He still lives in Springfield Gardens New York and is married to Arlene and is the proud father of two sons, Robert Jr. and Darren.

THE AIR FORCE AND HIGH FUEL
COSTS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, every day the American people are faced with another headline about record fuel prices. We have been urged to reduce consumption and the

American people are listening. Obviously though, Madam Speaker, the Air Force isn't.

The United States Air Force spends more than \$6.6 billion per year on fuel costs and rising fuel prices continues to drive this number higher. As a taxpayer and supporter of our men and women in uniform, I believe the Air Force should be doing all they can to heed the call and maximize fuel economy wherever possible.

However, the Air Force in their recent tanker award has determined that the opposite path is appropriate. The Air Force selection of an Airbus aircraft over the more fuel efficient Boeing aircraft has real impacts and costs for every American.

The independent firm Conklin & de Decker Aviation Information has completed a study that shows the Boeing offering to be nearly 25 percent more fuel efficient than the Airbus aircraft. Over the 40 year life of the aircraft at oil at \$125 a barrel this will result in additional costs to Americans of nearly \$30 billion dollars and more than 2.24 billion gallons of additional fuel not available to help bring relief to the record prices.

Now Madam Speaker, I understand that our military must choose the best tool for the war fighter and fuel is but one critical input. However, when the Boeing offering meets or exceeds all Air Force requirements with better technology and maximum operational capability when compared to the Airbus aircraft, it simply defies common sense that the Air Force would choose to add this burden to Americans. Higher cost? Less capability? More fuel? Madam Speaker it is time for Congress to take a closer look.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALIOUNE
BLONDIN BEYE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, June 26, 2008, will mark the tenth anniversary of the passing of Alioune Blondin Beye in the crash of a light plane near Abidjan. Maitre Beye, as he was known, was undertaking one of his frequent missions to build support for an agreement to end the civil war in Angola, a war that had lasted for two decades, cost more than a half million lives, and left more than three million people homeless. A former Foreign Minister of Mali and Secretary General of the African Development Bank, Maitre Beye had been serving for five years as Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for the Angolan peace process and President of the Joint Peace Commission for Angola.

One of the world's most dedicated peacemakers, Maitre Beye touched the lives of all those who knew him and worked with him, and was beloved by millions of Malians, Angolans, and other peoples of Africa and beyond for his selfless dedication to the cause of peace, justice, human rights, and national reconciliation. A French speaker among Lusophones, a Moslem in a country of Christians and animists, Maitre Beye's life was the ultimate symbol of selflessness and dedication to the common humanity of all people. Along with Maitre Beye, seven other people were killed in the tragic plane crash, all committed

men of peace. These included Koffi Adjoi, Alvaro Costa, Baendegar Dessande, Amadou Mocar Gueye, Jason Hunter, Andrew McCurrah, and Ibikunle Williams.

Maitre Beye's relatives, friends and colleagues will commemorate the life and times of this great man and to honor the others who died that day by hosting a memorial service at the New York Headquarters of the United Nations—the institution he loved and in whose service he ultimately gave his life—on June 26, 2008. The program for Maitre Beye will not be a sad memorial, but a joyous celebration of the life of this great man of wisdom and humor, and a tribute to the peace he and his colleagues sought to bring to the world. We wish them our best in this honorable endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO HIGHLAND BULLDOGS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young men from Highland, Illinois, who last week completed an amazing baseball season by winning the state championship.

The Highland Bulldogs defeated Crystal Lake Central in the semifinals, then knocked off Rock Falls 6–2 on Saturday, June 7, to clinch the Class 3A state title at Silver Cross Field in Joliet. It was the first baseball state title for Highland.

My congratulations go to Head Coach Joel Hawkins, Assistant Coaches Sam Weber, Jason Wiegand and Caleb Houchins, Trainer Jamie Wagner, and the members of the 2008 state champion Highland Bulldogs team: Gary Kharibian, Travis Becherer, Brandon Koisher, Randy Knebel, Chris Sudhoff, Luke Potthast, Ben Fieker, Sean Gagen, Gabe Fuehne, Corey Gall, Wes DeGroot, Josh Ammann, Andrew Kimmle, Jake Odorizzi, Justin Huelsmann, Dan Gifford, Brent Kuper and Luke Haberer.

These young men represented themselves, their families and their community in a first-class fashion, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors, both on and off the field.

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONROE FOR 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Rotary Club of Monroe, which for 90 years has faithfully carried on the mission of Rotary International to "Serve Above Self."

First established in 1918, Monroe, LA's Rotary Club bears the distinction as one of our Nation's oldest Rotary clubs, founded only 13 years after the original club—the Rotary Club of Chicago—was established. To date, Rotary International includes approximately 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries.

With a membership of approximately 240 men and women from a host of vocations, the Rotary Club of Monroe takes an active role in the community through many local civic and charitable organizations including the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, Monroe Youth Baseball, the Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana, Camp Quality, and the Salvation Army Christmas Party which provides gifts to needy children.

The Rotary Club of Monroe also actively assists local high schools by sponsoring Interact Clubs at four Monroe schools and also sponsoring two high school students to attend Camp RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards). The Rotary Club of Monroe also assists attendees of Boys' and Girls' State and funds an endowed scholarship at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Rotary Club of Monroe, which will celebrate its 90th anniversary on June 26, 2008, for the countless ways the club has worked since 1918 to enrich the surrounding community and through each individual member's commitment to putting "Service Above Self."

JUNIOR GROUP PERFORMANCE TEAM FROM MOSHEIM MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THEIR FIRST-PLACE PERFORMANCE IN TENNESSEE HISTORY DAY.

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior Group Performance Team from Mosheim Middle School for their first-place performance in the Tennessee History Day competition. They will now move on to the national competition next week.

The Mosheim Middle School team, composed of students Brianna Morrow, Melissa Kinser and Brittany Loveall, took first place with their performance on the Salem Witch Trials.

To understand and present these topics in an articulate way is a noteworthy and outstanding accomplishment. The students have represented Mosheim Middle School and East Tennessee in an exceptional way.

With their first-place performance, the team will travel to the University of Maryland and compete against other students from across the country at the 2007–2008 National History Day competition.

It is a pleasure to see that these students are taking the initiative to represent their schools in the most upstanding way. Their dedication to knowledge, excellence and hard work is honorable and I congratulate them on their successes.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Brianna Morrow, Melissa Kinser and Brittany Loveall and in wishing them the best of luck at next week's National History Day competition.

TRIBUTE TO GENE AND CAROLE VUKELIC ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Gene and Carole Vukelic on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Gene and Carole have raised seven children, and their five sons, Paul, Jeff, Tim, Peter, and Matthew, all work for Try-It Distributing, the company Gene's father started in 1928 and a recipient of the Canisius College Center for Entrepreneurship Family Business of the Year.

A devoted Western New Yorker, Gene was raised in Lackawanna, New York and attended Canisius High School and LeMoyne College in Syracuse. The son of a Croatian immigrant, Gene learned the value of hard work and tenacity in the face of adversity from his father, Stephen. Stephen only went to school until the sixth grade and worked wherever he could, including at the Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna. According to Gene, however, Stephen Vukelic was "an entrepreneur at heart". When he was 28 years old, Stephen opened the Try-It Bottling Works company in a small building with one truck, and started bottling soft drinks in Lackawanna. Today, Try-It Distributing Co., Inc. is a hugely successful beverage firm.

Gene has carried on his father's spirit of entrepreneurship and is now Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Try-It Distributing Company. His five sons work with him to develop the business their great grandfather started 80 years ago.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to recognize Gene and Carole Vukelic for their tenacity, passion, and dedication to the Western New York community. I would like to offer my sincere congratulations in celebration of their 50 golden years together, and extend my best wishes to the Vukelics and their family on their 50th wedding anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE MINNESOTA ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, since its founding in 1992 with the financial assistance of a local VFW post, the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, MAC–V, has been serving Minnesota's veterans with pride and honor. Back then, it started by providing 4 homeless veterans with shelter and support. Today, it serves hundreds all across the state.

Too often, our brave heroes return from service to find the life they had left behind has left them behind in their absence. MAC–V helps our veterans pick up the pieces of their shattered lives in so many ways. In addition to providing shelter to veterans who return from service and find themselves in need of this basic need, MAC–V also helps veterans struggling with alcohol and drug addiction, provides important job training skills, and more.

Their annual Stand Down event, at which returning veterans have an opportunity to meet with veterans organizations that provide the full range of services, has become one of the most anticipated events in the veterans community.

MAC-V not only provides for the physical and mental needs of our veterans, but also forms a welcoming circle of support, friendship and camaraderie that these brave men and women need most of all. Partnering with local companies, organizations, and an army of volunteers, MAC-V has become an important part of the Minnesota veterans community and I thank them for their service to those who have served us so well.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. ELLEN GALE
CATES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Ellen Gale Cates, an exemplary citizen.

Ms. Cates is the Assistant Program Director for the Wellness Center under the umbrella of the Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center, Inc. (BSFHC) in Brooklyn, New York. She has been a part of the Bedford Stuyvesant Family since 1994. The Wellness Center provides those who enter its doors with the tools, support and encouragement to better manage their health and wellness. The primary focus of the Wellness Center Team is to those who are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Cates is also the coordinator of the Faith Based Initiatives Project for the Bedford Stuyvesant Wellness Center. This project provides assistance in coordinating informative programs on HIV/AIDS prevention, education, counseling and testing for emerging churches and communities of faith. This project focuses on the responsibility of the communities of faith and community based organizations collaborating on affecting changes. Several ministries have been reached and have started their own programs through this initiative. Ms. Cates and the Wellness Center have been able to continue this on-going project through their affiliation and support from the NYC National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, INC.

Ms. Cates was appointed by Mayor Bloomberg as a member of the NYC Health and Human Service HIV/AIDS Council Committee, serving her 2-year term faithfully. Ms. Cates has served on several advisory boards, the longest being the South Brooklyn Legal Services Inc. She is an Active member of both the NYC DOHMH Office of Minority Health Borough of Brooklyn Ecumenical Advisory Group Faith Based HIV Task Force and the Faith-based High Blood Pressure Task-force.

