

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO TOM J. DONOHOE

**HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and commend one of Western North Carolina's and Buncombe County's finest citizens, the late Tom J. Donohoe, "The big man with the big heart." Tom passed away on November 6, 2001. He was a personal friend of mine for many years, and he will be sorely missed.

Born in Greenville, South Carolina, Tom's family moved to North Carolina where he graduated from Biltmore High School in 1952. As an alumnus of Biltmore High School, saving the school from destruction became a pet project of Tom's in recent years. Last June the WNC Historical Association acquired the deed, and Tom sought my help for \$300,000 for the "Biltmore School Museum," which was provided in the 2002 Interior Appropriation.

After high school, Tom served in the United States Army and twelve years in the National Guard and Reserves. He was a man who loved his country, his community, and his people. Tom supported the East Asheville Youth Program for the past 47 years, giving freely of his time, materials, labor and money to this program, not for recognition but because he loved young people. Together, Tom and his wife Betty founded Asheville Electric forty years ago, building it into a thriving business, of which Tom was President, employing about 35 people.

When the new Reynolds High School was built, it was Tom Donohoe who offered to wire the school, and he drove to Kansas to get the famous "Rocket"—an Army surplus "Honest John" rocket—which he helped mount at the entrance to the school and is the school's mascot. Tom provided the lighting for the school's football and baseball stadiums.

Tom took an active part in politics in Asheville and Buncombe County. For many years he contributed to the campaigns of good men and women who ran for public office and stood as a candidate for Asheville City Council in 1989. He was well known for donning an apron and cooking at fundraisers for local candidates.

In addition to being a well-known businessman, Tom served two four-year terms on the Asheville Regional Airport Authority. During that time he served as vice-chairman, chairman of the building and grounds committee, and employee relations committee. He was also a Shriner with the Oasis Temple and a member of the Biltmore Masonic Lodge, Asheville York Rite and the Asheville Scottish Rite.

Tom married Betty Brittain 43 years ago, they reared two children: Susan Donohoe Martin of Asheville and Daniel Woron of Florida.

Tom Donohoe was a big man with an even bigger heart. WNC and Buncombe County have lost a very good friend and we will miss

him. I know that my colleagues will join me in saluting this fine man and community leader.

IN HONOR OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, on January 4, 2004, the Louisiana State University Tiger football team, my alma mater, defeated the Oklahoma Sooners 21-14 in the Nokia Sugar Bowl, securing the Bowl Championship Series National Title. The Fighting Tigers did their State proud by bringing home the first football National Championship in 45 years. This unique honor is one that every citizen in Louisiana will certainly cherish. LSU Chancellor Mark Emmert, Coach Nick Saban, the student-athletes, cheerleaders, members of the band and fans deserve a moment of recognition for a job well done.

However, the football team has not been the university's only champions this year. The women's indoor and outdoor track teams both earned the title of "best in the Nation"; the baseball team claimed first place in the Southeastern Conference, which propelled them to yet another College World Series. I know that fans throughout the country have watched with intense excitement as the Tigers distinguished themselves on the field of play.

LSU's accomplishments have in no way been limited to athletic achievements. As one of the Nation's largest institutions of higher learning, the university continues to raise its standards and increase its funds for research. In the last fiscal year, a record-breaking \$122.4 million was awarded to the school in the form of research awards and sponsored projects, establishing LSU as a significant player in the development of innovative ideas and technology. In the quest for increased technology, faculty and staff designed and developed SuperMike, one of the fastest computers on the face of the planet. This impressive machine is expected to do a myriad of important tasks from helping to develop the next generation of the Internet, TeraGrid, to modeling coastal erosion and storm damage.

In response to our country's heightened awareness to issues of national security, LSU has developed a National Center for Security and Research. The center will pull from experts in a number of LSU's departments as well as the private sector to share knowledge about the best ways to deal with national catastrophes.

While all of this has been going on, the faculty as LSU continue to be among the best in the Nation and have garnered awards too numerous to mention here. As a result, faculty pay has increased and the school has been able to retain and attract some of the country's greatest minds.

These accomplishments have translated into a rising bar for LSU students. The pool of ap-

plicants continues to increase while the standards for admission are the highest the university has ever seen. At the same time, LSU has been able to retain over 80 percent of its students and graduate more than half of its candidates. With admission requirements set to rise again in 2005, LSU will continue to offer an excellent affordable education to the young men and women who study there.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize some of the accomplishments of this fantastic institution. As LSU continues to strive for excellence, Louisiana can be proud that the university remains a respected national force in both athletics and academics.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER PHILIP A. JOHNSON, JR.

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, January 16, the First Congressional District of Alabama and, indeed, our entire State and Nation, said goodbye to another casualty of the war in Iraq.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Philip A. Johnson, Jr., was a native of Davenport, Iowa, and a longtime resident of Mobile, Alabama. He originally joined the United States Marine Corps in 1993 and transferred to the Army in 1997, where he was serving his 6th year. He was a member of the 501st Medivac Unit attached to the 4th Infantry Division. He and his wife, Melissa Johnson, a member of the Air Force, were living in Colorado Springs, Colorado, when Philip's unit was activated and deployed to Iraq last year.

On January 8, 2004, the medical helicopter he was on crashed about 4 miles south of Fallujah, a stronghold of anti-American insurgency. U.S. military officials have confirmed that a rocket struck the helicopter before it went down. CWO Johnson and eight other soldiers died in this crash.

Philip, who lived in Mobile for several years, was a devoted husband, son, and brother. He was a committed soldier who was not only doing what he wanted to do, but doing what he loved. He truly felt he was doing the right thing. Philip had given 9 years of his life fighting for the lives of the American people. Tragically, Philip A. Johnson, Jr., became the third soldier from Alabama's First Congressional District to die in Iraq.

According to his parents, Philip recently told them he never realized that you have to teach people to be free. His mother, Barbara Johnson, said, "He died doing what he loved; it was just a little early."

Mr. Speaker, it is only appropriate for us to pause and give thanks to God that there are still young men like Philip A. Johnson, Jr. He represented what is best about America.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Chief Warrant Officer Philip A.

• 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.

Johnson, Jr., and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedom we enjoy, but to a people who are but now in the infant stages of a new life, a new freedom in their own land.

We should also remember his wife, Melissa; his parents, Philip Johnson, Sr., and Barbara Johnson; and his two younger brothers, Matthew and Peter. May God give them the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." Make no mistake, Philip A. Johnson, Jr., was not only a dedicated soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country; but he was also a true American hero.

THE REVEREND DR. RALPH  
SEXTON, SR.

**HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and commend one of Western North Carolina's and Buncombe County's finest citizens, the late Dr. Ralph Sexton, Sr. With the death of the Rev. Sexton Sr., Asheville lost one of the most energetic and effective members of its religious community. Sexton, who founded Trinity Baptist Church, died from a brain tumor. He was 84.

Sexton began preaching when he was just a teenager after being drawn into a tent revival where he gave his heart to God. He was on his way to see a movie when he physically felt something pull on his coat. "He said it really frightened him," said Jerry Payne, who served as Sexton's assistant pastor for 42 years. Sexton left the movie and ended up at the tent revival.

