

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING UNION FIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize members of the Union Fire Association on the 100th Anniversary of their company's founding.

Ever since its establishment 100 years ago, the Union Fire Association has been an important member of Lower Merion Township. As the community has grown and prospered over the years, so has the Fire Association which now is one of the finest and well-equipped in the region.

The volunteers of this fine company deserve all the support that we may offer. They serve selflessly and tirelessly in order to protect their fellow citizens and, in the times of uncertainty we face today, their heroics are immeasurable. They are citizens just like you and I—teachers, students, doctors, lawyers, electricians, engineers, police officers. The list goes on and on—all willing to make sacrifices to ensure public safety. Before a member of this Company even sets foot into their first fire, they must undergo hours of training and, once completed, the education continues with advanced classes to learn vehicle rescue, fire-fighter rescue, pump operations and so on. As a service to the community, they put on demonstrations that educate us on how to stay safe in emergency situations. They are an irreplaceable and integral part of our community, whether it is raising money for a cause, adding to the joy of a local parade or hosting meetings and social functions. Clearly, the members of the Union Fire Association have served proudly and I rise today to recognize their service over the past 100 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Union Fire Association on their 100th Anniversary and salute, admire and appreciate all the volunteers that have served this community for so many years.

RECOGNIZING MRS. CARMEN VEGA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the achievements of Mrs. Carmen Vega, a paradigm of expertise in social work and education. Assistant Principal to the Long Branch High School and Middle School, Mrs. Vega has demonstrated outstanding versatility in various roles of leadership and mentorship. She proves an honorable recipient of the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County Annual Award, not solely for her work

in the Long Branch public school network, but for numerous other experiences in helping the counties of Monmouth and Ocean excel as dynamic and thriving communities.

A native of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Mrs. Vega was raised in Long Branch, where she earned a Master's degree in Latino bilingual/bi-cultural issues from Rutgers University. More recently, she completed a Masters of Arts in Urban Education, also from Rutgers University. Her academic accolades provided her the honor as a licensed clinical social worker in the State of New Jersey.

Mrs. Vega's experience in advocacy and counseling, coupled with the framework of the Monmouth County Division of Social Services under which she worked, provided her with the skills to transform the outlooks and goals of many psychiatric patients. She was an engaging coordinator of a pre-discharge transitional program at Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital in Monmouth County, as well as a counselor to individuals and families throughout Ocean County. Mrs. Vega never forgot the importance of helping the psychiatrically handicapped, giving importance to their families and their friends as well. With a diverse background such as this, it is no wonder that in 1997, the Monmouth County Urban League honored Mrs. Vega with the Individual Equal Opportunity Award.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Mrs. Vega for her dedication to the Monmouth and Ocean county communities. She exemplifies the ideals and aspirations of many dedicated and charitable citizens, as well as youth across all cultures. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring the distinguished Mrs. Carmen Vega.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical emergency in my family, I was unable to cast my vote for two very important pieces of legislation considered the week of October 6, 2003.

Had I been present, I would have voted for H.R. 2998 (rollcall No. 537), a bill to exempt certain members of the Armed Forces from the requirement to pay subsistence charges while hospitalized. I believe it is abhorrent that this practice has been allowed to continue for so long and am pleased the House has acted to amend this law. The least we can do for the brave men and women who were hospitalized because they served our nation and were wounded, is to not charge them for food.

In addition, I would also have voted for H.R. 2997 (rollcall No. 536), the "Veterans Benefits Act." Amongst many other provisions, this bill makes permanent the eligibility of certain former members of the Selected Reserve for veterans' housing loans and provides that the

remarriage of a surviving spouse of a veteran after age 55 should not bar the payment of veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

Also, on Wednesday, October 15, I was unable to show my support for H.R. 1828 (rollcall No. 543), the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Act. Holding these nations accountable for their actions will only ensure a more stable environment in the Middle East.

Again, I am pleased the House took such decisive action on all these bills and I look forward to them moving swiftly through the legislative process.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the 57th year of the National School Lunch Program, which is dedicated to the health and well being of our Nation's children. National School Lunch Week commenced on October 13 and will run until October 17th. The National School Lunch Program has been joined through the years by several excellent child-feeding programs, such as: School Breakfast, Food Stamp, Child and Adult Care, Emergency Food Assistance and Summer Nutrition Programs, among others, and there is definitely a need to continue these programs in order to inspire nutrition education and awareness in our children.

President Harry S. Truman signed the National School Lunch Act on June 4, 1946, which authorized the National School Lunch Program, which is the oldest and largest of child nutrition programs. The legislation came in response to claims that many American men had been rejected for World War II military service because of diet-related health problems. The Federally assisted meal program was established as "a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities." To continue the spirit of the program, in 1998, Congress expanded the National School Lunch Program to include reimbursement for snacks served to children in after school educational and enrichment programs for children through the age of 18.

In this day and age, we are even more focused on providing nutritious, well-balanced, low-cost or free meals for our young boys and girls. The Program contributes to the development of healthy eating habits by providing the children with no more than 30 percent calories from fat, and less than 10 percent from saturated fat. All children can take advantage of this program, but if the child comes from a family with an income at or below 130 percent of the poverty level, that child is eligible for free meals. With about 57 percent of children

• 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.

receiving free or reduced price lunches, the National School Lunch Program often times provides the most nutritious meal or the only meal that some children receive in a day.

We celebrate another year of this Program because it has helped combat the growing hunger and poverty levels among children in our country. According to the Food Research and Action Center, National School Lunch Program has grown from about 7.1 million children participating in 1947 to over 27.2 million in the 2001–2002 school year. The program operates in more than 99,800 public and non-profit private schools and residential childcare institutions, with over 187 billion lunches having been served.

National School Lunch Program is just one step in developing our children into the prosperous, successful individuals we want them to become. The Program's Team Nutrition Initiative focuses on teaching and motivating children to make food choices that enhance their energy, growth, and potential. In addition, the Program is vitally important to achieving our educational goals. Poorly fed children have more difficulty learning, are less attentive in class, and suffer more chronic problems, such as absenteeism and tardiness, than children who are properly nourished. By making nutritious meals available to all school children, the National School Lunch Program will help us ensure that we leave no child behind. According to the Food Research and Action Center, proper nutrition improves a child's behavior, school performance, and overall cognitive development. All in all, properly nourished children more actively participate in the education experience, which benefits them, their fellow students, and the entire school community. Studies have shown what we already have known—that healthy school meals play a critical and positive role in students' development and learning process. Unfortunately, we have a double-sided battle to fight, with regards to mal-nourishment and obesity. A peer-reviewed study conducted by academic researchers at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, found that girls in food insecure households had a significantly lower risk of being overweight if they participated in the National School Lunch Program. The findings suggest that participation in these Federal child nutrition programs can combat our growing problems with obesity in children.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in 2000, 10.5 percent of all U.S. households, representing 20 million adults and 13 million children, were "food insecure" because of lack of resources. In 2001, Illinois reported 9.2 percent of households are food insecure, which represents 3,239,229 children under the age of 18. Thanks to the National School Lunch Program, there are over 4,446 schools participating in Illinois, with over 1,083,548 students that benefits from it. Specifically in Chicago Public Schools, over 350,000 students are registered in the Program.

If President Truman found this to be important to our national security in 1946, we should continue his vision in 2003 by continuing to support National School Lunches. As the Committee on Education and the Workforce, of which I serve, continues to examine this program during its reauthorization, I will continue to ensure that good nutrition is promoted among our children, thus helping them

to become healthier, positive, citizens within our country.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND FELIX SANTANA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the late Reverend Felix Santana, a man who has served his faith and community tirelessly throughout his life. On October 17, 2003, the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County will honor the Reverend with an award for his contributions as a role model and mentor for Latino youths.

Reverend Santana was born in Humacao, Puerto Rico on August 21, 1924. In 1948 he moved to northern Indiana where he worked in the steel industry for two years. When America became entrenched in the Korean War, Reverend Santana heroically served his country in the U.S. Army and was decorated with the United Nations Service Medal. After the war, and a productive career in design, the Reverend entered the Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine.

After completing his studies, Reverend Santana and his family settled down in Monmouth County, New Jersey. It was then that Reverend Santana established the first Hispanic Ministry in Asbury Park, New Jersey. In addition, he led similar efforts in Ossining, New York, Plainfield, and Jersey City, New Jersey. However, the Reverend's commitment did not end at his religious responsibilities. Reverend Santana made time to serve Hispanics and others in his community. He helped set up an anti-poverty agency called "Checkmate, Inc" as was actively involved with the Puerto Rican Civic Association and the freeholders of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Santana believed in serving his community. The legacy that he has left behind will continue to serve those he has given so much of himself too. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me to honor this most respectable man, Reverend Felix Santana.

PENSION FUNDING EQUITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 3108, the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003, a bill that passed this body last week, but also to express my dismay that a non-controversial, bipartisan provision was stripped from that bill before this House had an opportunity to vote for it. It is my hope that this provision, which would stabilize small business defined benefit pension plans, can be included in any conference report that this House may be asked to consider this year.

The provision, known as Section 415, would have replaced the 30-year Treasury bond rate with a fixed interest rate of 5.5 percent for pur-

poses of the maximum cap on benefits under Internal Revenue Code section 415. In the case of a small business defined benefit plan, the maximum cap on benefits can have an enormous impact on funding, due to the small number of participants. The 30-year Treasury bond rate that business must currently use to calculate funding is extremely volatile, leading to unpredictable funding requirements. For example, just last year between March and September (only 6 months), the 30-year rate fluctuated by almost a full percentage point—96 basis points—resulting in funding obligations for a benefit that varied by as much as \$140,000. That may not be much to a large company, but it is significant to a small business.

The cost of this unpredictability is choking off capital investments, new hires, higher wages, or better health care. The requirement to use an obsolete standard is depriving our economy of desperately needed capital at a time when our businesses and our workers need it most.

The small business provision has bipartisan support both in the House and Senate, it has no impact on current rules for calculating lump sums for rank-and-file participants, and there does not appear to be any substantive objections to its inclusion. So I am dismayed that it would have been taken out of the larger, two year pension fix.

I trust that as this process moves forward—in conference if there is an opportunity—we will be able to reattach this important small business provision to the bill.

RECOGNIZING MR. DIMAS MONTALVO

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Dr. Dimas Montalvo, a longtime community activist. Mr. Montalvo is the founder of the Latino American Committee and a tremendous supporter of various Latino-related programs. Friends and neighbors refer to him as a hometown hero for his many accomplishments and his longstanding service to the Latino community.

In search of a better future, Mr. Montalvo left Puerto Rico for New Jersey in 1957. He settled in Long Branch in 1959 where he began working at the Fort Monmouth Army Base barbershop before opening his own shop in 1965. Following the opening of his business, Mr. Montalvo started attending classes in the hopes of earning his GED and improving his English skills.

In 1969 Mr. Montalvo's barbershop was relocated and another business, Montalvo's Rooming House, was established in conjunction with the shop. Currently, he is still running both businesses from the same location, which has become a site for community outreach. It is there that Mr. Montalvo counsels people from all walks of life with various questions, concerns and problems. Over the years, Mr. Montalvo has become very active in numerous community organizations, including the Monmouth Community Action Program and the Spanish Fraternity of Monmouth County.

In 1992 Mr. Montalvo was appointed Commissioner of the City of Long Branch Housing Authority, while also serving as a member of the Long Branch Health Advisory Board. Later he founded the Latino American Committee, on which he served as President for many years. The LAC is responsible for many great things, such as collecting funds to be used in scholarships for Latino students and organizing the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Monmouth County, which exclusively serves the needs of Latino merchants and professionals.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Montalvo on his hard work and dedication to the Latino community. I would like to thank him for all that he has done and all those that he has helped through the years. I ask my colleagues to rise with me in honoring the distinguished Mr. Dimas Montalvo.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST
JOSHUA NEUSCHE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, 2003, a memorial service in honor of Army Specialist Joshua Neusche will be held at the Camden County Courthouse Square in Camdenton, Missouri. On this occasion, participants will dedicate a tree and marker on the courthouse lawn to the memory of one of our neighbors, a young man whose life was tragically cut short while he served his fellow Americans by wearing the uniform of a citizen soldier.

Spc. Josh Neusche of Montreal, Missouri, was a member of the Missouri Army National Guard's 203rd Engineer Battalion from Joplin. He deployed to Iraq with his unit in May 2003. During this deployment, Spc. Neusche became seriously ill and passed away on July 12, 2003.

By all accounts, he was an outstanding young man and a favorite among his friends. Josh graduated from Camdenton High School in 2002. A participant in a number of extracurricular activities, Josh played in the Laker Band and the Pep Band, ran for the award winning track and cross country teams, was elected 2002 Prom King, tutored children in the A+ Program, and volunteered with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters in Camdenton. He was a member of the Buffalo Prairie Baptist Church in Montreal, Missouri.

Prior to his Guard activation, Josh attended Southwest Missouri State University while holding a full-time job and finding time to volunteer at the Boys' Club in Springfield, Missouri. He inspired loyalty and affection from his friends, as evidenced by the fact that the members of his unit took up a collection after Josh became ill which allowed his family to visit him in the hospital in Germany.

In wartime, the very best young people our country produces are asked to risk and possibly lose their lives in order to advance our national interests. In peacetime, serving as an airman, sailor, soldier, or marine also requires a great deal of hard work and sacrifice. Whether in war or in peace, those sacrifices are particularly difficult for the service members' families.

We can only imagine the pain felt by Josh's family—particularly by his mother, Cindy, his father, Mark, and his brother, Jake—as they have been forced to deal with his untimely death and this sudden, unexpected loss. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his entire family and circle of friends.

Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to Spc. Neusche for his service to our country. We also owe more than we can ever repay to Josh's family, who raised this young man and instilled in him the values that enabled him to succeed as an American soldier. On behalf of my fellow Missourians and my fellow Americans, I thank the Neusche family for their selfless contribution and immeasurable sacrifice.