Ms. Cates is a newly appointed member of Women of Faith Advocating Change (WFAC), chaired by Reverend Dr. Cheryl Anthony. WFAC is comprised of female clergy leaders, community service providers and elected officials representing Brooklyn neighborhoods. The mission is to address the disparities that adversely impact African American women and girls and find viable faith solutions through education, information and advocacy.

Ms. Cates has been a passionate yet a "quiet storm" in the fight against health disparities with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS in the urban community. Ms. Cates has determined that advocacy and leadership will be her path of alliance in this fight against HIV/AIDS in honor of those deserted hero's family members and friends who gave up their battle.

Prior to her coming into the non-profit sector, Ms. Cates worked as a telecommunications manager with Verizon for over 20 years. While transitioning from the corporate sector she worked with the NYC DOHMH as a Community Associate AIDS Hotline Counselor for more than 10 years. Ms. Cates holds a Bachelors Degree in Christian Education; and an Associates Degree from Pace University and an Associates Degree in Medical Assistance from the College of Staten Island. Ms. Cates serves at the St. Stephens United Church of God, as an Associate minister, under Bishop M.D. Williams, Overseer, in Brooklyn, New York.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2008 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2008 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO)—a group representing more than 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions—the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. Since NECO's founding in 1986, more than 1,700 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including 6 American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders.

As we all know, citizens of the United States can trace their ancestry to many nations. The richness and diversity of American life makes us unique among the Nations of the world and is in many ways the key to why America is the most innovative country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our ancestors to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This medal is not about money, but about people who really seized the opportunities this great country has to offer and who used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in the lives of those around them. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America. I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for

their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2008 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. I also ask unanimous consent that the names of this year's recipients be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

LTC Madelfia A. Abb; Noubar B. Afeyan, PhD; Charles R. Ajalat, Esq.; Robert A. Altenkirch; Hon. Goli Ameri; Roger E. Ashley; Ahoud Avshalomov; Anthony P. Basile; Vasile Beluska; Daniel O. Bernstine; William Boesch; John William Butler, Jr.; LT Jack J. Cambria; Hon. Ben Nighthorse Campbell; Dr. Brian Carty, FSC; Dr. Samir Narayan Chaudhuri; Col. Dik Cheung, MD; Dr. Karlene ChinQuee; Annette Choolfaian; Abba A. Creasey, PhD; Hon. Joseph Crowley; Edward Deeb; Arthur A. Dugoni, DDS, MSD; Christopher Erikson; Richard Farkas; Peter B. Fodor, MD, FACS; Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD; Robert L. Ganley; Hon. George A. Grasso; Hon. Joseph R. Guccione; Noosheen A. Hashemi; Stephan S. Huh; Hon. Dora L. Irizarry; E. Neville Isdell; Chief Anthony J. Izzo; Dr. Stuart W. Jamieson; Trevor O. Jones; Patrick J. Kelly, MD, FACS; James W. Keyes; Laya Khadavi; Darioush Khaledi; Parisa Khosravi; Daewon Khym; Peter J. Kight; Wilson Ko, MD; MG Anthony R. Kropp; Pamela H. Kwatra; William Landberg; Fred Horst Langhammer; Anthony J. Lariccia; Young Bin Lee, MD; BGen. Paul E. Lefebvre; Robert H. Lessin; Demetrios G. Logothetis; Col. Eugene V. Lombardo; F. Joseph Loughrey; Xindi Lu; Terry J. Lundgren; Franklin R. Manios; Matthew J. McCoy; General Duncan J. McNabb; Maria Mehranian; Leo Melamed; Lewis C. Merletti; Bernd (Ben) Messing; Benjamin Mevorach; Avid Modjtabei; Jacqueline Murekatete; Mary Najarian; Vartkes Najarian, MD, FACS; Jacques Nasser; Long V. Nguyen, PhD; Franco Nuschese; CAPT. Robert R. O'Brien, Jr.; Ronald J. Onesti; Maria Otero; Randy Y. Owen; Mehmet C. Oz, MD, FACS; Laurice Y. Parkins; Richard P. Parrillo; Mukesh (Mike) Patel; Bhupendra R. Patel, MD; Gloria Perez; Hon. August B. Pust, PhD; Robin D. Rapaport; Lt. Cdr. Tamsen A. Reese; Michael P. Ricatto; Daniel M. Rooney; Thomas P. Rosandich, PhD; Harut M. Sassounian; Dhiraj H. Shah, MD; Jerome Shaw; Hon. Paull H. Shin; Sampat S. Shivangi, MD; Gary A. Sinise; Theodore M. Solso; Dr. Theodore J. Strange; Hon. Evelyn Lundberg Stratton; Haldun Tashman; Gerald N. Tirozzi, PhD; Stephen J. Trachtenberg; Nadadur Vardhan; Victor S. Wahby, MD; Aldona Z. Wos, MD; Chun To (Tony) Yeung; Louis S. Zamperini.

COLONEL JOHN D. DROLET

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity that I take this opportunity to honor Colonel John D. Drolet. An Army Corps of Engineers officer since 1983, Colonel Drolet has spent the past two years as the District Commander for the United States Army Corps

of Engineers, Chicago District. Since his arrival as District Commander of the Chicago District in 2006, Colonel Drolet's faithful service to the First Congressional District of Indiana has touched the lives of many constituents. For his efforts, and on behalf of my constituents, I take this time to thank Colonel Drolet, who will be relinquishing his command to Colonel Vincent V. Quarles on July 1, 2008, at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago.

Colonel Drolet has devoted himself to improving the quality of life for everyone, not only in the United States, but throughout the world. Prior to joining the Chicago District, Colonel Drolet served in many capacities within the United States Army. After being commissioned into the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 1983, Colonel Drolet would eventually command engineers in Germany while assigned to the 237th Engineer Battalion. He went on from there to serve as a Program Analyst and Budget Analyst for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, followed by a deployment to Kosovo in 1999, where he served as the Theater Fund Manager for Infrastructure for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. From 2000 to 2002, Colonel Drolet commanded the Army's 169th Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. He has also served as the Executive Officer for the 1st Engineer Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood, and as the Chief of Staff for the United States Army Engineer School. Prior to taking over command of the Chicago District, Colonel Drolet served as the Chief of the Economic Division for the Deputy Chief of Staff—Strategic Effects, as part of the Multi-National Force—Iraq in Baghdad while deployed as a student from the United States Army War College.

Colonel Drolet's educational background is equally impressive. As a member of the United States Army, Colonel Drolet has completed: Army War College, the Command and General Staff College, the Professional Military Comptroller School, and United States Army Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses. His civilian educational accomplishments include a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Business Management from Pennsylvania State University and a Master's Degree in Comptrollership from Syracuse University, and he has also obtained a Master of Strategic Studies Degree from the United States Army War College. Known as a man of integrity and dedication, Colonel Drolet is a recipient of several military awards, including: the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army's Meritorious Service Medal (with three oak leaf clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Madam Speaker, since joining the Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District, Colonel Drolet has been a driving force behind many projects aimed at improving the quality of life in the First Congressional District. Throughout his entire career, he has given his time and efforts selflessly to people throughout Northwest Indiana, the country, and the world. His life truly exemplifies selfless service to others, and on behalf of the Northwest Indiana community, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Colonel John D. Drolet for his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District.

HONORING TAIWAN'S AMBASSADOR JAUSIEH "JOSEPH" WU

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Taiwan's Ambassador to the United States, Jausieh "Joseph" Wu.

Prior to entering politics, Ambassador Wu was an academic, completing his Ph.D. in political science in 1989 at Ohio State University. After serving as a teacher in the political science department at Ohio State, he became deputy director of the Institute of International Relations at Taiwan's National Chengchi University.

When the landmark election of President Chen Shui-Bian in 2000 officially put an end to one-party authoritarian rule in Taiwan, Ambassador Wu left academia to serve his country in government.

He was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the Presidential Office, and in 2004 he was tapped by President Chen to head the Mainland Affairs Council in Taiwan, the government body in charge of coordinating bilateral state-to-state relations with the People's Republic of China. Wu performed admirably in this position despite unprecedented threats and belligerence from China designed to undermine President Chen's efforts in Taiwan to expand and deepen its young democracy. Much to the dismay of the Chinese, however, the people of Taiwan resisted this pressure—successfully amending their National Constitution and holding the nation's first democratic referendum.

In 2007, Ambassador Wu was appointed to his current position as Taiwan's Ambassador in Washington, a position nearly as important as the post of Foreign Minister. His invaluable experience as Mainland Affairs Council chief gave him a keen understanding of the Chinese military threat to Taiwan and U.S. interests in the region and around the world—knowledge that made him an ideal choice for this important post. His appointment as Ambassador was also an historic event for Taiwan, as Ambassador Wu became the first non-Kuomintang Ambassador from Taiwan to the United States.

During his time as Ambassador to the United States, Wu served with the same professionalism and diligence as he did in his prior positions. Ambassador Wu and his staff have worked tirelessly to improve Taiwan's traditionally solid relationship with Congress and helped to strengthen the bilateral U.S.–Taiwan relationship—a relationship based on our shared values and our commitment to democracy.

Ambassador Wu has always gone to great lengths to improve mutual understanding and open lines of communication between the United States and Taiwan. During his tenure, the U.S. House of Representatives reciprocated that goodwill by moving to scrap antiquated and arbitrary, 1970's-era State Department restrictions on communications between high-ranking U.S. and Taiwanese officials.

I sincerely hope that the Senate will follow suit so that in the not-too-distant future, the President of the United States can meet with the democratically elected President of Taiwan the same way he meets with the unelected dictator of the People's Republic of China.

Madam Speaker, Ambassador Wu is an exceptional diplomat and a dedicated statesman. He is also my friend. I deeply appreciate his efforts to bring our two countries closer together, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ROBERT C. DYNES ON HIS RETIREMENT AS THE 18TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Robert C. Dynes, who stepped down recently as the 18th President of the University of California, one of the world's premier research universities. President Dynes has devoted his talents and vision to the University's historic mission of academics, research, and public service to the state of California.

