

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ABIGAIL SELDIN OF TIERRA VERDE, FLORIDA EARNS PRESTIGIOUS RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Abigail Seldin, a constituent from Tierra Verde, Florida I have the privilege to represent, who has earned a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

Abigail has studied anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania and plans to graduate in May with both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree. She put her studies to use in the field of anthropology to amass an in-depth knowledge about the little-known Lenape Indian Tribe of Pennsylvania. Because of her dedication, Abigail was also named the first undergraduate curator of an exhibit at the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

With 769 applicants this year, the Rhodes Scholarship is a revered prize awarded only to those with the highest level of academic success and Abigail is one of only 32 students nationwide to receive this award. She joins a long history of distinguished Americans who have made the journey overseas to participate in international study at England's prestigious Oxford University.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to congratulate Abigail's parents and sisters as well as all of her past and present teachers for inspiring her to reach her goals and beyond. Following my remarks, I will include for my colleagues a story about Abigail's accomplishments as reported by Rita Farlow of The St. Petersburg Times.

At a time when we are encouraging students to strive for educational excellence, I would urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Rhodes Scholar Abigail Seldin as she is a symbol of what is right about our nation's schools and universities and to wish her luck in her future studies at Oxford University.

[The St. Petersburg Times, November 24, 2008]

PINELLAS WOMAN A RHODES SCHOLAR
(By Rita Farlow)

A University of Pennsylvania student from Tierra Verde is among this year's winners of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships.

Abigail P. Seldin, a 20-year-old anthropology student, organized an exhibit about the previously unknown history of Lenape Indians that is now on display at the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

Seldin is one of 32 men and women from across the United States to win the scholarships for study at England's Oxford University. Winners were officially announced Sunday, but Seldin received the news after an interview with a selection committee on Saturday.

"I was shocked," Seldin said. "I didn't say anything for about five minutes. I managed 'Thank you' and 'I'm honored' but my mind was blank."

Seldin, who plans to graduate in May with a bachelor's and a master's degree in anthropology, became the first undergraduate to curate an exhibit at the university's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

History books say the Lenape tribe left Pennsylvania by 1803, Seldin said, but there were some who stayed behind, intermarrying with whites but quietly continuing their indigenous ways through the generations.

Seldin said she admired the survival of cultural traditions despite the difficulty involved in maintaining them in secret.

Seldin said she will postpone plans to co-author a book with Chief Robert Ruth of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania while she studies social anthropology abroad.

Though her family lives in Tierra Verde, Seldin attended a boarding school at Phillips Academy Andover in Massachusetts. She graduated in 2005.

She is not the only 2008 Rhodes winner with Florida ties.

Florida State University college football star safety Myron Rolle, who had to miss part of Saturday's game against Maryland for his Rhodes interview, also received the award.

Rolle, of New Jersey, is a pre-med student and hopes to become a neurosurgeon.

"It was a very exciting day, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to study at Oxford," Rolle said after arriving in College Park, Md., to play in the second half of the game.

Well-known Rhodes scholars from the United States include former President Bill Clinton, former basketball star and Sen. Bill Bradley, author and social critic Naomi Wolf and former Gen. Wesley Clark.

The winners were picked from 769 applicants endorsed by 207 colleges and universities nationwide. The students will enter Oxford University in England—the world's oldest English-language university—next October.

Created in 1902, the scholarships are the oldest of the international study awards available to American students and provide for two or three years of study. The scholarships have an estimated value of \$50,000 for each year of study.

Since the program's inception, 3,164 Americans from 309 colleges and universities have won Rhodes Scholarships.

This report includes information from the Associated Press and Times archives. Rita Farlow can be reached at farlow@sptimes.com or (727) 445-4162.

RECOGNIZING HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL USA'S 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of Hostelling International USA's 75 years of service to intercultural understanding and youth travel.

Founded in 1934, Hostelling International USA is a nonprofit organization promoting hostels and related programs in our nation, so

our youth may experience the personal enrichment of foreign and domestic travel. Throughout the world, interest in hostel stays has increased to the point where, now, nearly 1 million travelers stay at hostels every year.

Established in 1943, the Michigan Council of Hostelling International USA endures as a resource providing exciting programs to Michigan's youth. These programs, known as "Opening Doors, Opening Minds", facilitate student's experiences of our nation and the world. The Michigan Council also conducts travel workshops in local libraries to encourage adults and youth alike to expand their knowledge and understanding through travel.

I congratulate Hostelling International USA for their 75 years of service and for their continued commitment to opening doors for our nation's youth.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. K. CYRUS MELIKIAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. K. Cyrus Melikian of Haverford, Pennsylvania, who died of heart failure on November 27, 2008.

Mr. Melikian's parents escaped the 1919 Armenian massacre and immigrated to Philadelphia shortly before he was born. After graduating from Northeast High School, he attended the University of Pennsylvania and then served in the military.

Mr. Melikian developed the concept of a coffee vending machine while serving in the Army Air Force at Wright Field in Ohio during World War II. He and an officer, Lloyd K. Rudd, were annoyed that the PX was not serving coffee. After their discharge in 1946, Mr. Melikian and Mr. Rudd successfully devised and created an automatic coffee dispenser to the delight of the many football fans who purchased their coffee for 10 cents a cup outside of Shibe Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

As their success grew, Mr. Melikian and Rudd sold their company in 1967. Then with the help of his sons, he established Automatic Brewers & Coffee Devices. At ABCD, Mr. Melikian developed pods for single or double orders of espresso, coffee-pod packaging machines and brewers, and coffee-bean grinders integrated into brewers.

His other inventions included a commercial microwave oven and an ice dispenser for soda cups in vending machines. He was responsible for numerous patents.

In addition to his successes as an inventor, Mr. Melikian was also an award-winning marksman, helping to found the trapshooting program at Aronimink Golf Club.

Mr. Melikian was a member of several gourmet societies and was the founder and chairman of the Philadelphia chapter of the International Bacchus Society. In 1961, he and Mr.

• 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.

Rudd coauthored *The Wonder of Food*. In the 1970s, Mr. Melikian wrote a syndicated newspaper feature about the history of famous dishes and, in the 1990s, he established and taught at a chef training school.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Mr. K. Cyrus Melikian, an innovative entrepreneur who made coffee drinking a convenient pastime. May his life be an inspiration to all fellow citizens and we extend our utmost respect and condolence to his family.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHARLES
WALTERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Charles Walters, a profoundly respected writer and prolific advocate of organic and sustainable farming, and in honor of his outstanding dedication to this country.

Charles Walters was born a few years prior to the Great Depression on June 18, 1926. He grew up in a time of great challenge and great change and he dedicated his life to serving his country. During World War Two, Charles served in the Army Air Corps and later served in the Korean War in the Air Force cartography unit. He attended Creighton University and Denver University, earning a master's degree in Economics.

Charles was one of the earliest contributors to discourse on organic farming and authored thousands of articles on the topic over the past 40 years. An accomplished writer, he served as editor for the National Farmers Organization, authored a number of books on economics and agronomy, and published two novels. He was also the founder and editor of *Acres U.S.A.*, America's oldest monthly magazine on organic and sustainable farming. Charles was the recipient of the American Monetary Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of his invaluable contributions to the field of economics. In addition to his love of writing, he enjoyed history, poetry and foreign travel. He is survived by his wife Ann, his three children, Fred, Tim and Jennifer and his three granddaughters, Emily, Diana and Kara.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Charles Walters—an accomplished and innovative writer and in honor of his leadership and advocacy for organic and sustainable farming.

TARP REFORM AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure ac-

countability under such Program, and for other purposes:

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman FRANK for introducing H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act of 2009, and I join in support of this legislation that is aimed at bringing liquidity back to our capital markets and enhancing oversight of the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

I particularly want to draw attention to Section 402 of the Act, which provides important support to the struggling municipal bond market from those TARP funds already released. I thank the chairman for including this provision, which is intended not only to address municipal offerings, but also to include qualified 501(c)(3) bonds as described in Section 145 of the Internal Revenue Code. These important offerings have also been impacted by the liquidity crisis over the past several months.

More specifically, the tightening of credit in our financial markets has greatly affected the 501(c)(3)/non-profit bond market and the many non-profit organizations that rely on these bonds' issuance to carry out their charitable missions. Non-profit organizations provide a much needed back-stop to government programs and ensure that many of the Nation's most vulnerable citizens receive basic needs such as food, shelter, or drug rehabilitation. Without access to sufficient, affordable lines of credit, many charitable programs go unrealized. Particularly now, that cannot be allowed to happen.

