

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IT'S A SOUTHERN THING

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as we kick off 2009, people across the country are making their new year's resolutions and families are carrying on with their special traditions to start the year out on a good note. Of course by mid February you should be able to get a close parking spot at the gym since that's about the time motivation for the fitness resolution begins to wane. However, there are some traditions that endure year after year, particularly in the South where we seem to value our heritage and culture a little more than our friends to the north.

Since I grew up in Texas, black eyed peas and football were the norm for my family, and everyone I knew, on New Year's Day. Everyone had to have at least one bite for good luck, like it or not, it was the rule. It wasn't until I met my first northerner that I realized this was a southern thing unique only unto us.

There are stories that date the "good luck" tradition all the way back the pharaohs of Egypt, but for us it goes back to the War Between the States. During General Sherman's March to the Sea in late December 1864, he ordered the Union troops to "burn and destroy" everything they saw, and "leave a trail that will be recognized fifty years hence."

In the aftermath of the devastation of the South, the only fields that were spared were the crops of black eyed peas and corn. The Northern soldiers considered them food for the livestock and didn't waste time burning them, thereby leaving them as the only real source of food left for the starving southerners. As a result, black eyed peas were seen as the saving grace of the South and became a sentimental symbol of better days that lie ahead.

Now there are a lot of theories on why we must eat them on New Year's Day, but they all revolve around the principle that they bring good luck and prosperity in the coming year. Every family has a different way of cooking them, if you're from the South you can bet your family has a recipe.

In Texas, some just like to serve plain ole' "East Texas Caviar" (as black eyed peas are referred to in Texas). My friends over in Louisiana like to "kick it up a notch" and add tomatoes and Cajun spices, some folks make Hoppin' John with rice and hammocks, and most everyone serves them with cornbread and some type of greens such as collards, mustard or turnip greens, or just cabbage or cole slaw to symbolize money. But you can't just eat the greens and expect a prosperous year, you have to have the peas too. Just one bite, it's the rule. (Although some say you have to eat 365 peas, one for each day or eat "every bean and pea on your plate"—I leave that one up to you!)

I have even heard of people putting a penny in the pot and whoever gets the penny in their

bowl gets the "best" luck of the year. Maybe this is like the baby in the King Cake? Whatever the case, it is a tradition that runs deep in the South and I am glad to see that it is still alive and well. Both my grandmothers had their special recipes, and every New Year's Day I still hound my kids and grandkids to make sure they eat their peas. So, I hope you all had your black eyed peas and for all you transplants living in the great State of Texas, I hope you get with the program and try some East Texas Caviar to start your year off right. It's a Southern thing.

And that's just the way it is.

CELEBRATING SAN YSIDRO'S
CENTENNIAL YEAR!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to commemorate the Centennial of the great community of San Ysidro—the gateway to America. San Ysidro is not only home to the world's busiest land border crossing, but is also a multicultural tight-knit community with a rich history and culture like no other. As California's Border Congressman, I am very proud to represent San Ysidro and will continue to be a vocal advocate for our border community. Please join me in this year-long celebration. "¡Adelante San Ysidro!"

HONORING SPECIAL KIDS DAY

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important community service organization located in Elmhurst, Illinois in my congressional district called Special Kids Day.

Special Kids Day was created in 1990 as a holiday event for children with special needs and their families to visit Santa Claus without obstacles. This venture has evolved into a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing celebratory events for children with disabilities and their families in an environment designed to accommodate their special needs.

On the first Wednesday each December, Special Kids Day holds their flagship event. Volunteers help children get their picture taken with Santa and distribute goodie bags with toys and candy. Other surprises from face painters to balloon animals help make these events a memorable time for special needs children. All of this allows these children and their families to enjoy the magic of the Christmas season without some of the challenges of making a trip to the mall at the holidays.

Today, the Special Kids Day organization has grown to include dozens of volunteers

who serve hundreds of families in the Chicagoland area. For the first time, Special Kids Day also began holding a Carnival Day at the Annual Elmfest in Elmhurst this year.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring the time and effort of Special Kids Day volunteers. This organization's selfless, charitable spirit is what makes Illinois' Sixth District such a pleasure to represent.

THE TERMINATION OF RFE/RL
AND VOA RADIO BROADCASTS IN
AZERBAIJAN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to express deep concern about Azerbaijan's cessation of local broadcasts of Radio Free Europe and Voice of America. After threatening for months to remove RFE/RL and VOA from the FM airwaves, Baku did precisely that on January 1.

The official justification for this unfortunate decision is that a 2002 Azerbaijani law restricts such frequencies to local broadcasters. The Helsinki Commission, which I chair, sent a letter on November 24, co-signed by Co-Chairman Senator BENJAMIN CARDIN and Ranking Minority Member CHRISTOPHER SMITH, to President Ilham Aliyev in which we urged him to reconsider. We pointed out that keeping Congressionally funded RFE/RL and VOA off the FM airwaves was an unwise and unfriendly move and that ending these programs was a poor way to start a relationship with incoming President Barack Obama. But Baku did not budge. Nor, might I add, have we even received the courtesy of a reply since November.

In fact, there are grounds for even graver concerns. Baku had pledged that only FM broadcasts would be ended. On January 6, however, Azerbaijani authorities tried to close down RFE/RL's Internet operation—which they had said would not be touched.

It is difficult to see these actions in any light other than a desire to restrict information available to the public. As the State Department said on December 30, "These media organizations play a crucial role in supporting democratic debate and the free exchange of ideas and information. This decision, if carried out, will represent a serious setback to freedom of speech, and retard democratic reform in Azerbaijan."

I concur completely. Azerbaijan's record on media freedom was poor before this, with heavy state influence on the airwaves, three journalists in jail and frequent criticism by the OSCE, Council of Europe and freedom of speech advocates. Now, Azerbaijanis without access to cable or the Internet—which means most of the listening audience—are cut off from objective, impartial sources of information.

• 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.

Azerbaijani relations with the United States will surely be negatively affected by this decision. I regret that when President Ilham Aliyev eventually meets President Barack Obama, they will have to spend time discussing why Baku has shut down U.S.-funded radio stations, instead of exploring ways to deepen the relationship between our countries.

The Helsinki Commission intends to examine U.S. international broadcasting in a future hearing and discuss ways of ensuring the continuance of this vital service. Meanwhile, it is my hope that President Aliyev will find a way to keep RFE/RL and VOA on the air.

BCS/UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, the University of Utah Football Team deserves to be National Champions. The Running Utes of Utah had a remarkably perfect 13-0 season, the only undefeated team out of the 119 in the NCAA's Football Bowl Subdivision. They started the season by defeating the perennial powerhouse Michigan Wolverines. They beat the Oregon State Beavers, who one week earlier had beaten the #1-ranked USC Trojans. They went on to beat the TCU Horned Frogs and the BYU Cougars, who were both ranked in the top 15 of the BCS at the time. Finally, in the Sugar Bowl, the University of Utah crushed the University of Alabama, who was ranked #1 in the BCS for much of the season. The Utes were able to turn back the Crimson Tide, but were still wiped out of consideration for the BCS National Championship.

Perhaps the Bowl Championship Series, the so-called BCS, would best be referred to as the Good 'Ol Boys Championship Series. The University of Utah bowled over 13 opponents this year without a single loss. It would be seemingly inappropriate for the Utes to be bowled over by the good 'ol boys off the field. The University of Utah Football Team deserves to be National Champions.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ROBERT H. CHRISTY, JR., CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert H. Christy, Jr., on his impending retirement. He has faithfully and effectively served as the Buncombe County Clerk of Superior Court for the past 18 years and will retire on December 31, 2008.

Since his initial swearing in on September 1, 1990, Bob Christy has overseen the court system during a time of tremendous growth. During that time, his office has grown from 47 employees to 65. Criminal and civil court filings have more than doubled during his tenure. Previously practicing law in the community, Christy's experience as an assistant clerk of

court to J. Ray Ellingburg for 7 years prepared him well for the clerkship.

