

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING HEATHER HETTINGER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Heather Hettinger has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, Heather Hettinger has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

Whereas, Heather Hettinger has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Heather Hettinger must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Chillicothe and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Heather Hettinger as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY JOHNSON

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Larry Johnson, President of the North Carolina Credit Union League and Credit Union Service Corporation, and I have been friends for many, many years and have endured numerous legislative struggles and debates through those years. As Larry prepares to retire at the end of this year, I want to take this opportunity to thank him for the tremendous contributions he has made to this industry and to tell him that he will be missed by many of us whose lives he has impacted over the decades.

Larry began his credit union career in December 1967 and has been an asset to credit unions in North Carolina and across the country for years due to his excellent people skills and his ability to effectively promote the priorities of credit unions and their members. He is sincere in his effort to ensure that credit unions prosper so that those who may encounter difficulty finding help elsewhere will not be without resources. As President of the League, Larry has been very active in state, regional and national activities and has served his members with honor and dignity throughout his tenure.

In keeping with the local community tradition that has become a trademark of the credit union industry, Larry has used his position and influence within the organization to positively impact a number of important charities across North Carolina. He actively promotes credit union participation in the League's social responsibility activities such as support of the

Duke Medical Center's Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Research Laboratory, the Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina project, and his current effort to raise support for the Victory Junction Gang Camp, a camp for children with life threatening illnesses.

Larry, we thank you for the contributions that you have made in our communities and across the state of North Carolina. This legacy will be an ever-present reminder of your hard work and dedication. Cheers to you, my friend, and best of luck in your future endeavors.

HONORING HELEN WINTER AS THE MASON DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS' CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Helen Winter as the Mason District Council of Civic Associations' Citizen of the Year.

Although Ms. Winter can boast many civic contributions, the most dramatic impact she has had on her community is her involvement with her local Adopt-a-Highway campaign. Since 1985 Ms. Winter has supervised the cleanup of Little River Turnpike, the area between Hummer Road and Braddock Road. This stretch is located between Fairfax City on the west and the City of Alexandria on the east; it is an unincorporated area and as such the Little River Turnpike would likely be cluttered with litter without the careful watch of Ms. Winter.

In addition to the Turnpike, Ms. Winter spearheads the adoption of two other stretches of highway: Braddock Road between Little River Turnpike and Backlick; and John Marr Drive, between Backlick and the Columbia Pike.

Ms. Winter has innovatively incorporated the Sheriff's Weekender Work Program into her efforts. She uses citizens who have been sentenced to serve community service in lieu of fines or jail time to work on her clean-up teams.

In addition to her important work in the Adopt-a-Highway program, Ms. Winter is a former president of the Clean Fairfax Council. The council has enjoyed Ms. Winter's membership for the last 18 years. She heads the Annandale Cleanup Day for the Council.

Ms. Winter is also a member of the Annandale Central Business District Planning Committee, and Chairwoman of the Beautification & Business Recognition Committee. While in these positions she has been responsible for the recognition awards to businesses that improved the appearance of the city of Annandale. Such improvements include: attractive street lamps, metal benches, trash receptacles, bus shelters, brick sidewalks, trees, flowers and shrubbery.

Furthermore, Ms. Winter is a member of the Annandale Woman's Club and the Virginia State Women's Golf Association. She is also active in the Pinecrest Women's Golf Association, where she served two terms as president from 1999–2001.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is with great pleasure that I extend this recognition to Ms. Helen Winters. She is a well-respected and much endeared member of her community. Her contributions to the city of Annandale, Fairfax city and the State of Virginia abound. I am very pleased to honor and congratulate Ms. Winter on her many years of service and involvement. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding her for all that she has done.

MULBERRY MEMORIAL AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 72

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw my Colleagues to the attention of the following articles on the Mulberry Memorial American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 72, in Mulberry, Florida from my district.

Unit 72 is very active within the community of Mulberry, and I feel these articles exemplify the best of Unit 72's service and commitment. Please consider the inclusion of these articles in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MULBERRY, FLORIDA'S SCHOOLS BENEFIT

(Submitted by Donna Righi, Unit 72
President and Education Chairman)

Mulberry Memorial American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 72, Department of Florida works closely with the schools in Mulberry, Florida and are kept aware of the needs of their students. In February 2003, Unit 72 donated over \$120 of underwear to two of the schools in Mulberry.

School Supply drives are frequently held, and money is often donated to schools, however, Unit 72 discovered that children in need often do not have underwear to wear. You aren't able to give away your used underwear, so needy families often do not receive this necessity. The schools were contacted in regards to sizes, and Unit 72 bought them for the schools to distribute to those in real need. Items that were distributed were: Socks, underpants, jockey shorts, and even bras. The schools really appreciated this. They never seem to have enough of these items for occasional accidents that occur, not to mention the students that can't afford these necessities.

On Wednesday evening, September 11, 2002, The Mulberry American Legion Auxiliary Unit #72, joined with the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 72 and conducted a service in observance of the events of September 11, 2001.

We had distributed bags to two local schools, Kingsford Elementary and R. Bruce Wagner Elementary, for the children to decorate for luminaries. These children did a magnificent job on over three hundred bags.

• 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.

Legion Post 72 Commander, Jerry M. Mitchell, opened our ceremony with a brief welcome and the Pledge of Allegiance. Legion Chaplain Dennis Farmer gave an invocation and then turned the ceremony over to Martha Bosley, Auxiliary Vice President who gave a short speech in remembrance of the victims and heroes of that fateful day. Auxiliary Unit 72 member, Jan Feldman closed our service with the singing of "God Bless America".

The more than fifty participants then took their American flags to the side of Route 37 to wave in a show of patriotism and were greeted by passing motorists who waved back. Later the members lighted all the luminaries the students had provided and placed them by the side of Route 37 as dusk fell. Again the passing motorists signaled their approval and appreciation by blinking their lights and honking their horns.

MULBERRY POLICE, FIRE/RESCUE, CITY
HONORED FOR SERVICE BY LEGION FAMILY
CHIEF DAVE HAMLIN POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR,
MIKE TEAM IS FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Prime rib dinner all of the trimmings was served to a large turnout Tuesday evening in the Mulberry Memorial American Legion Post Home.

This was an annual Mulberry Police and Fire/Rescue salute and awards dinner given by the local American Legion Post in cooperation with the Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion.

The hall was filled with Mulberry Police and Fire/Rescue personnel and guests, a number of City officials, Legion family members and guests.

The annual Mulberry Police Officer of the Year award was given to Chief Dave Hamlin. Alan P. Hall, long-time Legionaire officer who has served five times as Post Commander, and as Department of Florida Commander, noted Chief Hamlin has been with the Mulberry force for many years, coming up through the ranks.

Alan P. Hall recalled some funny incidents over the years, remember growing up in Mulberry when the City had just one police car with one red light on it. He remembered the old Mulberry police station and when Dave Hamlin first came on the Mulberry force.

Chief Hamlin noted Mulberry is starting to grow, and quickly, and the City of Mulberry is working to be prepared with services for the growth and to serve present Mulberry needs. Last year's award went to Police Lt. Randy Tagliarini.

Mike Team, likewise, was named Mulberry Firefighter of the Year. He and other Mulberry Fire/Rescue and Police employees were thanked for what they do. Last year's winner of the award was Fire Chief Mitch Carmack.

Alan P. Hall noted these public servants work around the clock in Mulberry, working evenings, nights, weekends and holidays to help keep the City safe.

He said life is short and we need to respect each other and the job each other has to do.

Among Legion family officers helping thank Mulberry Police and Fire and City officials were present Commander of the Legion, Jerry Mitchell, Barbara Caruthers, Legion Auxiliary Chaplain, John Jennings of the Mulberry SAL, and Frank Pierce sang patriotic music to add to the occasion.

Among City officials in attendance recognized were ex-Mayor Sam and Lou Eva McLaughlin, City Manager Patricia Jackson, Commissioner Jerry and Judy Woods; Commissioner Jim and Flo Splaine and Commissioner Julian and Felicia Mullis.

SHERIFF CROW WAS FEATURED SPEAKER

Main dinner speaker was Polk County Sheriff Lawrence Crow Jr. who spoke about how "everything changed" in law enforcement and in this country on September 11.

He noted new measures being taken locally, including machine guns that will soon be in hundreds of area patrol cars.

Sheriff Crow talked about two helicopter duty deputies who died in the crash of their Polk County Sheriff's helicopter just after 9-11 on Oct 22, 2001. They hit a fog patch and the chopper crashed when infrared night vision must have led to a misperception of the craft's altitude.

The Sheriff noted Polk County is part of a nine-county group dealing with terrorism. The Sheriff's job is risk assessment.

He noted this phosphate area, the port of Tampa, the nuclear power plant near Crystal River and other points are targets in this part of Florida. He noted fertilizer elements may be used as explosives and this is a local concern with terrorism.

Sheriff Crow said there is a very real threat, in his opinion, if we go to war against Iraq we will have a backlash here against the United States.

In closing Alan P. Hall noted Mulberry Police and Fire/Rescue personnel should be respected and thanked, noting they deal first-hand with some things many people don't want to even see.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JENNY ELLIS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Jenny Ellis has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, Jenny Ellis has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

Whereas, Jenny Ellis has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Jenny Ellis must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Chillicothe and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Jenny Ellis as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

TRIBUTE TO NORTHWEST GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Northwest Guilford High School has a reputation throughout North Carolina as an excellent academic institution. As the winner of North Carolina's "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition, Northwest Guilford has once again proven itself as a first-rate academic institution. Upon winning the North Carolina competition, a group of Northwest students instructed by Mr. Ray Parrish went on to compete at the national competition held in Washington, DC. The "We the People" program provides a forum in which high school students are tested and challenged on their

knowledge of the United States Constitution. The Northwest team demonstrated an outstanding comprehension of the issues and the fundamentals of American government and represented the Sixth District with courage and pride.

Congratulations to Mr. Parrish, Michael Bowles, Blair Brooks, Lauren Campbell, Marnie Cheshire, Jenny Cimaglia, Josh Clark, Kelly Crocken, Melati Crook, Nadia Eksir, Ricky Elmore, Kristin Forrest, Ken Gangong, Elias Hage, Shelly Hanks, Martha Heise, Haley Hoffman, David Holst, Taylor Johnson, Adam Kincaid, Heidi Kunkle, Carson Leach, Leigh Anna Pittman, Matt Rothkopf, Andrew Shoffner, Naresh Sundaresan, Anne Marie Wittmann, John Yeago, and Eliana Ziri. We would also like to thank State Coordinator Carleen Wray and District Coordinator Barbie Creech for their tireless efforts in supporting such a valuable program.