This new legislation should alleviate this problem and increase liquidity in the bond market, as it makes clear that 501(c)(3) bonds, as defined by Section 145 of the Internal Revenue Code, are considered "municipal securities." It is further my understanding that the support offered by Section 402 of the Act is not a "federal guarantee" under section 149 of the Internal Revenue Code, so that the legislative direction and solutions offered in today's bill will be available to the non-profit agencies who rely upon these types of bonds for their important work.

Furthermore, for new lending that is attributable to TARP investments and assistance, I encourage the secretary to clarify that 501(c)(3) bonds are eligible investments, and hold accountable those banks receiving funds to ensure that these not-for-profit organizations issuing bonds have access to affordable and competitive rates when seeking letters of credit to support their bond offerings. By holding financial institutions receiving TARP money accountable to use part of those funds to assist the non-profit sector, the secretary will help bring liquidity back to the non-profit bond market.

THE CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL
OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I am introducing today the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009. This legislation is the same bill that passed the House on a vote of 312 to 112 in the 110th Congress as H.R. 5244, except that we have made it effective 3 months from enactment.

This legislation would amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan. The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights prohibits certain unfair and deceptive credit card practices and provides consumers with tools to manage their credit card debt responsibly. The bill prohibits retroactive rate increases on existing balances except under limited circumstances, including where the consumer is over 30 days late in making payment, and requires creditors to provide consumers with a reasonable time to pay off the balance. It requires creditors to provide a written notice of any rate increase at least 45 days before the increase takes effect, and to send periodic statements to consumers no less than 25 days before the due date. The bill prohibits double cycle billing and requires creditors to allocate payments among balances so as to allow consumers to take full advantage of promotional rates and to make payments towards balances with higher rates. The bill limits overlimit fees and bans fees on interest-only balances. It prohibits creditors from knowingly issuing a credit card to a minor who is not emancipated. For credit cards on which fees in the first year exceed 25 percent of the credit limit, the bill prohibits such fees from being paid from the credit available under the card account agreement (except late or overlimit fees). The bill also provides for additional data collection to enable better oversight and regulation.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL
EMERGENCY CENTERS ESTABLISHMENT ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the National Emergency Centers Establishment Act, a bill that I first introduced in the 109th Congress.

Many of us share the belief that the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina was disorganized and inadequate. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, was far too slow to respond and evacuees were left stranded in massive shelters with egregious standard-of-living conditions.

Sixteen months following the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Katrina, more than 13,000 residents who were displaced by the storm were still living in trailers provided by FEMA. Eighteen months after Katrina, half of the homes in New Orleans still did not have electricity. Shortly thereafter, FEMA informed Congress that 60,000 families in Louisiana still lived in 240 square foot trailers—usually at least 3 people to a trailer.

The sluggish and derisory reaction of our Federal Government to disaster victims affects me personally. In 2004, four hurricanes ravaged my home State of Florida, all of which literally destroyed parts of the counties in my district. In the immediate and long-term aftermath, our communities saw FEMA's shortcomings. More than 18 months after Hurricane Wilma struck in 2005, citizens were still residing in trailers labeled on the outside "FEMA."

The lack of natural disaster preparedness efforts and temporary housing options for disaster-stricken citizens only exacerbated an unbearable situation. Deficient recovery responses have led to elongated recovery rates in my district and across this Nation.

Two main problems—increasing the availability of temporary housing in times of national emergencies and improving training and preparedness for national emergencies—must be resolved to ensure that the humanitarian catastrophe that occurred in the gulf coast and continues to happen today will never occur again.

We have an obligation to better prepare and more adequately respond to the needs of communities hit by natural disasters. We have a responsibility to ensure that basic needs of disaster victims are met immediately following the devastation.

My legislation establishes six National Emergency Centers throughout the United States. The Centers will be used, first and foremost, to provide temporary housing, medical and humanitarian assistance, including education, for individuals and families displaced due to an emergency. The Centers will also serve as a centralized location for the training and coordination of first responders in the instance of an emergency. In addition, the Centers will improve the coordination of preparedness, response, and recovery efforts between governments, private companies, not-for-profit entities, and faith-based organizations.

The National Emergency Centers will be located on military bases, with a preference wherever possible for those installations closed during the most recent Base Realignment and Closures, BRAC, round. I am proposing these sites because the necessary infrastructure to house, feed, educate, and care for evacuees over an extended period of time is already in place, thus limiting the cost and time needed to construct these facilities.

Madam Speaker, our Nation was not prepared for the disastrous hurricanes that struck Florida and the gulf coast in 2004 and in 2005. The establishment of National Emergency Centers will go a long way to ensuring that our response to national emergencies are not as disastrous as the disasters that created the emergencies in the first place.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and urge the House Leadership to bring this bill to the floor for its swift consideration.

IN HONOR OF GERTRUDE PINTZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Gertrude Pintz, upon the recent celebration of her 100th birthday.

Gertrude Pintz was born on December 29th, 1908 in Austria-Hungary. She has been blessed over her lifetime with strength, joy, her family and friends. She is known for seeing only the good in others and beauty in life. Mrs. Pintz lives every day with a grateful heart, warm smile and positive outlook.

Mrs. Pintz married the love of her life, Sebastian, and together they raised three sons—Sebastian, Adam and the late Henry. She re-

mains close with her sons, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. As the matriarch of her family, Mrs. Pintz hosted the family's annual Thanksgiving dinner at her Cleveland home, continuing this tradition until the age of 88. In her early seventies, following the passing of her beloved husband, Mrs. Pintz embarked on pursuing her artistic talents. She enrolled in a four-year art school, where she studied oil painting. To this day, her artwork adorns the homes of numerous family members and friends.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Mrs. Gertrude Pintz upon the joyous occasion of her 100th birthday. Her love of family, love of life and youthful soul all serve as an inspirational example for all of us to follow. I wish Mrs. Pintz an abundance of peace, health and happiness today, and throughout the years to come.

CORPORAL JOSEPH HERNANDEZ

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and deep sadness that I wish to commend United States Army Corporal Joseph M. Hernandez for his bravery and his willingness to fight for his country. Corporal Hernandez, who was assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment out of Hohenfels, Germany, was killed in the Zabul Province of Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle on Friday, January 9, 2009. His sacrifice will be forever remembered by those he fought to protect.

A native of Hammond, Indiana, Joseph graduated from Mount Carmel High School in Chicago, Illinois, in 2003. Known for his patriotism and his commitment to serving others, it was no surprise to anyone close to him that he decided to join the Army.

Joseph's family remembers him as a warm-hearted individual who loved boxing, building model airplanes, fishing, and working on cars. Quite the talented young man, he also loved to sing, as well as play the piano and the guitar, and he played soccer in high school. A person of a strong faith, Joseph was active in his church as an altar server and cantor, and at one point, even considered entering the priesthood.

Corporal Hernandez leaves behind a loving family that misses him very much. He is survived by his devoted wife, Alison (nee Gordon) Hernandez, and their two sons, Jacob and Noah, whom Joseph truly treasured. Joseph also leaves to cherish his memory his adoring parents, Elva Hernandez and Jesse (Vicki) Hernandez, and his brothers, Jason and Jessie (Chrissy) Hernandez, as well as his loving grandparents, Josephine and Salvador Pompa. He also leaves behind many other friends and family members, as well as a saddened but proud community and a grateful nation.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Corporal Joseph M. Hernandez. Corporal Hernandez sacrificed his life in service to his country, and his passing comes as a setback to a community already shaken by the realities

of war. Corporal Hernandez will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

A TRIBUTE TO RIMBAN GEORGE T. MATSUBAYASHI ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA AFTER NEARLY 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rimban George T. Matsubayashi. After almost 50 years of serving as a minister for the Buddhist Churches of America, including more than nine years as head priest of the Los Angeles Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Downtown Los Angeles in the 34th District, Reverend Matsubayashi will retire on January 31, 2009.

Rev. Matsubayashi, who is also fondly known as Rev. George or Matsubayashi-sensei, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan in 1960. Later that year, he began his ministerial service in the Jodo Shinshu tradition of Buddhism in the United States at the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii at the Honolulu Betsuin Buddhist Temple. While in Hawaii, Rev. George studied at the English Language Institute at the University of Hawaii. In 1963, he enrolled in the doctoral studies program at the University of Wisconsin. In 1964, he transferred to the PhD program in the Department of Oriental Languages at the University of California, Los Angeles.