As Clerk of Court, Christy managed Buncombe County's District Court and Superior Court, an operation that entails approximately \$25 million in annual revenue. Beyond monetary responsibilities, Christy supervised record-keeping in the local courts for all civil actions, special proceedings, court minutes, liens and other actions.

Mr. Christy found opportunity in the clerkship to express his great compassion for the elderly, the bereaved, and the struggling of Buncombe County. Over the past 18 years, the Clerk of Court has handled such delicate matters as juvenile crime, adoption, domestic violence, and issues of wills and estates. Christy operated the clerk's office with an open door policy in which he counseled on legal matters but also strove to alleviate the emotional concerns of those in need.

As a public servant, Christy had a great passion and respect for the office that he held. During his tenure, he served as president of the North Carolina Clerks Association, overseeing the executive committee in decision-making that in turn affected 10,000 clerks in the 100 counties across the state. He served on the Governor's Crime Commission and the boards of the North Carolina Courts Commission and the North Carolina Credit Union. He worked closely with the bar association in the county and is known for having strong relationships with area attorneys.

In his private life as well, he is known for activism and involvement. The Democratic Party in Buncombe County has honored Christy with several awards. He is an active member of Central United Methodist Church. In retirement, Christy will be returning to private legal practice with his long-time friend, Asheville attorney Jack Stewart.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Robert Christy today, to thank him for his tremendous service to the community, and to wish him well in his retirement.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD'S SERVICE IN THE U.S. SENATE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, this week, in this Capitol, we are witnessing a convergence of a number of events that will long stand out in our Nation's collective memories. We are on the front edge of a new session of Congress, preparing for a landmark moment in the history of America's presidency. And, at the same time, we are celebrating a major milestone for one of this Nation's most devoted and accomplished public servants—U.S. Senator ROBERT C. BYRD.

It was 50 years ago, that Senator BYRD, for the first time, took the oath of office to serve in the United States Senate—an oath he has now taken a record-setting nine times.

Yesterday, as numerous Members of the House and Senate raised their own hands and took their own very first oaths, I could not help but think about what it must have been like for our Senior Senator from West Virginia to

watch these new ranks at the start of their own Congressional careers.

I was reminded of my first day of service in this body. I recall being humbled by the responsibility that had been placed in my hands and awed by the auspicious ceremony and the grandeur of this ornate Chamber.

On that first day, I was relieved at the knowledge that I was blessed with the wisdom, the support, and the mentorship of ROBERT C. BYRD. Throughout my career here, he has been a constant source of encouragement and sage advice.

Today, as we embark upon this new session cognizant of the tremendous challenges before us—a struggling economy, two wars, a strapped Federal budget, and growing public need—we can breathe easier knowing that we are all blessed to have the continuing service of ROBERT C. BYRD to steer us through the rocky shoals.

Congratulations to Senator BYRD—our trailblazer, our Leader, our Big Daddy. May he continue to serve the people of West Virginia and the entire Nation for many years to come.

ST. PETERSBURG MAYOR RICK BAKER NAMED ONE OF NATION'S OUTSTANDING PUBLIC OFFICIALS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker who last November was named one of Governing magazine's eight public officials of the year.

Now beginning his 8th year as mayor, Rick has brought insurmountable energy and passion to serving the people of St. Petersburg and revitalizing the entire community. His catch phrase is, "Another great day in St. Petersburg," and under his leadership, every day has become another great day for our community.

As the only mayor honored this year, the magazine dubbed Mayor Baker as "Mr. Inclusive" for his work to revitalize the city's economy, improve its parks system, and improve the city's schools.

This is one of many honors Rick's hard work and commitment to public service have earned him and the city. Just last September, General Colin Powell's America's Promise Alliance named St. Petersburg one of our Nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People.

During ceremonies September 22 at Union Station, the organization cited St. Petersburg for its effort to improve its schools by forming corporate sponsorships. In particular, it said, "St. Petersburg has a strong backbone—the mayor—who, since 2003, has increased corporate partners for its schools from nine to nearly 80."

It was Rick Baker whose vision led to the establishment of the Mayor's Mentors & More program 6 years ago. With the support of the Pinellas Education Foundation, which funded a city staff position to lead mentor training, the city has trained more than 500 mentors over the past 2 years.

Madam Speaker, as Rick Baker embarks upon his final year as mayor, it is good that he

receives recognition for a job well done for the people of St. Petersburg, Florida. He and his work stand as a symbol for all that is good about public service and those who choose to serve.

IN RECOGNITION OF JACK AND
DOLLIE HARVEY

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the devotion and commitment Jack and Dollie Harvey have shown their community.

In their 40 years of marriage, they have worked together to help others. Their romance was born out of tragedy with each of them being widowed at a young age. Instead of dwelling on the hardships they faced in losing a loved one and, eventually, the challenges of merging their two families, they became more mindful of the needs of those around them. They helped rebuild after the 1976 Teton Dam collapse; "adopted" the homeless; taught at a juvenile detention center; ministered in migrant camps throughout the Southwest; volunteered at a community recreation center; counseled the terminally ill and their families; organized and managed summer camps for children from low-income families; entertained at nursing homes, state hospitals and city missions; and gave their time, money and energy to every opportunity for service that came their way.

Like many other Americans their age, the Harveys have to stretch their Social Security check to cover their monthly expenses. But they don't worry so much about paying the bills. Quite often, their biggest concern is just finding the energy to breathe. Jack, 78, who suffers from a chronic respiratory disease, and Dollie, 71, a cancer survivor tethered to oxygen, squeeze their numerous doctor's appointments and her frequent transfusions and injections into a hectic schedule devoted to ministering to others.

Sundays are busy days for the couple: teaching Sunday school, practicing for Christmas programs and guest preaching, their efforts continue to make a difference and inspire all of those who meet them. Their lessons have not been lost on their 8 children, 16 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, who include ministers, educators, law enforcement personnel, healthcare professionals, a social worker, military members and Arkansas and U.S. Government officials.

Jack and Rollie long ago adopted the motto not to pass on peacefully but to charge ahead helping others until they drop—exhausted and totally spent—into the grave. Truly, it is this kind of commitment, this type of dedication, that makes America grow.

HONORING SAM AND DORIS
SHORTER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Sam

and Doris Shorter of Cataula, Georgia, upon the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary on January 17, 2009. In this day and age where family values are often discussed, I can think of no greater testament to life, love, honor, and family values than the commitment of a 50 year marriage.

Samuel Shorter and Doris Lawson, both native Georgians, were born, reared and educated in Terrell County. They met while attending Terrell County high school. Sam was the starting guard on the basketball team and Doris was a pretty girl who caught his eye and snared his heart. After courting for just a few months, they both realized they had found true love and were destined to be partners in life. Shortly thereafter, Sam and Doris were joined in holy matrimony on January 17, 1959.

Along the way, during these last 50 years, they built a loving home, had successful careers, created a business and raised a family. Although they settled in New Jersey in the early 1960s, they never forgot their Georgia roots, and retired to Georgia in 2003.

Their marriage has been blessed with three children—Malcom, Tonya and Courtney; a loving daughter-in-law Joan; and six granddaughters—Natalya, Olivia, Alazandra, Victoria, Ciara and Daijohna.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shorters as they celebrate 50 years of marriage. It is refreshing to see two people who have devoted their lives to creating a successful marriage and happy family. They are an example of what a little dedication, a lot of love, and a belief in God can create.

DULLES CORRIDOR METRORAIL
PROJECT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the entire Virginia Congressional delegation, the people of the 10th District of Virginia, and everyone who uses Washington Dulles International Airport, I want to thank Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters for her efforts in giving final Federal approval to the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

The Department of Transportation signed off on the project committing some \$900 million in Federal funds to this project, which has been discussed and in the planning stages for decades. It is gratifying to see this project become a reality and it would not have been possible without Secretary Peters's bold leadership, personal attention, and ability to recognize the critical need for congestion relief in the Dulles corridor.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF WATER-
LOO UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th Anniver-

sary Celebration marking the building of the Waterloo United Methodist Church in the Borough of Stanhope, County of Sussex, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent.