Not long afterwards, he began preaching. And what a preacher he was. In the early years, he preached in tents and front yards, in empty lots and driving down the street in a car outfitted with a loudspeaker. He even found himself in jail a few times when police arrested him for disturbing the peace. "He was from that old mountain cut," Payne said. "He preached in simple layman's terms."

"He was just a powerful preacher," according to his longtime friend, J. Wendell Runion, president and director of International Baptist Outreach Missions based in Asheville. Audiences were "spellbound" by him, Runion said.

In time, Sexton found a more potent way to deliver his message about Christ. His Sunday morning television program "Send the Light" first went on the air in 1960. He also preached on radio and at tent revivals. Then in 1966, Sexton founded Trinity Baptist Church. He built an auditorium for 500 people even though he had a congregation of about only 125. Trinity has since grown into one of Asheville's largest churches, with programs that support missionaries around the world and provide assistance to the victims of poverty, natural disasters and famine. Trinity's programs today include a Spanish Church, Trinity Baptist Bible College and Hearts with Hands, a non-denominational nonprofit humanitarian relief organization. Sexton served as the church's pastor until 1988, when his son, Dr. Ralph

Sexton Jr., who had served for 13 years as youth pastor and evangelist, became pastor. The senior Sexton remained pastor emeritus and stayed involved despite health problems.

Sexton, who was always true to his calling, will be remembered as "a very straightforward, unashamed preacher of the Gospel," according to Asheville Citizen-Times columnist Bob Terrell, who wrote a book about him. "He was a giant among the nation's old-time religionists," Terrell said. "He helped change literally thousands of lives."

Sexton was a man of God and of the mountains who will be missed by many. His family and others who loved him can take comfort in knowing that he left a legacy through which lives will continue to be changed and enriched.

IN HONOR OF SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, the Southern University football team gave Jaguar fans throughout Louisiana something to cheer about when they were recently recognized by the Sheridan poll as the 2004 Historically Black College National Champions. The football team certainly earned this distinction by completing an impressive 12–1 season that included victories in the Bayou Classic over in-state rival Grambling State University and Alabama State University in the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship game. Congratulations are in order for Southern University Chancellor Edward Jackson, Coach Pete Richardson, the student-athletes, cheerleaders, members of the band and fans.

The Jaguar football team joins with a number of other Southern athletic teams that have had success. In 2002, Southern University was ranked by Sports Illustrated magazine as the 131st best Division I athletic program in the Nation, quite an accomplishment when thinking about all of the terrific athletic programs throughout the country. Seven teams, including baseball, women's basketball, bowling and softball, took SWAC titles. The university was the highest ranked Historically Black College on the Sports Illustrated list.

The Jaguars also boast one of the most dynamic marching bands in the country. A revered and cherished tradition, the band never ceases to amaze. Last year, led by Dr. Isaac Greggs, the band participated in a competition involving more than 20 other black colleges. Southern emerged victorious and took first place as well as a \$10,000 award.

However, athletics and extracurricular activities are just some of the many exciting things going on at Southern. The university was named yet again as one of the top 50 colleges with the best environment for African American students; and only three other public black universities were ranked above Southern. This survey proves that Southern offers an excellent, well-rounded education at an affordable price.

Some of the achievements at Southern can be attributed to the rising operating budget and funds available for campus improvements. The university is currently operating with a

\$180 million budget, the largest in the school's 124 years. This money will be available to run the university's five campuses spread throughout Louisiana. A significant portion of the budget had been allocated for endowed professorships which now stand at 31, but are set to increase. The university is also preparing to make drastic changes to a number of its campuses. Construction is set to begin on residential housing developments on the Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Shreveport campuses as well as improvements to the athletic facilities and off-campus housing.

These accomplishments define Southern University as one of the preeminent Historically Black Colleges in the country and a source of tremendous pride for Louisiana. From its humble beginnings in 1880, Southern has grown into a vast university system with over 15,000 students. However, the school continues to produce outstanding graduates and loyal alumni. I know that the university will proceed with confidence as a respected force in education and athletics.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDGE  
JOHN F. BUTLER ON THE OCCA-  
SION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to the Honorable John F. Butler on the occasion of his retirement from the bench of the Mobile County Circuit Court. For the past 21 years, Judge Butler has served the families of the State of Alabama with compassion, dedication, and a tremendous level of commitment.

Beginning in 1971, with his appointment as referee for the juvenile court, Judge Butler has devoted his life to the well-being of young people in south Alabama. In addition to his three terms as circuit court judge, he has served 2 decades as the presiding juvenile court judge of Mobile County. Along with his duties on the bench, Judge Butler has also operated the Strickland Youth Center and was instrumental in the creation of area Boys and Girls Club programs, the Camp Martin Leadership Academy, the Girls Reaching Womanhood Thru Healing (GROWTH) program, and Pointe Academy for juvenile offenders. Without fail, Judge Butler has focused a tremendous level of energy and time on his efforts to help young men and women overcome the difficulties of their past and become focused and successful members of their community.

Along with his many professional responsibilities, Judge Butler has also served as a member of numerous statewide juvenile justice programs. This long list includes service as chairman of the Governor's Advisory Council on Youth, a term as president of the Alabama Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and 8 years as a trustee to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. His work in these areas, as well as his professional accomplishments, has also resulted in public recognition and many awards during his long years of public service.

Judge Butler is also one of America's proud veterans, having served for many years in the United States Army. Following his graduation

from college, he enlisted in the Army as a private and after a period of outstanding service received a direct commission as a second lieutenant. A veteran of the war in Vietnam and the recipient of the Bronze Star and nine other medals, Judge Butler retired as a colonel from the United States Army Reserve in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Judge John Butler for his tremendous contributions to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Alabama. The experience and enthusiasm he brought to his job and the concern and compassion he displayed for the young people of the region are unquestioned and unparalleled. He has indeed been a genuine asset both to the circuit court and to the thousands of men, women, and children he has assisted over the past 2 decades. I am proud and honored to call him my friend.

Make no mistake, the judge's talents and experience on the bench will be sorely missed, but I am confident he will continue to remain actively involved in the life of the Mobile community for many years to come. Along with his friends and colleagues throughout Alabama, I wish to extend to Judge Butler and his family all the best now and in the future.

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IN TRIBUTE OF DOROTHY POTTER

**HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and commend one of Western North Carolina's and Buncombe Counties finest citizens, the late Dorothy A. Potter. Dot, as she was fondly called by her many, many friends and acquaintances, passed away on November 8, 2003. She was a wonderful woman, who worked tirelessly for not only the Republican Party, but also to educate others about this great country's political system in general. I doubt there was ever an election that Dot did not participate in, in some shape, form or fashion.

Dorothy Belle Alexander Potter was born Feb. 24, 1920, in Charlotte, the youngest daughter of the late Robert Lester and Cynthia Welch Alexander. She was a direct descendant of Hezekiah Alexander, a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and a founding father of Charlotte. She was a classmate of the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham at Sharon High School and graduated in 1936. She earned a B.S. in library science from Queens College in 1940. Mr. and Mrs. Potter moved to Asheville in 1948.