HONORING WWII VETERAN TONY
VITKUS

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a veteran of World War II and a resident of Kenosha, Wisconsin, who is currently visiting our Nation's Capital for the first time in his life. His story is a remarkable one, and I'd like to share a few highlights with you.

Tony Vitkus served in the Marine Corps in the South Pacific from 1942 to 1945. He was a rear gunner in a Dauntless dive bomber and survived a crash in that airplane. That very plane is now on display at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum just a few blocks from here. This week, Mr. Vitkus went there and saw his aircraft.

Anyone familiar with the dangerous position of a rear gunner knows the immense risk that Mr. Vitkus took in serving his country in this capacity. And, as if this wasn't enough, he also served as plane captain of a Corsair fighter on the U.S.S. *Bennington*.

After the war, Tony Vitkus got married and raised six children while working in Kenosha as a milkman and later as a pool custodian. He has been an active member of the community, serving as an alderman and also on the Water Commission, and he stays active to this day.

It is because of Tony Vitkus and others like him that we prevailed in World War II. These courageous individuals and the military men and women who have followed in their footsteps are the reason we remain free to this day. We owe them our respect and gratitude for their service and many sacrifices for our country.

RECOGNIZING FATHER MIGUEL
VIRELLA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Father Miguel Virella, a man dedicated to the advocacy of a solid educational foundation for the Latino youth. Father Miguel is being honored as a mentor and role model to the Latino

Community's youth by the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County, Inc., for his positive influence and many contributions to the Latino community. In my mind there is no one more deserving to receive this award.

Through a strong family, Father Virella was taught that determination and compassion were imperative parts of living a devout life. His religious and academic journey was influenced by the teachings of his friends and family. It was his devotion to his faith that motivated him to pursue studies of a religious nature and eventually to join the priesthood.

In 1976 Father Miguel graduated from Juan Rios Serpas High School, in his hometown of Ciales, Puerto Rico. Soon after, he traveled to New Jersey with his family where he was introduced to the Religious Order of the Society of the Divine Word. His participation in this community led him to develop a deep interest in working with the poor and minorities of other countries. He could relate to the hardships endured by those who were starting a new life in America and his compassion for those in need compelled him to do all that he could to help.

In 1984, Father Miguel decided to continue his studies in Dubuque, Iowa at Divine Word College. Later, he enrolled at the University of Saint Louis, Missouri and was awarded a Bachelors degree in Sociology with a minor in Spanish. Father Miguel decided to continue his studies in Theology, for which he received a Masters degree in Divinity. He was ordained as a priest in the Society of the Divine Word shortly thereafter.

Following his ordination in 1995, Father Miguel was asked to minister at St. Anthony Claret parish in Lakewood, NJ where he remained for two years. Due to the large number of incoming Hispanic parishioners, he was later called to serve at St. Rose of Lima in Freehold. He remained there for four years serving as minister to his fellow Hispanics before moving to our Lady of Providence in Neptune, NJ, in January of 2001. Father Miguel still serves as the minister to that parish which is composed of over four hundred families.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Father Miguel Virella is an asset to the Hispanic community and should be lauded for his accomplishments. I ask that my colleagues rise up and join me in honoring this most respectable man, Father Miguel Virella.

HONORING DAN ECKSTROM FOR
HIS PUBLIC SERVICE AND DEDICATION
TO PIMA COUNTY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated himself to public service and serves as a shining role model in our community. I speak none other than of Mr. Dan Eckstrom who recently retired from serving on the Pima County Board of Supervisors in Arizona.

Dan is a native of South Tucson and a 1965 graduate of Pueblo High School. In 1969, he graduated from the University of Arizona, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Government. In addition to his duties as County Supervisor, he has more than 30 years of progressive business management experience.

Currently, he is the principal owner of a management consulting firm that provides marketing and management services to a variety of businesses. He formerly served for more than eight years as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer with Ruiz Engineering Corporation/Maya Construction Company, where he was responsible for managing and directing business activities relating to corporate planning, finance and business development.

Dan has worked on more than 50 local, state, and national campaigns, both on a partisan and non-partisan basis. His first measurable involvement in a campaign was at the age of 13 when he successfully assisted a group of neighbors who were running for the South Tucson Town Council by preparing a campaign slogan and printed literature. In 1991, he was very instrumental in organizing the successful Pima County campaign which helped to elect Ed Pastor as the first Hispanic in the state to serve in Congress. In 1994, he served a key role in the campaign of Democratic gubernatorial nominee, Eddie Basha. He has also provided valuable leadership and guidance to area non-partisan voter awareness and educational projects sponsored by the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project and the Labor Council of Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), of which he is an associate member. He is currently a member of the National Association of the Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).

Dan has earned numerous award and honors for his community service. In March 1996, he received the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Presidential Citation and Community Service Award. In 1993, we were both presented with the prestigious Montemayor-Barraza Award which is the highest national honor given by the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA). In 1992, Dan was inducted into the Arizona Democratic Party Hall of Fame. In 1991, he received the Distinguished Citizen Award by the University of Arizona Alumni Association. In 1988, his service to the City of South Tucson was best acknowledged when the Mayor and City Council named the newly constructed municipal complex in his honor.

Dan has been married for more than 30 years to Mary Alice Rosales. They reside in South Tucson with their two children, Jennifer, age 26, and Daniel, age 22. The Eckstrom family is very active in the community. His wife served four terms as President of the League of Mexican American Women. His daughter, at the age of 18 was elected to the South Tucson City Council and has the distinction of being one of the youngest elected officials in the state. His son serves as a Neighborhood Reinvestment Coordinator for the City of South Tucson and was a participant in the National LULAC Youth Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me today in honoring Dan Eckstrom for all his hard work and dedication to the people of Pima County.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WHIT
EASTMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and memory of an outstanding citizen from my district. Whit Eastman of Gunnison, Colorado recently passed away at the age of sixty-seven. Whit was a kind, generous man who cared greatly about his community. As his family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to take this opportunity to remember Whit today.

A life-long resident of Gunnison, Whit had deep roots in the community. Whit has given much to his country and his community. He served a tour of duty in Korea during the Korean War. Upon returning home, he became the Financial Director for the City of Gunnison and, later, the President of the First National Bank. He actively strengthened the local Masonic Lodge, as well as serving as the President of the Rotary. Whit also served on the Western State College Foundation Board of Directors at his alma mater, Western State College.

Mr. Speaker, Whit Eastman was a beloved member of the Gunnison community, and he will be deeply missed. His love for life and dedication to his friends and neighbors touched many lives. While Whit has passed on, his legacy will continue to live. I am honored to join with my colleagues in honoring Whit here today. My condolences go out to Whit's family and friends during this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF WORLD POPULATION
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to call attention to the Population Institute's annual World Population Awareness Week, which will focus on "Water: Our Most Precious Resource."

This event is one of great importance, and its topic, water, is one that demands immediate action. Currently, 1.2 million people worldwide lack healthy and abundant water. As a member of the world community, the United States has a commitment to aid our fellow human beings in obtaining their natural right to water. And, even more importantly, the United States has a commitment to itself, to ensure that no American will ever be without water. Many regions in America have a water supply that is strained beyond its capacity, leaving many Americans vulnerable to massive shortages of water.

Unfortunately, the water supply problems are only becoming more prevalent, as currently there is a trend to turn water into a commodity through the privatization of the supply. Multinational companies that contract to supply developing countries focus on profit, not access. Their use of cost recovery measures

increases profits for these companies through the additions of annual fees on water, but force many people to go without the essential and natural right to water because of burdensome costs.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the importance of water to our world community and in recognizing the Population Institute's World Awareness Week.

RECOGNIZING EDWIN R. HILL FOR
HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AS
EAST CALN TOWNSHIP MANAGER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edwin R. Hill for his 30 years of service as manager for East Caln Township in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Edwin R. Hill has served as one of only two full-time employees for East Caln Township for over three decades, where he took on many duties under his title of Township Manager. With his retirement, Mr. Hill leaves behind a legacy any public official would be proud of, and East Caln Township will be hard-pressed to replace such a fine individual.

In addition to his position as Township Manager, Edwin R. Hill was a past President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, a role and an honor in our state that truly illustrates his tremendous leadership abilities. Mr. Hill made it a point over the years to pass his tremendous knowledge and experience on to others. He was a part-time instructor for the Governor's Center Municipal Training Classes where he taught such courses as Road Masters Class, Commercial Drivers License Training and orientation courses for newly-elected officials. Mr. Hill also served on the Chester County Planning Commission, as well as various other local committees to resolve issues in municipal government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me today in recognizing and honoring Edwin R. Hill for the hard work and dedication he has demonstrated over the years in making East Caln Township, Chester County and all of Pennsylvania a better place to live.

HONORING MAYOR ALFONSO
GEREFFI

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Alfonso Gereffi, former mayor of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida. A distinguished leader and great Floridian, Mr. Gereffi was also a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Mr. Gereffi moved to South Florida in the late 1960's from Pittsburgh and quickly took an active role in the community. An outspoken advocate, Mr. Gereffi served on the Lauderdale Lakes City Council for nearly three decades. He served as a City Council member from 1973 to 1980 and as Mayor from 1980 to

1998. Under his exemplary leadership, the City boasted a record low tax rate and had a \$9 million surplus. In addition to fulfilling his civic duties, Mr. Gereffi devoted his efforts towards charitable works as well. Among his proudest accomplishments was helping to open the Alzheimer's Day Care Center in Lauderdale Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today in memory of a model citizen from South Florida. Mr. Gereffi devoted his energies to his family, friends, constituents and community at large. His greatest joy was in helping his fellow man and improving the quality of life for all in his city. He is survived by his daughters, a brother, four grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OTHELL
BALLAGE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with solemn heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the memory of a remarkable citizen from my district. Othell Ballage of Pueblo, Colorado was a leader in his community and a friend to many. Sadly, he recently passed away at the age of 74. As his family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to remember Othell for his kind heart and generous spirit.

Othell was transferred to Pueblo by the U.S. Army and stationed at the Chemical Depot over thirty years ago. Having seen much of the world during his time in the Army, Othell decided Pueblo would be a good place to call home upon retiring from the service in 1975. It was then that Othell chose to realign his sights from national service to a more regional focus. After his days in the Army, accomplishing what would be considered a lifetime of achievements for most, Othell began to leave his mark on Pueblo. For the next twenty years, Othell pursued his goals in both higher education and public service. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Maryland in 1982 and went on to earn a Master's degree in management from Pacific Western University in 1996. Othell also worked as a counselor for the Colorado Job Training Program and served on numerous boards, including those of the NAACP and the Pueblo Human Rights Commission, as well as the Governor's Task Force on Drunk Driving.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Pueblo and its citizens have lost a truly outstanding citizen and friend. Even more impressive than his numerous contributions to the community was Othell's role as a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Othell was a remarkable citizen and he will certainly be missed. I am honored to pay tribute to his life here today.

HONORING OF UHHS BEDFORD
MEDICAL CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of UHHS Bedford Medical Center on the occasion of its 75th anniversary of service to the community. Originally no more than four beds on the second floor of a private home in Bedford, the hospital has grown through the years to keep pace with an expanding population and the demand for high quality accessible medical care.

UHHS Bedford Medical Center originally opened as the Bedford Municipal Hospital on November 29, 1928. The community strongly supported this hospital through passing 5 levies between 1943 and 1952. By 1956, the hospital was known as Bedford Community Hospital and boasted many new and modern departments and amenities. In 1962, the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations accredited the hospital for the first time. The hospital continued to grow, adding a new wing and surgical facilities. In 1979, the name was changed to The Community Hospital of Bedford. It continued to expand and, by 1984, the hospital achieved its current capacity of 110 beds.

On November 30, 1993, the University Hospital Health System purchased the hospital, ushering in an era of rapid growth and innovation, adding a state of the art Outpatient Surgery Center and the Bretschneider Women's Unit offering enhanced obstetrics and gynecological services. Bedford Medical Center is continuing to grow: in 2001, adjoining land was purchased to augment Bedford Medical Center's current facilities.

Bedford Medical Center represents a model of collaboration and success evidenced by the relationships established between the Board of Trustees, the physicians and staff. Growth has been a key word in the hospital's history. A key to the hospital's growth is an unparalleled staff that focuses on keeping patients and the staff satisfied, well cared for, healthy and happy.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Bedford Medical Center on its Diamond Anniversary of serving over 260,000 residents in Southeast Cuyahoga and Northern Portage and Summit Counties. In tribute to the hospital's rich tradition of commitment to the community, let us celebrate these last 75 years with motto—Generations of Caring. I hope that the Bedford Medical Center will continue to serve and care for its community for at least another 75 years.

A TRIBUTE TO TOM MOHR—SAN
MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DIS-
TRICT SUPERINTENDENT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a dedicated and distinguished public servant, San Mateo Union High School District Super-

intendent Tom Mohr, who recently announced his retirement. During a remarkable 43-year career in public education as a teacher, counselor, principal, district level administrator, and Superintendent in my district, Mr. Mohr has demonstrated a continuous and unwavering commitment to providing the best education possible for San Mateo County's youth.

After an exceptional career in the Jefferson School District in Daly City, he joined the San Mateo Union High School District in 1985 as an Assistant Superintendent, and was promoted to Superintendent in 1996. During a time of tremendous challenges in the field of education, Superintendent Mohr has never failed in his determination to provide a superior education for our students, while building first class institutions, and supporting a first-class professional staff.

The San Mateo Union High School District serves 8,300 students from six communities in my congressional district. It maintains seven high schools—Aragon, Burlingame, Capuchino, Hillsdale, Mills, Peninsula, and San Mateo. Five of the district schools have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon, or California Distinguished Schools.

Superintendent Mohr has been a strong leader in the district. His excellent communication skills have kept the community, staff, and students informed and involved, and have effectively reduced tensions between groups. His boundless energy has enabled him to excel in the many roles and demands placed on the Superintendency. Recently, under Mr. Mohr's outstanding leadership, the community passed a \$137.5 million bond issue to modernize six of the district's schools.