Waterloo United Methodist Church was started in 1855 by a few families crowded into a general store. Devoted congregants constructed a church in 1859. The congregation continued to thrive until the Great Depression when church membership was reduced to all but five congregants. Through the dedication of Mrs. Melissa Dolan, an organist and Sunday school teacher for the church for 50 years, the church was saved from abandonment. Not until 1971 was the church's survival once again threatened, this time by the construction of a dam. Through the help of New Jersey State Senator Wayne Dumont the church was allowed to remain in use and the congregants unanimously voted to not sell the property to the State. In 1980, when membership dwindled to eight families, a conscious effort was made by the congregation to keep their beloved church alive and to this day the church continues to be successful.

The United Methodist Church remains the only operating building in the restored 19th century canal town of Waterloo Village. Today's inter-generational congregation is lead by three pastors, the only congregation in the State of New Jersey to be led by a pastoral team, and welcomes parishioners from all walks of life. Although few in numbers this progressive church takes great pride in accepting people from diverse backgrounds, following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ whom embraced those that society did not.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Waterloo United Methodist Church on the celebration of 150 years of serving its parishioners and all of Sussex County.

RECOGNIZING THE DEATH OF
CLAIBORNE PELL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Claiborne Pell, Princeton Graduate, former senator from Rhode Island, creator of Pell Grants, and writer of legislation that created the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He served six terms in the office, until 1997.

Words alone can not express my sincere admiration for Claiborne Pell and the legacy he has left behind: a program that has given grants to tens of millions of college students and will continue to give grants to generations of college students to come.

I truly admire Claiborne Pell for his commitment to aiding students in paying for college education. The Pell Grants began with the creation of a bill that created the Basic Education Opportunity Grant (BEOG) which provided financial aid to the needy to attend college. The Basic Education Opportunity Grant (BEOG) was renamed in honor of Pell and his work for these grants in 1980 as Pell Grants: Pell had sponsored the research of a two-volume report that had been the basis of the bill that

created the BEOG. Pell's dedication to providing assistance to college students in meeting the high costs of a college education will be remembered for years to come.

Claiborne Pell was also very dedicated to the Arts and Humanities. He was the author of the National Foundation of the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965. Both of these led to the creation of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The National Endowment for the Arts fostered many techniques and styles that are credited with making American artists distinguished worldwide.

Mr. Pell's outstanding leadership, patriotism and accomplishments will surely serve as an inspiration for many Americans.

CONGRATULATING THE SAINT
FRANCIS SPARTAN FOOTBALL
TEAM

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saint Francis Spartans football team for their remarkable victory in the Class 5A Illinois State championship on November 29, 2008.

Saint Francis' road to the State championship is a great story of success through hard work and determination. In the previous two seasons, the Spartans struggled vigorously to overcome many obstacles. This year, all their hard work paid off. The steadfast Spartans pulled off a tremendous turnaround, ending the regular season with a record of 9–1.

In Saturday's championship game, the Spartans faced off against the top-ranked, 9–0 Metamora Redbirds. The Redbirds entered the game with a 27-game winning streak. Despite the steep challenge ahead, the Spartans stayed focused on the game. They tenaciously persevered, beating the Redbirds 49–35 and breaking the record for the most points scored in the 5A title game.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in commending the Saint Francis players and coaches for their intensity and dedication throughout the season. Their incredible performance in the State championship is a tribute to long hours of hard work, both on and off the field.

Spartans, your families, your school, and your community are extremely proud of what you've accomplished. I wish you all the best in the future. Go Spartans!

TRIBUTE ON THE DEPARTURE OF
CHIEF OF STAFF DAVID GOLD-
ENBERG

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my departing Chief of Staff, David Goldenberg. With great reluctance but immense gratitude, I bid farewell to David after almost 9 years in my office, nearly 2 as my Chief of Staff.

Madam Speaker, David will be sorely missed. His policy knowledge, political acumen, generosity of heart, and dedication to his work leaves an indelible impression, not only on myself but on all those members of my staff who work closely with him. David has served as a colleague, leader, mentor and, friend to much of my staff over the years, and it is on their behalf, as well as mine, that I honor him today.

David is reliable and good-natured, hard-working and humorous. His leadership in my office has been marked by charity and devotion, acceptance and affection. David has been an asset not only to Florida's 23rd District, and not only to the State of Florida, but also to the entire country, as an advocate of those policies that seek to uplift people and better their lives.

Madam Speaker, as David and his wife, Nami, move from Washington, D.C. to Chicago, I wish them much happiness and the best of luck in this new chapter in their lives. I only insist that they both return to Washington to visit me as soon as possible.

David, I thank you.

GAZA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, nearly 9,000 rockets, missiles, and mortars have been fired into Israel since 2001, terrorizing the Israeli people. More than 6,000 of them have fallen since Israel withdrew entirely from the Gaza Strip and Hamas took over its leadership in 2005. The range of these rockets continues to grow, putting more of Israel's population in danger.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza also worsens by the day, and scores of civilians have been hurt or killed in the fighting. Hamas terrorists embed themselves in private homes, schools, mosques, hospitals, and use innocent Palestinians as human shields.

I fully support Israel's right to defend itself against the constant barrage of attacks from Hamas. However, it is imperative that both the Hamas government in Gaza and the State of Israel stop this cycle of violence that has caused hundreds of casualties, before it gets worse. Israelis in Southern Israel and Palestinians in Gaza live in constant fear for their lives, and this is unacceptable.

The Bush Administration must immediately take all necessary measures, in conjunction with the world community, to broker a peaceful and sustainable resolution to this volatile situation. Should the President heed this call, it will bolster the incoming Obama Administration's efforts as it advocates for a lasting peace.

Military action will not result in an enduring resolution of these long simmering tensions. It is only through diplomacy and a strengthening of the Israeli Palestinian reconciliation process that a sustainable two state solution will be achieved. The violence must stop and the healing process begin, before more civilians are hurt and more lives are destroyed.

SECOND ANNUAL NATIONAL
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARE-
NESS DAY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the second annual National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on January 11, 2009. Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, and the largest manifestation of slavery today. It continues to be a multi-dimensional threat that deprives people of their human rights and dignity.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, human trafficking is now the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. About 80 percent of transnational victims are women, girls and up to 50 percent are minors. It is vital that the United States continue to expand our efforts to combat trafficking both within and beyond our own borders.

I am very proud that in my district, a number of agencies, including law enforcement, victims service providers, and community organizations have joined together to form the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force. I hope that more local communities will stand together to protect every person's right to be free from forced marriage, prostitution, and labor.

Each of us has a responsibility to fight human trafficking and slavery. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to join me in recognizing National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and working to stop human trafficking around the world.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH COLE-CHU

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of eastern Connecticut's most dynamic leaders, Ruth Cole-Chu of Salem, who passed away on Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

Ruth was born in Hweli, China where her parents were serving as Baptist Missionaries. After returning to the United States, Ruth attended Wheaton College in Illinois where she received her bachelor of arts in speech communications. She later attended Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco where she received her law degree.

Ruth was a devoted wife, mother, and public servant. She was also an attorney and an education consultant. As an active member of her community, she participated in various local boards and commissions. She served 6 years as a member of the Board of Education, including a term as chairwoman, where she fought tirelessly to expand opportunities for the students of Salem. While she began her career as an attorney, it was as an advocate for children that Ruth truly made her mark.

Ruth believed that school communities should be a place where children from all walks of life could grow and learn. She was an

unwavering advocate for multiculturalism and diversity, and it was with that in mind that she founded the Inter-district School for Arts and Communications, the ISAAC Charter School. Since 1997, the ISAAC school has offered a unique educational experience for students in southeastern Connecticut where they can learn about the importance of diversity and the value of community service.

Ruth's belief in compassion and open-mindedness is a message that she carried to all she met. It is a spirit that lives on in her own children, Emily, Hannah and Lily. While her compassion for all children marked her legacy, it was the love that she had for her own children that defined her life.