Mrs. Potter was an energetic, founding member of the Buncombe County Republican Party and remained active in area politics for the majority of her life. She was vice chairman of the Buncombe County Republican Party for 16 years. Mrs. Potter served in many campaigns including the historic 1969 City Council Race, electing a Republican majority and Wayne Montgomery, M.D., as mayor, the 1972 gubernatorial race electing Jim Holshouser as the first Republican governor in North Carolina since Reconstruction and the 1980 election of Bill Hendon to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mrs. Potter was chairman of the Governor's Western Residence Committee during Gov.

Holshouser's tenure. She served as deputy Clerk of Court in Buncombe County and was a valued member of former Rep. Hendon's district office until 1983. She was also the Buncombe County Chairman for the 1992 election of President George H.W. Bush.

Mrs. Potter was a charter member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where she was an Elder and served as a member of the Session. She was also a member of the board of directors for the preschool. She was the last living charter member of the Buncombe County Republican Women's Club and a lifetime member of the North Carolina Republican Women's Club. She was also a member of Phi Mu women's fraternity and was a member and officer of the Sky-Hy Chapter of the American Business Women's Association.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Lt. Col. Wesley J. Potter (ret.); daughters, Dr. Cynthia Potter Smith and husband, Durham, of Lake Wylie, S.C., and Lynda Potter Fagan and husband, Michael, of Asheville; granddaughter, Shanon Fagan of Asheville; grandson, Matthew Smith and wife, Sonya, of Clover, S.C.; and granddaughter, Erin Fagan of Washington, D.C., and Asheville.

Mrs. Potter is also survived by three great-grandchildren; a niece, Sally Pollock and a nephew, Robert Suther, both of Washington state and a great-nephew.

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IN HONOR OF WALTER COMEAUX

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my hearty congratulations to Walter Comeaux, a friend and colleague from my district, upon the completion of 30 years of public service. In that time, Mr. Comeaux has dutifully served the people of Lafayette Parish and exemplified what it truly means to be a servant of the people.

Mr. Comeaux has spent more than half of his life working to better the local government in Lafayette Parish. He began as a young City Council member in Broussard, Louisiana, and then as member of the Lafayette Police Jury, including 4 years as president of that body. However, his greatest political accomplishment came as the Lafayette City and Parish governments consolidated in 1996. He was elected as the first City-Parish Council President and charged with the difficult task of making the newly formed government operate smoothly. As the first chief executive of the City-Parish government, Mr. Comeaux excelled; and 4 years later his constituents returned him to office. In his 8 years as president, he made countless improvements to the parish infrastructure while working to craft an efficient and responsive local government.

At the end of his career of service, I have no doubts that Lafayette is a better place to live due in large part to his efforts. I know that he is looking forward to more time with his family and friends, but his departure will certainly be a loss. I applaud his success and appreciate the time and commitment he has given as a public officer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ED SWAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Ed Swan on the occasion of his retirement from the Mobile district office of the Social Security Administration. For the past 30 years, he has served the families of the State of Alabama with compassion, dedication, and a tremendous level of commitment to the men, women, and children served by the Social Security Administration.

Beginning in June 1973, with his first assignment to the Social Security office in Mobile, Alabama, Ed Swan worked for 3 decades in a succession of representative and supervisory roles in five Social Security offices throughout the State. His outstanding record as a service representative, claims representative, operations supervisor, branch manager, and management assistant in the Social Security system resulted in positive results for the many families who benefited from his efforts. Additionally, the work ethic he displayed resulted in his receiving numerous citations and awards, including a Regional Commissioner's Team Citation for his work with the Disability Claims Manager pilot program in Mobile.

Ed Swan is also one of America's proud veterans, having served in the United States Navy with distinction while assigned to Air Squadron 27 on board the aircraft carrier USS *Intrepid*.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Ed Swan for his tremendous contributions to the citizens of the First Congressional District of Alabama. The experience and enthusiasm he brought to his job and to the Social Security Administration will indeed be missed, but I have no doubt he will turn his talents to many other positive pursuits in the days and months to come. Ed has indeed been a genuine asset both to his agency and to the thousands of men and women he assisted over the past 3 decades, and I have been proud to call him my friend.

Along with his many friends and colleagues throughout Alabama, I wish to extend to Ed Swan; his lovely wife, Cynthia; and their children, Jason and Kellie all the best in the months and years ahead.

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HONORING PATRICIA GARMAN AS CENTRAL FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Garman as Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year.

Ms. Garman, known to friends and colleagues as Patt, is widely respected throughout the Fairfax business community. Honest

and reliable, with business savvy, Patt has proven to be an incredibly effective businessperson. She gives every venture her all and is always ready to take on new challenges. Moreover, Patt sees every project through until completion, producing consistently impressive results.

Patt heads a team of four investment advisors at Capital Planning & Investments, Inc., her own successful, independent advisory firm. CPI offers a variety of financial solutions for local businesses and individuals, including customized investment and insurance advice on an hourly and ongoing basis.

In addition, Patt is highly involved with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. She serves on the CFCC Board of Directors and Small Business Committee, and through the CFCC, she has become treasurer of the city-wide Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee.

While in these positions, Patt has had numerous notable accomplishments. For example, she created a program in which CFCC breakfast seminars would pay for themselves. Through her table-top display program, Patt personally works with CFCC members to attract and schedule sponsors for the seminars. The popularity of Patt's program has enabled it to continue in the upcoming year.

Patt also was responsible for computerizing CFCC files for easy recording, implementing an aggressive budget and achieving Not-for-Profit status. These successes are indicative of her commitment, drive and character. Patt likes to make things happen and motivates others with her infectious spirit. When she sees needs, she addresses them, rallying others around her to turn visions into reality.

All things considered, Patt's special honor truly is well deserved. Over the years, she has made a lasting impact on the CFCC and greater Fairfax business community. She is an accomplished businessperson who successfully leads others through example. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Patricia Garman and congratulating her on this distinguished achievement.

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EUROPEAN UNION'S UNITED  
STAND AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the European Union for agreeing to toughen antidrug laws and urging actions to end drug tourism to the Continent.

After more than 2 years of negotiations, EU ministers reached a landmark agreement on November 27 to toughen antidrug laws and to harmonize the Continent's laws to make the bloc more efficient in the fight against illegal drugs. The laws cover all types of drug-dealing, ranging from local networks to large-scale international operations.

Under the agreed rules, offering, selling or producing drugs would be sanctioned with maximum jail terms of at least 1 to 3 years. In cases involving large-scale international drug trafficking, sanctions should be at least 5 to 10 years. Member states also agreed on a declaration stressing the importance of fighting drug tourism.

The EU's united stand against drug abuse strengthens global efforts to prevent drug abuse and to put away drug pushers and others, including terrorists, who financially benefit from destructive drug addiction.

It is disappointing that the EU agreement will allow the so-called "coffee shops" in the Netherlands, where marijuana can be legally abused, to remain open. I am, however, encouraged that the Netherlands is investigating possible approaches that would end U.S. drug tourism to Amsterdam.