His erudition and experience have led to his appointment to numerous community and professional task forces and advisory boards, which include the U.S. Naval Academy undergraduate selection committee, plus nearly 30 different school accreditation teams, the majority of which he has chaired. He has worked tirelessly to establish high academic standards, encouraging all students from diverse backgrounds to pursue excellence in all of their endeavors. He initiated an exemplary safety program for the students that was endorsed by law enforcement agencies, and built strong school-community partnerships that serve the needs of citizens of all ages.

Superintendent Mohr was honored in 1999 by the Mid-Peninsula Boys & Girls Club as its Citizen of the Year. In 2001 he was named Superintendent of the Year by the San Francisco and San Mateo County region of the Association of California School Administrators, and he is the City of San Mateo's Citizen of the Year for 2003. Upon his retirement in January 2004, Mr. Mohr plans to spend more time with his grandchildren and possibly to pursue advanced university studies. Such is his personal commitment to the value of education.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mohr's presence will be greatly missed in the boardroom and classrooms of the San Mateo Union High School District. His courage, intellect, integrity, and level of professionalism testify to the endless capabilities of this man and to the impact he will surely leave on the district. His legacy lives in the standards of excellence he has modeled for those who follow and in his unwavering commitment to the district's goals and programs. Mr. Mohr's efforts to better the education of San Mateo County's youth will serve as an inspiration to all of us. I urge my

colleagues to join me in wishing him enjoyment in his new pursuits during his well-earned retirement!

HONORING THE FLORIDA MARLINS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Florida Marlins on winning the 2003 National League Pennant. On October 15th, they dismantled the Chicago Cubs in Game 7 of the National League Championship Series, completing a thrilled comeback in a series they once trailed three games to one. Even when down to their last few outs, the Marlins came together and rallied back to earn the right to play on baseball's highest stage; the World Series.

It should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that at the beginning of the season the Florida Marlins were not expected to be a factor in the postseason. Underestimated, overlooked, and ignored, the Marlins proceeded through the dog days of summer and down the stretch with courage and grit, and finishing the season with the best record in Major League Baseball since May.

Led by 72-year-old manager Jack McKeon, who took over the team in May when it held a losing record, the Marlins have relied on their tenacious young pitching and powerful, fast-paced offense. Josh Beckett, 23, and Dontrelle Willis, 21, have battled with hitters all season and continue to dominate. The offense has been consistent all season with the speed of Juan Pierre, the power of Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez, the youth and enthusiasm of Miguel Cabrera, and the experience of baseball veterans Mike Lowell and Jeff Conine. This group of young players and journeymen has come together and created a powerful unit to be reckoned with in the World Series.

An expansion team in 1993, the Marlins won their first pennant in 1997, beating the perennial power, the Atlanta Braves. They went on to the World Series where they defeated the Cleveland Indians in seven games. This year the Marlins were once again the wild card team and are creating the same sort of magic as they did in 1997. It is my hope that the Marlins will continue their winning tradition next week against the New York Yankees.

Mr. Speaker, It is an honor for a team to represent their league in the World series. I am thrilled at the success of the Florida Marlins and I know that they will do their best to bring a second World Series title to South Florida.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ERSILIA CRUZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen

from my district. Ersilia Cruz of Pueblo, Colorado led the charge to revitalize her neighborhood after it had begun to deteriorate before her eyes. Her efforts have helped resuscitate the community and transform the area into a better place to live. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ersilia for her hard work and congratulate her on her success.

Having lived in the neighborhood for more than fifty years, Ersilia has seen a great deal of change take place in her community, much of which has occurred over the course of the past nine years. Old run-down homes have been scrapped and replaced with new ones, the local school has reopened and a community center has been erected, all due to the hard work of citizens like Ersilia committed to revitalizing their community.

In addition to Ersilia's role in the revitalization of her community, she is also the mother of eight. She is a dedicated servant with numerous community action organizations and serves as a member of the local PTA, president of the neighborhood association, and a member of the Community Development Block Grant committee. For her efforts, Ersilia was recently awarded the 2003 NeighborWorks Dorothy Richardson Award, one of only ten people throughout the U.S. to receive this recognition.

Thanks to Ersilia's determination to revive her neighborhood, the Hyde Park community is again a family friendly region. Not only did she receive a national award, the city of Pueblo also acknowledged her dedication by naming one of the streets in her community Cruz Circle in her honor. It is my pleasure to recount Ersilia's efforts here today, and I would also like to thank her for her tireless work. I wish her all the best.

HONORING OF ARLENE A. RAK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Arlene Rak, upon her retirement as president of the UHHS Bedford Medical Center. Ms. Rak retired on August 31, 2003, after a long and successful career in health care administration.

Arlene Rak brought to the University Hospitals Health System a wealth of experience and a hands-on background in delivering health care. Her career began in nursing, but she quickly moved to administrative roles in both the non-profit and for profit sectors. She has worked in hospital administration as well as with organizations such as the Voluntary Hospitals of America and Johnson & Johnson. She also worked as an independent consultant for many years, and developed new business ventures, alternate delivery systems and helped others to focus on strategic networking.

In 1985, Ms. Rak was recruited from her private consulting practice to develop the Integrated Health Systems management center at University Hospitals. In 1992, UH persuaded Ms. Rak to return to their fold, first as a strategy consultant, then as a director of elder care and home care. Since February 2, 1996, Ms.

Rak has served as the President of the Bedford Medical Center. In this role, she has worked tirelessly to make the hospital a wonderful resource to the community it serves, and a key part of University Hospital's health care system.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Arlene Rak for her many years of service to the Bedford Medical Center and to University Hospitals. We wish her many blessings of peace, health and happiness throughout her retirement.

KEEPING WOMEN HEALTHY— BREAST CANCER SCREENING AND AWARENESS DAY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this month the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) Campaign celebrates nineteen years of educating women about breast cancer, especially the importance of detecting the disease in its earliest stages through screening mammography. Since its inception, the number of women obtaining mammograms has more than doubled.

Today, October 17, 2003, is National Mammography Day. Mammograms are one of the most important prevention tools for breast cancer with the ability to find a cancerous growth an average of 1.7 years before a woman can feel the lump. Any breast cancer survivor can tell you that even days can make a difference.

Unfortunately, women who have limited access to care are less likely to receive mammograms. This is why I am proud to be participating, along with the Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation (ABCF), Atascosa County Ministerial Alliance, Atascosa Health Center, Atascosa Interagency Council, Greater Pleasanton Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and South Texas Regional Medical Center in Jourdanton, as an honorary sponsor of "Keeping Women Healthy," a breast cancer screening and awareness day in my district tomorrow, October 18, 2003.

I am proud of the efforts of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District and the ABCF to purchase a mammography van to take their message to our neighborhoods. Recently, their dreams were realized as the Avon Foundation awarded them a \$569,000 grant, which will allow them to purchase and operate a van throughout the greater San Antonio area. They are great advocates and work tirelessly to ensure that women in the San Antonio area have access to critical prevention and treatment services.

The fight against breast cancer is a long and hard one. In my home state of Texas, an estimated 13,700 cases of breast cancer will be detected in 2003. If breast cancer is detected early, however, a woman's chance of survival is improved by 95 percent. Nevertheless, together we have shown that we can make a difference. We must continue the fight against cancer. We only celebrate breast cancer prevention for one month, but by getting our voices heard and our message across, we can give millions a whole lifetime to celebrate.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PALISADE
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
CHURCH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to a landmark institution from my district. The Palisade Seventh-Day Adventist Church of Palisade, Colorado has served its parishioners and our community for over a century. By working to promote a spirit of unity and cooperation, the church has shaped the Palisade community for the better. For dedication to serving its community, I am honored to pay tribute to the Palisade Seventh-Day Adventist Church here today.

Founded in 1903, the Palisade Seventh-Day Adventist Church has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of its parishioners and the community at large. Its work includes everything from holding a week-long Vacation Bible School in the summer to preparing individuals to serve on mission trips overseas. The church is dedicated to reaching out to all members of the community, seeking to serve everyone in need.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of Palisade Seventh-Day Adventist Church to meet the needs of their community and foster a spirit of generosity are an inspiration. The Palisade Seventh-Day Adventist Church is an institution that many in the Palisade community turn to for guidance and encouragement in their daily lives. I am honored to join with my colleagues today in honoring the Palisade Seventh-Day Adventist Church for its tireless work and dedication to the community.

HONORING POLICE OFFICER
CHARLES E. BENNING SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Police Officer Charles E. Benning, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement from the Cleveland Police Department. Charles E. Benning, Sr., has honorably and diligently carried out his oath to protect and serve the people of the City of Cleveland for the past twenty-three years.

Officer Benning is a life long resident of Cleveland, Ohio, educated in the Cleveland Public Schools and a graduate of John Hay High School. He attended Bowling Green State University, and was a founder of the Delta Epsilon Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity there. Officer Benning is a dedicated member of St. James Lutheran Church, and is a member of Bible Study Group that provides male leadership to the church, the Men of St. James (M. O. S. T). He also sings with the Male Chorus.

Officer Benning began his Masonic Career in 1995 in William T. Boyd Lodge #79. He built a solid foundation in Masonry by serving in all seats preceding Worshipful Master. He is a member of Cuyahoga Chapter #36 Royal Arch Masons, Bezaleel Consistory #15, Scottish

Rite Masons and El Hasa Temple #28 of the E.E.A.O.N.M.S. On December 3, 2002, he was elected to Worshipful Master of William T. Boyd Lodge and has served the craft faithfully and to the best of his ability.

For the past twenty-three years in the Cleveland Police Department, Officer Benning served in Basic Patrol, in the 5th District Vice Unit, and the 5th District Strike Force. He was selected as one of nine Gang Detectives when the Department started the Youth/Gang Task Force, and during his tenure in this department has made many presentations at Universities, High Schools, and Middle Schools on gang and youth violence. He is the current President of the Ohio Chapter of the Midwest Gang Investigators Association. He is also a member of the Black Shield Police Association, and the Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Officer Charles E. Benning Sr., upon his retirement as a Police Officer with the Cleveland Police Department. His exceptional and courageous service on behalf of the citizens of Cleveland and beyond have served to lift the spirits and the lives of countless individuals, families within Cleveland and all along the North Coast. We wish Officer Benning, his wife Jean, mother, Katie Mae, and children Kevin, Jason, Derrick and Charles Jr. many blessings of peace, health and happiness throughout his retirement.

HONORING THE STATEWIDE HISPANIC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey for its efforts in developing and advancing the role of Hispanics in small businesses, and in enhancing the interests of Hispanics throughout New Jersey. On Friday, October 17, 2003, the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey will hold its 13th Annual Convention and Expo at the Newark Airport Marriot Hotel in Newark, New Jersey.

The Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey has contributed to the increase of business opportunities, prosperity and success for Hispanics throughout the state by forming new partnerships with Latin America, bringing products and jobs back to New Jersey, and creating further economic development and business opportunities throughout our region.

The Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey has been serving as an advocate for Hispanic small businesses in the political process since its inception in 1989, successfully bringing the issues and concerns of Hispanic-owned businesses to the forefront of the local and national economic agenda.

As the Hispanic market continues to represent the fastest growing economic sector in the United States, events, such as The Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey 13th Annual Convention and Expo, benefit the general business community, gov-

ernment agencies and Hispanic entrepreneurs, while providing networking opportunities.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey for playing a critical role in the success of Hispanic businesses throughout New Jersey.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FLO
GALLEGOS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Flo Gallegos of Arboles, Colorado has played an instrumental role in the recent renovations and rededication of the Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Church in Arboles. For her hard work and dedication, I am honored to pay tribute to Flo here today.

The Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Church, built in the early twentieth century, desperately needed renovation: the roof needed replacing, the exterior needed refurbishing, and the interior needed fixing up. Flo spearheaded the effort to get funds, volunteers, and artisans to do the work. She saw a need in her community and refused to sit by or to give up before that need was filled. When times got tough, Flo refused to give in, and she got the job done. The renovations Flo worked so hard to secure were finally achieved this year, and the church was recently rededicated.

Mr. Speaker, the determination and hard work of Flo Gallegos are truly inspirational. She displayed tremendous focus and fortitude in her quest to see that the renovation of the Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Church went forward. For her resolve and dedication, I am honored to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to Flo here today.

HONORING THE SCHOOL OF
UKRAINIAN STUDIES, CLEVELAND,
OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the School of Ukrainian Studies on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary serving students in the Ukrainian community of Cleveland, Ohio.

The School of Ukrainian Studies was established fifty years ago to ensure that the Ukrainian youth in Cleveland would retain the full glory of their language, culture, and community in the United States. The Ukrainian School has succeeded in keeping together a vibrant and cohesive community of Ukrainian-Americans by teaching its students in the language of their mother country, and bringing to the students the traditional dress and cultural awareness of the Ukraine. cam.

The School of Ukrainian Studies will celebrate its 50th Anniversary by holding a banquet resplendent with traditional foods from the Ukraine, and presenting a performance in

which all of its students will participate to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and traditions they have learned during their years of study at the School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me today in celebration of the commemorative banquet celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the School of Ukrainian Studies. Many young persons have surely benefited from the work of this wonderful school, and our community has benefited from its efforts to keep the language and tradition of the Ukraine alive in the United States. Let us honor this distinguished school and let us wish them 50 more years of fantastic service to our population.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL HARPEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the memory of a wonderful citizen from my district. Bill Harpel of Pueblo, Colorado recently passed away at the young age of 40 after a hard-fought battle with leukemia. As Bill's family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to recognize his life before this body of Congress and this nation.