We in eastern Connecticut are blessed to have had such a dedicated public servant and those of us who knew her are blessed to have had such a friend. We will take solace in her memory and the example that she set for thousands of young people across our State. To Lee, her beloved husband, and the entire Cole-Chu family, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

**CITY OF BELLAIRE'S 100TH
ANNIVERSARY**

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the City of Bellaire's 100th Anniversary. The prosperous and tranquil neighborhoods of Bellaire, Texas exemplify why so many new people and businesses move to Texas every day. The people of Bellaire take pride in their thriving city, which was founded in 1908 alongside the City of Houston. I grew up in West University Place, right next door, and I experienced what every young person in Bellaire enjoys today—the comfort and joy of growing up in a small town, even though we were in the middle of one of the biggest cities in America.

One of Houston's greatest strengths is the small town feel of neighborhoods all over Harris County, and nowhere is that small town safety, security, and prosperity stronger than Bellaire. The people of Bellaire look after one another, and take pride in their city and their neighborhoods and fill up every parking spot for blocks around whenever there is a parent meeting at a local school.

When Hurricane Ike knocked down trees and damaged property and knocked out the power, the people of Bellaire showed once again why their beautiful city is so successful. They did not sit around and wait for the federal government to help them. Neighbors simply pulled out their chain saws, and their hammers and tools and walked door to door on their street to see who needed help. Elderly or infirm residents were helped by their next door neighbors in the very best spirit of America.

Bellaire's small town roots go back to its founding six miles outside of Houston in 1908 by William Wright Baldwin. In 1918, when Bellaire was incorporated as an independent city, its population was 200, and during World War II the city grew rapidly. By 1948, the City of Houston had completely surrounded Bellaire, yet Bellaire has always maintained its independence as a home rule city.

Bellaire's fire and police departments are among the best in Texas. Building on a strong foundation of neighbors helping neighbors, Bellaire's firemen and policemen have helped make Bellaire one of the safest cities in America. People from all over Texas and America continue to vote with their feet and their dollars by moving their homes and businesses to Bellaire at a time when other communities across the nation are shrinking.

Bellaire was a part of the Seventh Congressional District in 1966 when the District's first Congressman was future President George H. W. Bush, who was followed by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Bill Archer. Population growth in the greater Houston area caused District 7 to be drawn farther west until 2006, when Bellaire once again became part of this historic congressional district.

As someone who grew up next door in West University, with many fond memories of Bellaire, I am especially proud to represent the people of this great city as their Congressman in Washington, D.C. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the people of Bellaire on building one of the safest, most prosperous, and most pleasant cities in America over the last 100 years, and I will always do everything I can to preserve, protect, and defend Bellaire's wonderful quality of life for the generations that will follow us in the next 100 years. Congratulations Bellaire.

HONORING BERNIECE HUGHES

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand up today before my esteemed colleagues to honor a lifelong resident of my district who just flat-out loved politics. Nothing—short of time with her three children, five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren—made Berniece Hughes of Conroe, Texas, happier than getting mad at what we all had to say on her favorite all-news channels. The daughter of the late W.V. and Lennie Galloway Holliday of Polk County, Berniece Hughes did her growing up during the Great Depression. She was a girls' basketball and track team member at Goodrich High in Polk County where she was in the 1934 graduating class. The oldest of six, Berniece is now reunited in heaven with her brothers and sisters and her sweetheart, B.F. "Bert" Hughes.

A master of the one-liners, Berniece, even at 92, was—as her daughter puts it—a "doodle mama just like Driving Miss Daisy." Likening her mother and father to screen giants Tracy and Hepburn, Lana says quick quips and laughter were just part of growing up a Hughes. Berniece thoroughly enjoyed being home with her children—B.F. "Mike" Hughes, Jr. of Livingston, and Wayne Hughes and Lana Hughes of Houston—as they were growing up. She was even more delighted to spend the second half of her days in Conroe enjoying watching her children bring her grandchildren and her grandchildren bring her great-grandchildren and so on. Everyone who met her described Berniece as "a pistol."

Once again, Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for allowing me to share the story

of a life well lived and ask for their thoughts and prayers as Berniece's large, loving family will gather together at the Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery and Funeral Home to say their final goodbyes to their "doodle mama," this Saturday morning.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MARSHALL
BILLINGSLEA, DEPUTY UNDER
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY**

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marshall Billingslea, the outgoing Deputy Under Secretary of the U.S. Navy. I am proud to recognize his service to the Nation and thank him for his contributions to our national defense.

Marshall entered public service after receiving his master of arts in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1995. He served for over 6 years as the Senior Professional Staff Member for National Security Affairs on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. During this period, he was the senior advisor to the chairman and members of the committee on all proliferation, arms control, defense, intelligence, and counter-terrorism issues. These experiences provided an enormous breadth of knowledge and laid the foundation for a career of outstanding public service.

Mr. Billingslea later joined the Bush administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Negotiations Policy and served as the chief negotiator for all major international agreements. In this capacity, he was the principal Department of Defense representative on numerous U.S. arms control delegations, and the U.S. Head of Delegation for Transparency and Verification negotiations with the Russian Federation in connection with the Moscow Treaty on Strategic Nuclear Reductions.

In recognition of his outstanding accomplishments, he was appointed the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict. As the principal civilian advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Defense on Special Operations Forces and counter-terrorism efforts against al Qaeda and other terrorist groups, he had enormous responsibility to safeguard the American people in supervising all special operations activities in the Department of Defense.

Prior to his current position, he served as NATO's assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment. He bolstered the national security of the United States by promoting NATO armaments cooperation policies and programs, and for military common funding. Additionally, he served as Chairman of NATO's Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD) and Chairman of the Board of Directors for NATO's Consultation, Command, and Control Organization.

As the first Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy in over 7 years, Marshall has been the senior advisor to the Secretary of the Navy on a wide range of policy and intelligence matters. His advice and counsel to the Secretary during a time of war, as well as his leadership in standing up the DUSN organization, has been invaluable to the Secretary and the Department of the Navy as a whole.

I am proud to recognize Marshall's achievements and wish him and his wife, Karen, along with their daughters, Morgan Alyssa and Elsa Breanne, well as they pursue new endeavors.

IRAQ'S STRUGGLING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues a letter I sent yesterday to Secretary Rice regarding the plight of Iraq's struggling Christian community.

It is my hope that people of faith throughout the country contact both the incoming and outgoing administrations and urge immediate action to protect this ancient community, some of whom still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 8, 2009.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,
*Secretary of State,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY RICE: Millions around the world just celebrated Christmas. In churches and homes throughout our own country children learned of Mary, Joseph, a census, a stable—of Nazareth and Bethlehem and other far away places. These lands of old that are found throughout the Bible are still home to ancient Christian communities with deep spiritual and cultural roots. In fact, with the exception of Israel, the Bible contains more references to the cities, regions and nations of ancient Iraq than any other country.

The patriarch Abraham came from a city in Iraq called Ur. Isaac's bride, came from northwest Iraq. Jacob spent 20 years in Iraq and his sons (the 12 tribes of Israel) were born in northwest Iraq. A remarkable spiritual revival as told in the book of Jonah occurred in Nineveh. The events of the book of Esther took place in Iraq as did the account of Daniel in the Lion's Den.

Tragically Iraq's ancient Christian community is facing extinction on this administration's watch. According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), Iraq's Christian population has fallen from as many as 1.4 million in 2003 to between 500,000 and 700,000 at present. USCIRF also reports that "while Christians and other religious minorities represented only approximately 3 percent of the pre-2003 Iraqi population, they constitute approximately 15 and 20 percent of registered Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria, respectively, and Christians account for 35 and 64 percent, respectively, of all registered Iraqi refugees in Lebanon and Turkey."

It is critical to note, as the figures above indicate, that the violence and intimidation that Iraq's Christians and other ethno-religious communities have faced is targeted. In July 2008, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration & Refugee Services said this about the minority religious communities: "These groups, whose home has been what is now Iraq for many centuries, are literally being obliterated—not because they are fleeing generalized violence but because they are being specifically and viciously victimized by Islamic extremists and, in some cases, common criminals."