A renowned scientist with a steadfast commitment to the highest standards of intellectual life—a hallmark of the University of California since its inception—President Dynes has demonstrated himself to be a skilled, creative, and resourceful leader. During his time at the University of California, he has tackled the vital issues facing higher education in the 21st century with both tenacity and foresight.

His service as President of the University of California has been the capstone of a remarkable career in both private industry and higher education. Before he came to the University of California, Dr. Dynes served for 22 years at AT&T Bell Laboratories as department head of semiconductor and material physics research and director of chemical physics research.

I came to know President Dynes in his role as the Chancellor of the University of California, San Diego from 1996 to 2003. Under Chancellor Dynes' guidance, UCSD achieved national and international acclaim for its research and educational excellence.

During his tenure at the University of California, President Dynes has been a staunch and effective advocate for America's security and competitiveness through advances in science and technology. He has also demonstrated this commitment to encouraging innovation on the national level by serving in key positions in the National Academy of Sciences, the Association of American Universities, and the U.S. Council on Competitiveness.

President Dynes also spearheaded the effort by the University of California to overhaul the university's management of our nation's nuclear security national laboratories. To accomplish this goal, he paired the latest scientific evidence with innovative security strategies to update the management and oversight of the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories.

President Dynes has also been a vigorous and visionary leader in the national movement to reform K-12 math and science education. Among his most notable achievements is his collaboration with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the California State University system, and California's industry leaders in creating the Cal Teach Science and Math

Initiative. This endeavor has won high praise from both federal policymakers and U.S. corporate leaders.

With globalization playing a greater role in our society, President Dynes recognized that research universities must "facilitate the free flow of ideas between borders" to create the economy and quality of life of the future. To strengthen the research capacity and the intellectual development of American students, he initiated international cooperation with institutions of higher education, as well as with business and industry, in China, India, Canada, and Mexico.

President Dynes' foresight and leadership is evident in the launch of the first new research university of the 21st century—University of California, Merced. Likewise, his hard work was instrumental to the creation of the Governor Gray Davis Institutes for Science and Innovation. Both of these efforts will help keep California at the cutting edge of research into bioengineering, nanotechnology, next generation Internet and the many other elements of the "New Economy."

Therefore, I rise today in tribute to my friend Robert C. Dynes—for the invaluable service he has rendered to the country and to the state of California. I would like to thank him for his leadership in the continuing search for new knowledge and commend him for his steadfast commitment to the students of California.

**MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT
ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE
ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics and Reduce Organized Crime Authorization Act in order to demonstrate my support for a more proactive approach to the problems of drug addiction and trafficking, weapons smuggling, and gang violence. Only through a re-envisioning of drug policy from the ground up can our Nation make new progress in combating illegal narcotics trafficking.

I am pleased to see that the Democratic leadership and Judiciary Committee have added revolutionary and evolutionary measures to fight these crimes. No longer will this Congress fight only the effects of the drug trade. Instead, we will work alongside our Central American and Mexican allies to fight its causes as well.

I strongly feel that with the passage of the Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics and Reduce Organized Crime Authorization Act, we can begin to work alongside our southern allies to combat all levels of drug addiction and trafficking, from preventing youth involvement in these crimes to punishing those who foster them.

For example, with a new emphasis on evidence preservation, increased polygraph capabilities, and custody reform, our allies can streamline their policing efforts, allowing for a more focused campaign.

However, new enforcement capabilities are not enough. The bill's purpose is possible only

with its inclusion of after-school programs and programs for at-risk and criminally-involved youth. Gang reeducation and training for CONADIC and other agency staff in best practices and outreach are essential to reducing demand. These programs are the harbingers of our message and the most potent enforcers of our goals.

We must no longer approach our war against illegal narcotics from a reactive standpoint, but must instead work closely with Mexican and Central American authorities to combat the spawning points of these tribulations. Through a more nuanced set of policies, our allies can begin to employ the same successful strategies in their states that we have been using here at home.

**MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT
ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE
ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 6028 and the program it would authorize, Merida Initiative. I would like to thank Chairman BERMAN for his efforts to ensure that the Merida Initiative received proper Congressional input, as well as his efforts to include human rights protections. I was disheartened once again, last year, when President Bush developed the Initiative without Congressional input or any regard for the well-documented human rights abuses of the Mexican military and law enforcement. However, to address these problems successfully, it will be necessary to address the problem of drug production in Mexico and South America, to address the problem of drug consumption here in the United States, and to stem drug trafficking between the United States and our neighbors to the south. The Merida Initiative does none of these.

Time and again, research has demonstrated that illicit drug production in developing countries stems from pervasive rural poverty and lack of sustainable sources of income. H.R. 6028 falls woefully short of supporting programs that address these issues. The vast majority of authorized funds will go toward equipment and training for military and law enforcement operations; funding for prevention and development programs will come from a much smaller authorization that competes with certain law enforcement initiatives and judicial reforms.

Similarly, research teaches us that drug use in America stems from poverty, lack of access to basic needs, and other psychosocial stressors. Again, H.R. 6028 will accomplish nothing to reduce drug demand in the United States. H.R. 6028 authorizes no money for demand reduction. In fact, H.R. 6028 only requires the President to submit a report on the measures taken to intensify efforts to address our Nation's demand-related aspects of drug trafficking.

Moreover, interdiction efforts that address exclusively the trafficking aspect of the drug problem have little effect. Most often, the consequence of such intervention is an increase

in price and slightly diminished amount of drugs in circulation, which does almost nothing to reduce demand. Enterprising drug dealers will find a way to get their product into the hands of users, and users struggling with addiction will go to extreme ends to get their fix.

More money for guns and other tools of destruction will do nothing to ease the suffering of those struggling with addiction or alleviate the social problems that compel people to produce and/or traffic drugs. For those reasons, I cannot support this bill.

**TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILLIAM
J. FOWLER**

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a Tennessean who has comforted and inspired thousands of people in East Tennessee.

Reverend William J. Fowler of Knoxville, Tennessee has spent the last 42 years as a Minister of the Gospel. During that time, he was a role model for his congregation and an inspiration to other ministers.

As the head of Church Street United Methodist Church since 1994, Rev. Fowler's compassion and devotion helped grow the congregation into the thousands, and his leadership has been invaluable to the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Fowler served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Emory & Henry College, where he chaired the Religious Life Committee. He also served as a member of the Holston Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Holston Conference Ethics Committee, and he was a member of the Institutional Review Board of Bristol Regional Medical Center.

In his final sermon, Rev. Fowler urged his congregation to heed God's call: "God can send different persons to us, and point us the way that he wants us to go." He told his followers that his farewell does not mark the end of his service, but the continuation of God's Ministry.

I urge my colleagues to join me as I salute Rev. William J. Fowler and wish him and his wife the best as they enter a well-deserved retirement. His calling as a reverend, friend, and leader will continue to inspire many.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the article from The Knoxville News Sentinel newspaper, which is reprinted below.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, June 7, 2008]

**FAMILIAR PAIR AT CHURCH STREET UMC TO
RETIRE**

(By John Shearer)

Just as the landmark Church Street United Methodist Church on Henley Street has changed little in appearance in recent years, so have its worship leaders.

However, the Rev. William Fowler, who has served as senior minister for the last 14 years, and Jim Rogers, who has been the organist and choirmaster since 1979, have announced plans to retire.

Fowler, whose tenure has been considered long for a denomination with itinerant clergy, will preach his last sermon on June 8, while Rogers is leaving in late July.

The Rev. Andy Ferguson from Broad Street United Methodist in Cleveland, Tenn., will be the new senior minister, while a search is under way for Rogers' replacement.

Fowler, the son of a Methodist minister, began his career after graduation from Duke Divinity School as an assistant pastor at a church in Scotland beginning in 1968. He had come to Church Street from First United Methodist in Bristol and had no idea he would stay so long.

"The first Sunday I was overwhelmed and frightened," he said. "Hearing the organ open up on, 'Lift High the Cross,' I said, 'God, what did you get me into?' I certainly made some mistakes, but I gave all my effort to God and said I tried."

Fowler, who is building a retirement lake-side home in Kingston with his wife, Virginia, plans to stay away from a pulpit but near a pen and computer writing books. Rogers had come to Church Street from a similar position at Belle Meade United Methodist in Nashville. At Church Street, he has maintained the church's style of more traditional and formal music in an era when contemporary Christian music has become popular. "People pass a lot different styles of worship to come to this church," he said.

Rogers said the most satisfying part of his work has come not from the performances, but in practice.

"The challenge is seeing what you can get out of a group of singers," he said. "God doesn't deserve your second best."

IN MEMORY OF JOHN RODGERS BARNES

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and memory of a true American hero, John Rodger Barnes. John was a long-time resident of Southern California and passed away at his Indian Hills home on February 15, 2008.

John attended schools in Mansfield and briefly studied law at Boston University. It was there in Mansfield that he met and married his lifelong companion, Alice T. Barnes of Brockton, Massachusetts, in 1940. The young couple began their family at their home on a small farm there in Mansfield. When World War II began, John was working at Harvard University and in 1943 he joined the U.S. Navy, later serving in the Pacific Theater with the Navy Seabees. It was there on the island of Saipan, at Leyte, and later in the Philippines that he distinguished himself in fierce battle earning several medals for valor including six Bronze Battle Stars.

He also participated in battles at Tinian, the Lingayen Gulf, Luzon and Okinawa Island and was on a ship anchored near Japan when the order to drop the first atomic bomb was issued. Following the war, John returned to his Mansfield farm until 1950 when he and Alice moved with their 5 children to Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

In 1959, John moved his family to Southern California but later joined the Chrysler Corporation as a leader in its tool and die operation. Following his retirement there he and Alice moved back to Southern California and lived at the Galleano Winery in Mira Loma until her death in 1997. The majority of his retirement was spent in Southern California

where he continued to enjoy his good health, reading many fine books, watching the birds and squirrels, and penning scores of editorial letters to several local papers.

John was survived by his children Barry, David Harding, Doreen Elizabeth, and Ellen Judith, his brothers Sam and Peter and sisters Rosalee and Margot. His son John Rodgers and siblings Clarence, Jane, David and Thomas all preceded him in death.