Bill will always be remembered as a staple of the Pueblo theater community. A kind and caring family man at home, Bill was a highly respected professional on stage. Bill was a Pueblo native and studied acting at the University of Southern Colorado. He had an amazing passion for the theater and devoted his time to his acting. Bill spent most of his time in the theater on stage, but also could be found directing several productions. Bill served as President of the "Impossible Players," a local theater company. He was recently awarded the Lifetime Service Award for 2003 by the organization. Away from the theater, Bill was known as a loving husband and a proud father of two.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the Pueblo theater community lost one of its most prominent members this past September, and the City of Pueblo has lost a remarkable citizen. Bill Harpel's memory will live on in the hearts of his friends and family. He will certainly be missed.

HONORING MOTHER TERESA

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mother Teresa, a beloved humanitarian revered throughout the world for her charity toward the poor and afflicted.

Mother Teresa, who died on September 5, 1997, at 87 years old in her Missionaries of Charity home in central Calcutta, India, was truly a spiritual guide whom we admire and respect for her uncompromising generosity. Her impact was felt by millions worldwide, and she made all those she touched view the world with a kinder and gentler eye.

A Roman Catholic nun and missionary, she served impoverished people unselfishly, never

asking for anything in return. She firmly believed that the poorest of the poor required self-esteem and hope to escape poverty, and she devoted her life to providing it one person at a time until the day that she died.

She was rightfully awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 following a lifetime of reaching out to the needy, the suffering and the dying. Her efforts have inspired generations to contribute to the well-being of humanity in both large and small ways.

Mr. Speaker, I offer these remarks to honor the beatification of Mother Teresa by Pope John Paul II on October 19, 2003, in Rome. Her tireless, inspirational work is missed, but her legacy will live on for eternity.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWARK

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Village of Newark's Sesquicentennial Anniversary. Incorporated on July 21, 1853, the Village of Newark along the Erie Canal in Wayne County, New York is 150 years old this year, and a host of celebratory events are planned to recognize this milestone this month.

Newark is the only village in Wayne County, New York established as a result of the building of the Erie Canal. Begun in 1817, canal construction crossed the bountiful farmlands of Wayne County, where land was cheap but virtually inaccessible overland or by natural waterways.

In 1820, Joseph Miller received the contract to construct a mile and a quarter of the canal through what is today the Town of Arcadia. In addition to constructing the waterway, Miller purchased some 100 acres for the establishment of a canal side village, plotting streets and dividing parcels into building lots.

The Village of Newark grew into a busy merchant port along the canal, and served as a gateway to markets for Wayne County farmers. Newark has a strong history as being the founding home to many well-known business entities, including Sarah Coventry Jewelry, the Jackson & Perkins Company, and Ultralife Batteries. Today, Newark remains a commercial center for the region and is Wayne County's most populated urban center.

On behalf of the people of New York's 25th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the residents of Newark on the Village's 150th Anniversary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOAN RICHARDSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to a wonderful citizen from my district. "Grandma Joan" Richardson of Grand Junction, Colorado volunteers her time to help area students in the classroom, pro-

viding them with a helping hand and teaching them how to read. Joan is a valued citizen of the Grand Junction community, and I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to honor her altruistic virtues.

Twice a week, for two and a half hours at a time, Joan devotes her time in an area that she is quite familiar with: the classroom. Having retired from her career as a high school and middle school teacher, Joan has felt the urge to continue to contribute toward the education of local children. The students benefit from having an additional teacher in the classroom a few days per week, while Joan is able to share her valuable skills as a teacher. Joan began helping out on a part time basis when her grandson began school over five years ago. Today she continues to donate her time, helping schools in the Mesa Valley School District.

By making the educational process both interesting and fun for the students, Joan is instilling learning habits that will benefit them for their entire lives. Thanks for your dedication to our youth Joan. I wish you all the best in your retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an explanation for the votes I missed on October 15 and 16, 2003. Due to a Congressional fact-finding trip to Iraq and other parts of the Middle East, I unfortunately missed several votes on the floor of the House on the evening of October 15. Additionally, I missed votes on October 16 because I had to attend a conference regarding information technology at the Department of Defense, an issue over which my Subcommittee on Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities has sole jurisdiction.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following fashion:

Rollcall vote 540: "Aye" (H.R. 6, On motion to instruct Conferees on the Energy Conservation, Research, and Development).

Rollcall vote 541: "No" (H.R. 1308, On motion to instruct Conferees on the Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act).

Rollcall vote 542: "No" (H.R. 1, On motion to instruct Conferees on the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act).

Rollcall vote 543: "Aye" (H.R. 1828, On motion to suspend the rules and pass the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Restoration Act of 2003).

Rollcall vote 544: "Aye" (H. Res. 396, On ordering the previous question for providing for the Consideration of H.R. 3289: Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for Fiscal Year 2004).

Rollcall vote 545: "Aye" (H. Res. 198, On agreeing to the resolution as amended which expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that France, Germany, and Russia, can initially best contribute to the reconstruction of Iraq by forgiveness of outstanding debt).

I would like to also note, that I am a co-sponsor and strong supporter of the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Restoration Act of

2003 (H.R. 1828) because it holds Syria accountable for the serious international security problems it has caused in the Middle East. Specifically, H.R. 1828 calls on Syria to halt its support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, and cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil and illegal shipments of weapons and other military items to Iraq.

Knowing the importance of this bill, I have been a long-time supporter of H.R. 1828. As such, I would have voted in favor of its passage and will continue to work to ensure it is signed into law as soon as possible.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF STEPHEN WYATT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, the grim realities of the war in Iraq came home to the Fourth District this week with the death of Private First Class Stephen E. Wyatt, 19, of Kilgore, Texas. Stephen died on October 13 in Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was in a convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. He was assigned to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma and had been in Iraq since April.

Stephen enlisted in the Army on his 18th birthday, having expressed his desire to join the military at an early age. He looked forward to the opportunity to serve his country, to travel and broaden his horizons, and to pursue a higher education degree through the Army. Stephen was a 2002 graduate of Kilgore High School, where his teachers described him as hard working, determined, and likeable. He returned to his high school for a visit in the spring before being deployed to Iraq. While there, he spoke to a government class about how well he liked the military, and he encouraged students to sign up if they were interested.

Stephen was described as an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing. His ultimate goal would have been to pursue his interest in wildlife preservation. Those aspirations ended on October 13 on the battle front in Iraq.

Our prayers go out to his family and friends. His wife, Kelly Wyatt, is a service member stationed in Hawaii. They were married on Thanksgiving, 2002. His father, Charles Wyatt, and stepmother Lilmah reside in Kilgore. His mother is deceased. Friends and residents of Kilgore responded to his death with an outpouring of sympathy. Mayor Joe Parker signed a proclamation honoring Stephen, asking that flags in Kilgore be flown at half-staff for a week.

Stephen's death is a tragic loss to his family and friends—and to all of us who mourn the loss of one so young who gave his life in defense of our Nation. We owe a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid to Stephen and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, generation after generation, in defense of the freedoms that we enjoy today. Without their service, and their willingness to place themselves in the line of fire, America would not be the great Nation that we know today.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today in the House of Representatives, let us do so by honoring Stephen E. Wyatt and extending our deepest condolences to his family and friends. America is free today because of the sacrifices of such young American heroes. Stephen Wyatt is one of those heroes, and we will never forget him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BARBARA DAVIS CENTER FOR CHILDHOOD DIABETES

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization. The Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Fitzsimons Campus in Denver, Colorado provides care and support for children with Type I diabetes and their families. For their diligent work and extraordinary commitment to excellence, I wish to pay tribute to the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes here today.

Since 1980, the Davis Center has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of countless children throughout Colorado and the world who suffer from Type I, or Childhood On-Set, diabetes. The Center's clinics have received worldwide recognition for their care of those affected by this debilitating disease. In addition, the Center is a first-class teaching and research facility on the forefront of the investigation into the cause, treatment, and elimination of diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes is relentless in its efforts to treat children with diabetes, support their families, and find ways to prevent this devastating disease. For many years, the Center has proudly served the children of Colorado, our nation, and the world. The workers at the center have dedicated themselves to bettering the lives of those affected by diabetes. They are true heroes and I am honored to recognize their work here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on October 15, I inadvertently did not vote on rollcall vote 543, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act (H.R. 1828). I supported this amendment.

HONORING WILLIAM DANIEL BROWN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 12, 2003, Nevada lost a friend and our nation lost

a true patriot, when the Silver State's oldest veteran, William Daniel Brown passed away at 109 years old. Mr. Brown lived a long, rich life filled with many unique experiences. I had the pleasure to meet this wonderful, mild man and to watch as he was honored for his bravery on the battlefield in the First World War.

A grandson of slaves, Willie was born in a log cabin on August 23, 1894 in Cuero, Texas. He grew up in rural America, ate only what he and his family planted and harvested, attended school in a one-room school house, and learned at a young age what it meant to work hard. In 1918, Mr. Brown, a man of peace, left Texas when President Wilson called on him to serve his country in World War I. Upon his arrival in France, he fought with other black soldiers under French units because the United States Army was still segregated. "I was assigned to repair barbed wire. I'd fix it at night, and the Germans would shoot it up during the day and I'd go back at night and fix it again," he recalled.

After the war, Willie, as his friends called him, returned to Cuero and made a living doing odd jobs around town. In 1935, he married Louise and they moved to California to start anew life together. In California, he worked in an old soldier's home for \$5 a day, but found better work hauling freight for the Pacific Motor Trucking Co. until he retired. After the loss of his first wife, he married again in 1960 and enjoyed a happy life with his second wife Lucille, until her death in 1980. Although he never had children of his own, he was surrounded by the love and loyalty of his 30 nieces and nephews throughout his life.

Thirty years ago, Willie moved to Las Vegas, where his niece, Jennie Jefferson, cared for him. Even after he had surpassed the century mark, Willie continued to be active in the Las Vegas community and attended the New Jerusalem Baptist Church. As Nevada's oldest veteran, he took pride riding in parades and participating in the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

On the 80th anniversary of the armistice, Willie was overlooked by the French government when it awarded the Legion of Honor—its highest national award—to 900 American World War I veterans who fought on French soil. After I was made aware of this by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I worked with the French government to ensure that William Brown's service was recognized. On his 107th birthday in 2001, I was truly honored to stand with the Nellis Air Force Base Honor Guard and several Nevada veterans when the French Consul General named Mr. Brown the Chevalier of the National Order of the Legion of Honor.

On the day before Mr. Brown was awarded the medal, I spoke with him and asked if there was anything that he wanted to do that he had not done already. He replied without hesitation that he wanted to meet President Clinton. Coincidentally, Bill Clinton was visiting Las Vegas on that day and I called the Las Vegas Sun Publisher, Brian Greenspun, who called President Clinton. Without hesitation, President Clinton invited William to his hotel so that he could personally thank him for his service to our country.

The day before Mr. Brown's death, he received a U.S. Presidential Citation from President Bush for his longevity and his wartime service during World War I.

Mr. Brown lived a long and fruitful life despite facing many challenges. He had said of

prejudice, "In my life I never cared about a person's nationality, the color of their skin or anything else because we are all God's people." He was a man of faith and lived his life one day at a time. He will be remembered as an extraordinary man who was treasured by his family, veterans, and the Las Vegas community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EVA BACA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding elementary school from my district. Eva Baca Elementary School in Pueblo, Colorado recently received national recognition as an award winning "Blue Ribbon" school under the "No Child Left Behind" initiative. It is a privilege to stand here and recognize the amazing accomplishments of this terrific school and pay tribute to its success before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Thanks to the hard work of everyone from administrators to students, Eva Baca Elementary has dramatically improved its performance ratings. By focusing on individual student achievement, the school targets kids beginning to show signs of difficulty with their studies and provides them with the extra help they need to succeed. Helping children excel in learning requires a tremendous amount of effort from the school's staff and a high level of participation on the part of the parents. Overall test scores at Eva Baca Elementary are in the top ten percent of the state, making it one of the top performing schools in the nation. National recognition by the "Blue Ribbon" program signifies Eva Baca Elementary School as one of Colorado's best.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress and this great nation to recognize the accomplishments of Eva Baca Elementary School. They provide a shining example for the educational system in Colorado. Keep up the good work.

HONORING PAUL C. LAUTERBUR
ON HIS RECEIPT OF THE 2003
NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Paul C. Lauterbur, who was recently awarded the 2003 Nobel prize in medicine for his groundbreaking research in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Dr. Lauterbur conducted his work on MRI technique during his tenure at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, which is located in the First Congressional District of New York. His research was a revolutionary contribution to the field of medicine, and has since enhanced the lives of millions of patients suffering from devastating illnesses in the United States and around the world.

The development of MRI represents a breakthrough in medical diagnostics and re-

search, which has led to improved treatment and better health for millions of patients. MRI is a medical diagnostic technique that can create thin-section images of any part of the body, including the heart, arteries, and veins, from any angle in a relatively short period of time. Given the level of detail MRI can provide a physician on a patient's anatomy and condition, its use has dramatically improved accuracy in medical diagnostics and has become an indispensable tool in medical research. The technique has proven especially useful for detailed study of the brain and spinal cord. Perhaps the most important contribution of MRI to medicine is that it has, in many cases, replaced the need for patients to undergo invasive surgery for diagnosing illnesses.

It was Dr. Lauterbur's research in the area of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) that aided the development of modern MRI. Dr. Lauterbur was the first researcher to use NMR, a process in which molecules are entrained in a strong magnetic field and zapped with radio waves, to produce an image and apply it to the field of medicine. In doing so, he introduced gradients to the magnetic field, which, he discovered, made it possible to create two-dimensional images of structures that could not be visualized by other techniques. Among the first images that Dr. Lauterbur made through NMR was of a clam and two test tubes of heavy water in a beaker of ordinary water. In 1971, the doctor realized that his idea could be used for producing medical images and, in 1973, his findings on the technique were published. Dr. Lauterbur's work led to the development of the MRI scanner, and has been called the most significant medical diagnostic study of the 20th century.

Dr. Lauterbur spent 22 years at Stony Brook before joining the University of Illinois faculty in 1985. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1951 from the Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, Ohio, and a doctorate in chemistry in 1962 from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Lauterbur's other achievements include the National Academy of Sciences Award for Chemistry in Service to Society (2001); the Kyoto Prize from the Inamori Foundation of Japan for lifelong research accomplishments in advanced chemistry (1994); and the National Medal of Science (1987).