We need a comprehensive policy or even a point person at the embassy in Baghdad to

address the unique situation of these defenseless minorities. An article in Christianity Today by Philip Jenkins described what was happening this way: "What we are seeing then is the death of one of the world's greatest Christian enterprises."

I urge you, in your final days as Secretary of State, to take dramatic action on behalf of this hurting population and a good starting point is the recent recommendations put forward by USCIRF. I respectfully request a response from you, rather than the assistant secretary for Legislative Affairs.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

IN MEMORY OF MARY JAMES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that I inform the House of the death of Mrs. Mary L. James.

Mary, who was born in West Plains, MO, was a graduate of Harrisonville, MO, High School and the University of Missouri, where she received a bachelor of science degree in education. Mary also earned a master's of public administration degree from the University of Kansas.

Through the years, Mary dedicated her life to education, health care, and to the betterment of her community and her state. She was a teacher, a volunteer, and lived her whole life surrounded by or working in the news business. In 1999, Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan appointed Mary as a member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, and she became the board's president in 2005.

Mary also served organizations affiliated with the University of Missouri, which she so dearly loved, including the Chancellor's Fund for Excellence, the Advisory and Development Committee within the College of Education, and the Griffith's Leadership Society for Women. Mary was also a member of the Jefferson Club. In 2005, the Alumni Alliance recognized Mary for Outstanding Alumni Service to the University of Missouri System.

Mary also worked as the executive director of the Cass Medical Center Foundation, on the board of the Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City, and on the board of the Cass Medical Foundation. In 2006, she was recognized by the University of Missouri as a Distinguished Friend to the School of Nursing because of her commitment to health care and to the University.

Mary also served as a member of the Harrisonville Park Board, including time as chairman. During her tenure on the park board, she advocated for a community sales tax that led to building a pool and maintenance facility for the city of Harrisonville, she wrote a grant and raised funds to build an outdoor theater, and she helped plan for a community center. Mary was a member of the Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce, the Harrisonville United Methodist Church, Chapter G.R. PEO, Delta Gamma, and the University of Missouri Alumni Association.

Mary's family had been prominent in the Missouri newspaper business. Her parents,

the late J.W. Brown, Jr., and Wanda A. Brown, were publishers of the Cass County Democrat-Missourian in Harrisonville. Her father served as Missouri Press Association President. She worked for 26 years as the human resources manager for Cass County Publishing, volunteering extensively in her spare time.

In 1971, Mary married Bill James, who himself has been a prominent figure in the Missouri newspaper business and is a former president of the Missouri Press Association. Bill is now the publisher of the Daily Star-Journal in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Mary, who is survived by Bill, by her two sons and their wives, by one granddaughter, by her mother, and by her sister, will be remembered fondly by all who had the privilege of knowing her, including me. She has led an exemplary life, which ought to serve as a model for young people in Missouri and throughout our nation. I know members of the Congress will join me in paying tribute the life of Mary James and in extending condolences to her family and friends.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL ACT OF 2009

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to authorize establishment of a memorial at Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Molokai, Hawaii, to honor the memory and sacrifices of the some 8,000 Hansen's disease patients who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa peninsula between 1866 and 1969. I want to thank my friend and colleague Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE for cosponsoring this legislation.

I had hoped to see this bill become law last year. The 110th Congress version of the bill (H.R. 3332) passed the House in February 2008. It was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in June 2008. Unfortunately, despite heroic efforts by Senators AKAKA, INOUE, and BINGAMAN, the bill did not come before the full Senate for a vote.

The policy of exiling persons with the disease that was then known as leprosy began under the Kingdom of Hawaii and continued under the governments of the Republic of Hawaii, the Territory of Hawaii, and the State of Hawaii. Children, mothers, and fathers were forcibly separated and sent to the isolated peninsula of Kalaupapa, which for most of its history could only be accessed by water or via a steep mule trail. Children born to parents at Kalaupapa were taken away from their mothers and sent to orphanages or to other family members outside of Kalaupapa. Hawaii's isolation laws for people with Hansen's disease were not repealed until 1969, even though medications to control the disease had been available since the late 1940s.

While most of us know about the sacrifices of Father Damien, who dedicated his life to care for those exiled to Kalaupapa, fewer know of the courage and sacrifices of the patients who were torn from their families and left to make a life in this isolated area. It is important that their lives be remembered.

Of the some 8,000 former patients buried in Kalaupapa, only some 1,300 have marked graves. A memorial listing the names of those who were exiled to Kalaupapa and died there is a fitting tribute and is consistent with the primary purpose of the park, which is "to preserve and interpret the Kalaupapa settlement for the education and inspiration of present and future generations."

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, a non-profit organization consisting of patient residents at Kalaupapa National Historical Park and their family members and friends, was established in August 2003 to promote the value and dignity of the more than 8,000 persons—some 90 percent of whom were native Hawaiian—who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa peninsula. A central goal of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is to make certain that the lives of these individuals are honored and remembered through the establishment of a memorial or memorials within the boundaries of the park at Kalawao or Kalaupapa.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has made a commitment to raise the funds needed to design and build the memorial and will work with the National Park Service on design and location of the memorial.

I have met with the elderly residents of Kalaupapa; many have expressed a strong desire to know that the memorial will be built before they die. I also read the heartfelt and compelling testimony submitted by current patients and family members of former patients who want to make sure not only that the story of Kalaupapa is told but that the patients are recognized as individuals by having the names of each of those exiled to Kalaupapa and buried there recorded for posterity. Families that have visited Kalaupapa and Kalawao searching in vain for the graves of their family members will find comfort in seeing those names recorded on a memorial.

The National Park Service is supportive of this legislation. I am hopeful that the Senate will soon pass an omnibus bill including the text of this legislation and other public lands bills.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 374

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today we are introducing legislation that will begin a long-needed course correction in U.S. interrogation policies.

In the months and years after the September 11 terrorist attacks, I repeatedly urged the Bush administration to establish a legal framework that allowed the United States to identify, detain, and interrogate those who would harm us while protecting our fundamental values. Instead, the administration claimed for itself the right to ignore core provisions of U.S. law regarding the treatment of detainees. It brushed aside international agreements like the Geneva Convention, which have both protected our troops and set the bar for human rights.

The result is that United States has paid a steep price in eroded moral authority. We've flouted the very legal protections that we've tried to export to the rest of the world. We've undermined the international human rights standards that we helped create. And we've provided a huge recruiting tool to al Qaeda.

For many years, the sponsors of this legislation have fought to restore respect for the law and human rights to our detention and interrogation policies.

Now, with the election of a new President, we believe that goal is within reach. This legislation is an essential first step.

First, the bill requires the closure of the prison facility at Guantanamo Bay. The prison is so widely viewed as illegitimate, so plainly inconsistent with America's proud legal traditions, that it has become a stinging symbol of our tarnished standing abroad.

The Supreme Court has brought the curtain down on the legal fiction on which the prison was premised. It's time for Congress to take the next step and close it permanently.

Our bill would require the President to close the facility within 1 year of enactment and give him a range of choices for dealing with the detainees. These options include transfer to a detainee's country of origin, so long as that country provides certain assurances regarding treatment of the detainee; transfer to a facility in the United States to be tried before military or civilian authorities, like the first 1993 World Trade Center bombers, who are currently being held in Supermax prisons in the United States; transfer to a qualified international tribunal; or, if appropriate, outright release.

Second, the bill prohibits the interrogation of any individual held by a U.S. intelligence agency or its contractors using any technique or treatment not authorized by the United States Army Field Manual on Human Intelligence Collector Operations. Torture and abusive treatment is not only contrary to American values, the law, and international human rights agreements, there is no evidence that it yields reliable intelligence. This legislation will require that our intelligence agencies do not engage in such practices.

Third, the bill forbids the Central Intelligence Agency from using a contractor or subcontractor to carry out an interrogation, ending a practice that has been fraught with abuse.

Finally, the bill requires that the intelligence community provide the International Committee of the Red Cross with access to any individual in its custody, providing transparency and accountability that will restore the world's confidence in our detention and interrogation practices. The notion that our country essentially "disappeared" some detainees is abhorrent—we are not the Soviet Gulag or the Chilean military.

