

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE HONORING 2003 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS MATTHEW MASTERS, OF MORENCI, MI, HEATHER ROBERSTON, OF ADRIAN, MI, AMANDA WHEELER, OF MORENCI, MI, DARCY BEREZNOFF, OF JACKSON, MI, DANIELLE FIGUEROA, OF JACKSON, MI, AND TIM CAUCUTT, OF ADRIAN, MI

## HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is a sincere pleasure to recognize the finalists of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship Program. This special honor is an appropriate tribute to the academic accomplishment, demonstration of leadership and responsibility, and commitment to social involvement, demonstration of leadership and responsibility, and commitment to social involvement displayed by these remarkable young adults. We all have reason to celebrate their success, for it is in their promising and capable hands that our future rests.

The finalists of the LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship Program are being honored for showing that same generosity of spirit, depth of intelligence, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan. They are young men and women of character, ambition, and initiative, who have already learned well the value of hard work, discipline and commitment.

These exceptional students have consistently displayed their dedication, intelligence and concern throughout their high school experience. They stand out among their peers due to their many achievements and the disciplined manner in which they meet challenges. While they have already accomplished a great deal, these young people possess unlimited potential, for they have learned the keys to success in any endeavor.

As a Member of Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to join their many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to the finalists of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship program.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO ALTER FEDERAL TAX TREATMENT OF VOLUNTEER WORK OF SENIOR CITIZENS

## HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, along with

four of my colleagues from Massachusetts, Representatives CAPUANO, DELAHUNT, FRANK and MARKEY, to alter the federal tax treatment of real property tax reduction vouchers received by senior citizens for volunteer work.

Approximately 42 towns in Massachusetts have implemented a program to ease the problem senior citizens, who live on fixed incomes, face due to rising property taxes. These towns have allowed senior citizens to perform volunteer work for their town in exchange for a voucher that reduces their property tax by up to \$500.

Specifically, my legislation would exclude from gross income vouchers issued by a government unit to offset real property taxes, and received by eligible senior citizens of 65 years of age, in exchange for volunteer work. The legislation also exempts these vouchers from employment taxes.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation enhances an important and creative program being implemented in many towns in Massachusetts. We devote a lot of effort around here to help make sure retirement does not sink senior citizens deep into poverty, and that they have basic health services. This very modest proposal takes a small step in helping seniors remain in their homes despite rising property taxes. A step, I hope, we can take this year.

A NEW SUNRISE: VIEQUES

## HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the patriotic people of Vieques, Puerto Rico, for their tolerance and understanding during more than 60 years. In the past, the Vieques training range helped prepare the U.S. Navy forces for deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf.

Nevertheless, military training activities on Vieques interrupted local fishing operations and other economic development, and the effect of the activities by the Department of the Navy reduced the potential for developing the island as a tourist destination. Also, the pollutants released in to the local environment caused some concern among residents who feared an increase in the incidence of cancer and other diseases.

I applaud the Department of the Navy for recognizing that for these reasons, among many, the island of Vieques is no longer a satisfactory place for training exercises. Recognizing that the serenity and beauty of Vieques should be enjoyed, and not destroyed, on April 30, 2003, the Navy closed the base and transferred the land to the Department of the Interior to turn it to a wildlife refuge and a wilderness area.

These days, we hear so much about weapons, terrorism, and the military. It warms my heart that the sounds of exploding bombs has been replaced by the laughter of children en-

joying hiking, cycling, wild life observation, swimming, and fishing.

But worries about Vieques remain. Now that the military training exercises are over, the land must be cleaned up. The Island needs to be rid of the pollutants—thousands of unexploded bombs and toxins in the land, water, and air. Only then, would the land be truly returned to its rightful owners.

A RESOLUTION HONORING ERICA BUSHINSKI, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF JACKSON, MI

## HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Erica Bushinski, winner of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Erica is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Erica is an exceptional student at Napoleon High School, and possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. Erica has received numerous awards for her excellence in science, English, social studies and athletics, as well as her volunteer activities with HOST and many other volunteer organizations. Erica is the recipient of a Board of Trustees Scholarship from Central Michigan University.

Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Erica Bushinski for her selection as winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION FOR CLARIFICATION OF HOSPITAL INSURANCE (HI) TAX EXEMPTION

## HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my

• 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.

colleagues Representatives CAPUANO, DELAHUNT, FRANK and MARKEY, legislation to clarify that the employees of a political subdivision of a State shall not lose their exemption from the hospital insurance (HI) tax by reason of consolidation of the subdivision with the State.

This issue has arisen because in 1997 Massachusetts abolished county government in the State, assumed those few functions that counties had performed, and made certain county officials employees of the State. Specifically, the law provided that the sheriff and the sheriff's personnel "shall be transferred to the commonwealth with no impairment of employment rights held immediately before the transfer date, without interruption of service, without impairment of seniority, retirement or other rights of employees, without reduction in compensation or salary grade and without change in union representation."

However, the issue of whether or not these consolidated employees were required to pay the Medicare portion of the FICA tax needed to be clarified. Federal law creates an exemption from this tax for state and local employees who were employed on or before March 31, 1986, and who continue to be employed with that employer. The law is written so it is clear that consolidations between local entities, and consolidations between State agencies, do not negate the grandfather rule. However, the issue of a consolidation between a political subdivision and a State is not directly addressed and I doubt it was considered during the drafting of the federal law.