Mr. Speaker, the development of MRI has spared millions of patients the physical discomfort and risk associated with the surgical diagnosis of disease. Last year, 22,000 MRI cameras were in use worldwide, and more than 60 million scans were performed. Clearly, without Dr. Lauterbur's groundbreaking work, modern MRI might not be in existence today. Every patient who has been spared surgery and accurately diagnosed through the use of MRI has Dr. Lauterbur to thank. I am proud that Dr. Lauterbur conducted this important work at Stony Brook and I commend him for his invaluable contribution to medicine and humanity.

HONORING THE LATE TONY
GARCIA, JR.

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the late Tony Garcia, Jr., longtime

community leader and executive director of the Tampa United Service Organization (USO). His dedication to America's servicemen and -women and his hometown of Tampa is an inspiration to us all.

A veteran of World War II and the Korean War, Tony worked for the Tampa USO for 35 years, ensuring that military personnel had a pleasant stay while in Tampa. In the 50's and 60's, he was known for bringing in celebrities to perform at Christmas shows for the men and women of our armed services that were unable to go home for the holidays.

Tony was also known for his remarkably selfless and never ceasing service to the community. As a board member of the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce; he crusaded for improvements in the area, day after day. He was also active in the Tampa Urban League, the Optimist Club, the Sertoma Club, and the Hillsborough Education Foundation. Tony was continually organizing fundraisers and events. A friend referred to him as "a unique blend of humility and charity," and his service to the Tampa Bay area was exactly that. He used his personal gifts to bring people together, making our community stronger.

On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Tony's family—his wife of 58 years, Blanche, a son, two siblings, two grandchildren, and one great grandchild. They have been truly blessed by having such a caring person in their lives, as we all have. The Tampa community will always remember Tony's bountiful dedication and generosity.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CARI SUE
MICHAELS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a remarkable citizen from my district. Cari Sue Michaels of Durango, Colorado has shown tremendous courage in the face of a devastating disease. For her courage and unconquerable spirit, I am honored to pay tribute to Cari here today.

In January of 2003, Cari began her courageous battle against ovarian cancer and underwent surgery to remove a tumor on her ovary. Shortly thereafter, Cari learned that she suffered from a very rare and difficult to treat form of cancer. She underwent radiation and chemotherapy, but they appeared to do little to fight the cancer. Despite the battle that lay before her, Cari refused to give up. She has remained committed to fighting every day and living her life to the fullest.

Mr. Speaker, Cari Sue Michaels' unconquerable spirit and courage are an inspiration to us all. Through difficult and trying times, she has maintained her positive attitude and has refused to give in to the disease that she battles every day. I know that Cari's fight is far from over, and I am honored to join with my colleagues here today in recognizing her courage in continuing her fight.

IN HONOR OF DR. TOMÁS A.
ARCINIEGA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Dr. Tomás Arciniega, President of California State University Bakersfield. Dr. Arciniega has been a champion of higher education, a trailblazer who has opened doors for countless underrepresented students, and a good friend. After 30 years with the California State University system, this exceptional teacher and administrator will complete his service at CSU Bakersfield, retiring soon after the commencement of the Class of 2004. Recognizing that his career has been both distinguished and memorable, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities will honor him tonight in its first ever Roast and Fundraiser, which will support a scholarship in Dr. Arciniega's name.

Growing up in the projects of El Paso, Texas, Tomás learned his strong work ethic and core values from his parents, Tomás and Judith Arciniega. In tenth grade, he met his future wife, Concha, and together they became an indivisible team, blessed with a true partnership, friendship and love. Tomás and Concha are now the proud parents of four daughters (Wendy, Lisa, Judy and Laura) and seven grandchildren (Nico, Melina, Vanessa, Natalie, Jakob, Lukas and Benjamin). Family has always been the top priority for Tomás and Concha, who relish their regular road-trips to San Diego, Albuquerque and Phoenix to ensure their active and valuable role in the lives of their grandchildren.

The first in his family to attend college, Tomás's successes in his early years demonstrate his commitment to learning, competing, and serving. He earned his bachelor's degree from New Mexico State University in teacher education. He holds a master's and doctorate in educational administration—both completed at the University of New Mexico. And his pursuit of education has taken him east to Harvard where he attended the Institute for Educational Management program for senior university executives.

A well-rounded scholar athlete, Tomás played football and baseball throughout high school and received a football scholarship to New Mexico State University. He even played catcher in baseball's minor leagues on a farm team for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Tomás proudly served his country, first as an officer in the United States Army, and later as a foreign officer for the U.S. Department of State, where he was responsible for the coordination and contracting of technical support services in health and education in the Dominican Republic. Tomás continued his work overseas in Colombia, on behalf of UNM, as a principal advisor in school administration and higher education to the Colombian Ministry of Education.

Tomás's educational career has always combined his passion for students with his commitment to making a difference as an administrator. His career has taken him from the Las Cruces Independent School District's hall of administration, to teaching at the intermediate and high school levels in Albu-

querque, New Mexico, and then on to the University of Texas, El Paso where he served as an associate professor of educational administration and assistant dean. From there, he was named the dean of the School of Education and professor of educational administration at San Diego State University.

The California State University system recognized Tomás's achievements by appointing him vice president for academic affairs and professor of educational administration at California State University, Fresno. In that capacity, Tomás accomplished significant changes including the reorganization of the academic budget management system, increasing the level of outside grant activities, revising the system for tenure and promotion of faculty, reorganizing the School of Social Work and Health Services, and initiating and implementing major affirmative action initiatives in academic affairs.

For the last 20 years, Tomás has served as the president and a professor of education at California State University, Bakersfield. During his tenure, CSUB has grown dramatically as demonstrated by the institution achieving university status and record enrollment gains. CSUB has enjoyed increased funding for research and training, as well as major capital outlay projects, including an athletics activities center, a new library, a Child Care Center, an outdoor amphitheatre, a student union, and the Business Development Center. Tomás has been central to the fundamental redefinition of CSUB's institutional mission to achieve a closer nexus between CSUB and its regional community, resulting in the community's generous support for and coordination with the university. Furthermore, Tomás has demonstrated true leadership in promoting educational equity and access to a quality higher education for the region's diverse population, thus, helping to dramatically increase the enrollments of minority and women students and the hiring of ethnic minorities and women at the faculty, staff and administration levels.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends, and colleagues gather to roast and pay tribute to Tomás's many accomplishments, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this truly remarkable example of the American dream. Tomás is a fortunate man who can retire with the knowledge that he made a difference fighting his entire life to improve education for all students, but even more importantly, he did so while also maintaining a sincere commitment to loving and supporting his family. Tomás sent his own children off to school every morning with the simple, yet profound, message to "just remember you're the greatest!" And he worked hard every day to provide those same opportunities for all children to believe in themselves, dream big and obtain a first-rate education. As Tomás closes this chapter of his distinguished career, I would like to say "thank you" on behalf of the students, teachers and families whose lives he has changed by opening doors, leading by example and always holding firm to his convictions. His countless contributions will be felt for generations to come.

ANNUAL SIKH CONVENTION LAYS
PLANS FOR EXPANDING STRUG-
GLE FOR FREEDOM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the International Sikh Organization held its annual convention on the weekend of October 10–11–12, 2003 in Houston. The convention laid plans for the expansion of the movement to free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence on October 7, 1987.

The convention was attended by many delegates from all around the United States and Canada. They made plans to expand their office in Washington, which has been an invaluable resource to us here in Congress in getting out information about the oppression of the Sikhs and other minorities by the Indian government. This is good to see. The glow of freedom still burns brightly in the hearts of these Sikh leaders.

The delegates also congratulated Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the International Sikh Organization and the Council of Khalistan, for his tireless work in support of the interests of Sikhs in this country and the cause of freedom for Khalistan. I can say from my personal experience that Dr. Aulakh has worked for that cause with great dedication for several years and he has provided a lot of information to those of us in Congress who are interested in the cause of human rights and freedom in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to take this opportunity to salute the International Sikh Organization on a very successful convention and wish it continued success in the future. We can support its efforts to bring freedom to the Sikh people, and other regions in South Asia by insisting that human rights are observed and by declaring our support for a free and fair plebiscite under international monitoring on the question of independence.

HONORING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO
CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor local organizations throughout our great nation for their contributions to civic education. Estimates are that State governments have slashed over \$11–15 billion from their education budgets this year. At the same time, public opinion surveys indicate that education is at the top of the list of issues of interest to American citizens.

It is at times like this that we are particularly grateful that private sector individuals and organizations contribute to the education of America's youth. One such group is the Committee for Citizen Awareness, a not-for-profit organization that produces award-winning educational videotapes addressing civic subjects. In cooperation with organizations across America, they give these civic videotapes for free to high schools, community colleges,

many libraries and community access cable television stations. Over 30 million students and countless others have viewed these award-winning videos, free of charge.

At this moment in American history, when others are challenging our system of government, it is essential that our citizens understand their country's civic underpinnings. Helping to educate our citizens, particularly our young Americans, about these civic issues is indeed a noble and worthwhile goal. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in showing sincere gratitude to all organizations that have contributed to this effort, including:

The Cooper Health System
 Dr. Mamie Howard Golladay, President of Sullivan County Community College
 Elizabeth N. Hamilton, President & CEO of Summit Credit Union
 Carole Biggers, Corporate Counsel of Syngenta Crop Protection
 Todd Hendricks, General Partner of T. H. Properties
 Dale Schumacher, President of Tampa Bay Federal Credit Union
 Loy M. Howard, President/CEO of Tanner Health System
 Wayne Mansur, President and CEO of Texoma Community Credit Union
 Paul M. Pantozzi, Chairman, President, and CEO of The Provident Bank
 Dr. James A. "Red" Duke, Trauma Surgeon of The University of Texas Health Science Center @ Houston
 Stephen P. Dexter, President and CEO of Thomas Memorial Hospital
 Robert B. Tracy, Jr., CEO of TPS Credit Union, Inc.
 Dan Kampen, President and CEO of U.S. Central Credit Union
 Dr. James Moeser, Chancellor of UNC at Chapel Hill
 Dr. Kathryn Martin, Chancellor of University of Minnesota Duluth
 Glen R. Kershner, COO/VP Business Development of Universal 1 Credit Union, Inc.
 Michael C. Engel, President and CEO of University of Kentucky Federal Credit Union
 Dr. John D. Stobo, President of University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
 Dr. Dan Johnson, President of University of Toledo
 Michael F. Ambrose, President and CEO of USAlliance Federal Credit Union
 Diana Dykstra, President and CEO of Vandenberg Federal Credit Union
 Albert G. Duff, Board of Directors of Ventura County Credit Union
 Dr. Bryan K. Blanchard, President of Vincennes University
 Dr. Gary S. Kaplan, Chairman and CEO of Virginia Mason Medical Center
 Nancy Farber, CEO of Washington Township Health Care District
 Dr. Christine Sobek, President of Waubensee Community College
 Dr. Michael H. Gerwitz, Director of Pediatrics of Westchester Medical Center
 F. Nicholas Jacobs, President of Windber Medical Center
 Dr. Harold L. Martin, Sr., Chancellor of Winston-Salem State University
 Dr. Robert Lowdermilk, President of Wood College
 Douglas A. Fecher, President and CEO of Wright-Patt Credit Union
 Dr. Anthony Parker, President of Albany Technical College
 Lawrence E. Dewey, CEO of Allison Transmission Division General Motors
 Jude Thompson, Vice President and General Manager of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Dennis Smith, Associate Executive Director of Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute
 Dr. William Frame, President of Augsburg College
 Calvin E. Bellamy, Chairman of Bank Calumet
 Joel Allison, President and CEO of Baylor Health Care System
 Patrick Magoon, President and CEO of Children's Memorial Hospital
 Jeffery L. March, President and CEO of Citadel Federal Credit Union
 Dr. Karen A. Nicodemus, President of Cochise College
 Randy Segler, CEO of Comanche County Memorial Hospital
 Keith Spivey, Vice President of Branch Operations of EECU
 Denise Floyd, President/CEO of Fort Sill Federal Credit Union
 John N. Kastanis, President and CEO of Hospital for Joint Diseases
 R. Michael Barry, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer of Jupiter Medical Center
 Jean G. Leon, RNMPA, Executive Director of Kings County Hospital Center
 Jean M. Yokum, President and CEO of Langley Federal Credit Union
 Todd L. Swims, President & CEO of Leaders Credit Union
 Jose R. Sanchez, CSW, ACSW, Senior Vice President of Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center
 Parker H. Petit, Chairman, President and CEO of Matria Healthcare, Inc.
 Thomas Rozek, President and CEO of Miami Children's Hospital
 Gregory K. Smith, President of Mountain State Blue Cross Blue Shield
 Kevin A. Johnson, CEO of Mountain View Hospital
 Laurence C. Hinsdale, President and CEO of NorthEast Medical Center
 Ed Piper, Ph.D., CEO of Onslow Memorial Hospital
 Niels Vernegaard, President/CEO of Parkridge Medical Center, Inc.
 Thomas F. Schutte, President of Pratt Institute
 Neil DeFeo, Chairman, President, and CEO of Remington Products Company LLC
 Timothy G. Rupert, President & CEO of RTI International Metals, Inc.
 James W. Henderson, Division Manager of RTI International Metals, Inc.
 Wallace Strickland, President and CEO of Rush Foundation Hospital
 Fred Fraizer, President and CEO of Saint Mary's Hospital
 Bob Peebles, CAO of Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers
 Dr. Steven Gamer, Chief Medical Officer of Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers
 Thom Clark, President and CEO of Saints Memorial Medical Center
 Bruce Rampage, President of St. Anthony Memorial Health Centers
 George Winn, President and CEO of St. Elizabeth Health Services
 Colleen L. Kannaday, President of St. Francis Hospital & Health Center
 Andrew S. Passeri, Ph.D., President and CEO of Adolescent Medicine of Staten Island University Hospital
 April C. Lee, M.D., Director of Adolescent Medicine of Staten Island University Hospital
 Catherine Ann Paura, CEO of The National Research Group, Inc.
 Dr. Catherine Bannerman, Medical Director, Quality Improvement of Torrance Memorial Medical Center
 Arlene Rak, President of UHHS/Bedford Medical Center
 Bruce L. Barnett, President and CEO of Education of Vantage Credit Union