The portions of the legislation relating to the prison facility at Guantanamo Bay are identical to H.R. 2212, which I introduced in the 110th Congress, and the remaining provisions are identical to legislation introduced earlier this week by Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN.

We urge swift passage in both Chambers.

HONORING THOMAS MAYFIELD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas Mayfield for his dedication to his family, business and community. Mr. Mayfield lost his fight against lymphoma on December 9, 2008; three days shy of his seventy-eighth birthday.

Thomas Mayfield was born on December 12, 1930 in Holtville, California and was raised in Imperial County, California. As an adolescent his family moved to Hughson, California where he attended and graduated from Hughson High School in 1948. As a young man, Mr. Mayfield worked in construction in Alaska for 1 year before joining the Air Force. He served in the Air Force from 1950 to 1951, and returned to work in Alaska until 1953. In 1954 he married his wife, Anita, and moved back to Hughson. They began a small farm growing walnuts, almonds and grapes. The business eventually grew to include a hulling division. Up until a few months ago Mr. Mayfield was still working out in the fields on the family farm.

Mr. Mayfield has a long history of involvement in the Hughson community. He was a member of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, the Hughson Chamber of Commerce and heavily involved with Saint Anthony's Church. He also served 10 years on the Hughson Elementary School Board. In 1992, he decided to run for an open seat on the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors District 2, he was elected and began his 16-year run on the Board in 1993. Supervisor Mayfield was a strong voice for agriculture on the board and a proponent of family issues. He served on numerous committees and commissions; including serving as Vice President in 1996 and as the chairman of the board in 1997. He was the Board's representative to the Commission on Aging, Fish and Wildlife Committee, General Plan Update Committee, Joint Powers Authority Committee and member of the LAFCO Commission. He served as an alternate to the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors, Safety Committee, Stanislaus Area Association of Governments Executive Committee and an alternate to the Emergency Medical Services Board of Directors and the Stanislaus-Ceres Redevelopment Committee. He was serving as chairman this year until he became too ill to attend meetings. Supervisor Mayfield was completing his fourth term on the board and did not run for re-election this year. He was an advocate, a dedicated public servant, a leader and a great friend to all that knew him.

Supervisor Mayfield is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Anita; a daughter, Lisa Mayfield-Rigg; a son, Tom Mayfield; and three grandsons. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Laurie Woodward.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Supervisor Thomas Mayfield for his dedicated services to his family, his business and his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

OPENING OF NEW LEED GOLD
CERTIFIED CUB FOODS STORE IN
ST. PAUL, MN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Minnesota-based grocery retail company Cub Foods for its planned opening of one of the nation's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certified grocery stores in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The new store, located in the heart of St. Paul's Phalen neighborhood, will be the first LEED Gold Certified grocery store in Minnesota and the second in the United States. It received an award from the Environmental Protection Agency's GreenChill Partnership at Gold-Level Certification for outstanding use of environmentally friendly refrigeration technology. I want to congratulate Brian Huff, President of Cub Foods; Mark Halvorson, Phalen Cub Foods Store Manager; and Jeff Noddle, Chairman and CEO of Cub Food's parent company SUPERVALU for their outstanding environmental leadership in setting a new standard in the grocery retail industry.

As a member of the Congressional Green Buildings Caucus I firmly believe that energy efficiency in our nation's buildings must play an important part in a 21st century energy strategy for the United States. The innovations Cub Foods brings to the St. Paul Phalen community with its new LEED store are exceptional and should be replicated nationwide. The new 62,900 square-foot store has skylights to illuminate 75 percent of occupied spaces and has the first commercial parking lot in Minnesota illuminated using only LED lights. It incorporates a landscape irrigation system that uses 50 percent less water than typical systems. In addition, 75 percent of the building construction waste will be recycled. Such innovations must become the standard for America's buildings as we tackle the challenges of climate change and energy security.

In addition, the Phalen Cub Foods store was an integral part of St. Paul's East Side redevelopment project and has created approximately 135 new part-time and full-time jobs for the neighborhood. As we face a global recession, such green projects are a win-win for the environment and our economy.

As Cub Foods commemorated their 40th Anniversary in 2008, the commitment Cub is making to the long-term well-being of the environment, their customers and employees truly exemplifies Minnesota's strong tradition of community and responsible stewardship of our community and our planet. I congratulate Cub Foods on its efforts and look forward to continuing our shared fight for a greener building sector and stronger economy.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS.
ENCARNACION AREVALO
GUERRA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the 50th Wedding Anniversary for Encarnacion 'Carny' Arevalo Guerra and Emma Flores Guerra. The lives of these individuals have been uniquely American, and this Golden Anniversary of theirs is a special moment for not only them, but for their family and friends.

Encarnacion Arevalo Arevalo was born May 15th, 1940 in McGregor, Michigan to Sacarias Bonilla Guerra and Ines Arevalo. Emma Flores Guerra was born December 13th, 1940 in San Antonio, TX to Alfredo Saucedo Flores and Ofelia Cavazos Flores. From San Antonio, Emma's family moved to Saginaw, Michigan that she met Encarnacion. Both fathers of the honored couple worked at General Motors during the 1940's, a crucial period when manufacturers were devoting all effort to preparing the military with proper equipment.

Music played an important role in both of their lives. As children they loved music and would attend weekly dances in Saginaw, Michigan as young adults. This later would inspire them to start a business. When both were in junior high, attending Central Junior High in Saginaw, Encarnacion played the saxophone, and Emma the French horn. This is where they met and began their relationship. Not all went as planned however as Emma's family was forced to move back to San Antonio. This would not stop their relationship however. The young couple stayed in touch by writing letters to each other at every chance they had.

It was January 10, 1959 that the two married in a large ceremony at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. After marriage, Encarnacion supported his growing family with his continued employment at General Motors in Saginaw for 10 years. It was during this time that the two welcomed 5 daughters into their family: Cynthia, Sylvia, Judith Ines, Belinda, and Elaine.

After leaving GM, the family moved to Laredo, Texas. It was here the couple purchased and converted the Bowl-A-Rama into what we now know as the "Casa Blanca Ballroom". The Ballroom has become a landmark and has held a prominent place in the lives for Laredoans for almost 40 years now.

From here the couple went on to purchase their first radio station in Nuevo Laredo and name it "Radio Canon". This proved to a wise investment, and the Guerra's later purchased share holdings in seven more radio stations. After a short try at retirement, the two returned to the business and acquired three new radio stations: Z-93, Energy 98, and K-Onda. In 1995, the couple moved to San Antonio, but remain active in the communities. Today, when Encarnacion is not tinkering in his garden, the two are fulfilling their dream of traveling the world. The Guerras are a vibrant example of living the American dream.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating them on the 50th Wedding Anniversary not just as local icons in Texas, but model citi-

zens of the United States of America. They are true stewards of the American dream, and I celebrate them and thank them for their contributions to the Great State of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JOSEPHINE ARNOLD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Josephine Arnold of Portage, Michigan, for her nearly 30 years of distinguished service to the Portage Senior Center and the greater Kalamazoo area.

Jo began working with the Portage Senior Center in 1979 and was named its charter director in 1992 when the Portage City Council created the Department of Senior Services to give the senior center a direct link to the council. Since its inception 30 years ago, the Portage Senior Center has gained 2,000 members and currently has a regular daily attendance of 200 senior citizens. Under Jo's leadership in 2000, the Portage Senior Center became Michigan's first nationally accredited senior center and one of an elite group of 127 centers that have been nationally accredited. Throughout the years, Jo's overriding goal at the center has been to promote personal growth, health, friendship, and independence for area seniors and all generation participants. In addition to her career with the city of Portage, Jo has been an active community member as an instructor at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and as the activities director of Friendship Village.

Jo has been an inspirational figure, exuding friendship, generosity, and leadership in her commitment to a population often neglected by society. Her dedication to community development will be remembered for years to come and her example followed to continue to aid senior citizens in Kalamazoo.