In 1965, Matsubayashi-sensei was appointed to the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles. When the temple became independent in 1976, Rev. George served as its first resident minister. He remained there until 1999. During his 34 years at Venice Hongwanji, Rev. George was active in a wide variety of community organizations. He served on the board of United Way's Western Region. He was a member of the Clergy Council for the Pacific Division of the Los Angeles Police Department. He also gave his time as a Reserve Chaplain for LAPD's Central and Pacific divisions.

In 1999, Rev. George was appointed as the Rimban, or head priest, of the Los Angeles Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, which is also referred to as "Nishi" to the local Japanese American community. During his tenure, Rev. George oversaw the 100th Anniversary of the temple in 2005. The event featured the addition of the new Wisteria Chapel and the Muryo Koku-do (nokotsudo-columbarium) built to commemorate the temple's pioneering members and to continue the proud legacy of the Issei—first generation Japanese Americans—for future generations.

Since joining the Los Angeles Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Rev. George's community involvement extended well beyond the church's walls. He serves on the Little Tokyo Coordinating Council, the Los Angeles Buddhist Federation and as a volunteer chaplain at several hospitals on the west side of Los Angeles.

In addition to his spiritual and community work, Rev. George is also a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Rev. George and his wife, Kiyoko "Kay" Matsubayashi, have four children: Craig and his wife, Raquel; Dean and his wife, Kim; Tina and her husband, Howard; and Erik and his wife, Cindy. They are also the proud grandparents of Jared, Lindsay, Chase and Emma.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Rev. George's retirement, I ask my congressional colleagues to please join his dutiful congregation, his family and me in thanking him for his many years of service to the Buddhist Churches of America and our community. While we wish him well in this new phase of his life, Rev. George will always be Sensei, or teacher, in the hearts and minds of the generations of families whom he has touched during his many years of ministerial service.

HONORING MR. JOE PANIAGUA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the loyal service rendered to the City of Fort Worth, Texas by Mr. Joe Paniagua from 1986 until his retirement in December 2008.

As a former member of the city council and Mayor of Fort Worth, I had the opportunity of working directly with "Joe P.," as he is known by all at City Hall.

Although a native of Corpus Christi, Joe P. joined the City of Fort Worth's employment rolls in 1986 as a Municipal Courts customer service representative. He held a series of positions before being promoted to be the city's chief state and federal legislative program coordinator and grants manager. In that capacity, he faithfully and tirelessly represented the city through six Texas Legislative Sessions, from 1991 through 2001.

Joe P. spent countless hours driving that long and lonely stretch of I-35 back and forth each week between Fort Worth and Austin in loyal service to our city. I have heard stories of his sleeping on friends' couches in Austin in the early days in order to save the city money.

His hard work paid off on many issues that benefitted our community including the successful passage of legislation creating a revenue-sharing program between Fort Worth and Dallas, which supports DFW Airport, one of the busiest airports in the world. Joe P. also worked to streamline Texas crime district laws and to secure legislation allowing municipalities to include "best value" as consideration for purchases.

Joe P. was promoted to Assistant City Manager in September 2001 and retired as First Assistant City Manager on December 31, 2008.

Not only has Joe P. been a loyal public servant to our city, but he and his wife Elsa and their two children, Jose Francisco and Elissa, are well known and beloved citizens of our community.

In closing, I can say without reservation that the City of Fort Worth, Texas and our community at large have benefitted from the service of Joe Paniagua. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Joe Paniagua and his family upon the occasion of his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF RODEL RODIS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, Rodel Rodis, attorney, author and educator, has been a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees of San Francisco Community College District for eighteen years from 1991–2008. Since his appointment in 1991, Rodel was elected and re-elected by San Francisco voters in 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004. During his tenure, he was chosen by his peers to serve as President and Vice President of the Board three times.

In addition to his service on the Board, Rodel has volunteered his limited additional time but abundant energy to serve as Chairman of the Association of Community College Trustees, National President of the Association of Asian/Pacific Islander Community College Trustees, founder and Northern California Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations and President of the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California.

A natural leader, Rodel previously served two terms as President of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission where he was instrumental in the decision to transfer fifteen acres of SFPUC property in the South Balboa Reservoir to City College where it will be put to great use for the benefit of the general public, hosting, among other projects, a Joint Use Facility and Performing Arts Center.

Rodel Rodis' achievements are many. While a Trustee, he worked with the Board to advance equality of opportunity through the Latina/Latino Services Network; African American Scholastic Program; Asian Pacific American Student Success; Women's Resource Center and Multicultural Infusion Project. He was also instrumental in passing local bond measures for renovating campus facilities and expanding the use of technology throughout the system.

As we both know, Madam Speaker, San Francisco is a community of diverse neighborhoods. Mr. Rodis recognizes this and has been a strong advocate for the new Mission Campus, the Chinatown/North Beach Campus and the Wellness Center.

Throughout Rodel's career, he has been far more than just an elected representative. His passion for education and his commitment to fairness, equality and the expansion of opportunities for all San Franciscans has made Rodel something of a community touchstone—a person whose wisdom, good humor and professionalism remind us all of what it means to be a citizen.

Madam Speaker, the good work of the San Francisco Community College District makes all of us proud. I am confident that it will continue to provide excellent educational opportunities and career training even without Rodel Rodis' leadership, but his shoes will no doubt be hard to fill and his nearly two decades of public service will long be appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO HRANT DINK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Hrant Dink, a beloved journalist, activist, and a man of conscience. Two years ago, on January 19, 2007, Mr. Dink was assassinated in front of his office building in Istanbul.

As a Turkish Armenian, he worked tirelessly to unite the Armenians and the Turks. Serving as the editor-in-chief of Agos, Turkey's only bilingual Armenian and Turkish newspaper, Hrant Dink was a leader. When it came to the Armenian Genocide, he rejected the Turkish government's subversion of history. Instead of accepting state denial of the Armenian Genocide, he advocated for truth and battled Turkey's strangling grip on freedom of speech.

For these convictions, Hrant Dink was tried for insulting Turkishness under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code. For these convictions, Hrant Dink was brutally assassinated.

Two years later, Turkey's citizens who speak honestly about the Armenian Genocide still face potential prosecution and imprisonment for publicly denigrating the Turkish Nation or Turkish Republic. This ultra-nationalism hijacks history at the expense of freedom of speech, stifling discussions by the Turkish people.

Two years later, the investigation into Hrant Dink's murder is in disarray, corruption in the judicial and police system runs deep, and Turkey's moral authority is weakened. The many involved in Hrant Dink's killing, from members of the gendarmerie to extremist nationalists, have been charged or imprisoned for their actions, but it has become apparent that Istanbul and Trabzon's security departments had information that Hrant Dink would be killed, but failed in their duty to protect him. Turkey should act swiftly to bring justice to the memory of Hrant Dink.

This hate and denial produces an environment of fear. This environment produces extreme nationalist organizations that manipulate young men to kill in the name of the Turkish Republic. The law enforcement community was tainted by officers who portrayed Hrant Dink's assassin as a proud Turkish citizen, placing a Turkish flag in his hand and flashing photographs to celebrate a murder.

Now, more than ever, Turkey must shun this behavior and embrace the lessons that Hrant Dink taught—the need for reconciliation between the different realities in Turkey.

There are those on the extreme fringe who stone Armenian Churches and in the midst of soccer matches chant in jubilation the name of Hrant Dink's killer. These individuals may be extreme, but the Turkish government fosters their existence through laws like Article 301.

But there also exists the people in Turkey who see past government intimidation and chant "We are all Armenian, we are all Hrant," as they gather in thousands upon thousands to celebrate his life.

On the wake of the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on Genocide, thousands of Turkish intellectuals signed on to a letter apologizing to the Armenian people for the genocide. This promising show of empathy amongst the Turkish people is welcome.

The apology states, "My conscience does not accept the insensitivity showed to and the denial of the Great Catastrophe that the Ottoman Armenians were subjected to in 1915. I reject this injustice and for my share, I empathize with the feelings and pain of my Armenian brothers and sisters. I apologize to them."

Unfortunately, the Turkish state remains set on its same path to impede reconciliation. A probe launched by a Turkish state prosecutor will investigate the apology campaign to decide if it violated Article 301. As the judicial system continues to assault freedom of speech, elected officials also hamper progress. Recently, Parliamentarian Canan Aritman employed racism against Armenians. Angered by President Abdullah Gul's response to the campaign, she suggested that "Abdullah Gul should be the president of the whole Turkish nation, not of his ethnic origin." She then encouraged fellow parliamentarians to "investigate the ethnic origin of the president's mother."