The Sixth District would like to extend its congratulations to Principal Mrs. Anne Murr, the students, faculty, and families at Northwest Guilford High School. Your hard work and dedication are admirable and set an example for all of us. Once again, congratulations and "Go Vikings".

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE VIENNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.

Established in 1903 at the behest of Vienna Town Councilman Leon Freeman, the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department has a long and distinguished history. Councilman Freeman served as the Department's first chief and remained active in the Department until 1936. Starting with his tenure and continuing to the present, the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department has consistently set the standard for fire safety in Fairfax County, having implemented a laundry list of groundbreaking fire safety initiatives. At the time of its founding, no other volunteer fire department existed in the region, making the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department the first of its kind in Fairfax County. It also acquired the first motorized fire protection in Fairfax County: a 1919 Model T Ford truck.

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department exemplifies the success that can be achieved by volunteerism. Working together with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department career staff, volunteers provide professional emergency response capabilities to the Town of Vienna and surrounding Fairfax County. Supported primarily by citizen donations and departmental fundraising activities, the department was able to stay up-to-date by purchasing over \$500,000 worth of equipment in 2002. The volunteers attend fire and medical training courses and host public education events during Kids Safety Week and Fire Prevention Week.

In our nation's time of need on September 11, 2001, the Fairfax County career staff assigned to Vienna were deployed to the Pentagon to assist with fire and rescue operations.

To help cover both Vienna and other areas in Fairfax County during their absence, the volunteers staffed additional emergency medical units, playing a vital role in helping our community to cope with the crisis.

Today, the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department consists of over 50 active volunteer firefighters, EMTs and administrative personnel. The membership also includes 13 Life Members, each having served 20 years or more, and some having served more than 60 years. Their dedication to public service has been selfless, consistent, and invaluable to the region. Fairfax County is truly indebted to the assistance provided by the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals on their century of service.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
SONYA McLAUGHLIN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Sonya McLaughlin has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, Sonya McLaughlin has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

Whereas, Sonya McLaughlin has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Sonya McLaughlin must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Chillicothe and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Sonya McLaughlin as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

SALUTE TO DR. GREGORY
SPIRAKIS

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, when Dr. Gregory Spirakis' 14-month-old baby, Petey, developed meningitis, the child was given antibiotics and recovered fully. When 14-month-old Andre Chionizilli of Balti, Moldova, developed meningitis, he lost his hearing because he had no access to antibiotics.

To help children like Andre, Dr. Spirakis, a constituent of mine from Lakeland, Florida, began a humanitarian mission in Moldova, one of the former Soviet Republics. Dr. Spirakis has made two more trips to Balti, one of the cities of Lakeland's Sister Cities.

During the second trip in August 2000, Dr. Spirakis, with financial support from the First Aviation Sertoma club of Lakeland, brought 115 hearing aids and 90 pounds of antibiotics and started a mobile audiology program.

Dr. Spirakis began traveling to Moldova to treat hearing-impaired children in 1997 after meeting Dr. Iurii Lobeev, his Moldovan coun-

terpart, in a medical exchange program in the United States. Dr. Spirakis and his wife, both audiologists, have made several visits to Moldova, consulting and treating more than 170 children.

In 2001, Dr. Spirakis founded the Moldovan Children's Audiology Foundation (MCAF) and provided financial and technical support for the establishment of the Hearing Protection Center in the city of Belts, Moldova.

The Center provides hearing and medical services for children with disabilities and operates a medical care unit fully equipped, through Dr. Spirakis's support, to solve children's hearing problems.

Dr. Spirakis has personally provided training to his Moldovan counterparts at the Center, Dr. Iurii Lobeev and Dr. Victor Vrabie, and has assisted them in traveling to Lakeland and throughout the State of Florida to learn American techniques for treating disabled children, developing their capacity to perform audiograms for children, choose treatment strategies, and provide other operations that were previously only available in a specialized hospital in Chisinau, the capital.

Through the combined efforts of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Department of State, the MCAF, and Counterpart International, a container of medical equipment, consumables, school supplies, and furniture, valued at nearly \$48,000, was delivered to the Hearing Protection Center on October 1, 2002. With this delivery, the Center now has a state-of-the-art audiology clinic and provides services to the city of Belts and throughout the surrounding rural areas. The Center provides services to a larger number of constituents including newborn children, veterans, and pensioners with hearing disabilities.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Europe and Eurasia will be honoring Dr. Gregory Spirakis at a dinner on Tuesday, June 17, 2003 to recognize his efforts to improve the lives of people around the world and salute his continued commitment to foreign assistance. I would like to congratulate Dr. Spirakis for his work and express my thanks to him for his dedication and commitment to children around the world.

RECOGNIZING SAMUEL WELSH
JOHNSEN FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Welsh Johnsen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sam has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities such as the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation for six years. Over the six years he has been involved in scouting, he has earned 29 merit badges. Additionally, Sam has held numerous leadership positions in his troop and has been honored for his numerous scouting achievements with such awards as the Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-o-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Sam organized a project to clean and paint fire hydrants in Kearney, Missouri. He painted them bright yellow to improve appearance and most importantly, so they could be easily seen in a time of emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel Welsh Johnsen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
HANNAH AVERY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Hannah Avery has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, Hannah Avery has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

Whereas, Hannah Avery has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Hannah Avery must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Kingston and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Hannah Avery as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
CONGREGATION B'NAI ABRAHAM

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 100th anniversary of the founding of Congregation B'nai Abraham in Butler, Pennsylvania. Such a landmark event exemplifies a foundation based on both strength and unity. I wish the B'nai Abraham Congregation growth and prosperity.

In the year 1903, 25 Jewish families residing in the Butler community elected Abraham H. Goodman to serve as their spiritual leader and guide them in the Jewish traditions. That same year, the first service was held to commemorate the first Jewish High Holiday, Rosh Hashona, at the Knights of Pythias Hall, now the Reiber Building in Butler.

The congregation was officially deemed Congregation B'nai Abraham after obtaining a charter from the Common Pleas Judge James M. Galbreath in 1906. Over time Butler's Jewish community flourished and eventually established a large sanctuary and school facilities on Butler's North Main Street, which remains its home today.

During the 4th of July weekend, Congregation B'nai Abraham will celebrate its 100th anniversary and renew the relationships of both past and present members.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Congregation B'nai

Abraham on their 100th anniversary. And as they often say in the opening prayer of a Jewish mass, "Ma Tovv Ohalecha, Mishknotecha" or "How goodly are thy tents, thy dwelling places."

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH REC-
ONCILIATION TAX ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, I would like to spend a moment discussing the Economic Growth Package and the work that was done by Chairman THOMAS, other members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Republican Leadership and, of course, the White House. The subcommittee I chair was very interested in several aspects of the legislation and we conducted a hearing earlier this year to determine the extent of the impact of the dividend exclusion. The final product that has passed the House of Representatives will go a long way towards giving sectors of our economy the shot in the arm so necessary.

Numerous business groups have been part of the process and I want to acknowledge the testimony of the National Association of Home Builders before my subcommittee on the president's package and their contribution in supporting the overall effort. I am also aware and want to acknowledge the effort of the home builders in working with the administration in the same manner, particularly the Department of Treasury. I very much appreciate their expertise, economic research and analysis to ensure that no part of the legislation had any unintended consequences for low income housing. As a result, we are now able to pursue an economic stimulus plan that is good for all segments of the housing industry and all segments of the economy of these United States.

For the past two years, home building has been a leader in moving America's economy forward. Where many sectors of the economy have faltered, housing has remained a source of strength. Enactment of the economic stimulus package that is about to emerge from this Congress will ensure that housing continues to create the jobs and stimulate the economic growth that are needed to restore full prosperity for our nation's families and businesses.

CONDEMNING NEPAL'S FORCED
EXPULSION OF TIBETANS TO
CHINA

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, on May 31st in Kathmandu the Government of Nepal turned over to senior diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China 18 Tibetan asylum seekers, including several minors, to be forcibly repatriated to China. In so doing, the Nepalese authorities flouted both inter-

national law and repeated strong representations by the United States and other concerned parties. This action also reversed long-standing Nepalese tolerance toward Tibetan asylum seekers, which in the past has allowed access to "persons of concern" by local officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

According to the Department of State, our Embassy in Kathmandu has informed the Nepalese Government at the highest levels about this specific incident. The status of Tibetan refugees in Nepal is a long-standing issue of concern to both the Executive Branch and Congress, and is often raised by American officials in Kathmandu. In addition, senior U.S. officials recently met with Nepalese and Chinese officials to raise our strong concerns about this issue.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has stated that the forcible return of the 18 Tibetans to China without a status determination constituted refoulement (forced return), which is in fundamental contravention of well-accepted international norms. Congress joins with the Executive Branch in condemning the behavior of the Government of Nepal and senior Chinese diplomats for their role in forcibly returning the asylum seekers to China. In the strongest terms, we urge Nepal to cease this inhumane conduct and return to its previous long-term practice of allowing Tibetans to seek protection in Nepal for onward resettlement.

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL
MATTHEW SMITH

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with equal amounts of profound pride and sympathy that I come to the floor this morning. I rise to honor a noble American . . . Lance Corporal Matthew R. Smith, a Marine Corps reservist from Anderson IN, who was killed Saturday, May 10, while serving his country in Kuwait. Lance Corporal Smith lost his life in a vehicle collision while running supply missions between Iraq and Kuwait. Lance Cpl. Smith was just 20 years old. He is survived by his father David, his mother Patricia, and by his brother Mason.

Lance Corporal Smith was assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group based in Peru, IN, an outfit he had served selflessly and courageously since enlisting in June of 2001.

Lance Corporal Smith's father David said that his son had an intense love for the Corps, and his fellow Marines. Mr. Smith told the Indianapolis Star, "How many people on this Earth die doing the job they know they were put here to do." His Aunt Vicki added, "He died doing what he believed in."

Lance Corporal Smith was a student of history—he was enrolled at Indiana University before he was called to active duty—an interest he vigorously embraced in his free time, in the classroom, and as a member of the Social Studies Academic Team. His school teachers recall a young man often expressing blunt, straight-forward and in-your-face viewpoints which they always found to be well researched

and sophisticated for his age. He was also an accomplished athlete; he spent time during high school playing rugby and was active in other outdoor activities.

Mr. Speaker, Lance Corporal Smith joins the 137 other proud and distinguished Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice—these wonderful men and women gave their lives in defense of freedom, a freedom we all too often take for granted.

May God bless the family of Lance Corporal Smith during this difficult time, and may they experience the prayers and thanks of a grateful nation. May they rest upon the promise of Jeremiah 31:13, "I will turn their mourning into gladness. I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow."