Once again, I would like to personally congratulate and thank Jo Arnold for her many years of public service to the citizens of this great country. Southwest Michigan is truly a better place because of her contributions.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT FERN UMC

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of the Mount Fern United Methodist Church, in Randolph, New Jersey.

The first service at Mount Fern Church was held on November 11, 1883. Mount Fern Church was an offshoot of the Millbrook Methodist Church established 50 years earlier in 1833. Mount Fern was built to serve the growing surrounding community and the workers at Mine Hill who did not have transportation to Millbrook.

John R. Spargo is the person most responsible for the church at Mount Fern. He donated the land, provided the financing, helped

build the church, and he gave the church a new name, Mount Fern Church.

By 1880 Mount Fern was a hilltop community of about 25 homes, a dozen or so farms, and the mining families. The successes of the local mines attracted still more miners to Randolph. After moving to an old stone farmhouse, John Spargo held Methodist class meetings in his home. The old stone house served as both an early church and Sunday school. Its two small rooms were soon filled to capacity. Eventually the community decided it was time to build a new church.

The Rev. Robert Jenkins served as the first pastor of Mount Fern Church from 1883–1884 and returned for a second year in 1894. Many of the Mount Fern early pastors were laymen, people who lived in the community, often with a farm of their own, and volunteered to lead the church for a year or two.

Mount Fern was well attended in its earliest years. However, membership declined when the local mines closed. By 1914 the church listed only 30 members.

The first Mount Fern Church Fair was held on July 4, 1914. Booths surrounding the church sold food, gifts, and souvenirs. A baked goods booth featured fresh-baked cookies and Anne Spargo's apple pies. Chicken suppers were served from a tent erected on the grounds. Fireworks at the first fair, by accident or mischievous design, ignited prematurely. Mount Fern never attempted fireworks again, but the church fair became a popular annual event for over 50 years.

By 1948 there were about 100 houses in the community. New families moved into the area and the church began to grow. In 1952 construction of a new fellowship hall began.

Growth continued and membership swelled to 350 after the arrival of Rev. Diane Gilbert in 1996.

Although over the years the building has changed, the church has not. Mount Fern Church remains a congregation of people united in their faith.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House recognize this remarkable church and parishioners who have contributed so much toward the preservation and appreciation of American history through their place of worship at Mount Fern United Methodist Church in Randolph, New Jersey.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing and honoring those who make a difference in the lives of our young people across the United States.

I am honored to be joined by Congressman MIKE ROGERS of Michigan and Congresswoman BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota in introducing a resolution marking January of 2009 as National Mentoring Month as proclaimed by the President of the United States. National Mentoring Month celebrates and honors those who are mentors and draws attention to the great need for more mentors.

Mentors make a tremendous difference in the lives of our children. When a responsible

and reliable adult becomes a mentor, the benefits to the mentee can last a lifetime. Countless stories show the positive outcomes of a good role model.

Quality mentoring relationships between reliable adults and our young people are invaluable. Millions of adults nationwide are acting as excellent role models while providing guidance and advice to our young people—many of whom face problems at home or difficulties at school. Without a good, solid role model, our kids are more likely to drop out of high school or to become involved with drugs or alcohol.

Unfortunately, research shows that about 15 million children across the United States are in need of a mentor and a good role model. It is crucial that we begin to reach these children to give them a better future and hope. We are calling on more adults to rise to the occasion and to act as a role model to our children.

Madam Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to offer a resolution honoring America's mentors on the occasion of National Mentoring Month, 2009. I urge its quick passage.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL M. ORTEGA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a great public servant on the occasion of his retirement. Daniel M. Ortega has served the City of Salinas as Chief of Police for nearly a decade, working hard to provide its citizens with a sense of peace, safety, and security. He retired this week after an exemplary 42-year public safety career.

Chief Ortega began his career in his hometown of Stockton, California, as a patrol officer. He then moved to San Jose, where he spent 28 years ascending the ranks of the San Jose Police Department. His assignments included 12 years as a hostage negotiator, 3 years as the Executive Director of the Police Activities League, and as the Captain of the Special Operations Division. In June 1999, Chief Ortega left the San Jose Police Department as a Deputy Chief of Police and Chief of Detectives.

In Salinas, Chief Ortega championed community-oriented policing. He created a police substation on Salinas' east side to ensure increased community access to the police. Moreover, he coordinated with business leaders to develop strategies to increase the safety of local businesses. Chief Ortega was also instrumental in creating a Community Services Coordinator position within City Hall. Additionally, he revitalized the School Resource Officer program to polish the image of police amongst the city's youth. Seeking to staff the department with "homegrown" police officers, Chief Ortega established a cadet program, which mentored youth from ages 16 to 21. Furthermore, in conjunction with the County of Monterey, he was integral in developing the highly successful Joint Gang Task Force.

In addition to his community-oriented approach, Chief Ortega improved the Salinas Police Department in other ways. He increased the force from a strength of 150 to 187 and expanded the Hostage Negotiation

Team. He also established a horse-mounted unit, added a ballistic identification system, and acquired command and crime scene investigation vehicles.

Chief Ortega has served on the Board of Directors of various organizations, including the California Police Chiefs Association and the United Way of Monterey County. He is also a past president of the Monterey County Chief Law Enforcement Officers Association. His memberships include the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Latino Police Officers Association.

Madam Speaker, Chief Daniel M. Ortega leaves an indelible legacy and a shining example to his officers, peers, and successors. On behalf of the House, I wish Chief Ortega, his wife Donna, and their family continual happiness and prosperity as he progresses on to well-deserved retirement.

HONORING BOB PICKARD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bob Pickard upon his retirement as Mariposa County Supervisor, District V. Supervisor Pickard was honored by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, December 16, 2008.

Bob Pickard was originally appointed on September 4, 1996, by Governor Wilson to fill an unexpired term on the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, District V. He was elected in 1996 and re-elected in 2000 and 2004. Over the past decade, Supervisor Pickard has been involved in numerous projects, committees, and organizations. He served as chair in 1999, 2003, and 2005. Under his role of supervisor he served on the Disaster Advisory Council, Fish Camp Community Planning Advisory Council, Wawona Appeals Board, Wawona Town Planning Advisory Committee, and Mariposa Solid Waste AB939 Local Task Force. Over the years, he also served on the board of directors for over 10 different agencies including: Area 12 Agency of Aging Joint Powers Authority Governing Board, California State Association of Counties Government Finance and Operations Committee, and California State Association of Resource Conservation and Development Council. Supervisor Pickard worked tirelessly on dozens of projects to revamp the county, community planning and development, recreation facilities, landfill, wastewater treatment facilities, airport improvement, road and fire station improvements. During his tenure, he was regularly involved in the resolving of natural disasters including the floods of 2005, the Ferguson rock slide disaster of 2006 and the recent wildfires of 2008.

Supervisor Pickard has worked with the State government for assistance in resolving issues that affect small rural counties. He was successful with legislation to bring \$400,000 to Mariposa County, \$80,000 per year for counties with no incorporated cities, for their fair share of the gasoline tax and vehicle license fees; \$900,000 for local road rehabilitations; \$240,000 to provide equity funding for rural counties and their hazardous waste inspections on local businesses; \$120,000 and an

additional \$64,000 for 1 year and ongoing funding for continuing noxious and invasive weed eradication; and \$180,000 were secured for the Mariposa Creek Parkway and other improvements. Supervisor Pickard has been an integral member of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, his impact on the county will be displayed for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Supervisor Bob Pickard upon his retirement from the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Supervisor Pickard many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING INTEGRATION ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have reintroduced legislation to provide a framework for an integrated ocean and coastal mapping program within the Federal government. The bill, entitled the "Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act," specifically requires the President to establish a program for the development of a coordinated and comprehensive federal ocean and coastal mapping plan for the Great Lakes and coastal state waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf of the United States.

The program is meant to enhance ecosystem-based approaches in decision-making for conservation and management of marine resources and habitats, establish research and mapping priorities for federal-state-local government partnership, support the sound siting of research and other platforms off our coastlines, and advance ocean and coastal science. The President shall coordinate with affected coastal states and territories and an Inter-agency Committee on Ocean and Coastal Mapping to be convened by the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, in establishing this program. The program is also meant to facilitate the adoption of uniform mapping standards and the utilization of the latest technology for mapping activities. Such an approach will allow for the sharing of maps among stakeholders.