On behalf of Hrant Dink's memory, I call on Turkey to come to terms with its own history and shed the shackles of suppression. In honor of Hrant Dink these actions would be an apt call to conscience.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ASSESSMENT ACCURACY AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, as Congress considers the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act this year, we have an obligation to listen closely to the students, parents, and educators that we represent to ensure that our efforts result in responsible and pragmatic improvements. While we have made great strides in the areas of assessment and accountability over the last 7 years, this reauthorization provides a critical opportunity to learn from our experiences and fine-tune the law.

One example of a lesson my constituents have learned, and have vigorously shared with me, is that we should be encouraging States to move towards better assessment models. As I have met with educators over the past year, one of the primary concerns that I have heard is that the State assessment fails to provide information of value to educators and administrators. Even more disturbing, it often takes 4 to 6 months before scores are returned to schools, which leaves little or no time for teachers to use the information to address student performance before they advance to the next grade.

However, I believe there is a sensible solution that Congress can adopt to address these concerns and give States more options in assessment design. Today, Representative DAVID WU and I are introducing the bipartisan Assessment Accuracy and Improvement Act of 2009 to give States the option to use adaptive testing as their statewide assessment measuring reading, math, and science to fulfill No Child Left Behind requirements. I believe that this legislation will give States the ability to truly track the academic growth of every child

and provide more accurate information to teachers, parents and school administrators through the use of an adaptive test.

For those who may be unfamiliar with adaptive testing, it is a test that changes in response to previously-asked questions. For example, if a student answers a question correctly, the test presents a question of increased difficulty. If a student answers incorrectly, the test presents a question of decreased difficulty. As you can see, an adaptive test customizes itself to a student's actual level of performance with a great degree of accuracy.

Giving States the flexibility to use an adaptive test and to ask questions outside of grade level will improve the accuracy of student assessment and enable educators to target appropriate instruction for each child based on performance at, above, or below grade level. In addition, using an adaptive test over time will allow accurate measurement of the performance growth of each individual student.

In my district in Wisconsin, nearly a third of school districts currently use their own funds to participate in adaptive testing in addition to the State assessment required by NCLB. Educators and administrators appreciate the diagnostic information it yields and the efficiency that it provides. I believe that school districts nationally are already "speaking with their wallets" by spending scarce resources to voluntarily participate in this testing because it provides valuable information that the State assessment does not. And, although our bill does not require States to adopt adaptive testing, it gives them the freedom to do so should they decide it is a better model for their students and educators.

Madam Speaker, adaptive testing and growth models are the key to putting the "child" back into No Child Left Behind. I hope that our colleagues will join us in this pragmatic and responsible improvement to the law as we work towards a bipartisan reauthorization this year.

TRIBUTE TO JON W. DUDAS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. WOLF to honor Jon W. Dudas, a distinguished public servant who is leaving the helm of the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") on January 20, 2009. Jon has served as Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO since July 2004. He previously served as acting Under Secretary and Director, and Deputy Under Secretary and Deputy Director from 2002 to 2004.

As head of the world's leading intellectual property ("IP") office, Jon developed and articulated administration positions on patent, copyright, and trademark issues, both domestic and foreign and effectively steered the operations of the USPTO, an organization of approximately 9,000 employees dedicated to providing and maintaining the intellectual property protections that promote innovation and technological advancement.

Under Jon's leadership, the USPTO's university-style examiner training academy, peer review pilot, electronic filing and processing, and accelerated examination programs were developed and implemented. Additionally, the USPTO's hoteling programs for its patent and trademark examiners serve as a gold standard for other Federal agencies and the USPTO continued to be recognized as the leader in Federal Government telework initiatives.

In the critical area of appropriations for the USPTO's vital operations, Jon worked tirelessly with the Congress and the administration to ensure USPTO's full access to all collected fees over the last 4 years, breaking a streak of fee diversion. His assistance and counsel were also greatly valued and appreciated during the House's development of patent reform and other pieces of important IP legislation.

Prior to joining the Bush administration, Jon served 6 years as Counsel to the U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, and Staff Director and Deputy General Counsel for the House Judiciary Committee. He guided enactment of major patent, trademark, and copyright legislation, including the 1999 American Inventors Protection Act and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. He was also instrumental in the passage of the 1996 Trademark Anti-Counterfeiting Consumer Protection Act, a law making it more difficult for seized counterfeit merchandise to re-enter the consumer marketplace.

I know that our colleagues and the intellectual property community join Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WOLF and me in commending Jon for the USPTO's substantive achievements during his tenure.

We are honored to have this opportunity to publicly commend a truly dedicated public servant. We wish Jon all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING MCCROSSAN BOYS RANCH HITCH TEAM

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor members of the McCrossan Boys Ranch Hitch Team in Sioux Falls, South Dakota for their participation in the 2009 Presidential Inauguration Parade. The inauguration of President Barack Obama marked a defining moment in history and these young men were excellent ambassadors for South Dakota at an event of such magnitude.

McCrossan Boys Ranch is a unique program, which reaches out to educate troubled youths from across the region. The ranch provides a vital opportunity for young men who face conflict in their lives and who wish to seek a more positive direction. The ranch's purpose is to give students outlets to explore, allowing them to grow as individuals and to serve the community around them. The ranch teaches important skills such as horsemanship, trade skills and agricultural methods that are applied toward community service projects like Habitat for Humanity.

Additionally, McCrossan Boys Ranch youth are members of numerous extracurricular

groups, such as 4-H, the Boy Scouts of America and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The ranch and its students give back to the community in many ways and display the dedication, purity of purpose and selfless service that personified the spirit of the 2009 Inauguration Parade.

The educational and service mission of McCrossan Boys Ranch is an admirable and worthy cause. It is an organization that instills American values in young men and helps them make valuable contributions to the fabric of our society.

Madam Speaker, it is because of its mission, as well as its achievements, that I rise today in recognition of the McCrossan Boys Ranch Hitch Team for their participation in the 2009 Inauguration Parade.

IN RECOGNITION OF KENDRA
KASTEN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in bestowing our sincere thanks to Kendra Kasten, a woman who has devoted thousands of hours of volunteer service to her community and personally helped countless children better their reading skills.

After devoting her professional life to teaching children and her precious free-time to lifting others up and never seeking recognition herself, Kendra is being duly honored by the Town of Hillsborough, California with their "Community Care Award".

The Community Care Award "honors a person in a salaried position with the School District or Town of Hillsborough or other vital community role." Ms. Kasten is the embodiment of the criteria set forth for the award, specifically in regard to having "made a sustained and significant contribution that has broadly touched the lives of our children. These contributions are widely recognized as having lasting impact to our community."

As both a parent and teacher, Kendra Kasten has given her all to the betterment of her community. A reading specialist, she currently works with Kindergarten to Second Grade students in small groups to help with the development of crucial literacy skills. Kendra also teaches weekly whole-class lessons to 2nd graders in the area of syllabication.

Kendra's lesson plans come from years of teaching experience. She formalized and organized her experience at the urging of her colleagues and used it to benefit all teachers in her school district.

Madam Speaker, in addition to teaching, this vibrant and amazing woman has volunteered in her children's classrooms and the Town Library and served on more committees than any one person could possibly squeeze into a single lifetime. Her husband, Hillsborough Town Councilman Tom Kasten, and children Jeff and Alyssa are fortunate to have such a dynamic partner and role model and also deserve our thanks for loaning their wife and mother to the community.

It is with a great deal of pride that I recognize a true community leader and selfless volunteer—Ms. Kendra Kasten.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL
LEAVE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I proudly join in a bipartisan effort with Representatives FRANK WOLF, STENY HOYER, DANNY DAVIS, ED TOWNS, GEORGE MILLER, LYNN WOOLSEY, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and many others to reintroduce the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act. I am also pleased that Senator WEBB will be introducing the companion bill in the Senate as well. This bill will provide four weeks of paid leave to federal employees when they have a new child.

The House passed this important legislation in the 110th Congress with a strong bipartisan majority and I am hopeful that we will be able to promptly pass the bill in both houses and send it to President Obama for his signature.

More than ever, families need access to paid parental leave. In the face of rising unemployment and falling home and equities values, families cannot afford to risk losing a job or going without pay after the birth of a new child. Families are already squeezed like never before and the cost of raising a child is only growing. USDA estimates that a family will spend an additional \$11,000 in the first year of having a new child.

Few families can afford to forgo a month's pay which is why this bill is so critical. If we truly believe in the value of family, then we need to value the work that families do. This means that we need to stop asking parents to choose between a paycheck and caring for a new child. Unlike a generation or two ago, today both parents work outside the home and both need time off from work when they have a new child. Yet, most do not have access to paid family leave.