Dutch Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner has stated that the Netherlands Government is considering rules under which "coffee shops" would only be allowed to sell drugs to Dutch residents as part of its obligation to dissuade tourists from going to Amsterdam for drugs. Under his proposal, only Dutch residents with identity cards would be allowed to use the cannabis cafes. This move would protect Americans visiting Amsterdam from the dangers of engaging in drug abuse. Currently, foreign tourists, including Americans, make up about 40 percent of the "coffee shop" sales in Amsterdam, according to the London Times.

I also hope that this agreement will further our international efforts to control the trafficking of ecstasy and other dangerous synthetic drugs. In recent years, traffickers have set up their illegal manufacturing operations in countries like the Netherlands in hopes of avoiding tough penalties if they are caught. This agreement should send a clear signal to the cartels that Europe and the U.S. will continue to work together to break up these international drug rings.

Furthermore, I am encouraged that the Netherlands has also agreed to increase its sanctions for the possession of small quantities of marijuana to a year from 1 month. These are important steps that I hope will eventually lead to stiffer penalties for all drug abuse.

It is increasingly clear that every nation must play a role in educating the public as to why drug abuse is harmful and in preventing drug addiction. As long as one country tolerates the production, sale or distribution of any illegal drugs, other nations, communities and families are vulnerable to the threats caused by drug abuse that is easily transported across borders.

The EU's commitment to not tolerate drug abuse and drug tourism protects not only the families and communities of Europe, but also families and communities here and elsewhere in the world.

Again, I applaud this agreement and look forward to working with these and other countries to further strengthen international drug laws and to protect children from the dangers of drug abuse and addiction.

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HONORING COMMANDER WILLIAM  
"BILL" ATKINSON

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander William Atkinson of the Merced County Sheriff's Department. Commander Atkinson has been with the department since July 6, 1976, when he began his

career as a correctional officer. He was responsible for the overall security of the Merced County Rehabilitation Center.

Commander Atkinson's work ethic was recognized, and he quickly moved up the chain of command. In 1979, he was promoted to the rank of corporal and was reassigned to the Merced County branch jail. After being assigned to the Merced County main jail in 1981, Commander Atkinson was responsible for supervising booking procedures and the health and welfare of the inmates. For 5 years, Commander Atkinson gathered statistics for a work furlough program and supervised a work-in-lieu pilot program, which required him to submit the policy and procedure to the Merced County Board of Supervisors.

Commander Atkinson continued to demonstrate his work ethic for the department and was assigned to the Main Jail Division as a facility manager in September 1995. He assumed all duties and responsibility for the division, as well as ensuring the facility was in compliance with the Board of Corrections guidelines, exceeding Health Department standards and State fire marshal inspections.

In 1999, Commander Atkinson was nominated by his peers for Officer of the Year. His years of hard work for the Merced County Sheriff's Department did not go unrecognized, and his peers selected him as their 1999 Officer of the Year. Soon after, he was promoted to sergeant and reassigned to the Sandy Mush Adult Correctional Facility as a shift supervisor, and then in May of 2001 he was promoted to senior sergeant. He displayed true dedication while supervising the Work Release/Classification Unit and was responsible for reviewing applications for eligibility for work release programs.

Finally, in November 2002, Commander Atkinson was promoted to his current rank and supervises the activities and employees of a correctional facility for the Merced County Sheriff's Department. As commander, he provides direction to subordinates and is responsible to take necessary action when alerted to emergencies or potentially dangerous situations.

Commander Atkinson will retire on January 23, 2004. I ask all of my colleagues to help me thank Commander Atkinson for his devotion and loyalty to the Merced County Sheriff's Department, the State of California, and our Nation. I am honored to call Bill my friend, and I wish him a very happy retirement.

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IN HONOR OF JOE WATSON

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe Watson on being the 2004 recipient of the Monterey Peninsula NAACP Branch's highest award, The President's Award. This award is being presented to Mr. Watson for his lengthy and outstanding service, dedication and contributions to the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the NAACP.

Mr. Watson was born July 21, 1944, in Wilcox County, the town of Camden, Alabama during the height of Jim Crow segregation. The degradation that African Americans underwent during that period left an indelible imprint on Joe's life, resulting in a lifetime commitment for fighting for equal rights and social

justice for all people. He graduated from Camden Academy High School in 1962 and entered the Armed Forces that same year, spending one tour of duty in Vietnam.

After his tour in Vietnam, in which he was honorably discharged from the army, Mr. Watson relocated to the Monterey Peninsula, taking up residence in Seaside in 1966. While working for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Salinas, Joe was elected to the executive board of the local United Rubber Workers Union, AFL-CIO, and served on that board until 1980 when the plant closed. He took his union leadership with him when changing careers to a meat cutter, becoming first a member and then the leader of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 506. As shop steward and as an executive board member of the UFCW local, Joe was instrumental in bringing a civil rights activist's approach to dealing with issues and negative actions by employers against members of his union in their respective work places. Mr. Watson was greatly admired by co-workers who saw him as an unafraid union leader who was totally committed to standing up for them and working in their interest.

During the mid-1970's, Mr. Watson became a member of the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the NAACP. Elected almost immediately to the Branch's Executive Committee, due in no small part to his union activism, Joe took over the Branch's Labor and Industry Committee. There he had the responsibility of resolving issues involving complaints of discriminatory practices in hiring, on the job treatment and terminations. Over the years, the Branch received recognition for the outstanding work Mr. Watson and that committee carried out in this area of work, including negotiating a National NAACP-sponsored "Fair Share Hiring Agreement" with the local stores owned by Albertson's, committing these stores to hiring, retaining and promoting minorities.

In 1994, Mr. Watson was elected as President of the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the NAACP, serving until 2000. During his tenure as President, Joe continued to lead the Branch in dealing with issues of police abuse against minorities, hate crimes on the Peninsula and continued to strengthen the ties between the Branch and organized labor in this county. Joe has laid the groundwork for the kind of activism in our branch that continues to be followed and emulated by those who have come after him. True to his tradition as an activist, Mr. Watson continues his lifelong commitment to the struggle for and protection and extension of civil, labor and equal rights and social justice, making him most deserving of this award.

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**  
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Bicentennial Anniversary of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, in my home state of New Jersey.

Beautiful Jefferson Township encompasses 42 square miles of mostly pristine forests and

lakes. It is home to New Jersey's largest freshwater lake, Lake Hopatcong, among many others, and the idyllic Mahlon Dickerson Reservation in the protected New Jersey Highlands watershed region.

When Jefferson Township was founded in 1804 by separating itself from the Townships of Roxbury and Pequannock, there were quiet farms and noisy mines linked by dirt roads. In time, the railroads came and by the turn of the century, they brought "summer escapees" from the cities who treasured Jefferson's scenic beauty, many lakes and its clean, cool, country surroundings. Summer resorts and campsites flourished in the area. After World War I, automobiles appeared on Jefferson's newly paved roads bringing with it scores of summer residents. And after the second World War, young families were looking to leave the metropolitan areas and began moving westward in New Jersey to inviting municipalities like Jefferson Township.