PAUL WOLFOWITZ SHOULD LEARN
FROM THE TURKISH MILITARY
ABOUT DEMOCRACY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, before we went on recess, I came to the floor of the House to express my deep dismay at the disregard for fundamental democratic principles shown by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. In an interview he gave on May 2 aimed for broadcast in Turkey, Secretary Wolfowitz repeatedly criticized the Turkish military for not having intervened in parliamentary deliberations with sufficient strength when the question of Turkish participation in the war in Iraq came up. I believed then and now that this appalling call on the Turkish military to violate fundamental democratic norms was particularly disturbing because there are few things more important to the stability of the world than the effort now going on in Turkey to show that people who are religious Muslims can preside over a fully democratic regime. While many of us would like to hope that this could be taken for granted, the recent history of the Middle East argues to the contrary and that is why supporting the Turkish government in its effort to implement democracy is so important.

Secretary Wolfowitz in his interview criticized the Turkish military for not speaking out to influence the Parliament, and when the interviewer pointed out to him that the Turkish military had in fact done that, he repeated his criticism by saying that they had not done it with enough strength. Telling a military in a democratic government that it should more strongly be expressing its views to elected officials demonstrates a misunderstanding of democracy in general, and a particular insensitivity to the implications of such statements in a country—Turkey—where there had been a history of military coup that many are trying to overcome.

Subsequent to my comments, I learned of a statement made by General Hilmi Ozkok, Chief of the Turkish General Staff, in which he responded to those who had been critical of the military. While his comments pre-date the interview given by Mr. Wolfowitz, this reads as if he were in part responding to the Deputy Secretary, and in fact he may have been doing so because it would not surprise me if Mr. Wolfowitz had made these criticisms directly to the Turkish military before going public with them.

The contrast between the interview with Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz—the relevant portions of which I am going to re-print here—and the statement by General Ozkok is striking, and I am sad to see the head of the Turkish General Staff showing a far better understanding of the role the military should play in a democracy than the Deputy Secretary of Defense of the United States. As General Ozkok points out, “the military did not think it would be beneficial to share its views on such a critical issue with the press and public. It expressed all its views clearly and openly, however, at the state summit, the National Security Council, and in all of the meetings; which were chaired by our Prime Minister, government members and pertinent organizations and institutions.”

General Ozkok goes on to say “the Iraqi issue is a vital and multifaceted issue. The military is concerned with the security dimension of this issue and expresses its views and puts forward suggestions on this aspect only. As all of you will appreciate, a decision on such an issue calls for political, economic, social and judiciary dimensions as well. We as the military do not think we know best. Consequently we could have paved the path to misinterpretations if we had issued statements to the public on the security aspects only.”

Most crucially, referring to the MGK—the National Security Council of Turkey which consists of five military and nine civilian members—General Ozkok says “as you know, the MGK issues recommendations to the government according to the Constitution, not to the TBMM (the Parliament) . . . if the MGK had issued a recommendation at the time the motion was being taken up at the TBMM (the Parliament) and before a decision was made, it would have meant putting the pressure on the TBMM to pass the motion. This would not have been democratic and not in line with the Constitution.”

Mr. Speaker, I wish Paul Wolfowitz understood this fundamental aspect of democracy as well as the head of the Turkish General Staff. I ask that the sadly contrasting views of the role of the military in a democracy expressed by Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz and General Ozkok be printed here.

CNN TURK. Which traditional alliance are you talking about?

WOLFOWITZ. Well I think you know which ones I mean but I think particularly the military. I think for whatever reason they did not play the strong leadership role on that issue that we would have expected. But I think the bigger disappointment has to do with the general failure of the Turkish public reflected also in the government, about what the stakes were in Iraq and that here you have a neighbor with an overwhelmingly Muslim population where the people were suffering under one of the worst dictators in the world. And one would have thought that Muslim solidarity would have led people to say let's help the Americans liberate these people and that isn't what happened.

Okay, that's past. We are now in the present and future. The present and future is there's a spectacular opportunity in Iraq to help these newly liberated people achieve their real potential and I think that's what we need to work on together, Turkey and United States and I think what Turkey needs to do is look into its democratic soul and say, yes we believe in democracy, we believe in democracy for Muslims and Arabs. There's an opportunity now, whatever happened in the last few months, there's an opportunity

now to work with the Americans to build that in Iraq. Let's seize that opportunity and do everything we can as Turks to support it.

CNN TURK. But if you make a prognosis of what went wrong earlier, since you mentioned for example the military the traditional institution which had strong connections to the United States did not play a leadership role, so for the future to repair the relationship and bring it back to its original level that means that you have to need a leadership role to be played by those who haven't played it. What kind of a role the military might have because after all the military is not working in Turkey's parliament political parties [inaudible]? And they have been criticized by getting involved in politics.

WOLFOWITZ. I'm not suggesting you get involved in politics at all. I mean, I think, all I'm saying is that when you had an issue of Turkey's national interest and national strategy I think it's perfectly appropriate, especially in your system, for the military to say it was in Turkey's interest to support the United States in that effort.

CNN TURK. Didn't they say that?

WOLFOWITZ. I don't know. My impression is they didn't say it with the kind of strength that would have made a difference. But look let's not dwell too much on the past.

STATEMENT BY GENERAL HILMI OZKOK, CHIEF OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF, IN ANKARA

The first question I will answer to is why the military is silent. I am asked this question very frequently. I would like say openly that the military is not silent; however, the military did not think it would be beneficial to share its views on such a critical issue with the press and public. It expressed all its views clearly and openly, however, at the state summit, the National Security Council [MGK], and at all the other meetings; which were chaired by our prime minister, government members, and pertinent organizations and institutions. In addition, the views of the Turkish Armed Forces [TSK] were expressed clearly to all the heads of state, who visited me or called me on the phone.

It goes without saying that we had our reasons for not issuing statements to the press and public. The Iraqi issue is a vital and multifaceted issue. The military is concerned with the security dimension of this issue and expresses its views and puts forward suggestions on this aspect only. As all of you will appreciate, a decision on such an issue calls for political, economic, social, and judiciary dimensions as well. We, as the military, do not think we know best. Consequently, we could have paved the path to misinterpretations if we had issued statements to the public on the security aspect only. This is the reason for our silence.

I suppose that people are curious as to the stand of the TSK. I have to say openly that the view of the TSK is the same as the government and as reflected in the motion submitted to the Turkish Grand National Assembly [TBMM]. Everything in this process evolved in line with a democratic process and as should be in a modern country. We should get used to this.

Another issue concerns the reason why an advisory decision was not adopted at the last MGK meeting. I did not hear that such a wish was submitted to the MGK. The MGK consists of five military and nine civilian members. The MGK meeting was being held at the time the government motion was taken up at the TBMM and a decision was not made yet. As you know, the MGK issues recommendations to the government according to the Constitution, not to the TBMM. At the MGK meeting on January, the MGK made a clear suggestion as noted in the press

statement released on that meeting. If the MGK had issued a recommendation at the time the motion was being taken up at the TBMM and before a decision was made, it would have meant putting the pressure on the TBMM to pass the motion. This would not have been democratic and not in line with the Constitution.

In reply to another issue on the agenda that concerns whether the military feels uneasy about the motion, I say: No. We did not feel uneasy about the motion. This question was raised after a newspaper headline said that the military is uneasy. This report belongs to the journalist and his source, if there is any. As you know, the General Staff denied this report the same day.

When I became the chief of the General Staff, I issued a statement saying clearly that only I can issue statements on behalf of the TSK, and under my orders the deputy chief of the General Staff and the secretary general. It would have been better if this report was not reflected as the view of the TSK.

I have to say openly that the TSK has a single coordinated, thoroughly studied, rational, and collective view.

Another issue concerns turning the Iraqi issue into an issue of yes or no to war. I would like to express my views on this issue. There are reports that 94 percent of the population said no to war. This is wrong, 100 percent of the population said no to war and is against war. The military, in turn, is the one who is the most against the war because it knows the extent of the violence in a war.

It is obvious that we will sustain great damages if a war begins, regardless of Turkey's stand. We will sustain political, economic, and social damages in addition to the damage to our security.

[Second and final part of statement by General Hilmi Ozkok, chief of the Turkish General Staff, in Ankara—recorded on 5 March]

The current reality is that Turkey does not have the possibility or the capability to prevent the war single-handedly. In actual fact, this is the duty of the entire world and not of Turkey alone. The entire world is exerting efforts to prevent this war. We are obliged to continue our efforts in that direction. My wish is that a war will be prevented. We, however, could base our calculations on a supposition, the supposition that a war would not break out. We had to calculate what had to be done in the event of a war. On this issue, our choice was, unfortunately, not between what is good and what is bad, but rather what is bad and worse. We will either remain totally outside the war, or we will assist those waging the war, thus participating in the process. These two modes of action have, for months, been systematically studied in coordination with all the establishment and institutions. Let us reduce the issue to a simple level. If we do not participate at all, we shall still sustain the same damages to be caused by a war. It will, however, be impossible to be compensated for these damages, and we shall not have a right of say in the aftermath of the war. If, however, we choose the second alternative and assist those waging the war, we believe that then part of the damage might be compensated, we shall be able to extend humanitarian aid to the refugees in north Iraq without participating in the war, the war will be shorter because a northern front will be opened, the pain and suffering will be less, we will not be faced with unexpected developments, and the number of dead will be less.

We were going to return after having fulfilled our duty without firing even a single bullet. Had we been forced to intervene in unexpected developments, then those waging

the war would not have opposed this intervention. All these factors and other issues were noted in a document and, to a certain extent, were guaranteed. The economic aid was requested not as the price for our cooperation, but as a partial compensation on the part of those waging the war for the damage we will be sustaining. We were not after a payment for the assistance we would be extending.

The Turkish Grand National Assembly [TBMM] has not endorsed the government motion which was in harmony with this reasoning. The TBMM is the representative of the nation. Sovereignty belongs unconditionally to the people. We only have respect for this decision. My wish is that this mode of action, which we chose in a bid to avoid war, will not force us to take certain actions with those waging the war as the opposition.

As for the question on what will happen now that the motion is not endorsed, may our lofty people be tranquil. The Turkish Republic is a great and strong state with rooted traditions. Every complicated problem has a simple solution. All the authorized organs and institutions are assessing the issue in line with the new situation. A solution that will best safeguard and implement our national interests will certainly be found.

Now I would like to address the leaders in north Iraq. We are the slaves of our geography. We have no other place to go, nor do we have other friends and neighbors to befriend. Our peoples are connected with family ties. We were next to them during their most troubled times. They are well aware of this fact. We never deceived them, we never lied to them. Together we accomplished work that was beneficial for both sides. Those who forget the past will become the bad architects of the future. What has happened now to cause this anti-Turkey atmosphere and all these bitter statements? The Turkish flag is being burned. We are a noble and honorable nation that did not burn the flags of the countries that occupied our country even when we defeated them. I remind them about our right for legitimate defense derived from our national interests, and I hope that they will be moderate and cooperative. Those who prefer to replace peace with clashes will also have to shoulder its outcome and its responsibility.