By providing paid parental leave to Federal employees, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act establishes the Federal Government as a model employer. This landmark bill is the first to provide paid family leave for new parents. It is good for the Federal agencies, is good for Federal employees, and is cost effective. Finally, this bill signals our commitment to valuing our employees and their families.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful that together we can work to value families and the work they do and demonstrate our commitment by passing this important bill.

HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS, TO
CELEBRATE 350TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 350th Anniversary of Hadley, Massachusetts. I would like to share some local history as provided by the Hadley guide into the official record.

Hadley was founded by a dissenting Connecticut congregation under the leadership of Re. John Russell in 1659. As an agricultural

community on the east bank of the Connecticut River, John Pynchon purchased the site of the new settlement from the Indians on behalf of the settlers. The first settlers laid out this area, formerly known as the Norwottuck Meadow, as the center of the new settlement before their arrival, with the Town Common, referred to as "the Broad Street," as the central feature. The common measured 20 rods wide and one mile long, with the Connecticut River defining both ends, and was reportedly based on the original plan of Wethersfield, Connecticut. Eight-acre home lots were ranged along both sides of the common, with farmlands behind.

In 1675–76, during King Philip's War, to guard against Indian attacks, a palisade that ran far enough behind the houses to include most of the barns and farm buildings enclosed the street and common. One such attack occurred on June 12 of 1676. Legend has it that the town was saved from destruction when, at a critical moment, one William Goffe showed up in the midst of the townspeople, warned them of the danger, and led the town in fending off the assault, disappearing shortly afterward. Goffe, later known as "The Angel of Hadley," became the subject of many legends.

Though the years, the common remained the focus of town life. The meetinghouse occupied a prominent site, animals were pastured on the open land, militia drills were held periodically, and Hadley's Liberty Pole was erected there during the Revolutionary War. Taverns at the north and south ends and at the center of the common served the needs of passengers on the ferry, stagecoach, and riverboat routes.

By the 1670s, the town rapidly developed northward. The North Hadley Mill Pond, also known as Mill River, became the site of the Hopkins Corn Mill, and millers and farmers settled in Hopkins Meadow. The rent paid by mill workers to live here went to support the Hopkins School, which founded by Edward Hopkins of England, a former governor of Connecticut.

Hadley has long been the subject of much folklore, especially when it came to witchcraft. The most notable "witch" in the town of Hadley was Mary Webster, who, although acquitted of "familiarity with the devil" in a Boston Court in 1683, was nonetheless hung, unsuccessfully, by young Hadley men in 1685.

As the number of settlers south of Mount Holyoke grew, the desire for a local place of worship also grew. As an answer to the problems of settlers traveling many miles to church, the towns of Hatfield, Granby, South Hadley and Amherst formed from the sprawling town of Hadley. The town continued to grow as an agricultural town during the 1700s. While subsistence farming was most common during this time, the exporting of everything from produce to beef to furs grew. Most of the products were taken by flatboat down the Connecticut River and to the Boston area as well. It was around 1792 that broomcorn became the dominant crop in Hadley. So abundant was this crop that Hadley would come to be known as the Nation's broomcorn and broom manufacturing capital. Broom and brush making became a thriving industry here, exporting all across New York and New England, and as far as Ohio.

Over time the soil that produced so much broomcorn slowly depleted. By 1840, tobacco would take its place as the major crop as well

as seed onions and other vegetables. The Massachusetts Central Railroad crossed the northern half of the common in 1887, providing a faster way for Hadley farmers to ship their produce to market. The Connecticut Valley Street Railway lay out along Russell Street about 1900 made local travel to Northampton and Amherst easier.

It was during the late 1800s that, because of labor shortages and a drop in land values, Hadley experienced somewhat of a decline in farming. It was also about this time that a large number of Irish and, later, Polish immigrants that were recruited from Ellis Island for labor purposes settled in Hadley. It was the Polish immigrants that are credited with saving Hadley's farmland as they worked the fine Hadley soil back into fertility. By 1920, asparagus became the popular crop in Hadley, soon making the town the asparagus capital of the world. Most recently, a shipment of Hadley asparagus from Alligator Brook Farm was shipped to former President Bush at the White House in July 2008 after the President had remarked how "fabulous" German asparagus was during his visit with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Once again, Hadley was able to claim its rightful title of "The asparagus capital of the world."

Today, in spite of commercial development along Route 9, Hadley remains largely agricultural and residential. It has the largest number of acres in agriculture in the Pioneer Valley, which includes crops of corn, potatoes, tobacco and scores of other vegetables. Malls and commercial businesses now lie along Russell Street on Route 9 to the east of the town's center.

Hadley is a beautiful place to live. I am proud to represent this town which is rich with history and join with its citizens in celebrating Hadley's 350th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives yesterday.

The vote was on an amendment offered by Representative MAURICE HINCHEY of New York to H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on that question.

H.R. 4156, THE SECURITY CLEARANCE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Security Clearance Oversight and Accountability Act. This Act is the result of the work the Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I'm pleased, Mr. ISSA, the Ranking

Member of the Subcommittee during the 110th Congress, has again joined me as a co-sponsor of this legislation. I hope we will move this legislation quickly, given the strong bipartisan support that it enjoys. It will improve our insight into the security clearance process, and by doing so, improve the process itself.

Security clearances are the gateway to serving our Nation in national security, homeland security, and many foreign policy positions. Over time, the number of Federal employees and contractors holding clearances has stretched into the hundreds of thousands, clogging the clearance system and creating tremendous backlogs. Following the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, our country faced an urgent need to expand its national security workforce, but hiring was hampered, and continues to be hampered, by our clearance system. It is imperative, especially as we transition to a new Administration, that security clearances not be a hindrance to our national security.

In 2004, Congress passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, IRTPA, which contained many provisions to improve the security clearance process. During the last Congress, our Subcommittee undertook a thorough review of the process and the progress toward meeting the goals of the Act. We had round-table meetings with representatives of industry and representatives of the Intelligence Community agencies. We carefully reviewed all reports submitted in response to the Intelligence Reform Act as well as GAO reports on security clearance reform in the Department of Defense. We held a series of open hearings with Administration witnesses and GAO to discuss accomplishments and areas where progress was lacking and we intend to continue that oversight in the 111th Congress. This bill will assist us in that task while improving the quality of our security clearances.

In addition to our own oversight, we requested that the GAO review the security clearance processes inside the Intelligence Community and report its findings. GAO brings decades of experience and deep expertise to this task. For more than 20 years its experts have examined the personnel security practices in the Department of Defense. This is the first time that Intelligence Community security practices will be subjected to such scrutiny. We look forward to Intelligence Community's cooperation with the GAO and to reviewing the results of GAO's work.

This bill is designed to remedy the shortcomings we identified last Congress. It takes a new approach to reform by requiring agencies to report to Congress annually on certain metrics related to the security clearance process. The metrics in this bill would enable Congress and HPSCI to perform effective oversight, would allow both branches to track improvements from year to year, and would allow agencies to judge the effectiveness of each other's security clearance process, improving confidence in the system. In a few areas where adequate metrics have not been developed, the Administration is required to propose metrics to Congress.

Just a few weeks ago, the Administration's Joint Security and Security Reform Team issued its proposal for security clearance process transformation. Their vision of a transformed process includes consolidated databases, interactive electronic applications, in-

vestigative techniques tailored to individual cases, automated investigation tools, automated clearance adjudication, and a more aggressive reinvestigation schedule for individual holding security clearances. Many of these reforms were required by the IRTPA and I am pleased to see their long-delayed implementation.

The security clearance process is a key to our national security establishment and we must make sure that it works as efficiently as possible. An effective security clearance system keeps out those who pose a security risk, while quickly identifying those who are trustworthy to work in the system. For too long it has been a troubled system. This legislation will allow us to confirm the necessary progress we must make in this critical area.

TARP DISAPPROVAL VOTE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today I voted to disapprove the release of the second half of the so-called TARP funds. The Senate has already approved the release, so mine is essentially a protest vote. But it is a protest that should be heard.

The Bush Administration presented the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program to Congress as an asset purchase program. We were told that the Treasury Department would use the funds primarily to purchase mortgage-backed securities and other toxic assets, and then banks and credit unions would use their cleaned-up balance sheets to free up credit while the government helped renegotiate home mortgages. The focus was supposed to be about keeping people in their homes.

But looking back, it feels more like a classic bait and switch. Rather than spend the money as promised, the Bush Administration took advantage of loopholes in the law to funnel money directly to banks, who have been loathe to part with it. And the Bush Administration did this with scant oversight or accountability. We still have little idea how the first \$350 billion was spent, or whether much of it made any difference.