The success of his children and grandchildren always gave John great pride often saying that they "did well because I didn't interfere." A highly decorated combat veteran, a talented and distinguished technician and a loving and caring father, John imparted his values and virtues on his large and wonderful family, the several communities he served and the many precious lives he touched so gently. He will be truly missed by all so fortunate to have been touched by his kindness.

A TRIBUTE TO VINCENT HOSANG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vincent HoSang, CEO and President of Caribbean Food Delights, a nationally and internationally renowned wholesale trade corporation that produces Caribbean delicacies.

HoSang was born in Springfield St. James, Jamaica to Mr. and Mrs. Henry HoSang, and was the eighth child of ten. As a child, HoSang had aspirations of becoming a medical doctor but halted his studies to help his uncle manage a family grocery store. However, it was this introduction to food services that placed HoSang on the road to founding a lucrative corporation.

In February of 1968, HoSang migrated to Bronx, NY where he saved enough money to buy a fast food store known as "Kingsbridge Delight," which sold fried chicken, shrimp, ribs, and French fries. In 1980, HoSang bought "Sunrise Bakery" on Dyre Avenue; HoSang changed its name to "Royal Caribbean Bakery" and expanded the corporation into a 20,000-sq ft. wholesale trade company in Mount Vernon, NY.

In 1993, HoSang bought 73,000 sq. ft. of land property in Tappan, New York where he founded Caribbean Food Delights, which produced various Jamaican cuisines. Since then, Caribbean Food Delights has expanded to become internationally recognized and received the Forbes award on February 5, 2007. Along with his success, HoSang finds time to give back to the communities he's belonged to. Vincent HoSang Family Foundation, founded in 2003, and it contributed \$150,000 worth of scholarship money to business students at the University of the West Indies; this is just one example of the many ways HoSang attempts to serve others.

In closing, Vincent HoSang has dedicated his life to helping others through philanthropic giving and through food services.

HONORING SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT CHAPTER 703 OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, there are few organizations whose name is synonymous with compassion, care, and community service. The American Red Cross is one of those few. Today, in my hometown of New Haven, Connecticut, South Central Connecticut Chapter 703 celebrates its 75th anniversary. Quite a remarkable milestone for this organization and our community. It is with the greatest pride that I rise today to pay tribute to this outstanding organization, its extraordinary membership, and the many invaluable contributions they have made to our community, our state, and our Nation.

Brought together by its first chairman, William Farnam, the South Central Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross was established in April 1906. The earliest records indicate that this group of volunteers were gathering supplies for Serbia as well as provisions for charitable groups throughout Greater New Haven. Shortly after our entrance into World War I, classes in home nursing were started as well as first aid programs, home services, and a corps charged with making surgical dressings. These were all volunteers—a remarkable achievement when you consider the demands brought on by the war. In fact, records from 1918 show that the Surgical Dressings department worked in an area that accommodated 1,200 workers and that in that same year, their fundraising drive included 4,000 women dressed in white, parading for the cause.

One of the greatest contributions of the South Central Connecticut Chapter was the role of one of their most distinguished members in the development and implementation of the present day statewide Blood Program. The National Red Cross pioneered the Blood Program in 1936 and during World War II the Army and Navy put out a call for donations. G. Gordon Copeland was the Chapter's assistant treasurer in 1942 and is credited with initiating the Regional Blood Program in 1950. He was chosen to represent the National Red Cross at the Centenary Congress in Geneva and served on Connecticut's Advisory Board for many years. He would certainly be proud that in Connecticut, where there are no commercial blood banks, is one of only 3 states in the Nation with an entirely free, entirely volunteer program.

In 1955, the Chapter had little chance to celebrate the purchase of the "Verdi House"—what would become their permanent home on Whitney Avenue—before the most disastrous flood in Connecticut's history came upon the State, paralyzing many communities. Always at the ready, the Chapter's offices were open 24 hours a day for 4 days and then for the following 2 weeks all personnel were on 24-hour call. Providing for 30,000 Connecticut residents, the Chapter moved 7 seaworthy boats into service, and 1,000 disaster workers faced the challenge—gathering generators, short wave radio equipment, food, clothing, water,

cots, blankets and medical equipment. Their quick action earned them the highest complement from then Governor Abraham Ribicoff when he described their endeavors as "a model of humanitarian relief."

Today, the South Central Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross boasts a volunteer base of more than 3,000 and its programs and services stretch far beyond the Blood Program and disaster relief efforts. They offer preventative programs such as swimming lessons for children, first aid and CPR training, and workshops that help parents identify dangers in the home. Our children are introduced to citizenry and community service through their Youth Program and the Social Service Department offers counsel and assistance to veterans, seniors, and those most in need. As they celebrate their 75th anniversary, the South Central Chapter of the American Red Cross not only reflects on past accomplishments but looks to what they can achieve in the future. This extraordinary volunteer organization has become an integral part of our community—their innumerable contributions touching countless lives. It is my privilege to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the organization and its many members, past and present, on this very special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS RICE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to Chris Rice upon receiving the title of Northwestern Michigan Spelling Bee Champion, and for his valiant representation of Michigan's fourth district in the Scripps National Spelling Bee Championship this spring.

Achieving previous high marks in the state level competition, it is not only Chris' exemplary study habits but his determination and focus that led him to the national competition in Washington, DC, this year. Chris' natural ability to spell became evident as a 4-year-old child when he began reading the news ticker displayed across the bottom of the television. After continuing to develop his love for spelling at school, Chris enlisted the help of his dedicated parents to begin practicing for spelling bee competitions.

As his Representative, I am proud of the great wealth of knowledge displayed by Chris while competing against 288 students from across the United States during the spelling bee. Chris' focus on spelling and reading makes him a true example and role model to his fellow students across Michigan.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to Chris Rice for his educational achievements and leadership within Northwestern Michigan. I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: McGee Industries Incorporated.

Address of Requesting Entity: Nine Crozerville Road, PO Box 2425, Aston, PA 19014.

Description of Request: The next generation aircraft carriers will be built using new technology that replaces the traditional steam catapults with an Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS). The environment around aircraft carrier catapults is among the most corrosive (i.e. seawater spray, heat, deck contaminants) with which the Navy must contend. No reliable corrosion or fracture data exists for the new EMALS materials and configuration operating in a catapult-like environment. A T&E program initiated to develop design-specific corrosion data under simulated catapult conditions needs to be continued in order to permit further design refinement, that will: (1) prevent premature component failures (2) minimize costly fleet maintenance and (3) enhance operational readiness.

Corrosion protection is an important element in producing a durable, highly reliable EMALS that will meet or exceed all Navy performance goals. It can be expected that unforeseen corrosion issues will arise as full-scale development, testing, and implementation of the EMALS proceeds. There is a window to generate corrosion data and recommend changes through 2009. Corrosion fatigue and stress corrosion cracking are critical problems that if addressed correctly, would improve performance, extend their life cycle and lower Operation and Maintenance costs for the carriers and their test facilities. Fracture mechanics testing of various corrosion control alternatives in a realistically simulated environment is required to resolve these concerns.

Detailed Finance Plan—McGee Industries: The total cost of this program has been valued at \$3,000,000. We will need to design and develop load frames that will replicate the harsh catapult trough environment. Test equipment will need to be built that simulates the heat extremes, vibration effects, various deck contaminate and their effects on corrosion. All of these parameters will need to be monitored on a periodic basis to assure that we are simulating the EMALS operating conditions. At present we plan to evaluate more than 20 different chemicals and coatings.

The research program planned will follow the direction of the testing results and the direction of appropriate NAVAIR personnel. We estimate that we will need man hours for chemists, engineers, technicians and laboratory services as well as clerical and administrative support.

Breakdown of the Requested Funding: \$1,250,000 for Design and Test Equipment; \$500,000 for Laboratory Supplies and Equipment; \$750,000 for Man Hours for Chemists,

Engineers, Technicians; \$250,000 Administrative, Travel; \$250,000 Technical Assistance from Research Institutes.

Though this program is specifically directed at the EMALS system controlled by NAVAIR, McGee Industries plans to include updates pertinent to NAVSEA. Corrosion issues and improved corrosion protection are a problem throughout all military branches due to the age of existing equipment and the harsh environments which they must operate in successfully. Thus, this program offers conditioned maintenance improvements for the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard.

CAROLINE PRYCE WALKER CONQUER CHILDHOOD CANCER ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague Ms. PRYCE for introducing H.R. 1553, the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2008. As a co-sponsor of the bill, I am proud to support this measure.

We all know that cancer is a devastating disease that affects untold numbers of Americans each year. While it is often easy to think of cancer as only affecting adults, the measure before us today is a reminder that cancer is in fact the leading cause of disease-related death in children in the United States, claiming the lives some 2,300 children annually. It is therefore fitting that this bill has been named in honor of Caroline Pryce Walker, the late daughter of our colleague DEBORAH PRYCE, who lost her battle against neuroblastoma in 1999 at nine years of age.

As many of us know, there are numerous institutions throughout the country which are dedicated to providing better care and research for childhood cancer patients. I am particularly proud to have several participating institutions located in my home state of California, including Cure Search, which has a research center located in the city of Arcadia, as well as the City of Hope, which is located in the city of Duarte. These institutions work under an unincorporated, nationwide network known as the Children's Oncology Group, which is comprised of over 200 childhood cancer treatment and research centers that collaborate on clinical trials and translational research of pediatric cancer.

The work of Cure Search and the City of Hope, along with hundreds of other institutions across the country, has helped to make significant advances in the treatment of childhood cancer. When the National Cancer Institute founded the first pediatric cooperatives in 1955, the childhood cancer survival rate was a mere ten percent. Thanks to the collaborative work being performed through the Children's Oncology Group, that number has risen to seventy five percent today, and it is because of these joint efforts that new trends and therapies in childhood cancer are discovered each year.

However, in recent years, treating cancer has become just one aspect of addressing the

health needs of children afflicted with the disease. The Children's Oncology Group has been at the forefront of raising awareness about the challenges that exist in the post-treatment, cancer survivorship period. For example, few may know that two-thirds of the children who survive cancer will ultimately experience at least one, if not more, long-term health issue as a result of their treatment. These so called "late-effects" pose substantial health challenges for those who are fortunate enough to survive childhood cancer as well as for the doctors who treat them.