Esteemed media members, my last word is directed to you. Please make sure that in this critical period, your reports are correct, that your assessments are based on sufficient facts, and that you do not make errors that might damage our national interests. I extend my deepest respect to all of you. I thank you all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIES
PROTECTION AND CONSERVA-
TION OF THE ENVIRONMENT ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, unbeknownst to many Americans lurks a drain on our economy estimated to be greater than \$100 billion annually and growing, a drain that goes unchecked and relatively unpublicized because it is not glamorous. Yet, this drain is spreading, continually invading our natural spaces and crowding out our native flora and fauna—in West Virginia, across Appalachia and beyond.

This economic sinkhole is caused by harmful non-native species, also referred to as invasive or nuisance species; an issue which last year catapulted into the public eye with the larger-than-life Northern Snakehead fish in a Maryland pond. But it took a predatory fish that can walk on land, with enough charisma to make it onto David Letterman's late night Top Ten List, to get the American public to finally sit up and take notice.

As Aldo Leopold said: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." This then sums up the silent warfare that is being perpetrated against our economy, our fish and wildlife and our native species of plants—threats by invasive species.

For instance, my home State of West Virginia is relatively small in terms of land mass, but vast in the opportunities it affords anyone who seeks to enjoy wildlife-based outdoor recreation. Yet, this traditional and important sector of my State's economy is under siege by harmful non-native space invaders. According to a report focusing on West Virginia that was just released by the Union of Concerned Scientists:

State and Federal agencies have spent more than \$18 million since 1983 to control the European Gypsy Moth in West Virginia, a voracious forest pest that kills trees and dramatically hurts the timber industry;

The balsam fir tree, on the state list of rare plants, is being infected by a small insect, the balsam wooly adelgid, which sucks the tree's sap, thereby killing it. This tree is a unique species for my State, and unless drastic measures are taken, it will be completely wiped out by this insect; and

In a continuation of the plight of the Great Lakes, the zebra mussel has found its way to West Virginia. So far, the zebra mussel is responsible for the Federal listing of five species of mussel in the Ohio River, not to mention economic and public health impacts from its clogging of municipal and industrial water intake pipes and outfalls.

These are only select examples that illustrate the kinds of problems West Virginia faces as the result of invasive species. Unfortunately, there are over 1,000 non-native species in West Virginia, over 300 of which are known to cause environmental and economic damage. In my view, we have an obligation to our natural heritage to protect, conserve and restore native species from these "space invaders."

While there are a number of initiatives already in place aimed at combating invasive species, there is a void in existing statutes. No current law is directly designed to protect and conserve our native species from harmful non-native species at the Federal or any other level. There are laws addressing harmful non-native species, but mainly through prevention, including the National Invasive Species Act, the Alien Species Prevention and Enforcement Act, the Federal Plant Pest Act, the Plant Protection Act, and the Federal Noxious Weed Act. Most Federal funding presently goes to protect production agriculture with little allocated to assist States and local communities directly.

For these reasons, today I, along with like-minded Members who are similarly concerned about invasive species, are reintroducing legislation to protect, conserve and restore our native fish, wildlife and their habitats by addressing the threat of harmful invasive species where it matters most—at the local level.

The Species Protection and Conservation of the Environment Act, or SPACE Act, would provide the missing link in existing efforts to combat the destructive invasion of some of our most valuable natural areas by harmful non-native species. Save for a couple of refinements, this bill is identical to legislation reported by the Resources Committee last year. Specifically our legislation would:

Provide grants to States to write State-wide assessments to identify exactly where their native species are being threatened by harmful nonnative species and where cooperative control efforts should be focused;

Encourage the formation of voluntary, locally-based partnerships among Federal land management agencies and non-Federal land and water owners and managers through the competitive Aldo Leopold grant program and encourage the use of innovative technology to control invasive species;

Create a legislative authority for the National Invasive Species Council;

Authorize a Federal-level rapid response capability for an incipient threat; and

Provide funds for long term monitoring of control project sites so that we can learn by experience what strategies and techniques are most effective at controlling harmful non-native species.

The bill I introduce today augments last year's legislation in that it would provide a statutory authorization for the National Invasive Species Council, established in 1999 by Executive Order 13112. In codifying the Council, this legislation seeks to strengthen and make permanent the Federal interagency cooperation necessary for the management of invasive species. The Council is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the National Management Plan—"Meeting the Invasive Species Challenge."

In the development of this legislation, I have worked with a number of environmental and science organizations including the newly formed National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species, which includes the American Lands Alliance, the Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Defense, Environmental Law Institute, Great Lakes United, the International Center for Technology Assessment, National Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Refuge Association, The Nature Conservancy, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. These organizations, along with Audubon, the Aldo Leopold Foundation and American Fisheries Society, are also offering their strong support for my legislation.

I look forward to working with all interested parties as well as the members of the Resources Committee to facilitate the enactment of this important legislation.

POEM BY DULCE MURILLA OF SAN LEANDRO HIGH SCHOOL

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the wisdom of a student in my district. At one of my recent town meetings while we were discussing people's concerns with the President's war with Iraq, teacher Karen Green rose to read a poem by ninth grader Dulce Murilla of San Leandro High School.

Sometimes we need to pause and listen to our children—who often have meaningful insights into even the world's largest problems. I commend this poem to your attention.

It's all 'bout the war in Iraq
what are these dumb fools on crack?!

Don't you see all the lives that have been taken

and how many souls have been taken

I hate these moments in history
Like they say life before your eyes
And that our government is full of lies

And ask myself why
why why Why

why all the pain
why all the tears
all these fears that haunt us behind each corner

this is all so complicated
Did you hear that missile
and did you hear that bomb

Imagine all the lives that have been taken
and all those children without their parents
can't we have some peace
and just stop the damn tease

Doesn't it break your heart
'cause i feel my heart falling apart
after each child that dies
and each woman that is burned

I wish the soldiers would've thought and turned

turned back to their homeland to the USA
But hey what's there for me to say

HONORING DR. KENNETH E. MITCHEM

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Kenneth Mitchem, who is one of the Central Valley's most outstanding citizen leaders. As a doctor he has dedicated himself to increasing the availability of medical services to his community and as such he has touched many lives. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Dr. Mitchem's numerous achievements, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting his most accomplished career.

After Dr. Mitchem graduated from the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine he opened his practice in Mokane, Missouri. In 1957 he moved his practice to Camdenton, Missouri. There in the midst of the Ozark Mountains he was the only full time doctor. With the nearest hospital 65 miles away he opened his practice as a clinic, two-bed emergency hospital, and birthing center. This clinic was complete with a laboratory,

X-ray capabilities, and pharmacy. In his clinic he treated everything from broken bones and car accidents to delivering babies.

In 1969 he moved to Turlock, California where he joined the office of Drs. Stanley Todd and Hugh Washburn. As a general physician and surgeon, Dr. Mitchem was able to provide medical care for thousands of patients in the Central Valley at a time when there were few doctors in this area.

Not only is Dr. Mitchem widely respected as a very important and competent physician but he is also widely respected in the community for all of his public service. In the past Dr. Mitchem has served as a board member to the Stanislaus County Medical Society. Currently he serves as a member of the Board of Directors to the Stanislaus Foundation for Medical Care. Not only has he displayed an incredible amount of integrity and dedication to his colleagues, but he has worked to increase the availability of medical services to patients throughout our community.

As a Medical Advisor to the Elness Convalescent Hospital, the Bel Air Lodge, and the Hale Aloha Convalescent Hospital, he has demonstrated his commitment to seniors and the important medical care they need.

Dr. Mitchem also serves his community as a Board Member of the Creative Alternatives Board. As a member of this board he helps run three separate programs in our community. These programs include a foster family agency, a residential care program, and non public schools. This board was established in 1976, and with Dr. Mitchem's assistance, has helped hundreds in our community. His dedication to children, families, and seniors is astounding. Dr. Mitchem is truly an invaluable member of our community.

Mr. Speaker, on May 29th, as Dr. Kenneth E. Mitchem's friends and family gathered to honor his years of incredible service to the medical community and his patients, he was honored as the recipient of the John Darroch Memorial Award by the Stanislaus Medical Society. His successes are considerable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his contributions. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing Dr. Kenneth E. Mitchem continued success in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING MR. ABDEL SALEM

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor Mr. Abdel Salem on the occasion of his retirement as City Manager of El Centro, California in my Congressional District. Abdel was honored by his friends and colleagues at a Farewell Dinner on May 30, 2003.

A native of Facous, Egypt, near the Suez Canal, Abdel was born into a farming family, along with two brothers and two sisters. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Alexandria University in Alexandria, Egypt in 1965. Influenced by an uncle who had earned his Doctorate Degree from the University of California at Berkeley, Abdel came to North America in the early 1970s—first to Toronto and then to New York City. He

has furthered his education through post-graduate courses in Public Administration at San Diego State University.

Choosing to move to sunny Imperial Valley of California, Abdel became Assistant Finance Director of El Centro in 1973 and was promoted to Finance Director four years later. Then came an appointment in 1980 to Acting City Manager and to City Manager in 1981. He has also served as Executive Director of the city's Redevelopment Agency and Executive Director of the Community Development Commission.

He has been involved in many roles in the organizations and activities of Imperial Valley. He is past chairman of the Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority, past chairman of the Imperial Valley City/County Managers Association, and a founding board member of the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. He served as secretary/treasurer and president of the Optimist Club and is past chairman of the Oratorical Contest of Optimist International/Southern California District.

Abdel is also a member of the International City Managers Association, the California City Managers Executive Committee, the Community Redevelopment Agencies Association, and the League of Cities Fiscal Reform Committee, as well as the League of California Cities Committee on Diversity.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Abdel Salem for these many fine contributions to our community. Upon his retirement, he leaves the City of El Centro a far better place. He is joined in celebrating his accomplishments by his wife, Samia, a teacher at Southwest High School, and his children, Sherif and Omneya, Salma, and Kareem. Sherif received his Bachelors' Degree in Biology in 1998 from USD and is currently employed at a biotech company in Irvine as a microbiologist. Omneya, his wife, is an architect, and they reside in San Diego. In 2001, Salma received her Masters' Degree in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard University. Kareem is Vice President of the Class of 2003 and an honor student at Southwest High School.

My best wishes go to Abdel Salem and his family upon his completion of a fruitful and noteworthy term as El Centro's City Manager. He will be missed!

