For his excellent work in education, Jim has received numerous awards. These include ACSA's Outstanding Central Office Administrator (2002) and St. Mary's College School of Education Alumnus of the Year (2001).

Jim's commitment to education is truly extraordinary. I want to thank him for his years of dedicated service and to wish him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 370 on H. Con. Res. 55, I mistakenly recorded my vote as No when I should have voted Yes.

FORT BEND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fort Bend Christian Academy softball team for their amazing 4–A district winning streak this past season.

After more than 100 games, the Lady Eagles maintained a remarkable winning streak and ended the year tied for first place. They were led on and off the field by an outstanding young player, Claire McKissick, who was selected for the 4A all-state first team as a sophomore. Additionally, the women had a trio of young players selected for the all-state second team including Tessa Cantrell, Emily Ferguson, and Kati Ray Brown. The Lady Eagles further packed the all-district team selections with the achievements of senior Morgan Kornegay, sophomore Kendall Bohny, and senior Madelyn Hill. These prestigious awards are achieved through both athletic and academic vigor and are highly competitive throughout the state of Texas. We are extremely proud of all the women of the Fort Bend Christian Academy softball team and look forward to their future accomplishments.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the entire Lady Eagle softball team on an incredible season.

RECOGNIZING MR. KYLE WEDEKIND

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Kyle Wedekind of Winter Garden, Florida, for his acceptance to the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. Mr. Wedekind was selected for his academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship.

The mission of People to People Leadership Ambassador Programs is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange. To this end, People to People offers domestic and international educational programs that promote cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and leadership. It is my hope that Mr. Wedekind benefitted greatly from his participation in the World Leadership Forum, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

THE RAINS IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on June 14, heavy rains poured down hammering the ground and streets of Georgia the Republic of Georgia.

The River Vere, a small stream that cuts through the center of the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, was transformed into a raging torrent.

It caused flooding of an unprecedented scale.

So far, 13 people have been killed. The flooding allowed animals to escape from the local zoo. Lions, bears, tigers, and jaguars remain on the loose.

Homes, cars and roadways are destroyed. There are over 1 million residents in the capital, and it will take a long time before things get back to normal.

I've been to Georgia—twice. Texans and Georgians are likeminded people; they know the spirit and importance of Independence.

Still occupied by the Russians, Georgia sent troops to fight alongside ours in Afghanistan.

They have been a strong and steadfast U.S. ally in an important and often turbulent part of the world.

Americans must help our friends and allies; the Georgians, as they begin to rebuild their capital city after this historic flooding.

From across the globe we keep the Georgians in our thoughts and prayers.

We know our Georgian friends are resilient and will face this natural disaster with courage. We should stand by them in this effort.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2015, due to the weather, I was unavoidably detained while traveling to Washington, D.C. and missed recorded votes number 364 and 365. Had I been present, on rollcall vote number 364, H. Res. 233—"Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iran should immediately release the three United States citizens that it holds, as well as provide all known information on any United States citizens that have disappeared within its borders," I would have voted "yea"; and on rollcall vote number 365, H.R. 2559—"To designate the 'PFC Milton A. Lee Medal of Honor Memorial Highway' in the State of Texas," I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF CATHEDRAL INTERNATIONAL "STOP THE FUNERAL WEEKEND"

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cathedral International's upcoming "Stop the Funeral Weekend" hosted by Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr. from June 18–21, 2015. The "Stop the Funeral Weekend" aims to highlight the issue of violence in our communities and I would like to join with Bishop Hilliard in bringing attention to this important issue.

Throughout his 32 years as Senior Pastor of Cathedral International, Bishop Hilliard has advocated for the end of violent behavior and injustice through improved community relations and engagement. He has seen the consequences of violence and the persistence of its existence in our communities. The "Stop the Funeral Weekend" will bring together community leaders, families and individuals to encourage open dialogue and the sharing of concerns, objectives and ideas. It will highlight Bishop Hilliard's mission to promote safe environments for our youth to live and grow. I commend Bishop Hilliard's leadership and his ongoing efforts to address the challenges facing our communities today.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing the importance of addressing the issue of violence in our communities and thanking Bishop Hilliard and Cathedral International for its efforts to bring awareness to this critical issue and creating a better environment for our youth.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAREDO BEAUTY COLLEGE, INC.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a noteworthy occasion: the fiftieth anniversary of Laredo Beauty College, Inc. For five decades, this school has served the community by providing thousands of aspiring stylists with the training they need to succeed, as well as providing affordably priced salon services to the general public.

Upon its opening in 1965, Laredo Beauty College was the first cosmetology school in the Laredo area. The vision behind this significant contribution to the community was Peggy Dietrick, commonly known as Ms. Peggy. At the time of its founding, the school only offered courses in cosmetology. It has since expanded to include manicuring and cosmetology instructor courses as well.

Today, Laredo Beauty College has 102 students and 17 staff members. The school is exceptional in the dedication it inspires in both students and staff, with many of the staff having worked for the school for over twenty

years. One of the current owners, Judy Rodriguez, was a former student, and has been involved with the school for 43 years. Peggy Dietrick and her niece, Deborah Dietrick, make up the remainder of the school's ownership.

In 1975, the National Accrediting Commission of Career Arts and Sciences recognized Laredo Beauty College for its achievements by conferring upon it national accreditation status. The school is currently a member of both the American Association of Cosmetology Schools and the Cosmetology Educators of America.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Laredo Beauty College for having been such an essential part of their community for the past fifty years.

ON THE PASSING OF MICHAEL KING

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of one of the legends of the entertainment industry, a man responsible for some of the greatest television touchstones of the past three decades: Michael Gordon King. Michael's passing last month at age 67 is a great tragedy, but we know he leaves a towering legacy of success and an indelible mark on American culture.