The Internal Revenue Service has taken the position that a State, and a political subdivision of a state, are separate employers for purposes of payment of the Medicare tax and therefore any grandfathered employees merged in a consolidation between a State and a political subdivision lose the benefit of the grandfather rule, even if such employees perform substantially the same work.

In a Sixth Circuit Court case, *Board of Education of Muhlenberg Co. v. United States*, the Court ruled on this general issue in terms of a consolidation of boards of education in Kentucky. The plaintiffs in this case argued that the consolidation of school districts did not create a new employer or terminate the employment of any teacher, and the Court agreed that Congress did not intend that exempt employees who have not been separated from previously excluded employment should lose their grandfather and be forced to pay the HI tax. While this case did not go to the issue of the consolidation between a State and a political subdivision, the logic indicates that this issue matters less than the overarching issue of whether the employees continue in the same or essentially the same positions. In Massachusetts this is clearly the case.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge the Congress to enact this legislation to clarify that local employees do not lose the benefit of the grandfather rule merely because they have been consolidated with a State government.

CONDEMNING THE CUBAN REGIME FOR ITS INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENT SUPPRESSION OF PRO-DEMOCRACY CUBAN ADVOCATES

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the exercise of political and civil liberties, including freedom of expression, assembly, association, movement, press, and the right to multiparty elections, are fundamental rights. These fundamental rights belong to every individual, be it in the United States, Iraq, or Cuba; these rights are universal.

Nevertheless, regardless of this truth, the Cuban Government has carried out summary trials to expeditiously sentence prodemocracy leaders to try to intimidate and silence other prodemocracy activists on the island, while world attention is primarily focused on Iraq.

The oppressive Cuban Government has attempted to suppress the will of its own people on fabricated charges, accusing prodemocracy activists for purportedly "working with a foreign power to undermine the government." Fearing a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba, under two draconian laws, the Fidel Castro regime has tried to silence the inherent right of individuals to freedom.

I rise to vehemently denounce these actions.

Mr. Speaker, in early 2003, dozens of supporters of the Oswaldo Paya's Varela Project were harassed, jailed, and threatened. On February 18, 2003, two members of the Oswaldo Paya's Christian Liberation Movement, Jesus Mustafa Felipe and Robert Montero, were sentenced to 18 months in prison on charges of contempt and resisting arrest.

On March 18, 2003, the Cuban Government began a massive crackdown on democracy activists. About 80 activists were arrested and made subject to swift trials and prosecutions that began on April 3, 2003. Foreign journalists and diplomats were excluded from the trials. Within days, over 50 of the activists had received prison terms ranging from 6 to 28 years. These sentences, which are an example of the dependency of the judiciary branch on the will of Fidel Castro, further call into question the legitimacy of Castro's regime. I condemn the illegitimacy of the Cuban judiciary system, and the Cuban Government.

In a further deterioration of Cuba's rule of law, on April 11, 2003, the Cuban Government executed three men who had hijacked a ferry in Havana in an attempt to reach the United States. The men were executed by firing squads after summary trials that were held behind closed doors; four other ferry hijackers received life sentence while another received 30 years in prison.

Although their crimes should have been punished, this dismal excuse for a judicial system never allowed the suspects a chance. In one of the most deplorable signs of judicial dependency of the past decade, the three men accused of hijacking the ferry never received a fair trial. Under the Cuban "Kangaroo Courts," they were found guilty in three days,

and only given a few days to appeal their sentences before being executed by a firing squad a day later. I am appalled at these murders.

Disgusted by the crudeness of the Cuban Government's repression, on April 8, 2003, I supported House Resolution 179, which condemns the Cuban Government's crackdown, calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners, and endorses basic human rights and free elections in Cuba.

I will continue my high level of advocacy for a democratic Cuba in the 108th Congress, supporting a variety of legislative initiatives regarding sanctions, human rights, and drug interdiction cooperation. But more importantly, I will tirelessly labor to help bring democracy and respect for human rights to the island of Cuba.

In conclusion, I praise the courage of those Cubans who have been targeted in this most recent government crackdown, and strongly condemn the recent arrests and murders committed by Castro's regime.

A RESOLUTION HONORING JESSICA WILSON, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF BATTLE CREEK, MI

### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Jessica Wilson, winner of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Jessica is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, MI.

Jessica is an exceptional student at Harper Creek High School, and possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. Jessica has received numerous awards for her excellence in theater and music, as well as her volunteer activities with the Battle Creek Jr. Theater, and as the organizer of the Youth Choir at her church. Jessica has won numerous awards for her activities, including the Young Woman of Promise Recognition and the Young Woman of Excellence Award.

Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Jessica Wilson for her selection as winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

MODEST INCOME FOR VOLUNTEER  
WORK IN ELDER SERVICES  
CORPS IN MASSACHUSETTS  
SHOULD NOT BE TAXED

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today with my colleagues Representatives CAPUANO, DELAHUNT and MARKEY, to allow an exclusion from gross income of stipends received by persons over the age of 60 for volunteer services performed under a qualified State program.

The Elder Services Corps in the State of Massachusetts was created in 1973. It is composed of individuals at least 60 years of age and allows volunteers to assist in meeting the needs of the elderly population of the Commonwealth. Individuals enroll for 1 year at a time, and are required to volunteer 18 hours per week or 72 hours per month, and receive a stipend of \$130 a month. The program is 100 percent State funded.