Today, Jefferson Township is still a blossoming community with a population approaching 20,000. While the once-thriving summer resorts are gone and most summer cottages have been converted to year-round residences, many tourists still make the trek to Jefferson Township to enjoy the vast open space of the Morris County Park System, protected watersheds and recreation activities on the region's numerous lakes. Indeed, lake communities still prosper throughout the Township bringing a unique sense of community to all of those who live in them.

Jefferson Township's municipal leaders have carried on a tradition of being good stewards of the area's natural resources. Through determined efforts to preserve some of New Jersey's most precious open space, Jefferson Township has been able to balance development by being an active partner in the acquisition of hundreds of acres of parkland, woodlands and watersheds.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 200 years, Jefferson Township has been a community which has brought Morris County and New Jersey great pride. No doubt the municipality will certainly continue to do so in the years to come. I congratulate the citizens of Jefferson Township on their special anniversary year, and urge all my colleagues to join me in wishing them well.

HONORING BEULAH HEIGHTS FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most respected houses of worship in the city of New Haven, Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church. This year marked the 80th anniversary of this tremendous church, throughout which time the leadership and its members have left an indelible mark on our community.

Originally called the Beulah Heights Mission, the ministry was founded in 1923 by Walter and Rosa Andrews. In its humble beginnings, the church was located in a converted store-

front and boasted a modest membership. Over the years and through the changes in leadership, the ministry steadily grew and eventually found a permanent home on Orchard Street. Over the course of its history, the Beulah Heights Pentecostal Church has developed a reputation as a leader in the religious community. Through its leadership and the commitment and enthusiasm of its membership, the Beulah Heights Church has made a real difference in the lives of many.

Our churches play a vital role in our communities, providing people with a place to turn for comfort when they are most in need. By strengthening the bonds of faith, the Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values. The members of the Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church have also given much to the city of New Haven. Throughout the years, as their membership grew, so did their commitment to the enrichment of our community, transforming neighborhoods one block at a time.

Currently headed by Bishop Theodore Brooks, a man whom I am proud to call my friend, Beulah Heights Church has taken on a great mission of neighborhood revitalization. It has erected an educational wing which is utilized by the New Haven Board of Education for its Urban Youth Elementary School for troubled youth. Founded by Bishop Brooks in 1994, its development subsidiary, Beulah Land Development Corporation, is responsible for the construction of 20 units of affordable housing and 12 units of supportive housing for senior citizens. Through these and other projects, they are bringing renewed security and stability to this neighborhood. I have every confidence that they will continue to do great things for the Dixwell neighborhood of New Haven.

In the last 8 decades, the Beulah Heights Pentecostal Church and its membership have made invaluable contributions of the city of New Haven, changing the face of our great city. I am proud to stand today and extend my very best wishes to them as they mark this milestone in their history.

Happy 80th anniversary!

HONORING MS. DAWN KINNEY

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a model citizen from the 18th Congressional District, Ms. Dawn Kinney. She is being honored by the Merced County Chamber of Commerce for her service as their president for the past year. I know Dawn has worked hard on their behalf, and for the betterment of local businesses in Merced County. It is my pleasure to help the County Chamber recognize a wonderful woman, and a very good friend.

Dawn was born in Albany, Georgia and was raised throughout the United States while her father served in the United States Air Force. While living in Bossier City, Louisiana, she graduated from Bossier High School, and then went on to attend Louisiana State University in Shreveport. Soon after, Dawn moved to

Merced, California in March of 1975 to attend Merced College.

In May of 1978, Dawn was hired by Mr. Bob Ayers to work for Transamerica Title. Dawn had previously been employed as a legal secretary in Louisiana and California before joining Mr. Ayers and his staff. She worked hard with Mr. Ayers, and was asked to remain a part of the team after the company was purchased and renamed Transcounty Title. Currently, she is the Vice President and County Manager of Transcounty Title Company.

Since 1987, Dawn has been a member of the California Escrow Association, and was designated as a Certified Senior Escrow Officer by the Association in June of 1989. She became more involved with the Association and served as State Director of the California Escrow Association from 1995 to 1997. For her determined work ethic, she was awarded the Olga Mitchell Rookie Director of the Year Award in 1995.

Always one to take on a new challenge, Dawn participated and graduated from the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce Leadership Merced Program in June of 1999. This is a vital, voluntary program open to business leaders in Merced County. She has been involved with the County Chamber for many years, as a member on the Board of Directors, and holding a number of vital posts such as Secretary, Vice President, and finally as their President. Dawn's son, Christopher, is a junior at Merced High School and is a Varsity swimmer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues help me honor Dawn today for her hard work as President of the Merced County Chamber of Commerce, and commitment to ensure Merced County has a bright and prosperous tomorrow. I am honored to call her my friend, and to recognize her for all of her accomplishments.

HONORING PAUL AND SHARON  
ELERICK

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Paul and Sharon Elerick, one of the most active and dynamic couples I have ever known. For over 30 years, the Elericks have selflessly donated their time, resources and often their home, in hopes of electing laudable candidates to represent the community of Santa Cruz. Paul and Sharon share their time with many charitable organizations and community advocacy groups, but their hearts and souls remain dedicated to supporting and promoting the Democratic Party. It is my honor to recognize them as the "Democrats of the Year" by the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee.

Paul and Sharon have embodied the spirit of the Democratic Party since the beginning of their relationship in 1958. Paul's involvement with politics started when he cast his vote for President Kennedy. Since then, he has steadily risen through the ranks of the local Democratic chapters, ultimately serving a successful 5-year term as the chair of the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee. Sharon began her own political activism by orga-

nizing voters for Hubert Humphrey's presidential campaign. She has also served on the executive board of the Democratic Women's Club of Santa Cruz for several years. Both Paul and Sharon deserve enormous credit for securing vital funding for important local projects as well as sustaining the successful campaigns of many of our current legislators, including myself.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate the Elericks for being rewarded "Democrats of the Year." I would also like to express my gratitude for their commitment to the community. The fruits of their years of dedication extend far beyond political appointments and we are grateful for their extensive contributions.

COMMEMORATING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORRIS CENTER YMCA OF MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 130th Anniversary of the Morris Center YMCA, of Morris County, New Jersey.

Since January 2, 1874, the Morris Center YMCA has provided programs essential to the people of Morris County. The 172 Founding male members first gathered in four rented rooms located in the Old Post Office in Morristown. In 1889, the Board of Directors dedicated a new building that included a gymnasium, classrooms, bowling alleys and a game room. A third building was dedicated in 1913 in Morristown that included a wing exclusively for women. But by 1968, however, it became clear that a new building was needed and plans were made to begin construction.

On March 1, 1981, the grand opening of the newly completed fourth home of the Morris Center YMCA took place in Cedar Knolls. The Center featured a 25 meter swimming pool, gymnasium, track, racquetball courts, weight rooms and a fitness center. Over the years, renovations have been made to the building, bringing more programs to people of all ages in Morris County. In 2002, renovations were completed to update and expand the Y to include a larger fitness room, youth classrooms, and much more.