What is clear is that little of the funds went to the small banks and credit unions that actually keep our communities growing. I understand that only one bank holding company in my district, out of dozens of struggling community banks and credit unions, has received any help under the TARP.

The TARP has essentially become a \$350 billion bank consolidation fund. And in the meantime, the key driver behind this crisis—home foreclosures—has been all but ignored.

My constituents have noticed, and they continue to express overwhelming disapproval of the way the program has been run thus far.

Yesterday, I voted for H.R. 384, Chairman FRANK's TARP Reform and Accountability Act, which I believe would have made vital changes to the TARP—including the adoption of a home foreclosure program modeled after the one proposed by FDIC Chair Sheila Bair.

But I understand that the Senate has no plans to take up the Frank Bill, and instead will rely on assurances from NEC Chairman Larry Summers that the Obama Administration will use the second \$350 billion responsibly.

Larry Summers is a friend and an enormous talent, and I have great respect for President Obama and his team. But Congress is the constitutionally designated steward of taxpayer dollars. We should insist on the limitations in the Frank bill before releasing another \$350 billion.

I expect to support a robust and effective stimulus bill. I wish the second tranche of TARP had been totally revamped and added to the stimulus proposal.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RAYMOND
ORBACH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country are exceptional. The United States has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make our Nation a better place to live and work. Dr. Raymond Orbach is one of these individuals. On January 23, 2009, Dr. Orbach's term serving as the first Under Secretary of the Office of Science at the U.S. Department of Energy will come to an end.

Dr. Orbach began his academic career as a postdoctoral fellow at Oxford University in 1960 and became an assistant professor of applied physics at Harvard University in 1961. He joined the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles, UCLA, 2 years later as an associate professor and became a full professor in 1966. From 1982 to 1992, he served as the provost of the College of Letters and Science at UCLA.

From 1992 to 2002, Dr. Orbach served as chancellor of the University of California (UC), Riverside, located in the 44th Congressional District of California. Under his leadership, UC Riverside doubled in size, achieved national and international recognition in research, and led the University of California in diversity and educational opportunity. In addition to his administrative duties at UC Riverside, he sustained an active research program; worked with postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate students in his laboratory; and taught the freshman physics course each year. As the Distinguished Professor of Physics, Dr. Orbach set the highest standards for academic excellence.

Dr. Orbach was nominated by President Bush to serve as the first Under Secretary for Science at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on December 13, 2005. He was confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate on May 26, 2006, and was sworn in by Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman on June 1, 2006.

In his capacity as under secretary, Dr. Orbach's primary responsibility was to serve as chief scientist for DOE, providing advice to the Secretary of Energy on all scientific and technical programs in DOE. Serving as chief scientist within DOE, Dr. Orbach advised the Secretary of Energy on a variety of topics, including the annual assessment of the reliability and safety of the U.S. nuclear warhead stockpile, which is developed each year by the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Energy for

the President of the United States. As Under Secretary for Science, he was responsible for the department's implementation of the administration's American Competitiveness Initiative to help drive continued U.S. economic growth. He also was responsible for leading the department's efforts to transfer technologies from DOE national laboratories and facilities to the global marketplace, serving as the department's technology transfer coordinator, in accordance with the Energy Policy Act, and was chair of the DOE Technology Transfer Policy Board, responsible for coordinating and implementing policies for the department's technology transfer activities.

Dr. Orbach's tireless passion for science has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Department of Energy and the United States of America. I am proud to call Dr. Orbach a fellow American and friend. I know that many people around the country are grateful for his service and salute him as he ends his term.

IN HONOR OF "CLUB"

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I have often said that women working together can accomplish great things. I rise this evening to pay tribute to such a group of women, born and raised in the depression in our favorite city, San Francisco, who have helped, consoled, networked, laughed, cried and raised their families together since meeting as schoolchildren some 70 years ago. This special group of ladies is known to themselves and in excess of 100 sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren by the simple name: "Club."

The original eight members met as children in the Excelsior District. Marie Regalia (later Kennealy), Anne Desmond (Cordes), Ann Espinosa (Sanchez), Connie Slevin (Voreyer), Mary McBrady (Ghiorso) and Rose Damonte (Larsen) were students at Epiphany Catholic School and Grover Cleveland Elementary but played together at Crocker Amazon Park and remained together through High School and into adulthood.

Along the way, they picked up new members Irene and Janet Loretto, Gena O'Brien, Shirley Kennealy, Jeanne McKevitt, Barbara Dykstra, Elli Morris and Lori Carlin. The group has raised 58 children between them, trading used clothes, toys and baby furniture and providing moral, psychological and baby-sitting help long before modern innovations like the internet, self-help books and Oprah.

Madam Speaker, the women of "Club" represent the finest of America. Each has made a profound mark on her community—from serving on boards of charities, presiding over parish women's guilds, coaching and teaching young girls, and unselfishly passing on their hard-earned wisdom to anyone looking for guidance.

After graduating from high school in 1950, the women pledged to meet regularly to compare notes and ideas on how to navigate their rapidly changing world. Most are daughters of immigrants who were raised in the customs and traditions of "the old country" and were

now charged with charting their own course. For nearly six decades, they have stayed in constant touch, sharing lunches, laughs and the kind of camaraderie that comes only with a lifetime of mutual experiences. Together, they have celebrated births and weddings, grieved at funerals, offered support during divorces and other setbacks and lent a hand whenever any of them needed a lift. In addition, "Club" has held more than 100 showers for births, weddings and ordinations to the priesthood.

The families of these confident and outgoing women know all-too-well the far-reaching influence of "Club". Indeed, few important decisions are made without running it by the group and woe to the husband who does something foolish or insensitive enough to top the agenda at a monthly get-together.

Madam Speaker, you and I have both said that it is San Franciscans that make San Francisco such a special place. I can think of no greater example to illustrate this point than the vibrant, beautiful and passionate ladies known to all who have made their acquaintance as "Club."

THE ADVANCING ONE COMMUNITY
AWARD

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today, Iowa State University will host its celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Advancing One Community Award given in his name will recognize the laureates' commitment to an inclusive multicultural community and efforts to reduce injustice and inequity. Receiving this award will be Mary de Baca, who has never shied from that struggle.

Mary de Baca coordinates diversity programs for the world-renowned College of Agriculture at Iowa State University. She is the program and financial advisor to the George Washington Carver Internship Program. She is the faculty advisor to the Iowa State University chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS). She has built that club into a national powerhouse: it has been National MANRRS Chapter of the Year three of the last four years. She has established linkages between Iowa State and historically Black land grant colleges, Hispanic serving institutions, and tribal colleges so that they can share faculty, laboratory equipment, and resources, and bring talented minority students into the academic pipeline. As a result, Iowa State is a leader in training minority graduate students and professors, although Iowa is not often thought of as the most diverse state in the Union.

Mary de Baca's commitment to diversity is in the long tradition of the University. This is, after all, the school which admitted George Washington Carver when no other school would allow him to study at all, much less achieve a PhD. This is the school whose football stadium is named after the man who integrated its sports teams in 1923, Jack Trice. Trice followed in Dr. Carver's footsteps. He came to Iowa to study agriculture so he could go South and help the community. But he

never got the chance; he was tragically killed on the football field by the opposing team.

Iowa State also took a chance on one of the few Latinos to receive a Doctorate in the 1950s, her late husband, Robert C. de Baca, who Mary de Baca met when he was a young professor of animal science. She joined him in postings abroad, where she did some of the first home economics studies on the lives of rural Latin American women. With him, she built up a renowned herd of Black Angus cattle on the farm where she still lives. In her own family life, Mary de Baca has done her part to increase the number of minority professionals: she is the proud mother of three children, doctor Monica, businesswoman Suzanna, and civil rights lawyer Luis, who is a valued member of our Judiciary Committee team.

Between college and graduate school, Mary de Baca returned home to Southern Indiana to teach high school home economics. As a young teacher, she stubbornly overrode the protests of white parents to ensure that African-Americans could participate in cheerleading, the homecoming court, and other extra-curricular activities. Vernon Jordan described the State at the time in this way: "Although Indiana is above the Mason-Dixon line, it has a tough history regarding race. For a time it had the largest and most active chapters of the Ku Klux Klan in the country. It was a mess in the 1920s and 1930s. When I was there in the 1950s, it wasn't exactly a racial utopia." But one can imagine the young Mary de Baca mentoring those students and helping them reach their potential without fanfare or drama, just as she does today.