Mr. Speaker, I see no reason why the modest income received for this volunteer service should be subject to tax, especially employment taxes. I hope Congress will act on this legislation this year, and provide an additional incentive for an expansion of this program in Massachusetts, and its adoption by other States.

H.R. 1350: IMPROVING EDUCATION  
RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH  
DISABILITIES ACT OF 2003

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, in America, all students, including those with disabilities, have the right to a free and appropriate education. Despite this fundamental right, the special educational needs of children with disabilities have sometimes gone unmet. That is why in 1975, Congress set out to correct this wrong with a law now called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA provides federal funding to help states and school districts meet their legal obligations to educate children with disabilities, and to pay 40 percent of the extra expenses of doing so. Currently, such federal aid only provides 18 percent of the extra costs of educating students with disabilities.

I strongly believe that individuals with disabilities have the right to participate in and contribute to society. Improving the educational opportunities and results for children with disabilities is an important step towards ensuring not only their full participation in society, but equality for all. However H.R. 1350, the Republican proposal to reauthorize IDEA, jeopardizes the quality of education provided to children with disabilities and weakens their civil and due process rights under current law. Furthermore, it does not guarantee any new funds for IDEA, it punishes children for actions they have no control over, and limits parental advocacy at due process hearings regarding

their child's education. Because this bill does not offer enough help to the schools in my community of the San Gabriel Valley and East Los Angeles, I strongly oppose it. This bill simply turns back the clock of progress we have made in this area.

TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE LITTLE, CO-  
RONA-NORCO UNIFIED SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, CA are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Maggie Little is one of these individuals. On June 6, 2003 Maggie will be honored as she retires after 36 years of dedicated service to the students, employees, parents, community and business members of the Corona-Norco Unified School District.

Maggie has served in several capacities throughout her 36 year career with the Corona-Norco Unified School District including teacher, principal and administrator. She has always observed an "open-door" policy and provided guidance to those who looked for her help. She had extended her hand and expertise to support any child, teacher or employee and served as a role model and mentor to administrators, teachers and students. Throughout her career she has consistently displayed patience, dependability and integrity.

Maggie's position as Corona-Norco Unified School District media spokesperson, the public relations liaison to community service organizations, has contributed immensely to improved communications to the public. Maggie oversaw the production of numerous educational publications informing the public of student and school achievements and contributed her time, energy, and outstanding organizational skills to numerous professional and community organizations in the cities of Corona and Norco and the County of Riverside in order to better inform residents of the high quality of education and academics in the community.

Maggie's tireless passion for education has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. Maggie has demonstrated her willingness to work hard for quality education and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many children, parents, fellow teachers and administrators are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON  
WILLIAMS

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Williams for his dedi-

cated service to the Fort Knox CORE Committee.

While Don will continue to serve on the committee, today is his last meeting as Executive Director, a position he has held with the CORE Committee for the past 7 years. Under Don's leadership, the CORE Committee has become a strong advocate for Fort Knox with local, State and Federal Government leaders. Don has been an excellent partner with our Congressional delegation, helping us to better understand Fort Knox's needs and enhancing communication between the delegation and Fort Knox leaders.

Fort Knox is an asset to the Army and to the Second District of Kentucky. Don Williams understands Fort Knox's mission, and he has been an asset to Fort Knox and the Hardin County community's efforts to promote and protect the base.

This is not Don's first retirement. In 1990, he retired from the Army after 28 years of service, including assignments as Secretary to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon and as Chief of Staff at Fort Knox.

While Don is stepping down as Executive Director, he will continue to be involved in the CORE Committee, as well as the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs, Fort Knox's chapter of the AUSA, the Patton Museum and the Executive Committee of the Armor and Cavalry Affairs. All of these organizations benefit from Don's knowledge and experience with the Army and his commitment to Fort Knox's role in the Army and in the local community.

I have enjoyed working with Don over the past 7 years. He has helped me better represent the Fort Knox community in Congress. Thank you, Don, for your service to the CORE Committee and your dedication to Fort Knox and the Army.

IGNORANCE OF ARABIC IS NOT  
BLISS

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker. Among the sillier policies that are pursued because some people do not like gay men and lesbians is the one which refuses to allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve their country in the armed forces. This is in great contrast to, to take a particularly striking example, Israel, which has openly gay and lesbian people in the Israeli Defense Force. Those who argue that the presence of openly gay and lesbian soldiers erodes morale have a very hard time explaining the example of the IDF.

In our own country, this self-inflicted mood reached new depths recently when the military began expelling from its ranks people who were becoming expert in Arabic and other languages, which are relevant to our fight against terrorism. From "don't ask, don't tell" we have proceeded to "don't ask, don't tell, don't translate," and our national interest is a loser. We already have too few people skilled in translating many of the languages that are used by terrorists, and we detract from our own security by turning away those who would help us overcome this deficiency.

Recently, the Linguistic Society of America founded in 1924 "for the advancement of the

scientific study of language" spoke out against this policy. That meeting adopted the following resolution and because of the importance of this issue to our national security, I ask that it be printed here.