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW BRONFMAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Matthew Bronfman for his numerous achievements during his years of service to the 92nd Street Y. A dedicated and passionate philanthropist, Mr. Bronfman has long been a guiding force behind the Y, one of New York City's premier cultural institutions.

The 92nd Street Y is a New York City landmark, having been in operation for nearly 130 years. Founded in 1874, the Y has become a center for people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and religions to meet and participate in activities ranging from concerts at the Tisch

Center to pottery classes for children. Inspiring New Yorkers of all ages with its varied programs and classes, the 92nd Street Y has played a crucial role in maintaining the vitality of the city.

A successful businessman and philanthropist for many years, Matthew Bronfman joined the 92nd Street Y Board of Directors in September of 1991 and was elected its 42nd President in May of 2000. His strong leadership and vision have had an energizing influence in strengthening the 92nd Street Y.

The Bronfman family has also played a major role in the life of the Y by endowing, in 1992, the Bronfman Center for Jewish Life. The Bronfman Center has become the focus of the Y's many programs involved with Jewish education, outreach, family and holiday planning. The Center sponsors lectures, religious services, classes and workshops, all designed to help the community explore Jewish heritage and culture. Recent guest speakers include Elie Wiesel and Yitzhak Rabin.

A devoted father of six, Matthew Bronfman is managing director of a private investment company, ACI Capital, and chairman of the Investment Committee of the Challenge Fund, L.P. Mr. Bronfman is also a board member of many organizations including Tweeter Home Entertainment Group, Earnest Partners, Visiosonic, Palace Candles, The Canadian Center for Architecture, and the Cardigan Mountain School.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements and leadership, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Matthew Bronfman, an accomplished businessman and a cultural leader.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington yesterday. Three recorded votes were taken by the House; if I were here, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 227: a motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 159, a resolution Expressing Profound Sorrow on the Occasion of the Death of Irma Rangel. I would have voted "yea";

Rollcall No. 228: a motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 195, a resolution congratulating Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs for Hitting 500 Major League Home Runs. I would have voted "yea";

Rollcall No. 229: a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1465, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4832 East Highway 27 in Iron Station, North Carolina, as the "General Charles Gabriel Post Office". I would have voted "yea".

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GERALD THYGERSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct privilege to stand before this body to pay

tribute to a true public servant. Gerald Thygeron of Grand Junction, Colorado has spent 38 years improving the lives of ranchers and their livestock in the West. To commemorate his retirement from the Bureau of Land Management, I would like to recognize his efforts here today.

Gerald joined the BLM after graduating with a Bachelor of Range Science Degree from New Mexico State University in 1966. He worked in the Range Management Program his entire career—first in Las Cruces, New Mexico and then in Grand Junction, Colorado beginning in 1973. After taking control of the nascent Little Brookcliffs Wild Horse Range in 1981, Gerald greatly expanded the size, genetic diversity, and overall quality of the herd while simultaneously cutting costs. His success and ability to forge strong partnerships has brought him and the Little Brookcliffs Horse Range national attention.

Mr. Speaker, Gerald Thygeron has been responsible for numerous improvements that have enhanced both the quality of livestock and public rangelands in the West. He has been an outstanding steward of our nation's resources, and I thank him for his service to the BLM. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET AND ANDREW WYATT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margaret and Andrew Wyatt as they celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary. On May 17, 2003 the pair renewed their vows at Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church in my hometown of Newark, New Jersey.

Marrying at a very young age, Margaret and Andrew have grown together over these past fifty years, enjoying times of great joy and happiness. Finding a special person and friend to share your life with is one of the great joys of life. The Wyatt's have found that special bond and continue to grow and change together.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in congratulating Margaret and Andrew on this wonderful occasion and in wishing them many more wonderful years together.

TRIBUTE TO ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois in honor of their Sesquicentennial Celebration.

The Springfield Diocese is home to approximately 170,000 Catholics in 164 parishes. The diocese is also home to 145 diocesan priests. There are eight Catholic hospitals, one religious seminary, one Catholic university, one

Catholic college, seven Catholic high schools, and 54 Catholic elementary schools in the diocese.

Today, I would like to send my blessings to Bishop Lucas and the entire Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois for a joyous celebration of their Sesquicentennial.

The Diocese will celebrate their year of Jubilee with a free fun-filled day on Saturday, June 28, 2003 with a community mass that evening. The day will include activities for children, families, and seniors at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. The day will conclude with a concert from Aaron Neville. I would like to commend the sponsors of the event who are making this day possible for the hundreds of Catholic families in the Diocese.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the Diocese on their Jubilee 2003 Celebration and wish them much success with their events. I know every one who attends will feel renewed in their faith and ready to begin the next 150 years with thanksgiving for all we have been given. God bless.

CONCENTRATION OF OWNERSHIP IN MEDIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Communications Commission voted along party lines to put more power in the hands of a few corporate giants at the expense of the American people.

If the FCC's goal was to line the pockets of Disney, General Electric, AOL-Time Warner, Viacom, and News Corp. then I say to them "congratulations!" because they have succeeded.

By allowing these corporate interests to own more newspapers, more TV stations, more radio stations, and more of our public airwaves, we are taking this country down a dangerous path.

We all learned at a young age that knowledge is power. But now, the flow of knowledge will be controlled by a handful of media giants.

They will have almost total control of our news, information, and entertainment.

They will determine what we get and when we get it.

They will determine what we see, read, and hear. That is unacceptable!

And why have they done this?

They say that the rise of cable TV and the internet made the former rules obsolete.

That's the kind of conclusion you reach when the only people you listen to are media moguls.

Who is listening to the American people?

We have been shut out of the process.

In its haste to protect these company's financial interests, the FCC has failed to defend the public interest.

We must take action to right this wrong.

If we do not, our media will have less local content, less diversity of opinion, and fewer opportunities for minority ownership.

It is time for the American people to stand up and be counted. It is time for those who represent the American people to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber today during rollcall vote No. 227, No. 228 and No. 229. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all of these votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to official business as a member of an official Congressional delegation traveling to North Korea and was not present for the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 227—"yes"; 228—"yes"; 229—"yes."

HONORING MICHAEL HERTIG

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct pleasure to stand before this body of Congress today to recognize a American hero. Staff Sergeant Michael Hertig of the 3rd Infantry Division put himself in harms way to serve his country during both campaigns on Iraqi soil.

At one stage during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Michael was leading his brigade back to headquarters. When he discovered an exposed flank in the line, he placed his Bradley Fighting Vehicle in the middle of the gap, and engaged the enemy. Michael's commanding officer claimed that his actions saved the lives of at least 15 soldiers, as he personally escorted several military ambulances through enemy territory. For these courageous actions, Michael will receive the Silver Star; the third highest military award designated solely for gallantry in action. Michael will also be presented with the Purple Heart for injuries he incurred when an Iraqi tank exploded next to his Bradley Fighting Vehicle. While he has lost some hearing in his right ear, Michael remains in high spirits.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice and heroism of this soldier and his family. Michael should know that this sacrifice will not be forgotten; America will be in his debt. Michael has done all Americans proud and I know he has the respect, admiration, and gratitude of all of my colleagues here today. Thank you, Michael, for your dedication and service to this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BARBARA HARRIS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a wonderful woman and outstanding educator, Mrs. Barbara Harris. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a graduate of Cheyney State College, Mrs. Harris has been a resident of Newark, New Jersey since 1969.

On June 13, 2003 at the Galloping Hill Inn in Union, New Jersey, the Social Welfare Committee, the Bragaw Avenue School, family and friends will be honoring Mrs. Harris on the occasion of her retirement from the Newark Public School System.

Beginning her work as an educator in Philadelphia, Mrs. Harris taught within the Philadelphia School System from 1962–1966. She then moved to Newark and has taught in our public school system since 1969. As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee here in the U.S. House of Representatives and a former teacher, I am extremely appreciative and proud of the hard work and dedication of educators such as Mrs. Harris.

In addition to her dedication within the classroom, Mrs. Harris has also dedicated herself to bettering the entire community. Volunteering with the United Way, late New Jersey State Senator Winona Lipman, as well as former Mayor Kenneth Gibson and Ralph Grant she also has served on many local, county and state committees for the Newark Teachers Association.

A dedicated educator and citizen, Mrs. Barbara Harris will certainly be missed within the Newark educational community. Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in saluting Mrs. Harris for her many years of educating our Nation's children, wishing her the very best for the future.

LITCHFIELD SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Litchfield and honor its sesquicentennial this year.

Said to be the highest point between St. Louis, Missouri and Terre Haute, Indiana, Litchfield was founded on August 24, 1853, and was named after Electus Bachus Litchfield, the man that brought the railroad to the area. The Terre Haute, Alton, and St. Louis railroad was essential to the development of early Litchfield, and the town rapidly grew in size.

The village was incorporated in 1856, and when the Civil War came five years later, Litchfield was the first city in the state of Illinois to send men to fight for the Union. One company from Litchfield was used to help form the first regiment in the state of Illinois, the Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

After the Civil War, the discovery of oil, gas, and coal in the area prompted more population growth, and six railroads made their way

through the city. The city grew even larger with the introduction of Route 66, the main highway between Chicago and Los Angeles, as tourists and travelers alike became familiar with Litchfield. The highway still runs through Litchfield today, and still brings in tourists from all over the world.

Today, Litchfield is known as the hub of Central Illinois. One hour from both St. Louis, Missouri and Springfield, Illinois, it has become the manufacturing and shopping center of the area. Nineteen manufacturers, sales and distribution centers are housed in the city's two industrial parks. Also, with a newly constructed high school, Litchfield seems ready to continue its growth well into its next 150 years. Lincoln Land Community College now has a center in the town as well, and the future of the area looks bright.

Litchfield's first 150 years have been full of growth. In celebrating its sesquicentennial this year, the city shows great dedication both to its history and to the people of its present. Several events are planned for the week of the Fourth of July, and I wish the city and its people the best in celebrating this significant milestone.

HONORING FANNIE DICKENS PETWAY

HON. FRANK W. BALLANCE, JR.

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Fannie Petway, a native of Pinetop, North Carolina, who passed on to her reward Sunday, April 27, 2003 at the age of 97. Mrs. Petway was a devoted parishioner of Bethlehem Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, North Carolina. She is survived by her loving son Columbus Petway, and a host of other relatives.

Mrs. Petway's doors were always open to discuss family issues and she helped raise many children and grandchildren. She would keep them in awe with the many stories she told about her experiences on the farm where many of the children in her life spent their summers. The men in her family reflect fondly when they would get a call from Fannie asking them to stop by and get something to eat—and they would never say no, especially when wooed with her memorable peach cobbler and coconut cake, in spite of the fact that their wives had another meal waiting for them at home. Mrs. Petway is preceded in death by her daughter Annie Elizabeth Knight, her son Edward Petway, and daughters-in-law Eunice Irene Petway and Madie Moore Petway. She was the loving and proud grandmother to seven granddaughters and seven grandsons.