To that end, the Children's Oncology Group has taken an important lead in focusing greater attention on long-term complications that arise from radiation and other therapies and has worked to study the long-term care needs of childhood cancer survivors. In fact, one of my constituents, Dr. Smita Bhatia, a resident of Arcadia who works at the City of Hope, served as the Chair of the Late Effects Committee at the Children's Oncology Group for eight years and was instrumental in establishing national guidelines for survivorship care. Today, these guidelines are being used to help equip survivors with the tools they need to identify the side-effects of specific cancer treatments and remain healthy as they mature into adulthood.

The measure before us today will help advance our understanding of childhood cancer by addressing the need to obtain more accurate data to study trends and evaluate the most effective courses of treatment. While approximately 12,500 children in the United States are diagnosed with cancer each year, researchers have experienced great difficulties in pinpointing the exact causes of childhood cancer. Because of its random occurrence in children across the United States, it has been nearly impossible to acquire statistically significant data on the causes of and effective treatments for childhood cancer. The work of Cure Search and the City of Hope will be amplified by the underlying bill, which authorizes the creation of a national childhood cancer research database to provide better statistics on the occurrence of childhood cancer as well as the most effective treatments for patients. Building this database is critical to ensuring that those who are responsible for treating childhood cancer have the very best data available to them.

Additionally, the bill authorizes \$30 million to enhance and expand biomedical research programs that allow scientists to study how tumors form and spread as well as the impact that genetics can have on the likelihood of cancer and relapses of the disease. The bill also will provide better educational and informational services for childhood cancer patients and their families to ensure that they have access to appropriate clinical treatments and support services.

H.R. 1553, Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, affirms a long-term commitment to providing a cure to childhood cancer and also will ensure that doctors and patients alike are provided with the best information to make important medical decisions in the near-term. As we seek to address the needs of childhood cancer patients, survivors and their families, I urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of the research that will be authorized by H.R. 1553 and support this bill.

HONORING DR. DONALD F. AVERILL FOR 47 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true leader in my community, Dr. Donald F. Averill, who is retiring after 47 years of dedication to education and economic development throughout the Inland Empire.

With 14 years of teaching at the secondary level, and 33 years of community college experience, Dr. Averill was chosen to be Chancellor of a very important education provider in my home town of San Bernardino, California, a position he held for 8 years. The San Bernardino Community College District is comprised of two colleges, San Bernardino Valley College and Crafton Hills College, the Professional Development Center, and its own public television and radio station, KVCR.

Beginning with 140 students at two high school campuses in 1926, San Bernardino Valley Community College has grown into a district with two modern campuses and thousands of students. It has served more than 700,000 students over the past 80 years.

Our district is blessed with many fine educational professionals who are passionate about their work and care deeply about the lives of their students. Dr. Averill took his interest one step further by working with the county and the K-12 students to increase the college-going rate in the region by 45 percent, with the majority of that enrollment going to the community colleges.

Dr. Averill's forward-thinking skills are an essential part of what has made San Bernardino a model community for educational development. In particular, he is credited with developing and implementing extensive workforce development programs that incorporate education and economic development in California. He was one of the founders of the Economic Development Network of the California Community Colleges, or EdNet, an innovative technological tool that utilizes existing community college infrastructure to promote the State's economic expansion. He also was instrumental in completing extensive long-range facilities plans for San Bernardino Valley College and Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa. Dr. Averill's hard work and dedication to ensuring the future success of our young people is truly appreciated.

My constituents in the 41st District are particularly grateful for Dr. Averill's role in adding a simulated fire fighting unit for training in aircraft fire fighting. Our region is always at risk from devastating wildfires and it is crucial that our firefighters have the training tools they need to protect our communities.

Beyond his achievements in the educational field, Dr. Averill is a community leader. He serves on the executive committee of the Economic Development Network of California, and is a board member of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, the Workforce Investment Board, the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce and Arrowhead United Way.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Averill for his many accomplishments and thanking him for making our com-

munity a leader in educational, professional and economic advancement. The valuable contributions he has made throughout his career will be remembered for years to come.

NATIONAL D-DAY REMEMBRANCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1235, a measure expressing support for the designation of National D-Day Remembrance Day, and recognizing the spirit, courage, and sacrifice of the men and women who fought and won World War II.

On June 6, 1944, the largest sea-borne invasion in military history led to the defeat of Hitler and the Nazis' stranglehold on Europe. Nearly 7,000 ships and landing craft, loaded with American, British and other troops, crossed the English Channel to destroy tyranny and restore freedom to Europe. Nearly 3,500 lives were lost in this immense display of courage and sacrifice.

The heroism displayed by the Allied forces on D-day should never be forgotten and we should always honor the men and women who saved democracy from the shadow of oppression. That is why we should approve H.R. 1235 calling on Congress to support the designation of a National D-Day Remembrance Day.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to recognize and honor the veterans who served on D-day, and join me in supporting this bill thanking them for their courage and sacrifice.

CONGRATULATIONS PROFESSOR JEFFERSON DAVIS FUTCH, III

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, for 46 years, Dr. Jefferson Davis Futch, III has been a member of the faculty at Washington and Lee University, my alma mater, in Lexington, Virginia. At the end of this school year, Professor Futch retired from his post. While he may no longer be teaching, his legacy of scholarship and dedication to the W&L community will never be forgotten.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1932, J.D. Futch earned an Associate Bachelors degree in humanities and a Ph.D. in history from Johns Hopkins University. He spent three years in the United States Army from 1957 to 1960, and joined the Washington and Lee faculty in September of 1962.

Throughout his life and career, Dr. Futch has been honored as a member in Phi Beta Kappa and as a recipient of the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship from 1955-1956. He contributed to articles in the widely respected magazine National Review from 1958-1976. And, in 1987, he was recipient of the W.W. Pusey Award which recognizes outstanding and dedicated service to Washington and Lee University.

Dr. Futch specializes in the history of the papacy, Renaissance and modern European history.

From the many lives he has touched to the University he helped grow and strengthen throughout his tenure at Washington and Lee, Dr. Futch is an icon in the Washington and Lee community and someone who will be missed by students, faculty, and friends alike. No professor had a more profound impact on my love of history and interest in public service than Dr. Futch. I will always be deeply grateful for his guidance in my life. I know I speak on behalf of the alumni who have had the honor to know and learn from Dr. Futch when I say that we wish him many years of happy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. KIMBERLY
COUNCIL-HAIGLER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Reverend Kimberly Council-Haigler of Brooklyn, New York, for the achievements of one who provide selfless contributions to their community.

The daughter of Mr. Benjamin and Rev. Linda Council, she is the oldest of five and the mother of two. In 2003 she gained her license and was ordained at the Berean Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Arlee Griffin Jr. She Received a Bachelor of Arts from North Carolina Central University and a Master of Science in Library Science from Pratt Institute.

Rev. Council is active in her church and professional community overseeing the Young Adult Ministry and Youth Ministry. At the same time she serves as the superintendent of the Young Adult Sunday School Department, an instructor at the Berean Bible Institute and sits on the Board of Directors of Berean's Christian Education Ministry.

Currently she works as a Reference Librarian at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. She is a member of the Law Library Association of Greater New York where she has served on the Board of LLAGNY's Board of Directors, and co-chair of LLAGNY's Student Relations Committee. She is also a member of the American Association of Law Librarians and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority incorporated.

Her service to the community is outstanding and deserves grave recognition.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION AU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6063) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act (H.R. 6063).

This bill authorizes \$20.2 billion for NASA for the 2009 fiscal year which represents a 14 percent increase over the President's request of \$17.6 billion. The President's vision of new manned space missions without requesting adequate funding for the agency has resulted in cuts to other NASA programs, including important earth sciences research. The bill we're considering today addresses the needs of NASA's entire mission and all four of its directorates which encompass space exploration, aeronautics, and other research and technology development programs.

NASA's Ames Research Center is a key component of the vibrant research and innovation community in my Congressional District. With special expertise in supercomputing, networking and intelligent systems, Ames develops technologies critical to NASA's missions. Ames and the other NASA research facilities around the country rely on the funding within the Science Mission Directorate (SMD). The House of Representatives has consistently exceeded the President's budget request and I'm pleased to see this pattern continue today. We have exceeded the Administration's request for all four of the divisions within SMD to ensure that NASA scientists at Ames and across the country have the resources they need.

While this is a good bill, I hope future reauthorizations will revisit the restrictions imposed on NASA's ability to engage in Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) agreements. Just last week Ames Research Center announced it had signed an EUL with Google in a strategic partnership to develop new ideas, technologies, and applications. I hope we can expand this program in the future to provide further opportunities for NASA to develop these fruitful relationships which leverage private sector expertise to use our tax dollars effectively and efficiently.

NASA is a critical component of our nation's research and development infrastructure and I thank the Committee on Science and Technology for their hard work on this bill. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this legislation.

IMPACT OF FLOODING IN IOWA

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, Iowa, the State I am proud to represent in this great body, is facing one of the worst natural disasters it has ever witnessed. Record flooding has affected hundreds of communities, devastated hundreds of businesses, displaced thousands of our fellow citizens, and has done billions of dollars in damage.

The waters are beginning to recede in some parts of the State, but we are not out of the troubles yet. The level of devastation has not yet been fully realized, and probably won't for some weeks. I saw firsthand the damage done as I toured my district this weekend, and words cannot begin to illustrate just how damaging the floodwaters have been.

I rise today to salute my fellow Iowans, and salute the sense of community that is so

strong in Iowa. In preparation for the floods, there were countless instances where Iowans banded together, from all walks of life, from all ages, to work together to do whatever was necessary to save the communities we all love to call home.

And this is what Iowans will continue to do. We will continue to work together to rebuild our communities and heal the wounds the flood waters opened. We will continue to work together and fight on because our families, our communities, and our State are worth nothing less.

But Madam Speaker, Iowa will need generous Federal assistance to get back on its feet. Iowans will do whatever they can, but the fact is the flooding that has hit Iowa has never been witnessed, ever, and the damage and challenges presenting themselves are simply too much for the State and local governments to handle by themselves. Iowans will do their part, but we must do ours.