Whereas linguists, translators, and interpreters serving at the Defense Language Institute have made important contributions to the nation's defense since the Institute's inception;

Whereas language specialists fluent in Arabic and other critical languages are especially vital to U.S. national security at this time;

Whereas the General Accounting Office reports that there is currently a serious shortage of such linguists in the military;

Whereas the military's recent dismissal of highly trained and highly skilled language specialists who are gay or lesbian presents a significant risk to national security;

Whereas sexual orientation is irrelevant to one's job performance, and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is unjust;

Therefore be it resolved that the Linguistic Society of America make known its opposition to the U.S. military's policy of dismissing linguists, translators, interpreters, or other members of the armed forces on the basis of their sexual orientation.

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE COVERAGE OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2003

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunizations Act of 2003. This important legislation will improve our nation's efforts to immunize all children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccines have made dramatic improvements in the lives of children and adults in the last century. Scourges such as polio and small pox have been eradicated thanks to advancements in vaccine research.

Childhood vaccinations prevent nine serious infectious diseases. Thanks to immunizations, children no longer have to suffer from the dangers of polio, measles, diphtheria, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German measles), tetanus, hepatitis-B, or Hib (the most common cause of meningitis).

Immunizations are not only sound medicine, they're sound public health policy. More than \$21 is saved for every dollar spent on the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine. Almost \$30 is saved for every dollar spent on diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine.

Unfortunately, many children do not have access to these life-saving vaccines. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nationwide vaccination coverage levels decreased from 73.2 percent in 1999 to 72.8 percent in the year 2000. In fact, one third of two-year-old children are under-immunized, and in some cities and urban areas, more than 50 percent of children are not fully immunized.

Part of the problem is that health insurance coverage of immunization is spotty at best. According to the Institute of Medicine Report "Calling the Shots," private health insurance immunization coverage varies widely by type

of plan as well as by vaccine. Enrollment in a private plan does not guarantee that immunizations will be provided.

Although 28 states have enacted legislation that would require private plans to cover immunizations, plans governed by ERISA are not subject to these requirements. The IOM Report recommends that all health insurance plans, including ERISA self-insured plans, should offer first-dollar coverage for childhood vaccines recommended in the harmonized immunization schedule.

The Comprehensive Insurance Coverage of Childhood Immunization Act of 2003 would address this problem by requiring ERISA governed health plans and plans covered by the Public Health Services Act to cover vaccines for children under 18 years. Vaccines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule must be covered.

The federal government provides this benefit for its own workers, and twenty-eight states have enacted laws to require state-regulated plans to cover vaccines. Unfortunately, ERISA plans do not have to comply with state laws. This legislation will ensure that all children, regardless of the type of insurance they have, will receive life-saving vaccines. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting immunization coverage for all children.

HONORING MATT RYAN

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I served with Matt Ryan in the Pennsylvania General Assembly for 24 years.

Having worked with him all those years, never once did I question his dedication to his job or his commitment to making life better for all of Pennsylvania's 12 million citizens.

We worked together on a lot of things, but I'll always remember very fondly the work we did together on the Capitol Preservation Committee.

Time and time again, I've heard tourists who have visited dozens of state capitols say that Pennsylvania's is the most beautiful.

Matt and I shared a vision of restoring that beautiful, century-old building to its original grandeur.

It was a project that took a lot of years, and a project that will never really be complete.

But it was a labor of love for us.

It goes without saying that restoring the capitol was only one of Matt's many accomplishments.

Matt served in the General Assembly for more than four decades, and he seemed like a man who was destined to lead.

He was always fair and always compassionate.

He was good at building consensus, even on difficult issues.

And he was a man of his word.

As the longest-serving Republican Speaker of the House since the Republican Party was founded, he left his mark on this Commonwealth as much as any Pennsylvanian since Ben Franklin.

He was a valuable partner, a respected leader, and a very, very good friend.

I'll miss him.

COMMENDING SILVER BELL CLUB, LODGE 2365 OF POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Silver Bell Club, Lodge 2365 of the Polish National Alliance of the United States, will be hosting the 30th Annual Hank Stram-Tony Zale Sports Award Banquet on May 19, 2003, at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana. Twenty outstanding Northwest Indiana High School athletes will be honored at this notable event for their dedication and hard work. These outstanding students were chosen to receive the award by their respective schools on the basis of academic and athletic achievement. All proceeds from this event will go toward a scholarship fund to be awarded to local students.

This year's Hank Stram-Tony Zale Award recipients include Lyndee Lee Arnold of Highland High School, Jennifer Barta of Hammond Morton High School, Jared Byczko of Merrillville High School, Lauren Curosh of Whiting High School, Brittany Drobac of Hobart High School, Lori Granich of Bishop Noll High School, Regina Gregorczyk of Andean High School, Derrick Holeman of Hammond Gavit High School, Biljana Jasnica of Portage High School, Jovan Jęflich of Valparaiso High School, Brad MacFarlane of Griffith High School, Michael Marszalek of Lowell High School, Sean O'Drobinak of Crown Point High School, Tim Piatek of Munster High School, Chad Pruzin of Crown Point High School, Tiffany Redlarczyk of Lake Central High School, Maggie Reichersamer of Hammond High School, Jason Renn of Valparaiso High School, Todd Schafer of Wheeler High School and Kari Schmidt of Hammond High School.