As an educator for over 50 years, Mary de Baca has helped to move us toward the more inclusive and equal world for which Dr. King fought. I congratulate her on receiving this honor in his name from her students, her colleagues, and her University.

TARP REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, which will ensure that TARP funding will be spent responsibly and transparently in an effort to get the economy back on track.

In order to stabilize our economy and get credit flowing again to families and small businesses, we need to fundamentally change the practices of the Troubled Assets Relief Program before the remaining \$350 billion streams into the marketplace. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration mismanaged the financial rescue funds approved in 2008 and failed to follow congressional intent when it came to executing the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. The Bush administration

failed to address the foreclosures as the source of this crisis, and it did not effectively use TARP funds to restore our economy's flow of credit. Along with my constituents, I am deeply disappointed that the past administration did not adequately track how taxpayer money was spent to ensure that banks were using it for the intended purposes.

Congress must only move forward with the release of the remaining TARP funds if they are confident that these failures will be remedied. H.R. 384 amends the Troubled Assets Relief Program provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act by strengthening accountability, closing loopholes, and increasing transparency. This measure sets up a blueprint to carefully track and monitor all the TARP funds, including previous and future allocations. It requires Treasury to provide a minimum of \$40 billion on foreclosure mitigation to help homeowners address the mortgage crisis. H.R. 384 limits executive bonuses for firms participating in TARP and assists cities and other tax-exempt issuers in finding investors for their bonds. Under the direction of the Obama administration, I believe the TARP funding will adhere to these new transparency and accountability provisions, while also working to ensure that our taxpayers' needs are the top priority.

During this difficult economic crisis, we need to stand up for Rhode Island families looking to secure student loans, car loans, home loans or mortgage refinancing. We need to make sure that small business owners have access to the capital they need to make payroll or invest in their companies. And we need to stabilize the pensions and savings that our retirees are counting on. I believe this recovery plan is essential for Rhode Island families. H.R. 384 will bring us closer to the original intent of TARP—to help those most in need during these difficult times.

I want to thank my friend, Chairman FRANK, for his tireless work on this issue, and I encourage my colleagues to vote for this bill.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SHORT SEA SHIPPING ACT OF 2009 (H.R. 528)

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, on January 14, 2009, I introduced H.R. 528, the Short Sea Shipping Act of 2009. This measure would provide the tax incentive necessary to increase the transportation of freight via coastal and inland waterways, which would have significant environmental and economic benefits.

Specifically, the Short Sea Shipping Act of 2009 would exempt from the Harbor Maintenance Tax, HMT, nonbulk commercial cargo that is loaded at a port in the United States mainland and unloaded at another port in the United States mainland after transport solely by coastal or river route or unloaded at a port in Canada located in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway System.

Likewise, the bill's exemption would apply to nonbulk commercial cargo that is loaded at a port in Canada located in the Great Lakes Seaway System and unloaded at a port in the United States mainland. Of note, the bill de-

fines the Great Lakes Seaway System as the waterway between Duluth, Minnesota, and Nova Scotia and encompasses the five Great Lakes, their connecting channels, and the St. Lawrence River. In fact, this is the primary difference between my bill and legislation (H.R. 981) that I cosponsored in the 110th Congress. This change was made necessary by the progress made in the development of the proposed Melford International Terminal in Nova Scotia, which is projected to handle nearly 1.5 million 20 foot equivalent units, TEUs, annually by 2015.

The HMT is a levy that is imposed on the value of cargo that is imported to a port within the United States or that is transported between U.S. ports. The tax, which is assessed at a rate of 0.125 percent of the cargo value, including passengers, is assessed only once on cargo that is transported between one U.S. port and another, either at the point of departure or arrival but not both. However, cargo that is carried from a foreign port may be taxed twice, upon arrival at the initial U.S. port and again if transported to another U.S. port aboard a different vessel. Cargo that is transported along the inland waterways is subject to the Inland Waterways Fuel Tax instead of the HMT, but the Great Lakes are not considered part of the inland waterways system.

For too long, the imposition of the HMT has served as a barrier to the development of a robust United States short sea shipping industry. In fact, former Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters has stated that "the HMT is the most significant impediment under current law to the initiation of such services to Great Lakes ports" because the "avoidance of the HMT is a main motivation for shipping cargo from Canada to the United States by trucks instead of water."

By providing this exemption to the HMT, Congress can give cargo shippers an incentive to move cargo via marine. The increased viability of such a water transportation option would subsequently combat current highway congestion, a burgeoning problem facing our Nation's transportation infrastructure. The shift of cargo transportation from common domestic cargo routes to underutilized coastal and inland waterways would also improve the flow of commerce and reduce air pollution generated by ground transportation.

Additionally, by providing such an incentive to the enhancement of the short sea shipping industry, Congress has the opportunity to spur significant economic activity. Ships would have to be built and crews would have to be hired. In New York's 23rd Congressional District alone, which I am privileged to represent, illustrating just one example, the Port of Oswego would realize a significant expansion of traffic, resulting in millions of dollars in economic impact and the creation of dozens of jobs.

Madam Speaker, by enacting H.R. 528, the 111th Congress can eliminate roadblocks and promote the utilization of an efficient, economical, and sustainable means of cargo transportation, while addressing the growing need for reliable transportation alternatives and additional capacity. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to work with me to enact this important measure.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JERRY
WARNEMENT

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the service of COL Jerry Warnement, whose dedication to excellence has earned him three separate colonel commands and two lieutenant colonel commands over the course of a career that has spanned more than 30 years.

Having studied extensively and earning two masters degrees, Colonel Warnement is an outstanding officer whose leadership and extraordinary command of logistics have made him a mainstay of combat service support for all of the Army. From 1988 to 1990, Colonel Warnement served as Commander of the 15th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. Here, his logistical support during two NTC rotations, and his subsequent efforts to deploy his battalion to Desert Shield/Storm were especially praiseworthy and indicative of the colonel's dedication and self sacrifice.

Colonel Warnement's service to his country extended to the classroom as well as the field. As a professor of military science for the University of Pennsylvania and five satellite universities, Colonel Warnement was responsible for recruiting, retaining, and commissioning a highly competent, freshman class which resulted in 95 percent of his students being commissioned on time and prepared for active duty. While Assistant Chief of Staff for the Materiel, 19th Theatre Army Area Command, the colonel consistently demonstrated his multifunctional leadership capabilities as he accomplished a diversity of missions on time, within budget, and always with the best interest of the soldiers at heart. From 1995 to 1997, as Commander of Anniston Army Depot, Colonel Warnement managed 2,900 personnel, a \$266 million operating budget—spread out over 25 miles—and accomplished every mission within budget. His unparalleled ability to manage money, material, and personnel ensured positive results, while his performance indicators within his area of responsibility were among the best in the world.

In his most recent and final assignment, Colonel Warnement exhibited brilliance in his ability to command one of the most unique and important colonel-level logistics organizations in the Army. His sound judgment and strong leadership guaranteed mission accomplishment. This coupled with his professional initiative to develop the Army's Logistics Integrated Database, while executing additional field training within budget, will have a long-term positive impact on the United States Army and the Nation as a whole.

Throughout his career, Colonel Warnement has faithfully executed his duties at home and abroad. He is a soldier's soldier and a consummate professional. Colonel Warnement's performance reflects great honor and credit upon himself, the Army, the Army Materiel Command, and our Nation.

HONORING MAYOR ALAN AUTRY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and express my appreciation for the service of Alan Autry as mayor of Fresno, California. Alan's first term began in January 2001, and he served for 8 years as Fresno's mayor. During this time, Alan's leadership and passion for the community of Fresno led to an unprecedented turnaround in the city, which is evident from its infrastructure and aesthetic value to its safety and fiscal responsibility.

Alan had much success in his two terms, including bridging the gap between North and South Fresno, or "The Tale of Two Cities" according to Alan. He successfully brought insight and urban renewal and development to Fresno's poorest neighborhoods, by increasing infrastructure, sidewalks, gutters, and streetlights in many areas of the city previously neglected with regard to modern essentials.

Under Alan's service, downtown Fresno was visually transformed. He championed a movement to aesthetically improve many areas of Fresno, the largest project of which was modernizing the convention center.

The safety and security of Fresno's residents was vastly improved by Alan's city policies, which included bringing up-to-date police and fire stations, and improving, cleaning, and expanding public spaces like city parks, which provide places for families and students to engage in healthful and constructive activity.

Alan is also a true fiscal conservative and a vigilant guardian of taxpayer money. When he took office in January 2001, Fresno's ledger showed that the city was \$500,000 in debt. By January 2009, Fresno had a significant turnaround with a surplus of \$17.5 million.