Madam Speaker, Iowans continue to display what is best in the American spirit as we continue to face the challenges that are presented to us today, and we will persevere, for as Iowa goes, so goes the Nation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF RICHARD
ASHBROOK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Richard Louis "Dick" Ashbrook—devoted family man, accomplished scientist, peace and social justice activist and humanitarian.

Born in Philadelphia, Dick graduated from Lehigh University with a degree in metallurgical engineering. He earned his master's degree from Carnegie Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. from Case Institute of Technology. In 1961, Dick and his wife, Mary, moved to Brook Park where he worked for NASA's Lewis Research Center doing research on high temperature alloys and ceramics. He was also a consultant with Brush Wellman.

He was active in civil rights and fair housing through the Berea Area Council on Human Relations. He participated in countless peace vigils as a member of the Peace Community Church. He was an early member and longtime manager and roadie of the Cleveland area contra dance band, Mud in Yer Eye, in which he played concertina, bones and other rhythm instruments. He volunteered in the book-mending lab at Oberlin College and was an active member of SPINACH (Senior People Interested in Nutrition and Community Health). He also volunteered at the Second Harvest warehouse.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Dick Ashbrook—an exceptional man, scientist and leader whose life reflected accomplishment, caring and joy. I offer my deepest condolences to his devoted wife, Mary, beloved children, Anne (Tom) Fitzpatrick, Connie (Martha Landowne), Peggy (Darryl Francois), Janet (John Dunn), Ellen (Ann Adams), Nico Ashe (Andrew Poltzer) and eight grandchildren. Dick Ashbrook's legacy, both personally and professionally, will be remembered by family, friends and colleagues.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor on Thursday, June 12, 2008, having returned to my district to assist my constituents with the severe flooding that recently struck Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 1257 (Roll No. 405 and No. 406), H. Res. 1265 (Roll No. 407 and No. 408), H.R. 1553 (Roll No. 409), H.R. 5749 (Roll No. 410 and No. 412), and S. 2146 (Roll No. 413). I would have voted against the motion to recommit H.R. 5749 (Roll No. 411).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, having returned to my district to assist my constituents with the severe flooding that recently struck Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 977 (Roll No. 404).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to vote on Wednesday, June 11 and Thursday, June 12 due to massive flooding throughout Iowa's 1st Congressional District. Although I realize how important it is to cast votes in Washington, the well-being of my constituents comes first, and I need to be in the District to assist in any way I can.

On rollcall 397, H.R. 6003, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 398, H.R. 6003, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 399, H.R. 6003, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 400, H.R. 6003, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 401, H. Res. 1258, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 402, H. Res. 1235, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 403, H.R. 5749, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 404, H. Res. 977, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 405, H. Res. 1257, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 406, H. Res. 1257, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 407, H. Res. 1265, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 408, H. Res. 1265, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 409, H.R. 1553, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 410, H.R. 5749, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 411, H.R. 5749, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 412, H.R. 5749, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 413, S. 2146, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

IT'S TIME TO TALK TO IRAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday of this week I had the wonderful experience of participating in a very important and worthwhile exercise in civilian diplomacy.

Coordinated by the Campaign for a New American Policy in Iran, Tuesday's event, called "Time to Talk with Iran," brought together a bipartisan gathering of Members of Congress, citizen groups, and religious organizations calling for bilateral negotiations without preconditions between the United States and Iran to dissuade Iran from seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

Our message was simple: It is time to talk to Iran.

In fact it is past time we talk to Iran.

Because we hear the same people who supported a disastrous war of choice in Iraq now steadily beating the drum for war with Iran.

We have been down this road before and Americans have learned a simple truth from five hard and bitter years in Iraq:

No unjust war ever produced a just and lasting peace.

It has not worked in Iraq. It will not work in Iran.

We do not need another rush to unwarranted, unnecessary, and misguided military action. We need instead to launch a diplomatic surge for peace and reconciliation.

That is why earlier this year I introduced H.R. 5056, the Iran Diplomatic Accountability Act of 2008, which directs the President to appoint a high-level envoy empowered to seek to conduct direct, unconditional, bilateral negotiations with Iran for the purpose of easing tensions and normalizing relations between the United States and Iran.

My bill takes a common sense approach and it is one the American people understand.

Six out of 10 Americans do want their president to talk to Iran's president, according to the most-recent Gallup poll.

Many leading organizations active in the nuclear nonproliferation movement support this

approach as indicated by the attached letter in support of diplomatic dialogue with Iran from the Friends Committee On National Legislation, FCNL.

Foreign policy experts also support direct negotiations without preconditions. In fact, a group of 5 bipartisan former U.S. secretaries of state have called for the U.S. to open talks with Iran to find common ground and resolve differences on Iraq, Iran's nuclear program, and other issues.

They understand that the current policy of avoiding serious negotiations with Iran until Iran suspends uranium enrichment has not worked. They understand that an offer of bilateral negotiations with a precondition is essentially no offer at all, when the precondition is the object of the negotiations.

Not only is talking to Iran the most sensible approach—it is far superior to preemptive military action against Iran. We know from the misadventure in Iraq that the humanitarian, economic, political, and military consequences of military conflict with Iran would be staggering.

Simply put: this Nation cannot afford these costs—especially on top of the tremendous costs of the debacle in Iraq.

Finally, Madam Speaker, although many persons were responsible for planning this extraordinary exercise in civilian diplomacy, I would like to single out for special recognition Carah Ong of the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation; Bill Goold, Executive Director of the Congressional Progressive Caucus; and Nicole King of my personal staff. They did a wonderful job organizing this event.

It is time to talk to Iran. As the "Time to Talk to Iran" event this past Tuesday, all it takes to begin is one "Hello."

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL LEGISLATION,
Washington, DC, June 3, 2008.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS, We write to call your attention to the recent call from five former U.S. secretaries of state for the U.S. to open talks with Iran. We urge you to speak out in favor of such talks and to support legislation to encourage them.

Colin Powell, Henry Kissinger, James Baker III, Madeleine Albright, and Warren Christopher all urged the U.S. to open a dialogue with Iran to find common ground and resolve differences on Iraq, Iran's nuclear program, and other issues.

The administration's policy of avoiding serious negotiations with Iran until Iran suspends uranium enrichment has not worked. We agree with those in Congress and elsewhere who have argued that to offer bilateral negotiations with a precondition is no offer at all, especially when the precondition is the object of the negotiations. This position guarantees that the negotiations with the best chance of settling U.S.-Iran differences will not begin.

Former national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and the late former National Security Agency director William Odom wrote recently that "Current U.S. policy toward the regime in Tehran will almost certainly result in an Iran with nuclear weapons." They and many other analysts have concluded that U.S. military action against Iran would only delay an Iranian nuclear weapons program and insure their determination to acquire nuclear weapons. Extreme elements would be strengthened and the cause of reform in Iran would be set back for years to come. Military action would also increase animosity toward the U.S. in the Middle East and elsewhere. It would prompt a big spike in the price of oil and would likely lead to retaliatory actions against the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Current U.S. policy not to seriously negotiate with Iran has failed. The absence of talks and the addition of ever more stringent economic sanctions will resolve nothing. Military action would be disastrous. The only sensible option that serves the interests of the U.S. and the nations of the Middle East is to explore the possibility of finding common ground with Iran through direct negotiations. Common ground is not hard to imagine. For starters, both countries have an interest in a stable Iraq, a Taliban-free Afghanistan, and increased oil production capacity in Iran. The U.S. need not wait to develop leverage.

Please add your voice to those of the five former U.S. secretaries of state and other senior figures who are urging the U.S. to open talks with Iran. And please look for legislative opportunities to put Congress on record in support of such talks.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JIM FINE,
Legislative Secretary for Foreign Policy.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JO-ANN LOFTUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful woman; Jo-Ann Loftus is retiring from the New York Stock Exchange after being a dedicated employee for the past 34 years.

Jo-Ann has proven herself to be a dedicated and relentlessly hardworking employee. Starting out as a secretary, Jo-Ann has worked her way up to become manager of the Government Relations department. In her many years of employment there, Jo-Ann has touched many lives at the NYSE.

Jo-Ann is also the mother of two children and would be described by them as supportive, loving and full of life and integrity. Jo-Ann raised her children as a single mother, working full time and putting both through college on her own. She has also never missed one dance recital, baseball game, after-school event or award ceremony that her children have been involved in.

Jo-Ann is also the founder of His Final Touch Prayer group and has been the faithful leader for over a decade. Jo-Ann is also a very involved member of her local Catholic parish and community.

She will be very missed by her colleagues and friends at the New York Stock Exchange but they are very confident that she will be just as successful at retirement as she has been in her years of work and service there.

THE NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, on June 5, 2008, I voted for the nanotechnology bill (H.R. 5940).

I have often expressed my concerns regarding the social, legal and ethical implications of

"engineered intelligence", that is, the ongoing efforts of computer engineers and bio-engineers to create intelligence beyond that of a human being. The Congress and the Administration need to consider and address all aspects of these issues as we promote and assist the development of nanotechnology. To that end, I am pleased that this bill provides for a triennial review by the National Research Council of the adequacy of the National Nanotechnology Program's activities addressing ethical, legal, environmental, and other appropriate societal concerns, including human health concerns.

I hope that these concerns will receive even further attention in the legislative process as this bill goes to Senate and as any Senate reports or conference reports on a nanotechnology bill are prepared.

A TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE E. KOONACE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Clarence E. Koonace, who helps serve his community through developing innovative medical technology. Before his career as an engineer, Koonace served his country as a member of the United States Air Force.

Mr. Koonace obtained a degree in business administration from Farleigh Dickerson's Edward Williams School and an Electronic Engineering Degree from DeVry Institute. On July 1, 1986, Clarence founded the Mordenrn Rad Ltd. Koonace's organization, provides sales and service to medical imaging cliental including NYC Fire Department's medical Division and NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, private clinics, private practices, and consultation to vendors of X-ray equipment.

In addition to his career in engineering, Koonace is also an ordained deacon and member of Liberty Baptist Church of Brooklyn, New York. He is the husband to Evon Koonace and the father to two children, Crystal Bonita and Trevor Lamont.

