

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,