Education was also an important element in Alan's "Tale of Two Cities" platform. He fought hard against multiple levels of government to seek to influence and improve Fresno's notoriously under-performing schools, because he believes that good, effective schools are foundational in a healthy community.

Alan possesses a concern and care for his community that characterized his terms as mayor and underlines his leadership style. He was often out within the community talking to and caring for people. This helped to make him a very popular and well-respected member of the community and an esteemed leader. I congratulate Alan on the job he did in his 8 years as Fresno's mayor; I am proud to call him my friend, and continue to look forward to sharing many ideas and projects with him in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ROE V. WADE
DECISION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

On January 22, 1973, Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun penned the historic majority opinion in the Roe v. Wade case. He wrote that "right of privacy, whether it be founded in the Fourteenth Amendment's concept of personal liberty and restrictions upon state action, as we feel it is, or, as the District Court determined, in the Ninth Amendment's reservation of rights to the people, is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy." Justice Blackmun's words confirmed the 7–2 landmark decision that all women have the constitutional right to choose.

Roe v. Wade established that reproductive healthcare is a personal matter that should be left to individuals. The question of whether or not to have an abortion is not an easy one, it is one of the most difficult decisions that a woman can face. While a woman's doctor, clergy, friends, and family may have opinions, the ultimate decision rests solely with her. This is not a decision that should be forced upon a woman by any government.

Having the right to choose is an essential right that should be protected, however there is much that can and should be done to decrease the need for abortion. That is why I have consistently supported comprehensive sexual education in our schools. Our investment in abstinence-only education over the last 8 years has failed in giving our teenagers the medically accurate, life-saving information about birth control and sexually transmitted infections they need to make informed decisions. I also support overturning the "global gag rule." President Bush enacted the "global gag rule" 8 years ago today to prohibit international family planning organizations that receive funding from the United States from being able to advocate for choice. The global gag rule also bans foreign non-governmental organizations, NGOs, from being able, using their own funds, to engage in free speech and assembly activities on a woman's right to choose, and also prevented health care providers from counseling the world's poorest women about all their legal health care options. Reversing this policy will improve maternal and child health in developing countries, reduce infant mortality, lead to better diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and reduce the incidence of unintended pregnancy and abortion.

Roe v. Wade marked a drastic change in our national policy on reproductive rights and I urge my colleagues to commemorate the 36th anniversary of this ruling.

36TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, today is the 36th annual March for Life marking the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that denied the American people the ability to address the abortion issue through their ballot box. I commend the estimated 200,000 Americans who traveled to our nation's capital to proclaim the inalienable human rights of unborn children. The organizers of this important event never let this anniversary pass without calling on our Nation to

promote an American culture where every child's right to life is emphatically defended.

I find hope and encouragement today because Americans increasingly agree that abortions occur too frequently in our nation. I believe people with different views about Roe v. Wade should build on this sentiment and work together to ensure that the alternatives to abortion are well known to women facing an unexpected pregnancy. In doing so, I believe we can dramatically reduce the number of abortions in our Nation and begin to create a culture where unborn children are universally welcomed by their parents and protected by law.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 36TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 36th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision and in particular the efforts of those who have worked for the right to life that the decision made so tenuous. Today, as they have since 1974, thousands of people marched on Washington to show their dedication to a movement that has seen many gains in the past few years. These people march for a culture where 50 million innocent lives would be saved, and where people are valued beyond their simple worth as a thing. They also march to mourn these lives of the unborn. They march, ultimately, for the dignity of humanity which has been denied for too many people.

This year's march is particularly poignant, because these hundreds of thousands have come after millions, including myself, came to celebrate the election of America's first black President. We also celebrated the life and accomplishments of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I'm proud of how far America's come, as we break down racial and ethnic barriers that many thought were invincible, but we know there's more to do. As Dr. King's niece, Alveda King commented after the election of President Obama, "[Dr. King's] dream of full equality remains just a dream as long as unborn children continue to be treated no better than property."

Madam Speaker, we've made many gains towards a culture of life in recent years. The number of abortions has fallen every year since their peak in 1990, and there have been successes at both the state and federal level: federal funding for research requiring the destruction of human embryos has been restricted, we continued to observe the Mexico City Policy, "partial birth abortion" has been banned, and many states have policies requiring parental consent for minors. I hope that President Obama and this Congress will continue down this road, and remember the culture of life that we recognize today.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR
CURTIS B. GREEN

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the service of Sergeant Major Curtis B. Green, whose meritorious service to the United States Army has spanned thirty years and culminated with his distinguished service as Sergeant Major of Letterkenny Army Depot.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Major Green has been an exceptional leader and has served in numerous positions of great responsibility. Beginning his military career as a rifleman, he spent 9 years in the 82nd Airborne Division followed by assignments in Germany, Aberdeen Proving Ground, and Alaska. In the past 10 years Sergeant Major Green has compiled an exceptional record of achievement at Fort Sill, Camp Casey, and Camp Red Cloud, Fort Hood, and Letterkenny Army Depot. In each position he consistently produced exceptional results.

After 4 years as a unit first Sergeant, his exceptional record earned him the rank of Sergeant Major as well as immediate reassignment as the 2nd Infantry Division G4 Maintenance Sergeant Major. Here he led the Division maintenance inspection teams and became Division Readiness NCO. In 2003 he returned to the United States and was assigned as Support Operations Sergeant Major and was directly responsible for the coordination of external and internal support among division battalions and COSCOM support units. And later, when deployed to Iraq—Sergeant Major Green left with an advance party and was responsible for preparing the area for the arrival of the 1st Cav.—his dutiful performance earned him the Bronze Star.

In 2005, Sergeant Major Green became the Letterkenny Army Depot Sergeant Major. His logistics background and strong military leadership skills facilitated a quick transition into a predominately civilian organization. Here, he identified with the Letterkenny workforce, and orchestrated rehabilitative transfers that dramatically improved soldier performance.

Sergeant Major Green's accomplishments were not limited to improving the depot's mission. He also reached out to the depot community and provided outstanding leadership for Armed Forced Week activities, the depot/community organizational day program, and increased support to the local Scotland School for Veteran's Children. Sergeant Major Green took the initiative to lead depot soldiers and workers to visit local veteran homes, and his work to clean up and repair local cemeteries is also noteworthy.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Major Green faithfully discharged his extensive duties at home and abroad. Over the last 30 years he has made great personal sacrifices for the good of the United States military. Sergeant Major Green is a soldier's soldier and a consummate professional. He has dem-

onstrated great concern for our soldiers and their families, and his significant contributions will have a lasting impact upon our Nation. Sergeant Major Green's professional performance reflects great honor and credit upon himself and the United States Army.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR
CHRISTINE KROLIK, HILLS-
BOROUGH ASSOCIATED PARENT
GROUPS' CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, Mayor Christine Krolik of the Town of Hillsborough, California has served her community well, ever since moving there more than a decade ago. Now, the community is rightly honoring her with the Hillsborough School District Associated Parents Groups' "Citizen of the Year Award".

Mayor Krolik is a woman of boundless energy and keen intellect with a limitless can-do attitude. Her cheerful disposition and amazing ability to organize chaos into a cohesive plan are unmatched. To the benefit of her community and our country, Christine has used her awesome powers for good, volunteering for causes great and small, political and charitable, serious and fun.

Since beginning her professional career more than 20 years ago as an actor and director in New York, Ms. Krolik has shared her knowledge and enthusiasm with grateful students and peers in Glenside, Pennsylvania; Greenwich, Connecticut and Gulfstream, Florida as well as her adopted home, northern California.

As Literacy Manager and Special Project Producer for the beloved Magic Theater at San Francisco's Fort Mason, Christine again put her love for theater and impressive performance ability to work for the betterment of the greater community.

Christine's passion for helping others is aptly displayed in the many roles she has filled with the Concours d'Elegance, Hillsborough's principal fund-raising event to benefit its schools. She has also served on the Board of Directors of Hillbarn Theater and the Shelter Network, assuring that every segment of California's 12th Congressional District benefits from her hard work and considerable ability.

It is more than fitting for the Associated Parents' Groups to bestow this honor on Mayor Krolik. Long before she joined the Town Council in 2004, Christine served her community by devoting many hours of volunteer work and she is always the first person anyone calls when they need something done quickly, professionally and cheerfully.

Madam Speaker, I salute Mayor Krolik and thank her husband, Jeff, and sons John and Billy, for sharing Christine with a very appreciative community.