Dr. Peter C. Mehas, Superintendent, Fresno County Department of Education of Vantage Credit Union
 Richard Davis, Esquire, Partner of Weil Gotshal & Manges, LLP
 Charles M. O'Brien, Jr., President and CEO of West Penn Allegheny Health System
 Richard Brvenik, President and CEO of Windham Community Memorial Hospital
 Dr. J.P. (Jack) London, Chairman, President and CEO of CACI International Inc.
 Bernard W. Dan, President and CEO of Chicago Board of Trade
 Dr. Michael Schwartz, President of Cleveland State University
 K. Peter Maneri, Vice President of Corporate Communications of Computer Sciences Corporation
 Gary J. Holt, President of Delta School of Business & Technology
 George L. Kerns, President and CEO of Digex Incorporated
 Dr. David G. Carter, President of Eastern Connecticut State University
 Joe Shearin, President and CEO of Eastern Virginia Bankshares, Inc.
 J.A. Lacy, President and CEO of FinishMaster, Inc.
 Jim Sartain, President and CEO of FirstCity Financial Corporation
 S. Dale High, President of High Industries
 Daniel J. Wetta, CEO of John Randolph Medical Center
 Dr. Betty Siegel, President of Kennesaw State University
 Dr. F. Javier Cevallos, President of Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
 Charles W. Thomas, President and CEO of Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union
 Mark Griffin, Executive Vice President of Nishikawa Standard Company
 Dr. David Sam, President, North Harris College of North Harris Montgomery Community College District
 Charles Florio, Ph.D., President of Northeast Texas Community College
 Gary Wehrle, President and CEO of Pacific Crest Bank
 Dr. Paul J. McCarthy, President of Prairie State College
 Barbara Berghoff, President and CEO of Professional Federal Credit Union
 Dr. John Waddell, President of St. Paul's College
 Michael T. Dan, Chairman, President and CEO of The Pittston Company W.R. Timken Jr., Chairman and CEO of The Timken Company
 Marv Athey, CEO/General Manager of Trico Electric Cooperative
 Bobbie Booker, Chairwoman of Tulsa Teachers Credit Union
 Bill Sterner, President/CEO of U of C Federal Credit Union
 Dr. Don Huff, President of Weatherford College
 Bob Worth, Bay Area Region President of Wells Fargo & Company
 Glen F. Post, President, Chairman and CEO of CenturyTel
 David R. Anderson, President and COO of American Family Insurance
 Robert S. Curtis, President and CEO of Ball Memorial Hospital
 Frank V. Murphy, President and CEO of BayCare Health System
 William Longfield, Chairman and CEO of C.R. Bard, Inc.
 Dr. Antoinette Iadarola, President of Cabrini College
 Deborah H. Trotter, President and CEO of Charlotte Fire Department Credit Union
 David Macoubrie, Esquire of Cleaveland, Macoubrie & Cox
 John A. Calderone, Ph.D. of Corona Regional Medical Center
 Paul Dell Uomo, CEO of Covenant Health Care System, Inc.

Allan G. Komarek, Executive Director of Delano Regional Medical Center
 Dr. Bryant Cureton, President of Elmhurst College
 Kevin C. Martin, President & CEO of EMH Regional Healthcare System
 Lauren Rock, COO of Euclid Hospital
 Jim Tadvick, Senior Vice President of Farmers State Bank
 Gary Duncan, President and CEO of Freeman Health Systems
 George Irwin, President and CEO of Great Falls Bank a.k.a Greater Community Bank
 Carl J. Sorgatz, President of Hawthorne Credit Union
 Michael D. Means, FACHE, President and CEO of Health First
 Dr. Johnathan M. Astroth, President of Heartland Community College
 Norman F. Mitry, President and CEO of Heritage Valley Health System
 Thomas R. Martin, Senior Vice President of ITT Industries
 Father Edward Glynn, S.J., President of John Carroll University
 Steven Kazan, Managing Partner of Kazan McClain Edises Simon & Abrams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on October 15, 2003, I was recorded as a "nay" vote on roll-call No. 540. Please let the RECORD show that I intended to vote "yea" on this motion.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEONARD L. COLEMAN

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of a distinguished public servant, Dr. Leonard L. Coleman. To the people of Grimes County, in East Texas, Dr. Coleman is a living legend. Considered by many to be the father of modern medicine in Grimes County, Dr. Coleman's surgical skills have helped mend and save lives for more than 34 years.

Dr. Coleman's distinguished medical career, during which he touched the lives of thousands of East Texans, represents the very best American values of commitment, selflessness, and hard work.

Not only a fine doctor, Dr. Coleman has been a dedicated public servant as well. At a time when many physicians were moving to larger communities and increasing the sizes of their practices, Dr. Coleman remained committed to the community in which he was raised throughout his career. As part of this commitment, Dr. Coleman has been a community leader, serving in a variety of civic positions, including President of the School Board, City Commissioner, Elder in the Presbyterian Church, and school physician. He has been a lifelong public servant in the truest sense of the word.

Dr. Coleman was also a teacher. He mentored young men who thought they might be interested in a medical career. During

many summers, high school and college students assisted Dr. Coleman in surgery, while he made rounds and house calls, and worked with him in the Navasota Clinic laboratory. Dr. Coleman's charm, wit, and warmth enchanted everyone he met, including both his patients and his students.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Dr. Coleman on a distinguished career and in thanking him for a lifetime of outstanding medical care and selfless service to the citizens of East Texas.

RECOGNIZING LUPUS INTERNATIONAL

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call this Congress' attention to a devastating disease that affects millions of Americans.

Systematic Lupus Erythematosus, commonly known as lupus, is a chronic, complex, and often life-threatening autoimmune disease. It causes the immune system to become hyperactive and attack the body's own tissue, damaging vital organs which can lead to severe disability or death.

Research shows that 2.8 million people have been diagnosed with lupus in the United States—more than those affected by AIDS, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Sickle Cell Anemia and Cystic Fibrosis combined. Although lupus can affect people of all ages, it strikes primarily women between the ages of 16–45, and is currently the fourth leading cause of disability in females.

To date, there is no known cure for lupus and there are still very few treatments specific to the disease. However, with increased public awareness, education, and innovative research, we are hopeful that this battle can and will be won. Lupus International, a nonprofit organization in Irvine, California, has been a champion in the field of lupus research since it was founded in 1983. Over 2 decades, Lupus International has worked to alleviate suffering for millions of patients through support services and early detection of undiagnosed cases through awareness promotion.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lupus International for its 20-year commitment to finding a cure for lupus, and its tremendous service to millions of Americans suffering from this devastating disease.

WHY WE NEED MORE MILITARY END STRENGTH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, throughout my years of service, I have spent considerable time learning and understanding the complexities of our Nation's national security programs, and in particular our military personnel policies. It is with this experience and appreciation that I rise to share with my colleagues my deep concerns regarding the Nation's military end strength.

In February 1991, this Nation joined with our allies and went to war in the Persian Gulf. American service members were sent to the Middle East to help restore liberty and freedom to the citizens of Kuwait. The defense authorization bill for fiscal year 1991, provided the Army an end-strength of 702,170, the Navy 570,500, the Marine Corps 193,735, and the Air Force 510,000. When we went to war in 1991, the Army had 12 divisions, the Navy had 529 ships and the Air Force had 165 air wings.

The fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of the Cold War, and the successful prosecution of the first Persian Gulf War all led to the demand and belief that our country should and needed to reduce its military end-strength. The pressure for a "peace dividend" became the popular call.

By 1996, we had reduced Army end strength to 495,000, a reduction of over 207,000. The Navy was cut to 428,340, the Marine Corps downsized to 174,000, and the Air Force lost 129,000 for an end-strength of 388,200. The "peace dividend" was fast becoming a reality—in 5 years the military end-strength had been reduced by more than a half million.

However, the world has remained far from peaceful. The end of the Cold War has brought its own challenges—nearly 100,000 American forces have been called to serve in Bosnia and Kosovo, and thousands of National Guardsmen and Reserves are still being called to serve today. The United States has also sent our men and women in uniform to other operations around the world, including humanitarian assistance missions to Somalia and Haiti, drug interdiction operations in South America, and training government troops opposed to insurgents in the Philippines. Unfortunately, as the number of military operations has increased, there has also continued to be a slow and steady decrease in the size of our military.

But starting in 1995, the harsh reality of the worldwide operational burden on our forces led to calls for more forces. In 1995, Army Lieutenant General Ted Stroup, then Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, testified that the Army's active end strength should be 520,000, not the 495,000 that was requested in the 1996 budget request. Army Chief of Staff, General Eric Shinseki, reiterated that position during a hearing before the Armed Services Committee in July 2001. He told us that the Army needs a force of 520,000 people.

However, instead of proposing to increase military end-strength, the Bush administration has sought to gain greater efficiencies in the current force. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld directed the services to find ways to convert military positions that were not on the tip of the spear to civilian positions or private contractor jobs. The services also have been conducting reviews of their own to find ways to convert non-combat units to units with missions more relevant to actually fighting wars in order to relieve the burden on the front line forces now deployed around the world.

While I agree that we need to support more efficient use of the force, the administration's solution to our operational dilemma is wrong, shortsighted and self-defeating. Failing to increase our end strength will only increase the pressure on our current force. There is simply no substitute for having enough people to do

the job—"boots on the ground" in military par- lance and all the organizational efficiency in the world is no substitute.

It is said that history often repeats itself. Our Nation has historically reduced the number of men and women in uniform following major conflicts, such as World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Korea, and the Cold War. As a result of this historical phenomenon, we had a relatively small force by historical standards when we were violently attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001. In the days since then, hundreds of thousands of National Guard and Reservists have been called to active duty to provide security at our Nation's airports, bridges, nuclear power plants, and other important facilities. Thousands of men and women in uniform were sent to Afghanistan to remove terrorists and their supporters in Operation Enduring Freedom. And, in March of this year, Armed Forces personnel were sent to invade Iraq and remove a cruel and ruthless dictator from power, and are likely to be in Iraq for years to come. The message from these events is clear—because there are not enough troops to meet our worldwide military obligations, troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and even those guarding against terrorism inside the United States, face longer call ups, deployments and hardships than would be required if we had a larger force. We simply need more people in our military to do the job right!

On September 23, 1999, then presidential candidate Bush stated, "Frustration is up, as families are separated and strained. Morale is down. Recruitment is more difficult. And many of our best people in the military are headed for civilian life." Just four short years later, I say the same words to the President. Frustration is up, and families have been separated and strained more today than at any other time in recent history. Morale is declining. Although military recruiting is now satisfactory, many military leaders have expressed their fear that retention and recruiting will decline as troops rotate back home.

The time has come for Congress to ensure that our Nation has the military manpower that it needs to successfully execute the missions we ask our brave service men and women to perform. We need to increase our military end-strength, particularly in the Army, now. We need to ensure that the all volunteer force will continue to work as well as it has for the last 30 years. And that will only happen if we have enough people in uniform.

RECOGNIZING BOB WENZEL

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exemplary public servant, Bob Wenzel. Bob recently concluded 40 years of government service, 38 of which were spent with the Internal Revenue Service. I am privileged to say that I know Bob, and I commend him for dedicating his professional career to the betterment of our country.

A son of German immigrants, Bob's patriotism to our Nation began as a young child, when he would daily raise and lower the family's American flag. In his words, "[w]hat it in-

stilled in me was what this country represents."

Bob's interest in taxes was initially developed through his responsibility for calculating the family's taxes. This chore, coupled with a desire to contribute to his country, led him to join the IRS in 1963, turning down significantly more lucrative private sector positions. Bob has made serving his country a guiding principle for his entire working life, and has made his life choices based on what he could contribute. He rose up through the ranks, from a revenue officer in Chicago, to director of the IRS Service Center in Ogden, Utah, eventually rising to Deputy Commissioner and even Acting Commissioner. Bob's commitment to customer service won a presidential award for his quality improvements in Utah.

Bob's demonstrated leadership in customer service led former IRS Commissioner Charles Rossotti to name him as Deputy Commissioner during a time of great transition following passage of the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998. Upon confirmation of Mark Everson as Commissioner earlier this year, Bob was again named Deputy Commissioner, where his efforts continue to result in a more favorable public perception of the IRS.

Bob leaves the IRS with the universal respect of his peers, including former Commissioners, front-line managers, and the union. His contributions will long be remembered at the IRS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, we pay tribute to Bob's service and wish him and his family good health and good fortune in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL RICHARDS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Richards, 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 412, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the 9 years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Troop-Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, librarian, and Troop Guide. Michael is also a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow where he is a Brotherhood member.

For his Eagle Scout project, Michael built picnic tables and hitching posts for two rest areas on the horse and hiking trail around Smithville Lake. His project will be enjoyed by many visitors and horseback riders.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 15, if the voting machine was working properly, it would have recorded my vote in favor of H.R. 1828, the Syria Accountability Act. The Syria Accountability Act is extremely worthwhile legislation and I was proud to cosponsor it on May 22, 2003.

TIME FOR SOLUTIONS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the October 4, 2003, editorial from the Norfolk Daily News, which is entitled "More of a problem than a solution." Although this Member certainly is pleased that the United Nations (U.N.) Security Council unanimously approved a resolution which establishes a U.S.-led multinational force in Iraq, he continues to hold many of the concerns outlined in the editorial with regard to the failure of the U.N. to adapt to current realities.