Mrs. Petway's gracious and warm smile will be deeply missed along with the many wonderful memories and recipes she has left behind. The blessing of her warmth and love have left a mark on those close to her and will be remembered vividly and fondly. My thoughts and prayers are with her loved ones.

RELIEF TO MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
WHO ISSUE TAX EXEMPT BONDS**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that I have just reintroduced to provide relief to municipal utilities who issue tax exempt bonds. This legislation would permit these utilities to take advantage of a process known as "advance refunding," which allows the bond issuer to take advantage of favorable market conditions by refinancing their debt at a lower interest rate. The bill is identical to legislation I introduced in the 107th Congress that was cosponsored by the entire South Carolina Congressional delegation.

Advance refunding works just like refinancing your home. If interest rates have dropped since you purchased your home, then you can refinance, or "advance refund," that home at the lower rate. This can save the average homeowner thousands of dollars in foregone interest payments.

This same refinancing has, in the past, been allowed for municipal utilities who use tax exempt bonds to finance their facilities and equipment. Because of the large capital costs associated with power generation and distribution, the debt incurred from these issues is often substantial, and debt service payments end up being one of the largest expenses for the utility. These higher costs are then passed on to the consumer in the form of higher electric rates. If these companies are allowed to refinance, they can save millions of dollars in foregone interest payments, which translates into lower rates for the average consumer.

Under current tax law, these municipal utilities have been able to advance refund their debt only once since 1986. Many of these utilities companies still face staggering debts. For one utility company in my state, these debt payments have become particularly burdensome, and all of its customers are suffering from the resulting high rates. With interest rates so low, this utility is convinced that if it is allowed to advance refund one additional time, it will be able to stabilize its debt service and significantly lower these rates.

That is what my legislation does. It allows municipal utilities to advance refund one additional time if they have already advance refunded since 1986.

Municipal utilities are by no means the only issuers of tax exempt bonds. I have limited the scope of this bill to municipal utilities because they face substantial debts and are subject to limitations that state and local governments are not. The bill is open to modification for others who might benefit from advance refunding of their debt.

During consideration of the most recent tax bill in the Senate, Senator LINCOLN offered an amendment that allowed for additional advance refunding for Arkansas schools. While I am sure that Arkansas schools need such relief, other sectors need similar relief, and especially municipal utilities. I am pleased to see Senator LINCOLN reopen the advance refunding debate, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss inclusion of my bill in tax reform measures taken up by the House in the future. The benefits to my state, and others,

would be significant, and they would ultimately be enjoyed by consumers.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF GLAD TIDINGS CHURCH
OF GOD IN CHRIST**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of Glad Tidings Church founded by Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Macklin in 1978 in Hayward, California. From its earliest inception, Glad Tidings reflected what many considered a new and refreshing direction in church ministry. With a strong commitment to communities and families, this young church began to position itself for a long-term commitment to the city of Hayward.

In 1981, Glad Tidings purchased their first edifice in South Hayward. Believing that Glad Tidings had a vision and a ministry to meet the growing needs of a changing neighborhood, the Hayward Covenant Church sold a 15,000 square foot facility, including a sanctuary with seating for 150 people, to a young, energetic congregation.

Within a few short years, the mortgage was liquidated and the existing facility was remodeled to include a new sanctuary seating approximately 300 people. The remaining facility was remodeled to accommodate executive offices, classrooms, and a fellowship hall.

In the midst of Glad Tidings' growth is the incredible story of a congregation, whose vision, fortitude and commitment has brought them face to face with a suburban community that had become very much urban within a few short years. As the church grew, the obvious need to build new facilities was more than evident. Glad Tidings Church was faced with a major dilemma; to relocate to a suburban community or to stay and build in a challenged community filled with drugs, crime, and rampant poverty.

In 1990, Glad Tidings Church adopted a strategic plan, which required the church to involve itself to an even greater degree in the surrounding neighborhoods in decline. A neighborhood revitalization program was set in motion. Glad Tidings established a strong proactive presence in city government, schools, community, and police affairs. This community outreach provided a base for support networks to thrive with other surrounding neighborhoods, agencies and businesses and gave voice to the South Hayward community.

Glad Tidings Church established a central neighborhood campus while networking with other community services to offer a creative and supportive environment of programs, housing, services and facilities which address many of the major needs and concerns of a community in need of revitalization.

I applaud Glad Tidings Church's focus on economic development, job and career training, youth and adult education, youth and adult support services and health services all provided within a spiritual setting which accents excellence at all levels of life for all people. I congratulate Glad Tidings Church on its 25th anniversary and wish the leadership and congregation many years of continued success.

THE GINSENG LABELING
CORRECTION ACT**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss legislation I introduced today called The Ginseng Labeling Correction Act. This legislation seeks to fix a technical problem with a provision that was included in the farm bill Congress passed last year.

Section 10806(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 amended the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act by placing limitations on the use of the term "ginseng" as the common or usual name for plants classified within the genus *Panax*. The purpose of this provision was to address confusion that had arisen from products derived from different plants being labeled as "Siberian ginseng."

When labeling changes are enacted, the Food and Drug Administration recognizes that, in order to assure an orderly and economical industry adjustment to new labeling requirements, a sufficient lead time is necessary to permit planning for the use of existing label inventories and the development of new labeling materials.

Unfortunately, the ginseng provision Congress included in the farm bill lacked a specific effective date that would have allowed FDA's typical transition period to occur. Therefore, on May 13, 2002, the day the farm bill was signed into law, companies that had products labeled "Siberian ginseng" became criminally liable. This was clearly not the intent of Congress, and was simply an oversight on the part of the Senate and House in writing that portion of the farm bill. In fact, Senator Tom Harkin, the Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, attempted to correct this omission in the FY 2003 Emergency War-time Supplemental, PL-108-11. However, in the rush to complete work on the bill the provision was left out even though there were no objections to it.

However, this omission needs to be corrected as soon as possible. Therefore, I have introduced The Ginseng Labeling Correction Act, which states that Section 10806(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 will become effective thirty days after the legislation becomes law.

It is my desire to have this bill move to the House floor as quickly as possible. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this minor, but critically important, correction to the farm bill.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. NORMAN
ADRIAN WIGGINS**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Norman Adrian Wiggins on his retirement as President of my alma mater, Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina. For 36 extraordinary years, Dr. Wiggins' leadership and vision have transformed Campbell from a small, rural school

into the nation's second largest Baptist university.

From his first day on the job in 1967, Dr. Wiggins has strengthened the undergraduate college, developed an innovative Trust Management Program, and added five new schools to the University: The Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, The Lundy-Fetterman School of Business, The School of Education, The School of Pharmacy, and The School of Divinity. He also established during his tenure an ROTC Program and a number of substantial international programs, most notably with Tunku Abdul Rahman College in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Indeed, Dr. Wiggins' tireless efforts have extended Campbell's sphere of influence throughout the communities of North Carolina, the nation, and the world.

During his career, Dr. Wiggins taught and mentored over 25,000 students who have gone out into the world to serve as business leaders, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and ministers. These Campbell graduates provide our people with jobs and economic opportunities, care for our nation's sick and elderly, defend our rights under the rule of law as attorneys, prepare our children to be tomorrow's leaders, and uplift our national soul.

But Dr. Wiggins' leadership extends far beyond the hallowed halls of Campbell University. He has served as president of both the Baptist State Convention and the American Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. His peers hail him as a leader who embodies a depth of experience, understanding, and passion that few will ever match.

Dr. Wiggins' innovative leadership and unique vision have earned him widespread recognition. His numerous awards include the Commander's Award for Public Service and the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal from the United States Army, and the Boy Scouts of America's Distinguished Service Award, all of which acknowledge Dr. Wiggins' unfailing commitment to improving the lives of his fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Wiggins is an exemplary figure of patriotism, leadership, dedication, and commitment. As a Campbell alumnus, I am proud to honor Dr. Norman Adrian Wiggins today. I ask all of my colleagues to join me and Faye in celebrating his 36 years of service to Campbell University, to the State of North Carolina, and to the United States of America.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF RAISING
THE PATRIOTS OF AFRICAN DESCENT
MONUMENT IN VALLEY FORGE
NATIONAL PARK, VALLEY FORGE
ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA
THETA SORORITY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and its celebration of the 10 year anniversary of the raising of the Patriots of African Descent Monument in Valley Forge National Historical Park. Ninety years ago, the Delta Sigma Theta So-

rority started with 22 women, right here in our Nation's Capital at Howard University, and has since expanded to the 200,000 member, 90 chapter organization that exists today.

The Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter of this public service organization was chartered on February 10, 1991 and has since contributed to the local and national community in ways consistent with the organization's Five Point Program foci of: educational development, economic development, physical and mental health, political awareness and international awareness and involvement.

These contributions are signified in the Chapter's effort and success in erecting the Patriots of African Descent Monument in 1993 at Valley Forge, one of our Nation's most historical parks. The monument remains the only such edifice to be raised in any of the units of the National Park system and contributes to the education of visitors to the Park of the role African-Americans played in the country's founding. More specifically, the monument signifies the tremendous service and sacrifice African-American soldiers of the Continental Army provided to a fledgling nation.

The Valley Forge National Park holds great historic value as the site dedicated to the Continental Army's bravery, suffering and sacrifice that took place during the harsh winter encampment there in 1777-78, during which time some 2,000 soldiers died.

The Patriots of African Descent Monument only furthers the historic symbolism of the Park by recognizing the numerous contributions and sacrifices of African-Americans during the Revolutionary War, in particular the approximately 500 African-American soldiers who suffered terribly along with the many other Continental soldiers during the long, harsh winter spent in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Since the monument's unveiling in 1993, this statue has contributed to educating visitors of Valley Forge to the diverse cultures that contributed to this Nation's birth and will continue to do so with the sustained involvement and efforts of the Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Valley Forge Historical Society and citizens. I congratulate and commend the Chapter's continued efforts to educate future generations regarding historic artifacts and places which "tell the American story" and recognize the 10 year anniversary of the Patriots of African Descent Monument and its symbolic place in our Nation's history.