The featured speaker at this gala event will be Hall of Fame defensive lineman Dan Hampton. Hampton was a menacing, yet versatile, defender who served 12 seasons aggressively protecting the line of scrimmage for the Chicago Bears. An All-American out of the University of Arkansas, he was selected by the Bears in the first round of the 1979 National Football League Draft. Hampton's contribution to the defense as a rookie paved the way for his Hall of Fame career. He recorded 70 tackles, two sacks, two fumble recoveries, and three passes defended in his first campaign, then eclipsed that performance in his sophomore season by recording 73 tackles and leading the Bears with 11.5 sacks. He also earned his first of four Pro Bowl appearances. Dan Hampton will probably be remembered best as a huge part of the Bears' 1985 defense that allowed just 198 points in 16 regular season games, and 10 points in three playoff games, including a dominating performance over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XX.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Silver Bell Club, Lodge 2365 of the Polish

National Alliance of the United States, for hosting this celebration of success in sports and academics. The effort of all those involved in planning this worthwhile event is indicative of their devotion to the very gifted young people in Indiana's First Congressional District.

REGULATING BROADBAND  
INFRASTRUCTURE

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, over two months ago, the Federal Communications Commission adopted an order that will change the way it regulates broadband infrastructure. Under the old FCC rules, broadband provided by cable and satellite is essentially unregulated, but broadband provided by telephone companies is regulated like voice telephone service.

The FCC saw that this created regulatory winners and losers and decided in February to change some of its broadband rules and move in the direction of parity for broadband. The FCC's action was the first step in the process of putting telephone company-provided DSL service on the same regulatory footing as cable provided high-speed Internet service. While, in the same proceeding, the FCC failed to remove its burdensome and economically devastating rules on the unbundled network element platform (UNE-P), at least they started to move broadband regulation in the right direction. This will be a much-needed change in broadband regulatory policy, and I applaud the FCC for this aspect of its ruling.

Today, cable has more than two-thirds of the residential broadband market. To the consumer, the two services are fungible, but cable still dominates. Regulatory parity between DSL and cable modem service will result in more head-to-head competition between the two, creating better prices and new, innovative services. It will be a win-win for the consumer. The FCC should end its internal bickering and issue the text of the rules it adopted in February so the FCC can continue on the path to regulatory parity. Only then will our citizens realize the benefits of a fully-competitive broadband Internet market.

COMMENDING THOSE INDIVIDUALS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DE-  
BRIS COLLECTION EFFORT FOL-  
LOWING THE SPACE SHUTTLE  
"COLUMBIA" ACCIDENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 222. This resolution commends those individuals who contributed to the debris collection efforts following the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident.

On the early morning of Saturday, February 1, 2003, just after 9:00 a.m. a tragedy struck our nation. For the second time in 17 years we lost the crew of a Space Shuttle. This time

it was the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, the oldest of America's four space planes.

On board was a crew of seven courageous astronauts—six Americans: Colonel Douglas Husband, Commander William C. McCool, Astronaut Kaplana Chawla, Captain David M. Brown, Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Anderson, Captain Laurel Blair Salton Clark, MD, and one Israeli: Colonel Ilan Ramon.

The seven astronauts accepted this mission knowing the potential danger they faced. Despite the danger, they risked their lives and made the ultimate sacrifice in their dedicated efforts to advance our nation's space program. Each of these astronauts will be remembered as a pioneer and a hero.

More heroes emerged in the days and weeks following the Space Shuttle *Columbia* accident. These heroes collected the debris and wreckage from the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. Among the debris collectors were National Guard Civil Support Teams from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, trained to handle the aftermath of terrorist attacks. Their training made them ideal experts for protecting the public from the toxic shuttle fuels. Also helping with the collection were Department of Public safety troopers, the National Forest Service, forest fire crews, and other law enforcement agency personnel.

As impressive as the efforts of public agents was the self-sacrifice of the over 1,500 volunteers who helped with the search for debris. The volunteers are residents of Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas. They hiked over and through thickets, briers, forests, marshes, muddy hillsides, creeks, and barbed-wire fences for over a week looking for debris. The volunteers braved near-freezing temperatures, gusting winds, sleet, and rain. They included teachers, NASA engineers, store-owners, and housewives.

Brian Carpenter, a volunteer from Warren, Texas described his experience, and why he joined the search efforts. "It's cold out here," he said, "but knowing that the day will come when the astronaut's families will be able to smile and think about their loved ones with pride and without grieving, there's warmth in that."

Tracy Jones of Orange, Texas said, "We want to give the families peace of mind. That's the only reason we're out here."

Mr. Speaker, I support H. Res. 222 to commend Brian Carpenter, Tracy Jones and all of the generous volunteers who helped to collect the Space Shuttle *Columbia* debris. I also support H. Res. 222 to commend the members of the National Guard Civil Support Teams from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, the Department of Public safety troopers, the National Forest Service, forest fire crews, and the other law enforcement agency personnel who sacrificed their time to collect the debris and bring a sense of needed closure to the grieving families of the astronauts. I commend everyone who helped with the debris collection efforts. They too are heroes.

HONORING THE 13TH ANNUAL DC  
BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION AND  
EARL D. FOWLKES

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day weekend, May 23–26, is the 13th Annual DC Black Pride Celebration in Washington, DC.

DC Black Pride is an exciting 4-day event complete with dynamic workshops, receptions, cultural arts activities, small and large night-club events culminating with the world's largest Black Pride Festival at Washington's new Convention Center. It is considered one of the preeminent Black Pride celebrations in the world, consistently drawing 30,000 people to the nation's capital. Attendees come from every major urban area in the United States as well as from Canada, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands and South Africa. The Black Pride Festival features activities for the entire family including performances from national recording artists, 200 exhibition booths, book signings from noted writers, participation from national and local health organizations, and arts and crafts.