Michael and his late brother Robert inherited their business and their savvy from their father, Charles King, who founded a modest television syndication company named King World Productions in 1964. As Michael would recall, their father would go over every deal at the dinner table with his family, delving into the details of his transactions when Michael was as young as 14. Michael would take the title of president of King World shortly after graduating from Fairleigh Dickinson University, at the salary of $150 a week.

When Charles King died in 1972, King World had one product: the distribution rights to ''The Little Rascals.'' Over the next 30 years, Michael and Robert would build King World into an entertainment empire.

In 1983, King World paid $50,000 to acquire the rights to ''Wheel of Fortune.'' With the hard-charging brothers traveling the country to secure top media markets to air the show, ''Wheel of Fortune'' became the highest-rated syndicated program in history. The company was awarded the distribution rights to the revival of ''Jeopardy!''—the enduring television favorite that made Alex Trebek a national icon.

In 1986, the Kings' launched a national talk show with a former Baltimore news anchor and local-Chicago talk show host: Oprah Winfrey. The Oprah Winfrey Show would become one of the most widely watched and consequential television programs ever.

Under the leadership of Michael and Robert, King World reached astounding heights. According to the New York Times, ''On a typical day in the late 1980s, 90 million people watched at least one of the company's three biggest shows—Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and The Oprah Winfrey Show.''

Eventually, the Kings sold their company to CBS. Michael would serve as a consultant to CBS, and find a new passion for sports—opening a world-class boxing gym and a boxing promotions company dubbed King Sports Worldwide.

Michael measured himself against the biggest legends in entertainment history. As we reflect on his life and his legacy, we know that Michael King earned his place among the greats.

Michael's passion for entertainment, his showmanship and eye for talent, his dedication, drive and creativity shaped some of the most important cultural touchstones of recent memory.

I knew Michael as a father devoted to his family and concerned about the community. I hope it is a comfort to Michael's wife, Jena, his children, Alexandra, Theodore, Audrey and Jesse, and the entire King family that so many people mourn their loss. Many millions around the world have been entertained and moved by Michael's work, and are grateful for his legacy.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MASTER CHIEF BOB SEBASTE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Chief Bob Sebaste on the occasion of his retirement after 29 years of service in the United States Navy and Coast Guard. Master Chief Sebaste's illustrious military career began as a Staff Instructor in Balston Spa, New York. During his distinguished career, Master Chief Sebaste served assignments throughout the United States as Public Affairs Officer in the US Navy, Leadership Instructor at Coast Guard Air Station in Miami, as well as Maintenance Control Officer for USCG Base, Boston. Notably, for three years, from 1990–1993, he served as an instructor at the Naval Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Florida.

Throughout his career, Master Chief Sebaste continued to strive for self-improvement and successfully rose through the ranks. He distinguished himself as a well-respected leader in the US Navy and US Coast Guard. After attending Electronics Technician School, Master Chief Sebaste was commissioned as a Reactor Operator for submarine USS Tecumseh in Charleston, SC. He went on to serve in a variety of positions including Staff Instructor at Reactor Plant Training, Public Affairs Officer in the Operational Test Support Unit and Chief Electronics Technician for the US Coast Guard Cutter MOHAWK Division.

Behind every great serviceman and woman is a support network encouraging them to strive for greatness. I offer my gratitude to Master Chief Sebaste's wife, Betty, a school teacher at Sandpiper Elementary School in Sunrise, Florida, and their three children Rachel, Walter and Christopher. Following in his father's footsteps, Christopher Sebaste is currently a Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force, stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

Mr. Speaker, we owe Master Chief Sebaste our infinite gratitude for his boundless devotion and years of service to our nation. It is because of individuals like Master Chief Sebaste that our nation remains safe and secure. I am honored and truly privileged to recognize Master Chief Bob Sebaste for his dedication to the US Navy and Coast Guard over the past 29 years, and offer him my best wishes for continued good health and success in the years to come.

LOGOS PREPARATORY ACADEMY BASEBALL TEAM

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Logos Prep baseball team for their advancement to the 3A championship game after winning District 6–3A.

The Lions entered into the championship game with a remarkable 11–1 record and proudly represented the entire Fort Bend community. They were led on and off the field by four outstanding all-state players, including junior Andrew Richards, sophomore Sammy Kuntz, senior Makay Raven, and junior Marshall Allen. Additionally, the Lions had multiple players voted onto the all-district and academic all-state list. These prestigious awards are achieved through both athletic and academic vigor and are highly competitive throughout the state of Texas. We are extremely proud of all the men of the Logos Prep baseball team and look forward to their future accomplishments.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the entire team in representing the Logos Prep Academy in the Texas State Tournament.

RABBINIC LETTER ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Ms. SCHAKOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a Rabbinic Letter on the Climate Crisis.

Today, Pope Francis released the Papal Encyclical, calling on all of us to address the global crisis of climate change. But the Encyclical was not the only religious document this week calling for bold action. The Rabbinic Letter demonstrates that leaders in the Jewish faith share the commitment to meeting perhaps the greatest challenge of our time.

The Rabbinic Letter was initiated by seven leading rabbis from a broad spectrum of American Jewish life: Rabbi Elliot Dorff, rector of the American Jewish University; Rabbi Arthur Green, rector of the Hebrew College rabbinical school; Rabbi Peter Knobel, former president, Central Conference of American Rabbis; Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, director of the Social Justice Organizing Program at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; Rabbi Susan Talve, spiritual leader of Central Reform Congregation, St. Louis; Rabbi Arthur Waskow, director of The Shalom Center; and Rabbi Deborah Waxman, president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. They were joined by Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg, a leader of the Orthodox community.