Caring for children has always been an important specialty of the Morris Center YMCA. In 1985, the YMCA added an in-house After-School Care program. Later in 1988, the Center opened the Y's Owl's Child Care Center which provided care to approximately 130 children each day. September 2003 celebrated the new home of the Y's Owls, now the Richard F. Blake Children's Center, which is located in a newly renovated building next to the YMCA creating a 13 acre campus. The Children's Center now accommodates over 215 preschoolers.

The Owl program received national accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Building on the reputation of the Y's Owl Child Care Center, the Morris Center YMCA was selected to create and manage the childcare center of the Morristown Memorial Hospital and opened the Children's Corner in the Fall of 1996.

The Morris Center YMCA currently has over 400 volunteer members comprising the Board of Directors, all of its committees and program leaders. These volunteers are the heart of the Morris Center YMCA, working in all aspects of the organization. In short, the Center is people caring for people, not just buildings and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 130 years, the Morris Center YMCA has provided the citizens of Morris County with programs that benefit all those who participate. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating all past and present members of the Morris Center YMCA on this special anniversary year.

HONORING MR. JOHN PAZIN

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John S. Pazin. John is not only a wonderful friend to Merced, California, but to my family and I as well. The Merced County Chamber of Commerce is awarding John's business, Pazin and Myers, Inc., with the 2003 Business of the Year award, and I know this fine honor is well deserved.

Born and raised in Merced County, John has always put his family first. He married Nada in October of 1954. Since then, John has spent the last fifty years as a faithful husband, loving father, and mentor to his four children. John also makes time to spoil his eight grandchildren.

John's second love is for his country and community. In 1951, he decided to serve his country, and enlisted in the United States Army. He served in the Korean War, and for his service and courage in battle he was awarded the Bronze Star.

When John returned to the United States, he went to work on his family's dairy in Merced, California. He worked on the dairy until the early 1960's when he felt it was time to begin a new chapter in his life. He was led to a local fuel company, and began transporting fuel to customers. He worked for the company until 1963 when he was able to purchase his own fuel business.

John's company has experienced some great changes over the years. From name changes and buyouts and even structural reconfigurations, the one thing that has remained a steady fixture and pillar of strength to his company is John. He, along with Mr. Jim Myers, has developed a successful and dependable business in Merced County, Pazin and Myers, Inc. They are the model for other business owners in the area as they have learned to endure the best and worst that owning a business can offer. Their work ethic and positive attitude has made them business leaders in Merced County.

Not only is John a dedicated family man and business leader but he is passionate to make Merced County a better place to live for future generations. As past President and member of the Merced Boosters, and Past President and Member of the Merced County Chamber of Commerce, John is able to combine his business experience and his commitment to community to lead Merced into the 21st century. As a member of the Merced Elks

Lodge, he was awarded their 2003 Member of the Year Award, again proving that he is an invaluable asset to our county. John was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to serve on the 35th Agricultural Fair Board. This position allowed John to give back to the agricultural community in Merced County.

I am delighted to recognize all of John's achievements and thank him for his service to our community, the State of California, and our country. As a family man, businessman, and civic leader he truly is an example for others to follow.

IN MEMORY OF RUTH VREELAND

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in the hallowed halls of Congress to pay tribute to a colleague in public service, Monterey City Councilwoman Ruth Vreeland, who was killed in an auto accident on Highway 101 in Southern Monterey County.

What a loss! This 68-year-old woman had the energy of one hundred locomotives. Involved in everything—teacher, statewide education activist, 20 year City Councilwoman, statewide League of Cities Activist, Democratic Party Activist, mother, member of various boards. . . . She was always there, always prepared, always wanting to do more.

Born in Chunking, China, she grew up in Szechwan province where her parents worked as medical missionaries. Returning to Toronto, Canada in 1940, and moving to San Francisco where her parents taught at the University of California-Berkeley, Ruth earned a bachelor's degree in arts and education from San Francisco State University. She also met her husband, Dick Vreeland, there and then continued on to the University of San Francisco to earn a Master's Degree in organization development.

In 1956, she moved to the Monterey Peninsula to teach school, and was elected to the Monterey City Council with the intention of protecting the quality of life in the City of Monterey. "This town is more than buildings and streets, first it is people," she wrote in her campaign statement. She championed the tearing down of waterfront buildings so that people could see the Bay where California began. She replaced buildings with parks and recreational trails, now the highly successful "Window on the Bay Project."

She served in a variety of leadership positions including the League of California Cities Board of Directors, Institute for Local Self-Government, the 20th District Parent-Teacher Association, Monterey Bay Task Force, Quota International, Women in Municipal Government; Friends Outside of the Monterey County, and the Overall Economic Development Committee of Monterey County. She was also a Volunteers in Action Board Member, a Monterey City Council member since 1983, an alternate in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council and a former president of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), the Monterey Peninsula Concert Association and the Winnie the Pooh Chapter of the Children's Home Society.

She was also involved with various organizations, including the Monterey Vista Home-

owners Association, Community of Caring, League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, California Teachers Association, Monterey Bay Teachers Association, Responsible Hospitality, California Elect-ed Women's Association for Education and Research, Monterey Main Street Program, National Organization of Women, Old Monterey Preservation Society, Sierra Club, ACLU, State Theater Preservation Group, Monterey Civic Club, Monterey History and Art Association, American Association for Retired Persons, California Retired Teachers' Association, and the Unitarian Church.

Throughout her life, many of these organizations honored her outstanding commitment and service to our Bay community with awards. The Volunteers in Action honored her community service, the Sierra Club honored her for Outstanding Achievement, Planned Parenthood named her an Outstanding Woman in Politics, and the Monterey Rotary named her an Outstanding Teacher. Furthermore, the Fisherman's Wharf named her Wharf Rat of the Year in 1995, the California Democratic Party recognized her for Outstanding Service, J.C. Penney gave her the Golden Rule Award and the Old Monterey Business Association recognized her for Exceptional Dedication. The Monterey Civic Club honored her for being a Community Volunteer and finally, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments recognized her for her 20 years of service.

As I mentioned earlier, and as you can see from this lengthy list of accomplishments, Ruth was always moving, always involved. Her friends wondered if she ever had time to sleep. She adored her family and always seemed to be on her way to visit a child. In fact, the tragic accident that led to her death occurred as she returned from visiting one of her three daughters, Lauren, Amy and Melissa. Between the three of them they have seven of Ruth and Dick's grandchildren.

Ruth and Dick's home blended elements of Ruth Vreeland's youth in China with the Japanese culture that Dick Vreeland picked up in the Army. She cooked Chinese food and raised the children to use chopsticks. A proud naturalized citizen from Canada, Ruth also instilled civic values in her daughters. "She believed in this country because she was naturalized in it and she taught me what patriotism is," her daughter said.

Throughout her life, Ruth tackled the large-scale problems that had always energized her. The Sierra Club recognized her in the 1980's for fighting offshore drilling and sewage spills. She traveled to Sacramento and Washington to promote education and local government, rising to leadership roles I previously mentioned with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments and the League of California Cities.

