

Sanson, Dale Dawson, Robley Levy, and Ellen Pirie. We all owe much to Alice.

Alice not only supported politicians, she played the game too, and she played it well—from the early 60's as an activist at Community Action Board hearings, to the days when she was an energetic delegate at both state and national conventions. She delighted in these opportunities. Alice had an unremitting passion for making a difference. When she saw the opportunity to act, she did not let it pass, and her mark on our community has been profound.

In addition to all of Alice's accomplishments, it is just as important to remember her enthusiasm for life, her enjoyment in the great pleasures of our world—good food, good drink, good conversation, and the company of good friends. Alice loved elegant and vivid clothes, jewelry, silver, ivory and gold, and a good martini. I have always enjoyed her hospitality, and was often transported by vibrant tales of her travels—to New York and Guam, Cairo and Portugal. With Manuel, Leonard, Patricia, and Angelina, I am proud to honor the warmth, love, and courage personified in Alice.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF LADY BIRD JOHNSON

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a resolution to recognize the 90th birthday of former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson. Lady Bird Johnson has made many contributions to this country.

One of the most visible is her dedication to the preservation of the environment, especially her efforts to beautify our Nation's highways with a legacy of wildflowers.

In 1982, Mrs. Johnson founded the National Wildflower Research Center, which later was renamed the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, in Austin, Texas. The center is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of native plants in natural and planned landscapes.

My congressional district includes the Hill Country of Texas, which encompasses Stonewall, Texas, the home of Mrs. Johnson. Each year with spring's arrival, the Hill Country's fields, hillsides and riverbanks shed their drab winter austerity for the vibrant hues of wildflowers.

Lady Bird Johnson was the recipient of the nation's highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom and, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan awarded her the Congressional Gold Medal.

I commend Lady Bird Johnson's efforts to preserve the landscape of this country and we send her best wishes on her 90th birthday.

A WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO
MATTIEBELLE WOODS ON HER
HUNDREDDTH BIRTHDAY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 26, 2002 the Milwaukee Community will join together to celebrate Ms. Mattiabelle Woods' 100th birthday and honor her for over 50 years of journalistic excellence serving the Milwaukee community.

Mattiabelle Woods was born and raised in Milwaukee and has spent more than 50 years as a newspaper columnist and community activist. Ms. Woods has served as an icon for an array of people across socioeconomic lines and professions with a lifetime commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for citizens in the Milwaukee community. Her distinguished professional career has taken her to the top of her craft with assignments to the Milwaukee Globe, The Chicago Defender, The Milwaukee Star, Jet Magazine and currently the Milwaukee Courier. She still remains active in the community and has been gainfully employed for almost a century. Currently Mattiabelle has a weekly column in the Milwaukee Courier newspaper, 'Mattiabelle's Party Line.'

Legendary is her community involvement where she has played an active role in the March of Dimes, The United Way, The NAACP, the United Negro College Fund, the Urban League, and numerous other endeavors including the political arena. Ms. Woods was the Founder and Director of Miss Black Teen-Wisconsin, Miss Bronze Milwaukee and Ten Best Dressed Black Women in Wisconsin.

Numerous awards and recognitions she has received which include: Black Female Pioneer Award, Quality of Life Award, Status of Women Service Award, African-American Ancestry Award, Outstanding Woman in Wisconsin Journalism, and NAACP Presidential Award.

So it is with great pride that I congratulate Mattiabelle Woods, not only for her 50 years of community public relations and social affairs, but also for a lifetime of service to the Milwaukee community, and on her 100th birthday celebration. Happy Birthday!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, because of health reasons I was absent for rollcall votes 453–463. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 453—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 454—"No"; Rollcall No. 455—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 456—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 457—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 458—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 459—"No"; Rollcall No. 460—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 461—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 462—"Yes"; and Rollcall No. 463—Yes.

OUR LADY OF PEACE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4757, the "Our Lady of Peace Act"—sensible and much-needed gun safety legislation. I thank my colleague, Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY, for bringing this bill to our attention. In facilitating a more accurate and complete database of people who are ineligible to purchase firearms, the Our Lady of Peace Act would bring greater safety and security to our streets and into our homes.

This bill would require that a greater number of federal and state records that are pertinent to determining firearms transfer and possession eligibility be made accessible through the National Criminal Instant Background Check System (NICS). It is incumbent that we do all we can to ensure that such a database is as thorough as possible in order to prevent criminals from buying guns.

We seem to be increasingly reminded of the fear and tragedy that guns can help cause in our society. As lawmakers, we must do all we can to ensure that assault weapons and handguns are kept off the street and that only law-abiding citizens have access to firearms for hunting and sport. This bill is a step in that direction, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

KEEPING CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES SAFE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are here today to consider H.R. 5601, the "Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2002" which reauthorizes and improves the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the Adoption Opportunities program, and the Abandoned Infants Act.

While I recognize and am disappointed that we were not able to come to agreement on all issues of the original bill, H.R. 3839, the bill before us shows our effort and commitment to ensure that programs aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect continue. I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides for their hard work and efforts in developing this mutual compromise in the bill before us for consideration today.

I especially want to thank the full committee chairman, Mr. BOEHNER, for his support of this bill, and Mr. GREENWOOD for his diligence in ensuring that infants born addicted to alcohol or drugs receive necessary services.

I want to also thank the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. ROEMER, and the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. MILLER, for their cooperation in working towards this alternative bill before us today.

This bill provides for the continued provision of important federal resources for identifying and addressing the issues of child abuse and