Today, at least 15 Federal agencies, most coastal states and territories, and numerous local agencies, academic institutions, and private companies conduct mapping and charting activities for U.S. waters. No central repository or coordinating authority, however, exists under U.S. law to oversee and track these various mapping efforts. The absence of coordination in mapping has resulted in redundancy of efforts in certain areas. While some areas are "over mapped," there is a lack of data for other regions. The program authorized by this bill is meant to reduce such redundancy, and expand the availability of quality, up-to-date, accurate and comprehensive maps and charts for all U.S. waters.

I introduced this bill in the 110th Congress as H.R. 2400. The bill passed the House of Representatives on July 23, 2007, but did not receive the approval of the Senate despite it

having been considered in the other body as part of omnibus legislation. I have, therefore, reintroduced this bill today given the ongoing necessity and importance of improving and streamlining our ocean and coastal mapping capabilities. Ultimately, this bill, if enacted, will improve the conservation and management of marine resources and marine transportation safety.

LETTER TO SPEAKER PELOSI

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 6, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This letter is to advise you that, effective today, I am taking a leave of absence from the Homeland Security Committee until my tenure on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is completed. I understand that I will retain my seniority on the Homeland Security Committee for the duration of my leave.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

JAMES R. LANGEVIN,
Member of Congress.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND WORKPLACE POLICY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, today, Representative CAROLYN MALONEY and I are reintroducing our bill to establish a Center for the Study of Women and Workplace Policy. The Center would compile and analyze data on the differences between the earning of men and women and to identify factors which affect those differences. The Center would also publish their results in the form of a "Best Practices Guide" for businesses containing guidelines to promote workplace equity, retaining women in the workplace and promoting a family friendly workplace.

I'm sorry to say that my home state of Michigan has one of the largest earning gaps between college educated men and college educated women. College-educated women in Michigan earn just 70 percent of what college-educated men earn, making the state 47th in the Nation in terms of pay equity—that according to the American Association of University Women. I know that Michigan is home to some of the most talented, skilled women on that planet. It is time that they get paid in a way that reflects those abilities. The establishment of such a center and the publication of its research findings will go a long way toward closing the pay gap in Michigan and throughout our Nation.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Israel's enduring friendship with the United States of America, as well as its right to self-defense in an appropriate and proportional manner from the threats posed to it by its neighbors who seek its demise.

As most Palestinians hunger for peace, the actions of Hamas, sponsored by Iran and often attempting to maximize Palestinian civilian casualties, make this road to peace much more difficult. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, hoping that this withdrawal would usher in peace between the two rivals. However, since 2005 Hamas has fired thousands of rockets into Israel. Over the past 6 weeks alone, Hamas, outside the confines of the ceasefire agreement, fired hundreds of rockets and mortars into Israel without warning, killing men, women and children. These continuous acts of terror have left Israel with no other choice but to defend its citizens.

An important and reliable ally in an unstable region, Israel is fundamental to our foreign policy in the Middle East. I am disappointed to see an end to the 6-month ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, as this ultimately leads to more civilian casualties on both sides. However, I think it is important to recognize that Israel faces great threats along its border from which it has every right to defend itself.

During the 6-month ceasefire, Israel's support of the people of Gaza—such as supplying food, medical and other supplies—was commendable. This assistance highlights the potential for a peaceful resolution to this enduring conflict, which I hope to see in my lifetime.

IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD W. SKOW

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished military career of United States Army LTC Richard W. Skow. On behalf of the whole House, I am honored to extend to Lieutenant Colonel Skow and his family the gratitude of the Congress and the American people for his service on the occasion of his retirement after 24 years in uniform.

During his long and decorated career Lieutenant Colonel Skow made enormous contributions to the success of the U.S. Army's worldwide mission. Most recently, he served for the last year and a half as the Defense Language Institute's, DLI's, Chief of Staff where he had previously studied Portuguese. He built a reputation for an outstanding work ethic, sound judgment, and proactive leadership—a true example for the junior officers under his command. As chief of staff, he played an instrumental role in helping his commander fulfill the DLI's complex mission. His duties included, but were not limited to, personnel and budget management, special

projects, congressional inquiry review and response, and primary command briefing responsibilities.

Highlights of his service prior to DLI include: Defense and Army Attaché, Uganda, July 2005–July 2007. In this role, Lieutenant Colonel Skow advised the ambassador on Uganda's continually shifting security situation. He coordinated with the Ugandan Army in dealing with the Lord's Resistance Army and reported on the activities of this group in neighboring countries. Notably, he was instrumental in the recovery of five citizens from the UK, Australia and New Zealand after an attack by LRA insurgents.

Army Attaché, South Africa, January 2003–July 2005. Lieutenant Colonel Skow regularly reported on military issues in South Africa where he coordinated a joint training exercise between a U.S. Ranger company and the South African airborne regiment. Additionally he coordinated the procurement and transportation of South African mine resistant armored personnel vehicles, NYALA, and mine detection and IED detection vehicles, HUSKY, for deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Defense and Army Attaché, Rwanda, October 1998–December 2001. Lieutenant Colonel Skow served as the primary military/political advisor to the ambassador during a violent insurgency in northwest Rwanda. He monitored the security situation in northwest Rwanda and advised the ambassador regarding travel restrictions for U.S. citizens. He was responsible for routine interface with Rwandan military personnel and interviewed insurgent prisoners of all ranks. In addition to providing current combat intelligence and information from the POWs, Lieutenant Colonel Skow also created a list of insurgents that were responsible for the murder of U.S. and UK tourists in Bwindi National Forest, Uganda. He then coordinated closely with the FBI to ensure they received all necessary support.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to extend the gratitude of the House to Lieutenant Colonel Skow and his wife, Janice, for their service to the Nation and to wish them the very best in the future.

HONORING DIANNE FRITZ

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dianne Fritz upon her retirement as Mariposa County Supervisor, District IV. Supervisor Fritz will be honored by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, December 16, 2008.

Dianne Fritz was elected to the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, District IV in 2004 and officially took office in January 2005. In 2008 she served as Vice-Chair of the Board of Supervisors and also the Vice-Chair for the Mariposa County Local Transportation Commission. For the past four years, Supervisor Fritz has been involved in numerous projects, committees, and organizations. As supervisor she has served on the board of directors for numerous agencies and organizations including: Mountain Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency; National Association of Counties; San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties; Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System, YARTS, Joint Powers Authority; High Speed Rail Authority; San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee; and California State Association of Counties. She also served as board liaison member to the Fiscal and Educational Services and Justice System Services area, the Yosemite Gateway Socioeconomics Workshops, and for the Cali-

fornia State Mining and Mineral Exhibit issues. Supervisor Fritz worked tirelessly on many projects benefiting the county that ranged from community planning and development, wastewater treatment facilities, recreation facilities, road and fire station maintenance, airport improvements, and restoration of the Mariposa Courthouse. During her tenure there were natural disasters that she worked diligently on, for example the floods of 2005, the Ferguson Rock Slide Disaster of 2006, and the recent wild fires of 2008.

Supervisor Fritz has worked on many issues pertaining to economic development. She was instrumental in the privatization of the Visitors' Bureau, with the formation of the Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau and fought the closure of Mount Bullion Youth Conservation Camp. She also worked on the General Plan update for Mariposa County, improvements to community parks, health care, public safety and agri-nature tourism. Supervisor Fritz has always been active in the community; she performed with the Vagina Monologs and other fundraising activities in support of the Mountain Crisis Services programs for victims. She also coordinates the "Las Mariposas Civil War Days Re-enactment". She is an active member of Soroptimist International, Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce, the Order of the Eastern Star and the Republican Central Committee. Supervisor Fritz has been an integral member of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, and her impact on the county will be displayed for years to come.

Madam Speaker, Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Supervisor Dianne Fritz upon her retirement from the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Supervisor Fritz many years of continued success.