WALTER CRAIG AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY POST 60 IN ROCKFORD,
ILLINOIS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Walter Craig American Legion Auxiliary Post 60 located in Rockford, Illinois. This auxiliary post is dedicated to supporting the veterans and their families in my congressional district, and I would like to acknowledge the many accomplishments of the Walter Craig American Legion Auxiliary Post 60: Americanism Patriotic Conference; and Youth Conference, Spirit of Youth Fund Schol-

arships for Jr. Girls Nation and Youth Conference; Auxiliary Emergency Fund for Displaced Homemakers; American Legion Child Welfare Foundation; Dept. Children and Youth Christmas Gifts for Institutional Children; Children and Youth Scholarships for teaching field of handicapped children; Children's Heartlink Heart surgery for needy children; Children's Miracle Network hospital care for children in need; Special Olympics; Spinoza Buddy Bear Project; Department Scholarship Fund for All Dept. Scholarship Funds; Funding for Special Field Services 7 VA Hospitals; Dept. National Security Fund ROTC Awards 7 Patriotic Conference; Nurses Scholarship Fund; Six Point Program extras for hospitalized veterans; North Chicago Medical Center; Crime Stoppers; World War II Nurses; Rescue Mission.

Mr. Speaker, the Walter Craig American Legion Auxiliary Post 60 is an exemplary post, and its members take great pride in helping their local veterans. This post is to be commended for its many accomplishments and steadfast support of the veterans in the 16th Congressional District of Illinois.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2003

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I missed the legislative business of Monday, June 2, 2003 due to a delay in my flight from Mississippi. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 227, for H. Res. 159: expressing profound sorrow on the occasion of the death of Irma Rangel; "yea" on rollcall No. 228, for H. Res. 195: congratulating Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs for hitting 500 major league home runs; and "yea" on rollcall No. 229, for H.R. 1465: to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4832 East Highway 27 in Iron Station, North Carolina, as the "General Charles Gabriel Post Office."

TRIBUTE TO DIANA BOSFIELD-MOORE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Diana Bosfield-Moore, a teacher at Phyllis R. Miller Elementary School who, after 28 and a half years of dedicated service, has decided to retire from the Dade County Public Schools.

Diana Bosfield-Moore was born and raised in Miami, Florida and is a proud graduate of Miami Northwestern Sr. High School. She attended Miami Dade Community College where she received her AA Degree and went on to receive her Bachelor of Science Degree from Florida Memorial College.

Ms. Bosfield-Moore brought a wealth of educational experience to her teaching. She began her career in education as a Paraprofessional in 1974. Soon afterwards, Ms. Bosfield Moore moved to Computer Lab Specialist, Reading Tutor, Substitute Teacher,

After-School Care Supervisor, Associate Educator, and now an Elementary School Teacher.

Ms. Bosfield-Moore is a role model who demonstrated in her own life how her students could overcome the obstacles they faced in theirs. She raised five of her sibling's children; two of her own children; and four grandchildren, and still she made the time to graduate from college with a teaching degree at the age of forty-three. This is a truly remarkable task, and it speaks volumes about the truly remarkable person she is.

Ms. Bosfield-Moore's dedication, loyalty, compassion, and involvement will be sorely missed at Phyllis R. Miller Elementary School, by parents, colleagues, administrators and students alike.

Congratulations, Ms. Bosfield-Moore, for a job well done.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOWNRIVER COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to acknowledge the 25th Anniversary of the Downriver Council for the Arts (DCA). The DCA has been a driving force in bringing quality arts education, valuable cultural information and employment to artists and educators throughout the Downriver community.

Founded in 1978, the DCA is a non-profit, umbrella organization that represents, promotes and serves the 18 Downriver communities. The DCA's Home Gallery, resource library, information center, newsletter, cultural calendar, weekly column, arts hotline, website and cable programs provide up-to-date information on artistic, cultural and special events to the nearly 400,000 residents of Downriver.

The DCA works closely with community-based arts organizations, service clubs, municipal governments, schools and social agencies to bring the arts into the community. This wonderful organization nurtures the cultural and artistic growth of thousands of Downriver residents. The DCA not only fosters strong relationships between art institutions and educators, but also serves as a bridge between all socio-economic categories.

The DCA provides volunteer, educational and professional development opportunities, works to insure equal access to artistic opportunities and promotes the recognition of art and culture as a primary contributor to economic development and the quality of life within the Downriver communities.

Mr. Speaker, as the Downriver Council for the Arts celebrates its 25th Anniversary, I would ask that all my colleagues rise and salute this phenomenal organization for all that they have done and will continue to do for the arts in Downriver.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 2, 2003, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 227, 228, and 229. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 227 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 159, Expressing Profound Sorrow on the Occasion of the Death of Irma Rangel; rollcall vote 228 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 195, Congratulating Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs for Hitting 500 Major League Home Runs; and rollcall vote 229 on Suspending the Rules and Passing H.R. 1465, the General Charles Gabriel Post Office Building Designation Act.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 227, 228, and 229.

CONGRATULATING ALAN KENT LIPKE, RETIRING PRINCIPAL OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN SCHOOL IN JACKSON, MISSOURI FOR 39 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION'S CHILDREN

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, a well-known proverb exemplifies the life mission of our friend and educator Alan Lipke. "A child is not a vessel to be filled, but a lamp to be lit."

For 39 years, Alan Lipke has been an educator committed to bringing light to the lives of our children. Whether it was for two years at St. Paul Lutheran School in Evansville, Indiana, for 13 years at St. Paul Lutheran School in Aurora, Illinois or for the last 22 years right here at St. Paul Lutheran School in Jackson, Missouri, students across the Heartland have been blessed by the dedication and passion of someone who has spent his life preparing our children for the future.

Now, after playing such an integral role in the education of countless youngsters, Alan Lipke has decided it is time to retire from education and begin a new chapter in his life. Though it is clear that he has "put in his time," it is with a heavy heart that we prepare for Alan's departure. He has been a remarkable and stellar educator and after 39 years of unparalleled service to the teaching profession, to say that his absence from education will be missed is an understatement.

And though Alan is retiring from his current profession, I know he will still be a visible and active member of the Jackson community. Maybe we'll see him at Jackson Chamber of Commerce meetings, at festivities for the St. Paul Lutheran School or just out enjoying time with his wife Sally, his children Lisa and Scott, his daughter-in-law Ashley, and most important of all, his grandson Parker. Wherever we may see him, I am sure he will be having fun and enjoying this rich and wonderful time of his life.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special occasion, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in con-

gratulating Alan on this milestone and wish him every happiness for the future. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO BLONEVA SMITH

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Bloneva Smith, a remarkable teacher who, after 37 years of dedicated service, has decided to retire from the Dade County Schools.

Mrs. Smith is a graduate from Booker T. Washington Senior High School in Miami, Florida. She attended Howard University in Washington, DC, where she earned her undergraduate degree. Bloneva Smith is a member of Mt. Hermon AME Church and a sister of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Mrs. Smith brought to her young students, as well as her young teaching colleagues, a wealth of experience and a perspective on educational progress that spans some of the most difficult decades in our history. Her teaching career began in 1966, during a time when the Dade schools were still effectively racially segregated and black educators were traditionally assigned to teach at historically black schools.

In January 1970, she was reassigned to Treasure Island Elementary School in response to a court order to integrate all schools. Mrs. Smith continued teaching there for 16 years before moving on to Rainbow Park Elementary and finally to Phyllis R. Miller Elementary School, where she has decided to end her teaching career.

I understand that Mrs. Smith has been called a "quiet storm" because she gets results without making a big fuss. We thank her for her service as a proficient and effective educator, and I know all my colleagues join in offering her our best wishes in all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP OF JOSEPH L. HUDSON JR.

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the extraordinary leadership of Mr. Joseph L. Hudson Jr. Mr. Hudson has been a committed civic leader in the greater Detroit area for over 45 years. Over the course of his lifetime, Mr. Hudson has served as a role model for not only his leadership abilities, but his dedication to his community, his church and, most important of all, his family.

Born on July 4, 1931 in Buffalo, New York, Mr. Hudson was destined to be a strong figure in our Nation's landscape. Mr. Hudson joined the J.L. Hudson Company following graduation from Yale in 1953. Between 1954 and 1956 he served as an artillery officer with the U.S. Army in Germany. In 1956 he returned to Hudson's, was elected a Vice President in 1957 and in 1961 became President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Hudson retired from the

J.L. Hudson Company and the Dayton Hudson Corporation in 1982 after serving as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for ten years.

In 1956 Mr. Hudson was elected to the board of trustees of the Hudson-Webber Foundation and served as President and then Chairman from 1961 until his retirement in 1996. The Hudson-Webber Foundation is committed to improving the vitality and quality of life of the metropolitan Detroit community with special emphasis on the Detroit Medical Center, the arts, crime reduction, economic development and the communities' urban revitalization needs.

Mr. Hudson's civic and community involvement includes service on the City of Detroit Arts Commission (Detroit Institute of Arts) where he served as President from 1979–1990; Active Honorary Trustee and founding Chairman of New Detroit, Inc., America's first urban coalition. Mr. Hudson has also received Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degrees from the University of Detroit, Wayne State University, and Michigan State University.

In June of 2003, Mr. Hudson will complete 19 years as founding Chairman of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, Detroit, Michigan. Under his remarkable leadership, the Community Foundation has distributed more than \$145 million in over 18,000 grants to improve the seven counties of Southeastern Michigan. The Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan is one of the youngest and fastest growing of over 600 community foundations worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all my colleagues rise and join me in honoring Mr. Hudson's humanitarian achievements and tireless dedication to his community and church.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL J.
HANDY: THE VETERANS' VETERAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Michael J. Handy, Director of the Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs in the City of New York. Mr. Handy died on May 31 from a heart attack. He was 55 years old.

Mr. Handy was first appointed to head the Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs by Mayor David Dinkins in the late 1980's, and was reappointed to that position by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

For Mr. Handy, service to veterans was not a partisan issue. Indeed, he was New York's Veterans' Veteran, having dedicated 30 years of his professional life to assisting the men and women who had served in our Nation's Armed Forces.

He had served in Vietnam as an enlisted man in the Air Force. But as his loving wife Edna has pointed out, Mr. Handy's service after the war, and to the very end, was a response to a call that struck him so deeply that it became central to his life. For him, working for and with veterans was not so much a job, or a political office, it was a passion.

I first began working with Mr. Handy in the late 1980's when he became involved with the

Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust, which I chaired. Mr. Handy became a fixture at those annual meetings which convened each September during the Black Caucus' Annual Legislative Conference.

Mr. Handy was one of the very first advocates for federally assisted housing for disabled and veterans, which culminated eventually in a program to provide such housing, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Veterans' Administration.

In his later years, Mr. Handy was a persistent advocate for raising the benefits received by Reservists and National Guardsmen to equal those of active duty soldiers. His voice in that area has been heard in Washington, where Democrats in Congress are pushing such legislation.

Mr. Handy, a native New Yorker, was a lively, kind and gentle man whose service to New York City's veterans, including those residing in my Congressional District, I will never forget. He followed his vocation with the greatest enthusiasm, attending every parade, every meeting, every dedication, in the hope that somehow his presence would make a difference for his constituents which numbered more than half a million veterans in the city and nearly 400 veterans organizations.