The event is coordinated by Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. (BLGPD), a nonprofit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors: Earline Budd, Cheryl Dunn, Clarence J. Fluker, Eric Richardson, Members-At-Large; Toni Collins, Secretary; Ronnie Foster, Vice-President; Robert Jones, Treasurer; and Earl D. Fowlkes, President. BLGPD's mission is to build awareness of and pride in the diversity of the Black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community as well as to create a funding source and support for organizations that are addressing HIV/AIDS and other health issues adversely affecting our community.

Mr. Fowlkes has been President of Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. since 1997. In addition to his duties with BLGPD, Mr. Fowlkes is the Executive Director of Damien Ministries, Inc., a faith-based HIV/AIDS service organization in Washington, DC, and he sits on the boards of Siloam Ministries, Prevention Works, the DC Black AIDS Network, Project Ujima, International Federation of Black Prides and DC HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee. Mr. Fowlkes is retiring as President of BLGPD to devote more of his energies to the International Federation of Black Prides of which he is also President.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 13th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the attendees that United States citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

TONY SIANO, "KIWANIAN OF THE  
YEAR"

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Tony Siano, whose commitment to

various organizations has helped make the local community a better place to live. In recognition of his many contributions to the community, Mr. Siano will be honored by the Astoria/Long Island City Kiwanis Club as "Kiwanian of the Year."

A lifetime New Yorker, Mr. Siano was born and raised in Brooklyn and attended New York University. As a young man, Mr. Siano joined the U.S. Navy and served as medic. After his honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, Mr. Siano completed his education and received his degree in mortuary science.

An enthusiastic and dedicated community advocate, Mr. Siano is an active member of many organizations. Past president of the Astoria/Long Island City Kiwanis, Mr. Siano is now board chairman. Mr. Siano was also a CCD instructor, board president of Trinity Players, and has received the Walter M. Mitchie Community Service Award from the 114th Civilian Observation Patrol, and is involved with many other church and civic organizations.

Mr. Siano is also distinguished within his profession, having been honored with the Pursuit of Excellence Award since 1995 by the National Funeral Directors Association. Mr. Siano is presently vice president of Thomas Quinn and Son's Funeral Home, Inc. In addition, Mr. Siano is the vice president of the Broadway Merchants and Professionals Association.

Mr. Siano is described by his peers as a man of boundless energy and commitment to the community he has been a part of for the past thirty years. In recognition of these outstanding achievements, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tony Siano as "Kiwanian of the Year."

IN HONOR OF THE COMMUNITY  
PROBLEM SOLVING TEAM OF  
THE QUEST PROGRAM

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Community Problem Solving Team of the Quest Program at the Dr. John Howard, Jr. School in East Orange, NJ. Working through various mediums, this group of fourth, fifth, and sixth graders has sought to combat the growing problem of gangs in their community.

Using their peer influence, these students reach out to elementary school children to teach them the dangers of gang involvement. They have made it their mission to educate the community through publishing monthly gang awareness newsletters, organizing a unity celebration night against gangs, organizing a kids against gangs rally, participating in an inmate day with gang members currently serving time in prison, as well as creating a website to inform students of the dangers of gangs. With the goal of educating others to prevent gang involvement and violence, these students have demonstrated that they are truly inspiring members of the community. Volunteering over 400 hours to this project, the dedication of this team has been outstanding.

These exceptional students will represent New Jersey at the International Competition in

Storrs, CT, June 4–8, 2003, having placed first in the New Jersey junior division of the Problem Solving Component of the International Future Problem Solving Program. It is with great pride that I recognize the Community Problem Solving Team of the Quest Program in East Orange, New Jersey. These young people have taken great strides to assist the members of their community and to see that they have a part in securing a healthy future for our country. Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in wishing the Quest Program continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE INSTITUTES OF  
THE AMERICAS

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Institutes of the Americas on their 20th anniversary. Since 1983 the IOA has improved the opportunities for and relationships among companies and individuals who currently conduct or hope to conduct business in America.

In this age of international cooperation the Institute of the Americas has played a vital role in creating greater understanding and interaction between the United States, Canada and the countries of Latin America. With strong Latin American participation, this independent Inter-American organization has become a trusted and respected catalyst for dialog and problem solving. Its relationship with the University of California, San Diego gives the Institute added depth and balance in its quest to develop building blocks for Latin America's progress and stability.

Since its creation the Institute of the Americas has met its goal of becoming a significant catalyst for promoting development and integration as a means to improve the economic, political and social well-being of the people of the Americas. I want to congratulate the Institute, and all those associated with it, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, extending sincere wishes for continued success.

IN HONOR OF ENGLEWOOD'S  
JUBILEE II

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the City of Englewood, Colorado, on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary. I am truly honored to have the privilege of representing this outstanding community in the United States Congress. The City of Englewood will celebrate 100 years of colorful history and development on May 13, 2003.