It is with great honor that I recognize Koonace today for his service in improving health care technology and improving the lives of others.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN SALOGUB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Salogub, an active citizen of the Carnarsie neighborhood of Brooklyn and president of the 69th Precinct Community Council.

In addition to his work with the 69th Precinct Community, John is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 59 and American Legion Post 573; indeed, John is a military veteran and served his country from October 1967 through May 1971.

John attended New York City Public Schools PS114 and IS211.

It is with great honor that I recognize John Salogub for his commitment to Brooklyn and service to his country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MAYOR BOB BLANCHARD

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of a valued colleague, Santa Rosa Mayor Bob Blanchard. Mayor Blanchard died June 14, 2008, at the age of 70, leaving a hole in the heart of his community and his family. He will be long remembered for his good humor, enthusiasm, and commitment to the city he loved.

Twenty-seven years ago, Bob and his family moved to Santa Rosa from southern California. He and his wife Angelyn raised their two children, daughter Cameron and son Matt, in the city, where they appreciated the quality of life it offers to families. It was his dedication to ensuring this quality for future generations that led Bob into public service.

After serving a stint in the Army, Bob had worked as a deputy sheriff in Riverside County as well as teaching at Riverside Community College. In 1978, he earned a doctorate in government, and his career shifted toward administration and teaching in the field of criminal justice and political science. This direction led to his move to Santa Rosa to serve as the director of Santa Rosa Junior College, SRJC, Police and Fire Academy. He eventually became a dean and a political science instructor at SRJC where he enjoyed working with young people. Although he had retired as a member of the regular faculty, Bob had stayed involved as an adjunct instructor.

Bob was also a founder of Tomorrow's Leader Today, a program that prepares high school juniors to be community leaders. He is remembered for his warmth and humor in inspiring the teenagers to be their best.

In 1994, Bob was appointed to the Santa Rosa Planning Commission, serving until his election to the City Council in 2002. He was re-elected in 2006 and then selected by his council colleagues to serve as mayor.

Bob and I have not always agreed on issues, but his ability to work with all sides to address concerns facing the city of Santa Rosa made him a leader for all and a spokesman on important issues such as transportation, outreach to diverse communities, public safety, and boosting the city whenever and wherever he could. He always endeavored to forge an appropriate compromise with the same humor and good spirit that characterized all his relationships.

"Work" is the operative word for Bob. Despite his off-and-on battle with cancer, he maintained a heavy work load, representing the community to the best of his ability and never losing his enthusiasm. During this time he traveled to Santa Rosa Sister Cities in Korea and Mexico and was instrumental in helping the city earn a designation as All America City.

In addition to Angelyn, his wife of 41 years, and his two children, Bob is survived by two grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I know Bob's colleagues would agree that he respected all people on all sides of an issue and dedicated himself to finding solutions. Whether serving on regional commissions, presiding over council meetings, or representing the city at civic events and in the halls of Congress, Bob did it with the grace, intelligence, and compassion that will be his lasting legacy. I will miss working with him, and I will especially miss his friendship.

HONORING THE LIVES OF MR. AND
MRS. JERRY AND JUDY RANK

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Judy Rank, an inspirational couple, upon reaching their 50th wedding anniversary.

Jerry and Judy were both brought up in Fort Dodge, Iowa and attended Fort Dodge High School. The idyllic duo began to date and became high school sweethearts. On August 10, 1958, Jerry and Judy exchanged vows and were pronounced for the first time as Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Rank. The Ranks relocated to Michigan when Jerry furthered his career with Ford Tractor. Mr. Rank's career with Ford lasted over 30 years, when he decided to retire and create new dreams with Judy.

Upon Mr. Rank's retirement, Jerry and Judy have spent time with the loving family they have built together including their children Kyle (Kris), Mark (Kim), and Beth (Hal) and their grandchildren, Joseph, Thomas, Jennifer, Andrew, and Halee. The beautiful pair continues their strong marriage in Beulah, Michigan on Crystal Lake. Jerry and Judy enjoy watching the sunset together, entertaining guests, and salmon fishing, which is their favorite pastime.

Madam Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Judy Rank are an extraordinary example of love, strength, and togetherness that families today should look to for guidance. The Ranks will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on August 10, 2008. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Ranks for reaching this spectacular milestone and honoring the couple's loyal service to the community and our country.

IN HONOR OF CHUCK ESTEP, WINNER OF THE 2008 CABLE'S LEADERS IN LEARNING GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Chuck Estep for being chosen as a finalist for the 2008 Cable's Leaders in Learning Award for General Excellence. This honor is bestowed annually by Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation which promotes the use of cable and technology in schools across the country. Every year, they honor those in the education field who demonstrate leadership skills by using technology to transform the way we

teach our students. Through his work as a Curriculum Resource Consultant in the Monroe County Intermediate School District, Chuck Estep certainly meets this criterion, and is worthy of such high praise.

We all know what an important role field trips play in our educational system. Not only do they expose children to new ideas and experiences, but they also promote a hands-on style of learning that is vital to keeping our children engaged in their schoolwork. Faced with a tight budget that was unable to accommodate expenses for field trips, Mr. Estep used his technological skills to overcome the problem. He set up a system of virtual field trips in conjunction with the Monroe County Historical Museum. This allowed students to ask questions in real time to an expert at the museum about the rich history of Monroe County. Specifically, one virtual field trip discussed the Battle of the River Raisin, which occurred in Monroe County during the War of 1812. Museum staff showed the students what dress from that period looked like and they discussed the positions of both sides during the war. Students in the district would not have been able to have such an enriching experience without the work of Chuck Estep.

The Battle of the River Raisin is arguably the most violent battle on continental U.S. soil outside of the Civil War, a fact many residents in Monroe and Michigan are unaware of. This virtual field trip paid special attention to the great role that this Battle played in the War of 1812, ensuring that the heritage and history of Monroe County will live on through today's students.

In this age of technology, we must strive to integrate all of the cutting edge tools that are available to us into our educational system. Doing so will create vibrant and engaging teaching methods that will keep our children interested in learning. Chuck Estep has certainly demonstrated this capacity for innovation, and for this he should be commended. I am proud to represent him here in Congress. I congratulate him on being chosen as a winner for Cable's Leaders in Learning Award for General Excellence Award, because he truly deserves it.

HONORING MICHAEL BIEBER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Bieber as he retires from the United Auto Workers. Mike is the Assistant Director of UAW Region 1-D. A celebration in his honor will be held in Bay City, Michigan, on July 14th.

As a third generation UAW member, Mike joined the UAW Local 167 when he started working at the General Motors Diesel Equipment Division in Wyoming, Michigan, in 1979. He transferred to UAW Local 2151 when he moved to the Rochester Products Division in Coopersville. He was the Alternate Committee Person on the B-shift and a Shop Committee Person for 4 years. Elected as President of the Local at the age of 27, he held that position for 6 years. In 1993 he was appointed to the International UAW staff serving in the Secretary-Treasurer's office until he was named

the Assistant Director by Director Donald Oetman in 2002.

In addition to his work with the UAW, Mike is active in the United Way of Ottawa County and serves on the Michigan Association of United Way Executive Board. He is a Democratic Party Precinct Delegate and the Vice-Chair of the Kent County Democrats. He is married to Jamee and is the stepfather to five children, and has five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Michael Bieber for being a diligent, conscientious proponent of the rights of working men and women everywhere. He has exhibited an abiding commitment to improving the workplace, the community, our country and our world. I wish him the best as he embarks on this new phase of his life.

BIO—MICHAEL BIEBER

Michael Bieber was appointed as Assistant Director of UAW Region 1-D in June of 2002 by Director, Donald Oetman. Mike is a 3rd generation UAW member.

Mike became a member of UAW Local #167 in 1979 when he went to work at the General Motors, Diesel Equipment Division in Wyoming, Michigan.

In 1981 Bieber transferred to the newly formed UAW local #2151 representing workers at the Coopersville, MI location of Rochester Products Division of G.M.

He served the Local as an Alternate Committee Person on the B-shift and as a Shop Committee Person for 4 years.

Despite his relative youth, Bieber was elected as President of the Local at the age of 27. He served in that capacity for six (6) years.

He was appointed to the International UAW staff in May of 1993 and served under the jurisdiction of the Secretary-Treasurer's office until he became Assistant Director.

Bieber has served on many community and labor organizations in Western Michigan. He has been very active with the United Way in Ottawa County and currently serves on the Michigan Association of United Way executive board.

He is active in the Democratic Party as a Precinct Delegate and currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Kent County Democrats.

Mike is married to his wife, Jamee. Mike is the stepfather to five (5) children and they have (5) grandchildren.

HONORING THE CIVITAN CLUB OF
WESTLAND

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Civitan Club of Westland, a distinguished service organization, upon reaching 30 years as a chartered international group.

Civitan Club of Westland is an organization open to all adult members in the community with the goal to improve the area, assist community members, and grow individually as better citizens. Civitan performs its services both locally, nationally, and internationally. Some of their local projects include, Turn off the Violence, Paws for a Cause Drive, and the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament. Civitan targets many different careers, ages,

and interests. From Special Olympics to Nursery Olympics, Police Departments to Fire Departments, and Festivals to Historical preservation, the Civitans have a vast range of activities that they plan, organize, and contribute their services to.

The Civitan Club of Westland was chartered on June 19, 1978, and led by Charter President Candice Addis. The organization has continued its purpose of knowledge, service, and fellowship for thirty years and has been successful in all its endeavors. To all those who have been touched by Civitan Club of Westland, a legacy of determination and community support has been established.

Madam Speaker, the Civitan Club of Westland is an organization that should be recognized for its 30 years of service, devotion, and kindness to the Westland community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Civitan Club of Westland for reaching this spectacular milestone and honoring the group's loyal service to the community and our country.

HORSE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACT OF 2008

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today Representative STEVE COHEN and I introduced the Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2008.

In Wadsworth, Illinois, on Saturday October 27, 2007, a double decker cattle truck carrying 59 Belgian draft horses overturned when the driver ran a red light and hit another vehicle.