Ruth was active in Democratic Party politics and was not afraid to bring progressive political causes to Monterey. She challenged the city in 1988 for not having enough women and minorities in management positions, and a decade later she discouraged the council from subsidizing the Boy Scouts because of its exclusionary policies toward gays.

In the months before her death, Vreeland's last big project was saving education and local government in the face of California's budget crisis, a problem epic enough to discourage even the most ardent community activist.

But not Ruth Vreeland.

America will miss her. She came to this country to do good—we are all better for it and will miss her forever.

HONORING MR. MIKE SALVADORI

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great friend not only to the 18th Congressional District but to my family and I, Mr. Mike Salvadori. The Merced County Chamber of Commerce is honoring him as the 2003 Ambassador of Goodwill, and I know this is a well-deserved honor.

Mike was born on December 2, 1936 in Merced County. He had the good fortune to be raised on his parent's dairy. Dairy work is not easy, and Mike quickly learned he had to work hard to be a success. Along with his brother and two sisters, the Salvadori family was taught to value and respect their neighbors and surrounding community. These two important life lessons are what have shape Mike into a caring citizen.

After attending Modesto Junior College, Mike made the decision to serve his country. He enlisted in the United States Army, and he served our Nation for 2 years. Soon after, he met his wife Jeanne and the two were married in 1960.

The Salvadori's made a home in Merced County and worked on his father's dairy where they enjoyed the experience of milking cows and riding horses together. Continuing his interest with the dairy business, Mike took a job with Berkeley Farms and the couple moved to San Jose.

After a brief stint at Berkeley Farms, the two moved back to Los Banos, California where Mike then took a job with Wonder Bread. In 1963, Mike and Jeanne bought Bi-Rite Liquor Store in Merced, California. Mike and Jeanne were dedicated to turning their new investment into a success. They stayed focused and were soon able to open a new store.

While Mike was now successfully running his own business, he became interested in real estate. Through his good friend, Lou Gonella, he was able to begin selling real estate in Merced County. Always the entrepreneur, Mike opened his own real estate office in Merced—Century 21 Salvadori Realty in 1975.

Not only is Mike a very successful business man, but he is an incredible leader in our community. Always willing to lend a helping hand to any organization or charity, he has earned himself the respect of all of his neighbors and friends. As part of the Merced County Chamber of Commerce, the Italo American Lodge, and Kiwanis, he and his family have proven their dedication to all in our community.

Mike's second passion in life is cooking. Merced residents know that if there is a large community event, they will find Mike cooking his famous pasta. Local organizations can always count on Mike to help cook for their events. He truly has a warm place in the hearts of locals who couldn't go without his services, or his wonderful meals.

Along with his wife and two sons, Michael and Paul, I am honored to recognize the dedication of Mike to our community. He is truly an

example for others to follow and I am proud to call him my friend.

#### INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

### HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection on the 51st anniversary of International Customs Day. On January 26, 1953, the World Customs Organization, formally known as the Customs Co-operation Council, held its first meeting in Brussels, Belgium. At this meeting, the Council designated January 26 as International Customs Day in order to recognize the role that customs services around the world play in facilitating trade while protecting national borders from importations posing security threats.

Finding this balance is particularly difficult given the challenges our country currently faces. It will be important for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to continue to offer the world class level of trade service and facilitation that U.S. business has come to rely on while ensuring that security needs are addressed. It will also be important to maintain the revenue collection linkage with the Treasury Department that has historically been so significant.

At one time, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, then the Customs Service, was the sole revenue producer for the young United States. Although that role has diminished over the years, Customs collected a record \$23.8 billion in revenue in fiscal year 2002. Today, Customs is still a major source of revenue for the Federal Government, returning about \$8 to the taxpayer for every dollar appropriated by Congress.

For nearly 125 years, Customs funded virtually the entire government and paid for the nation's early growth and infrastructure. The territories of Louisiana, Oregon, Florida and Alaska were purchased; the National Road from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, West Virginia, was constructed; and the Transcontinental Railroad stretched from sea-to-sea. Customs collections built the nation's lighthouses, the U.S. military and naval academies, and the City of Washington, and the list goes on. In 1835, Customs revenues alone had reduced the national debt to zero.

Customs was the parent or forerunner to many other agencies. In the early days, Customs officers administered military pensions (Department of Veterans Affairs), collected import and export statistics (Bureau of Census), and supervised revenue cutters (U.S. Coast Guard). Customs also collected hospital dues to help sick and disabled seaman (Public Health Service) and established standard weights and measures (National Bureau of Standards).

During the first stages of the response to the terrorist attack on September 11th in New York and Washington, D.C., Customs quickly assumed a leading role. The international nature of the terrorist threat means that international customs cooperation has become vitally important. In January 2002, Customs initiated the Container Security Initiative (CSI), which allows Customs officials to screen con-

tainers at designated foreign seaports. In CSI's first year alone, Customs reached agreement with 15 governments to place Customs personnel at 24 ports.

The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection also works with customs officials in foreign governments through the auspices of the World Customs Organization, which speaks for 161 Customs administrations drawn from every continent and representing every stage of economic development. The United States has been a member since November 5, 1970.

WCO Members are responsible for ensuring that more than 98 percent of international trade is conducted in compliance with national legislation and international agreements. The WCO renders technical assistance in areas such as customs tariffs, valuation, nomenclature, and law enforcement. Its objective is to obtain, in the interest of international trade, the best possible degree of uniformity among the customs systems of member nations. America benefits when both exporters and importers operate in an atmosphere of simple unambiguous customs operations around the world.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection for its fine work both nationally and internationally, and I look forward to the completion of work within the World Customs Organization to further harmonize and simplify the customs rules that affect international commerce.

#### HONORING THE NORTH HAMPTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the contribution of bravery and dedication of an outstanding unit of first responders in my area, the North Hampton Volunteer Fire Department.

The following firefighters reached important career milestones in 2003:

Adam Millstein: 500 career calls.  
James Harrington: 500 career calls.  
Paul Satzger: 1,000 career calls.  
William Bailey III: 1,000 career calls.  
Kevin Jordan: 1,500 career calls.  
Richard Marsico: 1,500 career calls.  
John Kuss: 2,003 career calls.  
Albert Hahn: 3,000 career calls.  
David Hoburg: 5,000 career calls.

The following firefighters responded to over 100 incidents of fire calls in 2003:

David Hoburg: 455 calls.  
Paul Satzger: 346 calls.  
Adam Millstein: 321 calls.  
Richard Marsico: 307 calls.  
Albert Hahn: 305 calls.  
Jerry Wittmer: 298 calls.  
John Kuss: 267 calls.  
John Damski: 255 calls.  
Richard Wauchter: 248 calls.  
Vincent Conti: 240 calls.  
David Primrose: 232 calls.  
Chris Wise: 163 calls.  
James Harrington: 156 calls.  
Mary Primrose: 156 calls.  
John Schwend: 146 calls.  
William Bailey III: 138 calls.

Josh Rosensteel: 135 calls.