The Englewood area has a rich and colorful history. In the mid 1800's, the Ute Indians, buffalo, elk, antelope and other animals inhabited this alpine plateau. In 1858, gold was discovered in this area and the first gold mining camp was set up at the mouth of Little Dry Creek. As in many mining enclaves in the

West, this miner's camp quickly became a popular spot for gambling, saloons and roadhouses. By 1903, the inhabitants of this prairie community wanted to burnish a solid community reputation and the Town of Englewood was incorporated on May 13, 1903.

The City of Englewood has grown from its original prairie confines and a small gold mining camp, to become a city with a rich tradition of hospitality, vitality and amenities for residents and visitors alike. Englewood has become an urban mainstay of the southern Metro Denver area with a diverse population of over 31,000 residents.

Englewood offers the congenial and sociable atmosphere of an authentic community with all the benefits of the larger adjacent metropolitan area. The City of Englewood has become a prominent business center, which is home to 1,841 businesses within industrial, manufacturing, and service sectors and enjoys a full-time employment base of approximately 23,500 jobs.

The City Englewood is also fortunate to have outstanding cadre of public safety personnel including 56 firefighters, 73 full and part-time law enforcement personnel, 4 reserve officers, 36 support personnel, and 16 code enforcement personnel to safeguard the health and safety of residents, visitors and employers of the City of Englewood.

The unique appeal of Englewood, coupled with the business and cultural amenities of the Rocky Mountain Region, make it an exceptional place to call home for both residents and businesses. With excellent access, a strong employee base and business-friendly government, Englewood has long been the location of choice for successful businesses—boasting more jobs and businesses per square mile than any other city in the Rocky Mountains.

Under its progressive civic leadership, the City of Englewood has designed and built Englewood City Center. It replaced an aging suburban shopping mall and has become an outstanding multi-use urban civic center. This 55-acre public/private urban design project has coordinated the complex needs of city government, regional transportation system, national retailers and homebuilders, and nonprofit cultural organizations. It has transformed a single-use facility into a multi-purpose transit oriented development that is safely accessible by train, bus, car, bike and pedestrians.

Englewood's access to the region's superior light rail transportation system helps to meet the needs of local business and the city's residents. This unique transportation amenity offers convenient, quick, and inexpensive access to Englewood's cultural, educational, entertainment, recreational, and business activities from throughout the Denver Metropolitan area. Englewood's central location makes the area a natural transportation hub, and offers a mere 15-minute commute to downtown Denver.

The City of Englewood has been on the forefront of housing and community development by promoting and providing a varied mix of housing opportunities including affordable housing, expandable housing for different life-cycle stages, workforce housing opportunities, and housing for special needs.

Englewood is responsible for maintaining sizable high quality civic infrastructure including 310 acres of parks and open space, 118 miles of City streets, and over 2,558 acres of

residential land area. Of particular note is the Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is the third largest publicly owned treatment facility in the State of Colorado. This advanced treatment plant restores wastewater for 25 districts in the Denver Metro area and treats approximately 27 million gallons of wastewater per day.

Englewood is also on the forefront of preserving and maintaining a quality environment. The Englewood Brownfield sites provide excellent opportunities for businesses and investors to reuse and renovate commercial real estate expansion as well as the reuse of land for expansion and redevelopment.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending the City of Englewood, Colorado, on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Residents of this community enjoy an exceptional quality of life, as they are part of a vibrant and cosmopolitan city that continues build a better future for its citizens and our children.

JOBS AND GROWTH  
RECONCILIATION TAX ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAX SANDLIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 9, 2003*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2, the Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003.

Despite the assertions of my Republican colleagues, the Jobs and Growth Tax Act will neither create jobs nor grow the economy. Instead, this legislation increases inequity and unfairness in our tax system and society by drastically redistributing income to the very wealthiest taxpayers.

If the Republican Party was actually interested in stimulating the economy, this legislation would provide tax relief to lower and middle income taxpayers who are likely to spend additional income. By contrast, the richest taxpayers in our society need no extra incentives to consume, and are likely to save, rather than spend, their generous tax cuts.

The Republican tax bill accurately reflects the other party's priorities. While the bill's dividend and capital gains rate reductions will be in effect until 2013, the bill's limited middle class tax relief, including the acceleration of marriage penalty relief and an increase in the child tax credit, expire in three years. The Republicans are effective at paying lip service to the middle class, but completely ineffective in backing up their words with meaningful actions.

While I strongly support tax relief, and was one of only 28 Democrats to support President

Bush's tax cut package [EGTRRA] in 2001, I do not believe that the tax bill before us today will provide the economic stimulus that our country needs. Unfortunately, the Republican tax bill's dividend income tax rate reduction will not increase either short or long term economic growth, as it will have only modest effects on demand in 2003 and would expand budget deficits over the next decade.

According to the Library of Congress's nonpartisan Congressional Research Service [CRS], "using dividend tax reductions to stimulate the economy is unlikely to be very effective." CRS further notes that "the dividend relief proposal is less likely to be successful in stimulating short-run demand than a spending increase or some other tax cuts because it accrues to higher income individuals who may save a larger fraction of the cut."

The country's economic, fiscal, and national security situations have changed significantly since Congress passed the first Bush tax package in 2001. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office [CBO], in fiscal year [FY] 2000, the US had a budget surplus of \$236 billion. The CBO currently projects a budget deficit in FY2003 of \$248 billion. The White House's Office of Management and Budget [OMB] estimates a higher deficit for the current fiscal year [\$304 billion] if Congress enacts the president's tax and spending proposals. The very first bill I cosponsored in Congress would have amended the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced Federal budget. The Federal Government needs to operate under the same principles of fiscal responsibility as the states, most of which are constitutionally required to produce balanced budgets. The increases in our budget deficits and national debt are counterproductive and will only serve to damage long-term economic growth prospects.