Recently, this Member became a co-sponsor of the National Commission on the Modernization of the United Nations Act of 2003 (H.R. 3079). Through this measure, which was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), Congress would create an independent commission to explore how the U.S. could encourage structural changes in the U.N. Indeed, for the U.N. to remain relevant, the institution must be open and willing to reassess its structure, and the United States should lead the campaign for changes.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Oct. 4, 2003.]

MORE OF A PROBLEM THAN A SOLUTION

President Bush has asked the United Nations for help in rebuilding Iraq. But instead of responding with a loud "yes" and saying they will finally do the right thing for people in need, many members harrumphed and growled and once more demonstrated that the world organization may be on the road to irrelevance.

Kofi Annan, the U.N. secretary general, reminded anyone who would listen how the world body had "imperfectly" kept the planet peaceful for 58 years and that the current U.S. policy of pre-emptive action puts all of that at risk.

Someone should bring it to his attention that the imperfections have included round after round of genocide and incessant war in Africa.

A policy of pre-emption in the absence of clear, immediate danger is, in fact, a policy that could be pronounced unwise at one point in human history. That point was prior to the advent of weapons of mass destruction and multiple acts of catastrophic terrorism.

The Bush administration was awakened by the Sept. 11 terrorism to new realities that make some previous policies as outdated as would be the manufacturing of carriages instead of cars in Detroit. It is naive to suppose, as Mr. Annan does, that the U.S. example may lead other nations to protect themselves through aggressive action they would not otherwise have employed.

The United Nations demonstrated that it is more problem than solution when it failed to follow through on the last in a series of resolutions that Iraq must account for weapons of mass destruction, and it will not somehow absolve itself of irresponsibility through negligence and antagonistic rhetoric now.

If the United Nations does not come through, the United States must ponder whether it can instigate a positive restructuring or become increasingly less supportive of the organization.

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and today, October 17, 2003, is especially important as National Mammography Day. Today we celebrate the significant contributions that early detection through mammography has made in reducing deaths from breast cancer.

And tomorrow, on October 18th, thousands of people in my district in Dallas, TX, will turn out for the Race for the Cure 5K event sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, headquartered in Dallas. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the celebrated Komen Race for the Cure Series. The first Race for the Cure was held in 1983 in Dallas with 800 participants. At a time when breast cancer remained a taboo topic for many people, this life-affirming event was a public way to discuss breast cancer issues positively and meaningfully. Breast cancer survivors were celebrated, and those who had lost their battle with the disease were honored by their friends and family. In addition, participants were able to do something healthy and proactive to support the cause. The event was a tremendous success and quickly gained momentum and visibility. Today, the Komen Foundation hosts Race for the Cure events in 112 U.S. cities and in two foreign countries with nearly 1.5 million participants each year, making it the largest series of 5K events in the world. Each participant receives the life-saving message of early detection. Perhaps most importantly, the Komen Race for the Cure has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for critical breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment programs.

This year, more than 200,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and nearly 40,000 women will die from this disease. Every 3 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, and every 13 minutes a woman dies from this disease. Breast cancer is the leading cause of death among women ages 40–59. Men also succumb to this disease, particularly in the elderly African American male population.

All of us here today will be touched by breast cancer in some way during our lifetimes. There is no simple way to prevent breast cancer, but there are ways to detect it early, at a time when patients have more treatment options and a greater chance of survival. The most effective method used today in

detecting breast cancer early is mammography screening.

Today, to celebrate “National Mammography Day,” the Komen Foundation is launching a campaign to urge Congress to renew the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP). Unfortunately, the authorization for this highly successful program expired on September 30, 2003. Congress must move immediately to reauthorize the NBCCEDP program at a higher funding level of \$250 million for FY2005.

By reauthorizing the program and providing at least \$250 million for the program, Congress will help provide low-cost mammograms and follow-up care to thousands of women who otherwise could not afford these potentially life-saving services. The NBCCEDP is essential to help eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. Since the program's inception 13 years ago: approximately 2 million women have been screened, mammography use has increased by approximately 20 percent among women over 50 years of age, and nearly 13,000 cases of breast cancer have been detected.

The tragic fact is that the current NBCCEDP funding level allows it to cover only about 18 percent to 20 percent of the eligible population—which means that four out of five eligible women are not being served. Additional funding is needed to ensure that no eligible woman is denied quality screening and care. Raising the funding to \$250 million next year would enable the NBCCEDP to provide approximately 122,000 additional screenings to women in need next year.

During my tenure in Congress and the Texas State Legislature, I have always strived to ensure that America has the resources needed to combat the terrible diseases that plague our communities. I absolutely share your support for an increase in funding for stronger medical research. As a former nurse, that's why I support the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIH is an investment that saves lives, and helps Americans to live longer and to live better.

That is why I am so proud to be a cosponsor of the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2003 (H.R. 1886), the Mammogram Availability Act of 2003 (H.R. 736), and the Better Screening Test for Women Act (H.R. 1241). H.R. 1886 improves treatment for breast cancer patients. H.R. 736 requires that health insurance companies provide coverage for annual screening mammography for women 40 years of age or older. H.R. 1241 authorizes additional appropriations to the National Institutes of Health for research on early detection of breast cancer.

To help recognize National Mammography Day, and make it much more than just a commemorative day, I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for the immediate reauthorization of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program at \$250 million and more for the coming years. We owe nothing less to our grandmothers, mothers, daughters, sisters and the men in our lives in the race to find a cure for breast cancer.

RECOGNITION OF CHELTENHAM
TOWNSHIP TWINNING CELEBRATION
AND CHARTER SIGNING
CEREMONY

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cheltenham Township Twinning Celebration and the Charter Signing Ceremony at the annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 11, 2003.

Located on the northwest border of Philadelphia in the heart of the Northern Greater Philadelphia Region, Cheltenham Township is a mixture of distinctive neighborhoods, tree-lined streets, abundant parks, convenient shopping districts, and apartment complexes. Cheltenham's multiethnic community dates back to Quaker emigrants who settled in the area around 1690. Two of these new settlers came from Cheltenham, England, and thus the name was established.

Historically famous for the spa waters that drew King George III for a visit in the late 1700s, Cheltenham, England, is a mostly urban town located on the edge of Cotswold Hills retains much of its stylish Regency architecture. Having established a long-standing friendship, the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Cheltenham, England, along with other councilors and dignitaries, will visit Cheltenham Township to formalize their friendship in an official “twin city” relationship in an effort to expand opportunities for residents in each community to get to know one another. I would like to insert the following language of the Twinning Charter into the record:

CHELTENHAM TWINNING CHARTER

Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania, USA, and Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, UK, having already established a long-standing tradition of friendship and goodwill through visits and exchanges for more than 50 years, do hereby formally resolve:

To continue to foster and develop mutual understanding and respect between the people of Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania, USA, and the people of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, UK; and

To encourage and assist youth and adult organizations, clubs, companies, groups and all classes of people in Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania, USA, and Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, UK, to communicate and exchange visits with each other, thereby developing human and cultural relations and maintaining a firm foundation for future understanding, respect and friendship for all time.

Now, therefore, we do solemnly declare in the names of our citizens this Twinning Charter between Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania, USA, and Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, UK.

Done on October 11, 2003, in Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania, USA.

Mr. Speaker, I commend both Cheltenham Township of Pennsylvania and Cheltenham of Gloucestershire, UK, in their efforts to foster goodwill between its people. Their relationship will undoubtedly grow as its citizens build upon their common bond.

REMARKS OF ROBERT REDFORD

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I was honored last month to attend the annual Nancy Hanks Lecture at the Kennedy Center, an annual tribute to the memory of the woman who served as the Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts from 1969 to 1977. Each year a prominent American is asked to deliver personal remarks about the importance of the arts in public policy, and it was a great pleasure this year to hear from the accomplished actor, Robert Redford, who delivered a poignant, funny and meaningful address about the importance of supporting creativity and artistic development in our Nation. I am very pleased to bring his remarks to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

REMARKS OF ROBERT REDFORD

I've been coming to Washington, D.C. for the past 30 years, either filming here, as was the case in *All the President's Men*, or for lobbying efforts on behalf of issues relating to the environment, energy, human rights and art. In the beginning, it was a heady experience to be in the halls of power surrounded by history and event, feeling what it is like to be an integral part of a democracy—particularly if you were fortunate enough to move someone on an important issue.

In time, you experience changes in political climates, different attitudes and priorities. The strength of the system that controls decisions and compromises became clear over time, and expectations of success had to be tendered with failure relating to these realities. But still, you feel fortunate to have access to the ears that made decisions.

Even though you knew that celebrity was maybe a door opener, it nonetheless cuts both ways in politics. Like the time I was on the Presidential campaign trail and speaking to thousands of kids on a college campus about the importance of their vote and environmental issues. In the roar of their connection with what I was saying, I thought for a moment "I'm really getting through here!" Then I walked off stage and immediately a reporter stuck a microphone in my face and said, "Who do you think is better looking, you or Dan Quayle?"

So, just when you might be feeling your oats, reality has a way of sneaking up and putting it all in perspective. But as a citizen and an artist, I try to remember that it is a right and a responsibility to be able to partake in the process of democracy.

I'm here today because of my belief that art is a great translator of that which is both familiar and unfamiliar and that it is through art that we can come to know ourselves and others. To me, the vitality and insight which art brings to civil society is more important now than ever.

I grew up in a time when democracy was taken for granted since it was drummed into our minds as a fundamental definition of America and why it was great. I was shaped by WW II and a time when we were all united in its purpose—unlike conflicts of today. Because times were tough, and my family financial resources slim, we didn't have fancy toys or luxuries and had to be creative in inventing worlds of our own. My imagination was my most valuable commodity and thankfully it became a life force for me at a very young age. I saw the world around me

not only as it was. I saw the world around me as it could be. Art and the imagination that gave it life became my closest companions.

Before anyone was much interested in what I had to say, they were interested in what I created. As a kid, I remember sketching everything in sight. My parents and their friends played cards and I began drawing them as a group, individual faces and the like. Then I moved under the table and began sketching their feet at which point I think everyone started to worry. Even though they thought I was a bit weird, I got attention and encouragement for my "art" at a young age.

While I was a poor student academically, I shined in sports and in art and my third grade teacher was next to recognize that art was a legitimate means of expression for me as I struggled with more traditional approaches.

I remember she had me come to the front of the room and draw a story on this big pad of newsprint on an easel. I think we were studying English and she used it as a basis to make a point. The whole class seemed to get it and all learned a little about sentence structure and storytelling in ways that engaged and made sense. I didn't know what "it" was that they got, but it sure felt good.

My teacher's encouragement of my artistic tendencies continued, making me realize art was something legitimate to pursue and that it was integral to how I was finding my way in this world and making sense of things. If not for this, I may have taken a path that wasn't as fulfilling and productive. That's the main reason I'm here, to pay tribute to the work that so many of you do every day, to keep art alive in schools and in communities all across the country.

Being in this hall tonight prompted me to remember some of the writings of President John F. Kennedy. I became reacquainted with a speech he gave in 1963 at Amherst College where he paid tribute to the American poet Robert Frost, and reflected on the value of the arts to a society. It was less than a month before his assassination. "I look forward to an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft. I look forward to an America, which will steadily raise the standards of artistic accomplishment and will steadily enlarge cultural opportunities for all of our citizens."—John F. Kennedy.

To me, art, in all its forms, is the purest reflection of the most diverse aspects of us as individuals, as communities, as nations and as cultures. It's art that feeds and nurtures the soul of a society; provokes thought; inspires critical thinking; and fosters understanding of things foreign to our own immediate world. In the end, art plays a primary role in encouraging healthy tolerance of diversity in any culture. In times like these—in this very hour—more of this kind of encouragement would serve us well. Joseph Campbell felt that a society without mythology was doomed. I feel the same way about the role that art can play in a society's sustainable future. On the surface, it may not have the weight of the SEC, the Dept. of Defense, or Social Security and other programs that may be easier to quantify. But it is still a part of the whole. More importantly, it exemplifies one of our great, maybe our greatest critical luxuries—freedom of expression.

Throughout the 80s and into the 90s, battles over free expression were furious and frequent. On the one side, the perception that art was undermining the moral fabric of our society began to stick and took on a life of its own and it became the order of the day. When the moralistic posturing gave way

to the rationale to cut funding, for a time it was the political value of attacking the arts that increased significantly in stature. By falsely positioning the debate as one of morals and money, these forces hoped to use fear to obscure the real truth—the value of art to every community—and fear is a very dangerous platform to work off of.

I wondered then, why aren't they going after tabloid media or corporate greed with such a vengeance? Why isn't there the same fervor about the dismal state of literacy in our schools, the AIDS epidemic, or homeless men, women and children? Why is the zeal not pointed at the virtual flood of guns and drugs into our nation's streets, or pollution into our air and water and the resulting public health implications? When has a painting ever instigated the destruction of a culture? Is a song or a play, a painting or a photograph that much of a threat to our nation's well being? That notion seems particularly absurd in light of the larger threats we are currently facing.

Luckily the collective voice against this trend won out, and of course, the political winds changed substantially. And, while the cultural wars may have subsided, they still rear their ugly head too frequently. But there's more than one way to strangle the arts and today, funding cuts being discussed all across this country at all levels of government could paint a truly devastating picture when all is said and done.

As most of you know all too well, when the economy is in as bad a shape as it is now, art becomes the "throw-away." Art and art education becomes the funding cut they feel won't have a tangible effect. In other words, it's the cut from which they think nobody will suffer and they think nobody will notice its absence. Well that's not true. It may take a while to get it, but society at large will suffer and I believe, society at large will ultimately notice.

Government support for the arts is not the frivolous give-away that some would have you believe. It's a good investment and it is sound economic development. Art and public policy is good business. Let's look at the financial stake government has in the arts. The non-profit arts world is roughly a \$134 billion a year industry, employing millions. It generates nearly \$81 billion in spending by those who partake in its cultural offerings and is responsible for some \$24 billion in taxes going back to federal, state and local governments annually.