Residents at the scene could hear the animals kicking and screaming, panicked by their inability to escape. Eight horses died on the scene while another 10 had to be euthanized. After the crash, Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States said, "What a gory mess we saw recently in Illinois. It must never happen again. . . ."

It is time that we heed these words by putting an end to using double decker trucks to transport horses. This legislation, endorsed by the Humane Society, Animal Welfare Institute, Hooved Animal Rescue and Protection Society, and the Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred ExRacehorses would take steps toward preventing this disaster from occurring again.

This bill prohibits the interstate transport of horses in a motor vehicle containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another as well as creates civil penalties between \$100 and \$500 for each horse involved.

In my own State of Illinois, the State General Assembly has already moved forward and passed similar legislation. I urge my colleagues to become a cosponsor of this bipartisan commonsense legislation.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY CLYMER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Larry Clymer, an outstanding

public servant with a long and distinguished career of service in Southwest Michigan. Larry passed away unexpectedly this week and will be greatly missed by our community.

As the longtime mayor of Niles he was a valued and trusted friend. Upon my election to Congress, part of Larry's legacy came to Washington with me, in the form of his son, Jeff, who served as my first Legislative Director.

Though Larry was an active Republican, he was not afraid to create coalitions to put the best interests of Niles first—a lesson I learned from him and follow still today. He was indeed "Mr. Niles" and I always appreciated his thoughts and interests, regularly weighing in on behalf of the greater community good.

I would be hard pressed to find someone with a greater dedication to Niles and Berrien County, MI. Larry faithfully served our community for a combined 28 years—14 as the mayor of Niles and 14 as a Berrien County Commissioner. Outside of his official duties, Larry earned the nickname "marrying mayor" after performing more than 250 marriages, and was known for his sense of humor.

Larry was an exceptional public servant, and a gentleman. He has given a lifetime of service to our community, and our thoughts today are with his wife, Eleanor, and his family. We lost a treasure in Niles, and we will all miss him sorely. God bless "Mr. Niles."

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. LES CASH, FIRE CHIEF OF THE LYON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge Mr. Les Cash, Fire Chief of the Lyon Township Fire Department, upon reaching his retirement after 35 years of loyal service.

Mr. Les Cash was born in 1943, the sixth of ten siblings to Floyd and Leona Cash. In 1960, Mr. Cash enlisted in the Army, served 16 months in Korea, and was later stationed in Missouri at Fort Leonard Wood where he worked as a battalion mail clerk. In 1963, Les was honorably discharged and married his lovely wife, Renate, in July. Together, the blissful couple had two sons, Dan and Brian, and one daughter, Lisa.

In 1964, Mr. Cash began a career for the Ford Motor Company where he remained until his retirement over 30 years later. During this time, Les volunteered with the Lyon Township Fire Department. In 1973, Mr. Cash was honored to accept the position of Fire Chief and became Full-Time Fire Chief in 1998. Les was a devoted and determined leader and served his community with utmost ability.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Les Cash will retire from Fire Chief of the Lyon Township Fire Department on June 30, 2008. To his wife, Renate; his children, Dan, Brian, and Lisa; his grandchildren, Devin, Taylor, Brianna, and Nicole; and to everyone whose lives have been enriched by him, Les is a man of courage, vigor, and guidance. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Les Cash for his 35 years as Fire Chief and honor Mr. Cash's

honorable service to the community and our country.

A TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING SARAH LOWE AND SONJA STEPTOE ON THEIR RECENT APPOINTMENT TO THE KNIGHT COMMISSION ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarah Lowe and Sonja Steptoe, two residents of California's 34th District, on their recent appointment to the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.

The Knight Commission was created by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in 1989 with the purpose of recommending a reform agenda that emphasizes academic values in college sports. The commission, which presented recommendations in a series of reports in the early 1990s and in the subsequent A Call to Action in 2001, continues to monitor and report on progress in increasing presidential control, academic integrity, financial integrity and independent certification of programs in college athletics.

Many of the commission's recommended reforms have been enacted by the NCAA. For example, the NCAA recently announced that 218 teams at 123 institutions will be sanctioned for failing to meet minimum academic benchmarks established as part of the Academic Performance Program. In 2001, the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics advocated that teams be ineligible for postseason competition if they failed to graduate at least 50 percent of their athletes. Although the current benchmarks are lower than those advocated by the Commission, the Commission has supported the full implementation of the NCAA's program since its adoption in 2004.

The commission convenes several times a year to highlight important issues facing intercollegiate athletics, including academic integrity and the rising costs of college athletic programs.

The Commission is comprised of prominent leaders in higher education and journalism as well as former collegiate athletes who have achieved excellence throughout their careers. I am proud to announce that Sonja Steptoe and Sarah Lowe are two of the Knight Commission's newest members.

Sonja Steptoe serves as client development manager at O'Melveny & Myers LLP, an international law firm based in Los Angeles. Prior to joining O'Melveny in 2007, Steptoe served as a senior correspondent and deputy news director for Time Magazine for 5 years following a successful career in sports journalism. Steptoe reported and wrote for CNN's sports network, HBO's RealSports with Bryant Gumbel and Sports Illustrated. Her investigation of East Germany's systematic doping of Olympic athletes earned her an Emmy Award for Outstanding Sports Journalism. Steptoe earned degrees in economics and journalism at the University of Missouri. She received a law degree from Duke University.

Sarah Lowe graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of

Florida in May 2006. Lowe was a leader on the women's basketball team serving as team captain 3 of her 4 years. Following her graduation, she studied in Costa Rica as a Fulbright Scholar. In addition to being a two-time Rhodes scholar finalist, she received numerous awards for her academic and athletics excellence including the Arthur Ashe, Jr. 2006 Female Sport Scholar of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sonja and Sarah on their achievements and in commending them for their continued commitment to strengthening higher education through their work on the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.

DAVISON SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the City of Davison on receiving the Exemplary Source Water Protection Award from the American Water Works Association. Every year the American Water Works Association presents this award to a municipal water system for developing and implementing effective source water protection programs.

This award signifies that the City of Davison has met the highest standards of excellence in their pursuit to supply the residents of Davison with clean, safe water. In July of 2005 Davison's water treatment plant went online and has the capacity to treat up to 2.5 million gallons per day. Working cooperatively with Davison Township and Richfield Township, the City of Davison has implemented a cooperative effort to protect the ground water on which many rely. The new program includes provisions to reduce the number of abandoned wells that pose a serious threat to the health of the aquifers.

The City of Davison, knowing that residents play an important role in protecting the water supply, has worked to reach out to the community in their Source Water Protection Program. In the program Davison encourages residents to be stewards of the water supply by limiting the amount of lawn chemicals and fertilizers that run off and enter the water system. Additionally, Davison has endeavored to educate and inform the community that simple maintenance of septic and home plumbing systems can benefit both the community and the individual by reducing water usage and contamination. The city is assisting residents identify and plug old wells that pose a dangerous risk to the health and safety of the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mayor Fred Fortner, the Davison City Council, the staff, volunteers and residents for receiving this award. Through their commitment to hard work and education they have demonstrated good stewardship of this vital natural resource.

AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION,
Denver, CO, March 4, 2008.

Ms. ANDREA L. SCHROEDER,
*City of Davison,
Davison, MI.*

DEAR Ms. SCHROEDER: I am pleased to inform you that your utility has been selected

as the recipient of the Exemplary Source Water Protection Award for medium-sized systems. This award recognizes organizations in North America who have developed and are implementing exemplary source water protection programs.

In recognition of this honor, an award will be presented to you during the Atlanta Annual Conference in June. Details regarding the presentation will be sent to you later by Linda Moody.

The Association's Officers and Directors join me in congratulating you on this honor. Sincerely,

GARY J. ZIMMERMAN,
Executive Director.

THE CITY OF DAVISON SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM: PROTECTING YOUR DRINKING WATER RESOURCES

Davison's new \$3.5 million dollar water groundwater treatment plant was put on-line in July 2005. The plant receives water from the City's five groundwater wells and can treat up to 2.5 million gallons per day using filtration, softening and reverse osmosis.

Through cooperative efforts from Davison and Richfield Townships, Davison's Source Water Protection Program identifies and manages threats to the city water supply.

Please call the DPW offices to learn more. Protect drinking water—our future depends on it.

HOW DOES GROUNDWATER BECOME CONTAMINATED?

Abandoned wells, leaking underground storage tanks, industrial and transportation activities, dumps and landfills, agricultural activities, and homeowner activities.

How Can I Help?

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I have been out on medical leave. I have been unable to cast votes; however, I would like the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 388, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 389, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 390, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 391, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 392, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 393, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 394, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 395, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 396, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 397, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 398, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 399, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 400, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 401, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 402, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 403, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 404, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 405, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 406, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 407, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 408, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 409, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 410, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 411, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 412, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 413, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the State of Israel and its proud 60 years of existence.

Last month we were celebrating Israel's 60th birthday, and I was proud to vote in favor of a resolution honoring this great achievement. This month, I look forward in wishing Israel another 60 years as a strong and free democracy.

I have always spoken about how my trip to Israel in 2005 was a life changing event. With a young statehood but an ancient history, Israelis are faced with daily and often costly reminders of the price of freedom. I do not believe a day has gone by since Israel's founding where it has not been subject to attack. Yet, through the sheer will of a people fighting for the right of a brighter future for their children, Israel still stands.

Israel's tumultuous existence has lent itself to a very unique identity—one which can only be understood by the citizens who live their everyday lives in range of the missiles and suicide attacks of terrorists. However, these unfortunate consequences of proximity have created a nation of resolve—strengthening its foundation and purpose as a shining beacon of democracy in the Middle East.

Israel is a story of survival and today I honor Israel's perseverance and wish our ally a hopeful future. Best summed up by the words of by Dr. Israel Zoberman, founding rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach:

"The Jewish state's perseverance and fortitude to turn adversity into advantage, never betraying the optimistic essence of its people, are ample testimony to the nobility of the human spirit it has so profoundly enriched and painstakingly guarded."

The determined vigilance of Israel is a sobering reminder to us of what it sometimes takes to stand your ground in the face of adversity; and let us remind Israel that she does not stand alone in that fight.