Further, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in Texas has risen from 4.3 percent in January 2001 to 6.7 percent in March 2003. 112,000 jobs have been lost across Texas since January 2001, and many working Americans have not been able to find new employment. Texas has the fourth highest unemployment rate in the country, and the Republican tax bill will do more harm than good for my constituents.

In Texas, under the President's so-called stimulus plan, the average tax cut for the top 1 percent of taxpayers would be \$32,571. The average tax cut for the middle 20 percent of taxpayers, the definition of the middle class, would have been \$283. 4.4 million Texans would have received \$100 or less under the Bush plan, and of those, 2.9 million people would have realized no benefits at all. Like the Bush plan, the Republican tax bill under consideration today drastically redistributes wealth

toward the very richest taxpayers, and increases the tax burden on the middle class and poor.

A congressional study on the Bush "growth" package estimates that the average East Texas taxpayer would receive \$30 from the package's dividend proposal. The Republican bill's dividend tax cut will provide equally ineffective relief. The negative impact of higher budget deficits, and consequently higher long-term interest rates, far outweighs any potential short-term gains from an elimination of taxation on dividend income.

I will continue to enthusiastically support reasonable tax relief that does not threaten the fiscal future of our country. I support many of the individual provisions of the Republican tax bill, but believe that Congress and the President have a responsibility to work toward balanced budgets and should avoid passing the costs of large, unproductive tax cuts on to our children and grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KYLE  
ROGACHENKO

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2003*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Kyle Rogachenko, a 14-year-old whose commitment, discipline, and motivation have made him a well-known competitor in the upper echelons of the international sailing community.

Mr. Rogachenko, a 9th grader at Methacton High School in Worcester, Pennsylvania, began his sailing career at age 6 at the Toms River Yacht Club in New Jersey. Included on his sailing resume are his participation on two World Teams, three South American Teams, and three North American Teams. Additionally, he was the top American finisher at the 40th annual IOCA World Championship regatta in 2001. For his age group, Mr. Rogachenko is the top young sailor in the United States.

Throughout the past few years, Mr. Rogachenko has had an extensive travel schedule that has provided him with many rewarding experiences. He has continually displayed all of the attributes of a true leader. I am proud that this young man hopes to attend the United States Naval Academy upon his completion of high school.

It is a privilege to recognize such a fine young man. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Pennsylvania's own, Kyle Rogachenko.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MAY 20

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2003 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 16

9 a.m.  
Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine the Department of State's Office of Children's Issues, focusing on international parental abduction.  
SD-419

MAY 19

10 a.m.  
Foreign Relations  
Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Harry K. Thomas, Jr., of New York, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and Jeffrey Lunstead, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Maldives.  
SD-419

2 p.m.  
Aging  
To hold hearings to examine ageism in the health care system, focusing on short shifting seniors.  
SD-628

2:30 p.m.  
Foreign Relations  
African Affairs Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine fighting AIDS in Uganda.  
SD-419

9:30 a.m.  
Rules and Administration  
To hold oversight hearings to examine operations of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Smithsonian Institution.  
SR-301

10 a.m.  
Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine international drug trafficking and terrorism.  
SD-226

Appropriations  
Transportation, Treasury and General Government Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2004 for the Department of the Treasury.  
SD-138

Aging  
To hold hearings to examine baby boomers, focusing on enhancing independence through innovation and technology.  
SD-628

2 p.m.  
Environment and Public Works  
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21).  
SD-406

2:30 p.m.  
Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine the future of U.S. economic relations in the Western Hemisphere.  
SD-419

MAY 21

9 a.m.  
Governmental Affairs  
Investigations Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine SARS, focusing on state and local response.  
SD-342

9:30 a.m.  
Foreign Relations  
Business meeting to consider an original bill to authorize foreign assistance for fiscal year 2004, to make technical and administrative changes to the Foreign Assistance and Arms Export Control Acts and to authorize a Millennium Challenge Account.  
SD-419

Joint Economic Committee  
To hold hearings to examine the economy.  
SH-216

10 a.m.  
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings to examine the national export strategy.  
SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources  
Business meeting to consider.  
SD-366

Indian Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings to examine the proposed reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.  
SR-485

Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of R. Hewitt Pate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.  
SD-226

MAY 22

10 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings to examine the status of telecommunications in Indian Country.  
SR-485

2:30 p.m.  
Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine Iraq stabilization and reconstruction, focusing on U.S. policy and plans.  
SD-419

JUNE 3

10 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings to examine the status of tribal fish and wildlife management programs.  
SR-485

JUNE 4

10 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine S. 281, to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to make certain amendments with respect to Indian tribes, to provide for training and technical assistance to Native Americans who are interested in commercial vehicle driving careers, and S. 725, to amend the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to provide from the Highway Trust Fund additional funding for Indian reservation roads.  
SR-485

2 p.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings to examine the impacts on tribal fish and wildlife management programs in the Pacific Northwest.  
SR-485

JUNE 11

10 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles W. Grim, of Oklahoma, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.  
SR-485

JUNE 18

10 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings to examine Native American sacred places.  
SR-485