And, this doesn't take into consideration the impact the non-profit sector has as the training ground for writers, musicians, actors, dancers, painters, photographers, filmmakers and the like. It doesn't take into consideration the ultimate effect these people and their work have on a thriving multi-billion dollar private sector.

So, supporting the arts is good business and the numbers bear this out. It's also good public policy. A study by the Justice Dept., Americans for the Arts and the NEA demonstrated that arts programs helped at-risk youth stay out of trouble, perform better in school and improve how they felt about themselves and their future. How do you put a price on that?

Yet, President Bush recommended virtually no increase for arts grants administered by the NEA. President Bush also recommended terminating funding of the Arts in Education program, which is administered through the Dept. of Education. State legislatures all across the country are making substantial cuts. Several states proposed wiping out their entire state budget for the arts.

Are these federal and state governments missing something in turning their backs on the arts? You bet they are. We need people in

office who will have a vision for our country that goes beyond the next election. We need people in office who understand that encouraging creative pursuit could be critical to any number of sectors, from the next great technological idea to the next historic medical discovery. How do you put a price on that?

Creativity is made all the more special because it is a great intangible. It can come from the most unlikely places and from those that might not fit the "traditional" model of the artist. Creativity is inherent in all great endeavors whether traditionally artistic or not. It is creativity that must continue to be nurtured if we hope to reap the benefits of the many great minds we don't yet know. How do you put a price on that?

Yes there are pressing needs all around us. But completely ceasing to fund the arts is sadly shortsighted in any economy. Governments have to find a way to remain in the mix of resources for the arts and the private sector—corporations, foundations and individuals—they all need to find ways to help fill the gap during these tough times such as we're in now.

And that includes my industry, which benefits greatly from a vital and thriving artistic force. When one thinks of Hollywood, art isn't necessarily the first thing to come to mind. Some would say it is often anti-art. No. It's first a business. But it is a business that cannot exist without creative talent in every facet of the making of its product. So, in the end, the challenge to create art still rests squarely on the artist not the industry. As in any medium, sometimes we succeed and sometimes we fail. But we succeed often enough to create films that inspire, expose, transform and provoke, amuse, entertain and even teach.

Just as all other arts did at the moment of their own conception, cinema transformed the world. For good or for bad, it is a universal communicator on a global platform. Film is an indigenous American art form even though it's always been a struggle to have it taken seriously as an art form. But we can't deny that business has significantly infiltrated the practice of art in general, and in particular film. The constant talk of grosses—dollars and cents as the benchmark of a film's worth—is very debilitating to the body of serious film discussion and appreciation. And after all, where would the business of film be without art as its seed.

While mine is a somewhat solid industry, it will be important in the years to come for it to embrace risks as readily as it does sure things. It must make sure that freedom of artistic expression is honored and nurtured across a broad spectrum. I believe strongly that keeping diversity alive in my industry will keep the industry alive.

For example, the Sundance Institute is a step toward making sure diverse voices and the creative energy they bring with them are given an opportunity to grow and evolve. Those who come to the Sundance labs to make films and those who come to the Festival, to show films really are a microcosm of the kind of diverse voices which our industry needs to continue to support and nurture if it wants to maintain itself. They are also the kind of voices that will join in characterizing us to the rest of the world in the years to come. It's all connected.

Even after two decades, Sundance continues to be a community work in progress, success and failure simultaneously evident, treating failure as a step toward growth, rather than the destruction of a vision. I look at the Sundance Film Festival and the innovative hustle demonstrated by scores of young filmmakers to bring their vision to the screen. They haven't curled up and died because they can't get government backing

for their projects. Somehow they find a way. But I'm sure if I took a quick poll, I'd find that most of them found art, found their voice, in neighborhood, community and school arts programs. That's where they began the dance with the wonders of creativity.

By the way, I started the Sundance Institute with a grant from the NEA when many others were skeptical of the idea's potential and ultimate worth. I will always be grateful to the NEA for believing in us at the time. It was instrumental in getting us started. It wasn't just the seed funding, but the seal of approval that gave the idea impetus.

What most of you know that maybe others don't is that out there right now is some kid with a great song in their head we've yet to hear or a novel in their heart that has yet to be written. There's someone out there that hasn't picked up a paintbrush yet but has a masterpiece on the horizon. There's a kid out there who hasn't picked up a camera yet but could end up making a memorable film of their time.

What most of you know that others might not as clearly see, is that the nurturing of creativity comes into play in everything from world diplomacy to world economics, business endeavors to social endeavors and everything in between. It is creativity that gives all of it the nuance that often makes the difference. In all its forms, art plays a critical role in finding our way as people and as a culture.

As President Kennedy said that day in Amherst: "I see little more importance to the future of our country and our civilization than full recognition of the place of the artist. If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him."

We hear the word freedom bandied about a lot these days. It's a sacred concept. How fortunate we are to have it. How viscerally we need to feel the commitment to protect it. To be able to be part of a freedom of expression that allows us to tell stories of our choice in the uniqueness of our own voices as citizens and as artists is not to be taken lightly. To be able to freely voice dissent in our hearts or in our art is something to protect at all costs. But then, the glory of art is that it can, not only survive change, it can inspire change.

It is for all these reasons that it behooves governments to sustain an environment that enables, supports and nurtures the free and creative expression of its citizenry.

I have great hope for the future of art and thus civil society as I look out over this room, and imagine the collective power, the collective voice that will not cower in the face of budget slashing critics, and will not surrender its advocacy for art and free expression. My hope comes from not only those gathered here tonight, but from the efforts of grassroots, state and national organizations; young artists I meet at Sundance film labs; inner-city elementary school kids who are learning to play music and write poetry; the literary and theater programs in prisons; and traveling exhibitions to rural communities all across the country.

Thank you to the co-sponsors of this evening. To Americans for the Arts my gratitude for your tireless and effective advocacy on behalf of art and all that comes with that. You truly make a difference and we're all the better for it. And to the Film Foundation a recognition and respect for the important work you do to inspire young artists through education and for protecting and restoring some of the greatest films of all time and thus enabling the diverse perspective of it all to live on.

Lastly, it is an honor to pay tribute to the memory and the contribution of Nancy

Hanks whom I knew and remember fondly. Nancy Hanks had a profoundly gifted perspective on cultural policy in the United States, that being access to the arts. Her legacy is the success of many of your programs; the creative mastery of many of the artists here tonight; and the commitment to freedom of expression that we collectively embrace. The life she lived really meant something.

So we go forth from here tonight to continue to try to enlighten those who dismiss the arts as unnecessary, irrelevant or dangerous. And we do so not only in the memory of Nancy Hanks, but in the name of the active and deserving imagination of every American child.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH CHAMBERS

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Kenneth Chambers, a friend and constituent who is retiring after 40 years of practicing medicine. Dr. Chambers will be honored on Saturday, October 18 at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, in my congressional district.

Dr. Kenneth Chambers graduated from Meharry Medical College in 1959 and started a general practice in Wadesboro, NC. In 1966, he completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Harlem Hospital in New York. He later moved to Charlotte, where his brother Julius Chambers was practicing law.

I had the privilege to get to know Kenneth Chambers through his brother, who is the person who convinced me to return to my hometown of Charlotte to practice law. Dr. Kenneth Chambers helped blaze the trail for black doctors in Charlotte and went on to serve in many leadership positions such as President of the Charlotte Medical Society, the Old North State Medical Society and he served on the North Carolina Medical Board from 1995–2001.

Dr. Chambers has impacted the lives of many people throughout his remarkable career. I am pleased to honor him and wish him, his wife, Grace, and his entire family all the best as he begins the next chapter of his life.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REGARDING THE FAILURE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO ADHERE TO ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER A SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues MARK KIRK, CURT WELDON and HOWARD BERMAN in introducing today a resolution expressing Congress's deepening concerns about Iran's nuclear program.

For many years, I have been persuaded by the available evidence that Iran was pursuing a nuclear weapons program, starting with

transfers of nuclear and missile technology and expertise from Russia. Indeed, it was my resolution in the 105th Congress (House Concurrent Resolution 121) that called on the President to demand that the Government of Russia take actions to stop governmental and nongovernmental entities in the Russian Federation from providing missile technology and technical advice to Iran in violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime.

Evidence continues to accumulate raising questions about Iran's intentions, notwithstanding that country's signing of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Recently, environmental sampling by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility revealed the presence of two types of highly enriched uranium that can be used to develop nuclear weapons. And, earlier in the year, IAEA announced that Iran was constructing a facility to enrich uranium.

These developments prompted the Director General of the IAEA to express concern over the failure of the government of Iran to report material, facilities and activities at its nuclear facilities, including those that have the potential to enrich uranium and develop nuclear weapons. As a result, last month, the IAEA board of directors adopted a resolution calling on Iran to provide that organization, by October 31st, with a full declaration of all imported material and components relevant to the uranium enrichment program and to grant unrestricted access to IAEA inspectors.

Mr. Speaker, concerns about Iran's intentions are further underscored by Iran's successful test earlier this summer of the 800-mile range Shahab-3 missile and the persuasive evidence that is it seeking to produce a 1,200 mile Shahab-4 missile.

Coupled with Iran's known support for terrorist groups, it is clear to me and my colleagues that Iran poses a serious national security threat to the United States and its allies and other countries in the region. We can't idly wait for developments to unfold.

The concurrent resolution we introduce today clearly expresses Congress' view that the President must use all appropriate means to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. It also calls on the members states of the United Nations, particularly Russia, to join together to dissuade Iran and, if necessary, to impose sanctions if Iran does not fulfill its obligations to the International Atomic Energy Agency by October 31.

Failure to act can only encourage Iran to pursue a dangerous and destabilizing course. Iran must cease all efforts to acquire nuclear capabilities until it is able to verify that it is not continuing to engage in a nuclear weapons program.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. BACA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of our troops and in support of the Obey Amendment to the Iraq Supplemental Bill. I urge my colleagues to allow a vote on this amendment.

This Amendment is a better plan for the reconstruction of Iraq, a better plan for the safety of our troops, and a better plan for America.

This Administration has already received \$63 billion to help pay for this war and now they want an additional \$87 billion, which could even be more in the future.

We have a deficit that is rapidly rising in this nation, an unemployment rate that is nearly the greatest it has been in a decade, families struggling without healthcare and a president who has drastically cut education by \$9.2 billion. The American people have to make a decision between losing their home and healthcare.

We have an administration that went into Iraq without a plan. They asked the nation to trust them and now our troops are overseas dying every day. And at greater rates than when we were at war.

Our soldiers are exhausted and we do not know when they will be coming home! From my district the 1st Battalion 185th Armored Regiment, California National Guard could be shipped to go to Iraq as early as November.

One year ago when this nation was debating whether we should go to war, I questioned whether our troops had the equipment they needed to protect themselves. And I am still asking this question. We are losing American lives every single day.

Our troops are tired. We need more manpower. This amendment increases the troops from 480,000 to 500,000. The safety of our soldiers must not be ignored!

I keep thinking about a young man in my district that we recently lost. His name was Jorge Gonzales and I thought about his parents Mario and Rosa from Rialto. Regardless of the details of the reconstruction plan, we must make sure our soldiers have the equipment they need to survive and make it home safe.

But I also cannot stress enough, that I support this amendment because it makes the administration accountable for the spending they

are doing in Iraq. Under this amendment, the president must give a detailed report about how the funds in Iraq have already been spent and how they will be spent.

We must know who and why the administration is granting contracts to. We must know why they have decided to ignore the competitive bidding process and award contracts secretly.

I urge my colleagues to support the Obey Amendment, an amendment that creates accountability, protects our soldiers, and does not hurt the American economy or its people.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, for the past 2 days Members of Congress have spoken about sacrifice and responsibility, and about supporting our troops. The way to support our troops, many say, is to vote "yes" on the supplemental spending bill that is currently before the House. One part of the supplemental that nobody is talking about is the administration's \$900 million request for the importation of gasoline and other fuel products into Iraq.

The average wholesale price of gasoline in the Persian Gulf is just 71 cents a gallon. According to independent oil experts, transporting the gasoline the 400 miles from Kuwait to Iraq could reasonably cost an additional 10 to 25 cents per gallon. So a logical price per gallon for gasoline delivered to Iraq would be about a dollar. But figures from the Army Corps of Engineers show that Halliburton is charging the U.S. taxpayer between \$1.62 and \$1.70 per gallon for this gasoline that is purchased at much cheaper rates—an outrageous markup of over a dollar per gallon that would be considered illegal price-gouging if it occurred in the United States. So U.S. taxpayers are now faced with a \$900,000 bill that pays for cheap gas that is marked up to ridiculously not-so-cheap prices.

It seems that Bechtel and Halliburton aren't as motivated by the notions of sacrifice and responsibility as many Members of this House. Perhaps this is because the Halliburton Company has never before imported gasoline. Or perhaps all those no-bid contracts have gone to their heads.

Let's not forget on March 8, 2003, Halliburton was given a secret, sole-source contract for improvements to Iraq's oil infrastructure. Halliburton did not have to compete with any other company for this contract. And why is Halliburton getting this sweetheart deal? I think it has something to do with the fact that the Vice President of the United States is the former CEO of this very same company. But his connections are not former connections—they still exist to this day. Despite what he says to the press about having severed all ties

to Halliburton, DICK CHENEY received almost \$400,000 in deferred salary from his former company in 2001 and 2002, and he still has 433,333 unexercised stock options. The facts speak for themselves: DICK CHENEY is not fully divested of his connections to Halliburton, and yet this same company receives U.S. Government contracts worth billions of dollars for which they are not required to place a single bid. This is unfair to the American people, and this is downright wrong.

This is not about supporting the troops. This is about supporting companies with ties to the Bush-Cheney administration by giving them get-rich-quick deals at the expense of U.S. taxpayers. The amendment that Congressman WAXMAN has introduced is a reasonable way to bring some sense and some oversight into a bill that is otherwise no more than a bailout for President Bush's failed policies. I urge my colleagues to vote for the Waxman amendment.