Mr. Handy, in his Director's statement at the Office of Veterans' Affairs, described New York as a city of "patriotic Americans—men and women—who have put themselves in harm's way to preserve our way of life. We owe those who wear, and those who wore, the uniform of the United States of America a debt of gratitude for their service and their sacrifice."

Mr. Speaker, we all owe Michael Handy a comparable debt. We thank and commend him. And we pray that you will ease the pain of his loss being endured by his dear wife Edna, his loving daughters, extended family and his many friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, during an absence yesterday, I regrettably missed rollcall votes 227–229. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 227: "yea"; rollcall No. 228: "yea"; rollcall No. 229: "yea."

TRIBUTE TO MAE W. SEAMAN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that teachers can only retire from their jobs, but not from their calling. That is certainly true for Mae W. Seaman who, after 32 years of dedicated service, has decided to retire from the Phyllis R. Miller Elementary School.

Mae Seaman was born and raised in Miami, Florida and is a proud graduate of Miami Beach Senior High School. She attended the University of Miami to earn her undergraduate degree and went on to receive her Master of Science degree from Nova University.

She began her teaching career began in 1970 at West Little River Elementary in Miami. At West Little River Elementary the staff bestowed upon her one of the highest honors that they could bestow on any colleague "Teacher of the Year." Ms. Seaman remained at West Little River Elementary for 10 years before moving on to other endeavors.

Ms. Seaman's day, for the past eighteen years, started with a five o'clock wake-up, in order to get her mother to the family's business on the west side of town, before greeting her students each day. Her mother still lives with her and although she has retired, her routine remains the same—up by five o'clock, to take care of family and business.

All that will be missing each day are the students, but Ms. Seaman can take pride in the success of the thousands of young people she helped successfully nurture and develop over the years.

Congratulations, Ms. Seaman. Thank you for your service, and enjoy your retirement.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH
FOLEY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elizabeth Foley, from Saline, Michigan, which is located in my district, on becoming a State Honoree in the 2003 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program for outstanding volunteer service.

Conducted in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were created eight years ago by Prudential Financial, Inc. to encourage youth volunteerism and to identify and reward young role models. State Honorees are chosen from more than 24,000 applicants as particularly impressive examples of what young Americans today are capable of doing to make their communities better places to live.

Ms. Foley, 14, organized the "Visual Ambassadors," a school group dedicated to educating others about the visually impaired. After being inspired by a blind friend who taught her Braille, Elizabeth wanted to help educate other students about what visually impaired individuals go through each day. After writing a project proposal and obtaining the approval of school officials, Elizabeth developed plans for a six-week after school class. She bought Braille books, organized a field trip and put together an information packet for her students. She hopes to have over 100 graduates of her program by the time she goes to college.

This young woman's selfless acts to enlighten others about the disabled should be commended. Mr. Speaker, I would like you to join me and all of my colleagues in congratulating Ms. Foley for her accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO M.A.S.H.
(MOTHERS AGAINST SADDAM
HUSSEIN)

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before the nation and this Congress to honor a small group of mothers who are working to support the brave men and women that are currently defending our Nation abroad. These mothers call themselves "MASH," Mothers Against Saddam Hussein. They are raising money to support our troops by selling t-shirts that have been embroidered with the group's acronym.

This organization began when a small group of mothers made the shirts and wore them all over my hometown. The idea spread and the t-shirt has now become an amazing phenomenon in the town of Grand Junction, Colorado. The group has even made a special exception for men and brothers who want to express their support, by changing the acronym to read "Men Against Saddam Hussein."

As the major fighting in Iraq has decreased, the women have expressed a special message for our Nation. They do not want the sacrifices of our troops to be forgotten as they continue to stand and fight to secure and rebuild a ravaged country.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body to express my appreciation for this organization. The "Mothers Against Saddam Hussein" should be proud of their cause, as they ensure that the sacrifices of our brave troops will never be forgotten. I would like to thank MASH for their efforts and encourage them to carry on in their mission.

OPPOSING FCC'S DECISION

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the decision of the Federal Communications Commission to increase the cap on media ownership.

Yesterday, the five-member board of the Federal Communications Commission voted to allow one owner to control more stations within the same market and to allow television networks to acquire more stations. Until today, broadcast ownership rules limited networks to owning no more than a 35 percent share of television households. With this decision, that share rises to 45 percent. The FCC also voted to ease restrictions on media companies owning a newspaper and television station in the same market. These new rules will allow for more mergers and increased media consolidation across the country.

This decision poses a threat to local programming in rural America. National programmers operate from a "one-size-fits-all" mentality and have less interest in the needs of our rural communities. If the networks acquire more of the local television affiliates, programming decisions are less likely to be made by local managers who have personal knowledge of the communities they serve.

At the heart of our democracy is a free and diverse exchange of ideas. Placing the power of communication solely in the hands of a narrow group of media giants will undermine freedom of expression. Columnist William Safire expressed it best, "The diffusion of power through local control, thereby encouraging individual participation, is the essence of federalism and the greatest expression of democracy." Yesterday's decision diminishes individual participation in the democratic process by suppressing one's ability to voice his or her opinion. Having fewer outlets for expression means that only a few voices will be heard: those of the large national programmers.

These new regulations not only threaten to reduce the access to the local news, they infringe upon the ability to maintain an open forum for sharing opinions and ideas—the very democratic principals upon which our Nation was founded.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLENE BUTLER

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, teachers are special people, and I rise today to pay tribute to Charlene Butler who, after 37 years of dedicated service, has decided to leave this select group.

Charlene Butler was born and raised in Miami, Florida and is a proud graduate of Booker T. Washington Senior High School. She attended Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida and earned a Bachelor of Science degree. She went on to obtain her Master of Education degree from Nova University.

Her teaching career began in 1966 at Lorah Park Elementary in Miami, at a time when black educators were traditionally assigned to teach at historically black schools. In 1970, the federal court ordered all schools to integrate and she was transferred to Sunset Elementary School.

In 1984, the staff of Sunset Elementary bestowed one of the highest recognitions a staff can bestow upon a colleague when they named her Teacher of the Year. She remained at Sunset Elementary for 18 years, though throughout her tenure at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Ms. Butler has taught at Lorah Park Elementary, Sunset Elementary, Phyllis Wheatley Elementary and finally, the Phyllis R. Miller Elementary School, where she presently teaches.

Ms. Butler is an adept, concerned, ardent educator and a champion for the "little ones." Blessed with a keen appreciation for the stages of development of her young charges, she was dubbed the "historian" of her students' accomplishments.

Ms. Butler's dedication, loyalty, compassion, and involvement will be missed at Phyllis R. Miller Elementary School, by parents, colleagues, administrators and students alike.

Congratulations, Ms. Butler, and enjoy your retirement.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL KEVIN RICE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a devoted soldier as well as an accomplished scholar and leader. Colonel Kevin Rice has served as the Installation Commander at the Defense Language Institute, Foreign Language Center and Presidio of Monterey since December 2000. Tomorrow, he earns a well-deserved retirement after serving his country honorably for the last 30 years. Throughout his service at the Presidio, Colonel Rice was instrumental in improving the standard of excellence in training our military linguists and in continuing the transition of Fort Ord, the Nation's largest base closure, to civilian use.

Colonel Rice was born in Henderson, Nevada and grew up there and in La Mirada, California. Kevin Rice attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and upon his graduation in 1973, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry. Colonel Rice is a graduate of the Chinese Program at the Defense Language Institute of Monterey which he would later lead, and he also successfully completed studies at the British Ministry of Defense Chinese Language School in Hong Kong and holds Master's Degrees from both the Naval Postgraduate School and the National War College.

Colonel Rice's military career in the U.S. Army is extremely distinguished and diverse. He started out as a mechanized rifle platoon leader and quickly rose through the ranks while applying his expertise in mechanized infantry, light infantry and airborne special operations units. Prior to his service at the Presidio, Colonel Rice held the position of U.S. Army Attaché to the People's Republic of China. Throughout these assignments, he was repeatedly honored for his outstanding performance with awards ranging from the Meritorious Service Medal to the Army Achievement Medal.

I am extremely grateful to have worked with Colonel Rice on several military construction projects at the Defense Language Institute, including a new classroom facility—Collins Hall—as well as Video Tele-Training Facility. These base modernization projects illustrate Colonel Rice's leadership in making sure DLI, the world's largest foreign language school, employs the most advanced technology to continue as a center of excellence in the teaching of foreign languages.

Moreover, Colonel Rice has presided over the only dual service—Army and Navy—base housing modernization program in the Nation. When complete, the Residential Community Initiative at the Presidio will provide the Central Coast military community with 1,800 units of quality base housing, built to local code, and paid for by the military housing allowance known as the BAH. Without his continued efforts to move this huge undertaking through the bureaucratic process both inside the Pentagon and outside, the RCI wouldn't have come to fruition.

Colonel Kevin Rice and his wife, Kitty, have been active and highly regarded members of the local community who are leaving a lasting legacy of civic involvement and a wide circle of friends who will miss them both. I am

pleased to count myself as one of Colonel Rice's friends and wish him well in the next stage of life's journey.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEN CANE
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

MAURICE D.HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate my constituent and dear friend, Len Cane, on the occasion of his retirement as president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Ulster County, New York. Having served in that capacity for 34 years, Len has earned the respect and affection of the business and education communities in my home county and throughout New York State.

An ardent advocate of public education, Len has served as president of the Ulster County Board of Cooperative Educational Services as well as the Kingston City Schools' Board of Education. In October 2002, the 7,500-member New York State School Boards Association honored him with the Distinguished Service Award as the organization's outstanding member.

Len is a graduate of the Institutes for Organization Management, a continuing education program for organization managers from across the country. He was a member of the program's Board of Regents for six years and of its executive faculty for 11 years, instructing at the University of Delaware and at Notre Dame.

At the helm of Ulster's Chamber of Commerce, Len has been a wonderful ambassador for the county. He is a past president of the Chamber Alliance of New York State and the Mid-Atlantic Chamber of Commerce Execu-

tives. He also served for seven years as Chairman of the Mid-Hudson Valley Chamber of Commerce Executives and was a two-term president of the Ulster County Development Corporation. In 1996 Len's New York state colleagues named him the Outstanding Professional Chamber of Commerce Executive.

Notwithstanding his outstanding accomplishments, Len is best known for his lightning-quick wit and self-effacing humor. I am sure Len's successors will perform commendably as chamber presidents, but none will make us laugh as Len has for more than three decades.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to join Len Cane's colleagues, friends and family in extending my best wishes to him and his wife Lee for a long and happy retirement. His wonderful personality and unsurpassed professionalism have made Len a tremendous asset to the Hudson Valley and Catskill regions. We will miss him dearly.