Kevin Jordan: 119 calls.

Clayton Kerrigan: 118 calls.

Drew Leahy: 107 calls.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in praising these brave individuals on the commitment that they have demonstrated to their critical mission of responding to fire emergencies.

#### HONORING MR. KEITH SCHNEIDER

### HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Keith Schneider for his work as President of the Building Industry Association of Central California.

As outgoing President of the Building Industry Association of Central California, it is only fitting that I take a moment to honor Mr. Schneider's life-long commitment to our community and to the building industry.

Born on November 14, 1948, Mr. Schneider's dedication to his profession has only been surpassed by his dedication to his family. Raised in Eureka, Illinois with his two sisters and parents, Mr. Schneider excelled at school. As a member of the Boy Scouts he was able to earn the merit of Eagle Scout. Mr. Schneider participated in many other activities as he played the banjo and participated in musical competitions and he was also a member of his high school track team and the debate team.

In 1966, Mr. Schneider attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa where he graduated with a degree in journalism. After graduation, he entered law school in Chicago in 1970. During this time, Mr. Schneider served two years in the Navy, stationed in San Diego and at the Great Lakes in Chicago.

In 1973, Mr. Schneider worked at the Civil Defense Agency in Springfield, Illinois. He met and married his wife, Carol, two years later in 1975. While in Illinois, he joined the Home Building Association.

In 1981, Mr. Schneider moved to Modesto, California where he became the Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Central California until 1990. In 1990, he then joined the staff of the Oakwood Builders until 1993. Mr. Schneider then accepted the position as Development Coordinator for the Diablo Grande and continues in this role by providing housing for this destination resort.

Mr. Schneider's commitment to the building industry as well as to our community is undeniable. He certainly lives up to the motto of the California Building Industry: "We're yesterday's shelter providers, today's problem solvers, tomorrow's dream builders."

It is an honor to recognize all of Mr. Schneider's achievements and to thank him for his service to our community.

#### HONORING KATHY CLONINGER

### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-leader of the Honorary Congressional

Girl Scout Troop to honor Kathy Cloninger, the new Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA. Kathy is fully deserving of the mark of distinction that Girl Scouts of the USA has placed on her as new CEO. She is a proven and respected leader.

Ms. Cloninger has a wonderful, long, and highly regarded history in Girl Scouting. For decades she has been a steadfast advocate for girls. Kathy comes to Girl Scouts of the USA from Cumberland Valley Girl Scout Council in Tennessee where she served as CEO. During her tenure there, she had incredible success increasing membership, especially in under-served communities, and her innovative leadership helped to create some of the most contemporary programming in Girl Scouting. Kathy has been bestowed with many prestigious awards recognizing her for her character and her profound vision.

Most notably, Kathy is a woman with a strong sense of purpose and a commitment to advancing her vision for Girl Scouts. Her goal is to increase the organization's strength as a national, aggressive advocate for girls in this country, and I am certain she will accomplish this goal with grace and ability.

Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's pre-eminent organization for girls, and for 92 years it has been dedicated to empowering girls to grow strong. Over 50 million women, including myself, have been Girl Scouts. Today, the organization continues to address contemporary issues affecting girls and boasts a membership of nearly three million girls and one million volunteers. I am proud to be part of such a remarkable organization and look forward to watching Girl Scouts of the USA grow and thrive under Kathy's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Kathy Cloninger in her new position and praise her for the exemplary work she has done and will continue to do as the new Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA.

#### HONORING JOHN ROUNSAVILLE

### HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, this month begins a new year in which Congress will face new challenges and opportunities. The same is true in Mississippi where Governor Haley Barbour presented his first State of the State Address last night, after his inauguration earlier this month. A new administration requires experienced and talented individuals to shape the policy and politic of the state. Governor Barbour has one of those rising Mississippi stars in John Rounsaville. Today I make these remarks to honor John's service to me, to recognize the challenges we faced together as he now embarks on this new opportunity.

It was January 1999 when John Rounsaville first joined my team. After graduating from Calhoun City High School, he earned a degree in agribusiness and followed that with a Masters of Business Administration, both from Mississippi State University. He came to Washington, DC to work on my staff to address, among others, agricultural issues—a \$4.6 billion industry in Mississippi.

He demonstrated a keen insight on the legislative process and quickly grasped the intri-

cacies of Capitol Hill politics. Quickly, he moved from Legislative Assistant to Legislative Director, and most recently as my Deputy Chief of Staff. Over the years I grew to trust his counsel and respect his instincts as we successfully moved legislation into law, brought appropriations to Mississippi, protected our state's military facilities, and represented the needs of my constituents here in the Nation's Capital.

Now John has returned home to Mississippi and will serve as policy adviser to our new Republican governor. Our office will miss his experience, knowledge, and skills, but Mississippi will continue to benefit from his hard work to the service of our great state.

Governor Barbour has hired a good man. John mastered the practices and methods of success in Washington, but never forgot those Mississippi values taught to him by his parents. John never lost his roots, never forgot his home, and never lost sight of our goal to serve Mississippi. John's heart has always been in Mississippi and now he returns there to continue to advance smart, conservative, positive public policy.

John Rounsaville left a formative mark on the shape and operation of my office. We will miss his good nature, humor, and dedication to his work. But I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi.

#### HONORING CHIEF LARRY D. PLANTS

### HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Larry D. Plants as he retires after 25 years of service as a member of the University Police Services at California State University, Stanislaus.

Born on July 1, 1952, Chief Plants has spent his life as a public servant to our community. After obtaining an Associates Degree in Police Science from Butte Junior College he went on to receive a Bachelors Degree from California State University, Stanislaus in Organizational Communication.

As a police officer with the City of Modesto Police Department and then with the City of Reno Police Department, Chief Plants earned the respect of his fellow law enforcement officers. Always a professional, he was then hired by CSU, Stanislaus as a member of the University Police where he excelled and earned the respect of students, faculty, and fellow officers. He was then promoted as Chief and Director of Public Safety. At this post, he was responsible for the Office receiving nearly \$1 million in grant funds.

Not only has Chief Plants been a dedicated member of the CSU Public Safety Department but also to his profession. He is a member of the Central Sierra Police Chiefs Association and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement. Chief Plants has also been the Past President of the Stanislaus County Peace Officers Association and served as the 2003 President of the Stanislaus County Law Enforcement Executives.

Chief Plants is an extremely dedicated member of the community. Further evidence of this commitment is his involvement in civic

organizations such as the Civitan Club, Theta Chi Fraternity, and the Evangelical Free Church.

Chief Plants' career as a dedicated police officer and community leader is a testament to his character. While being Chief of his Department was his second biggest honor in life, he quotes his first biggest honor as his family.

As a fellow brother of Theta Chi Fraternity it is my honor to recognize all of Chief Plants' achievements and to congratulate him on his retirement.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2004*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today, in honor of Catholic Schools Week (January 25–31, 2004), I would like to recognize the contributions of Catholic schools to the academic and moral education of children in Guam and throughout our nation. Also, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. David Vitter, for his steadfast support of Catholic education in our country and for introducing House Resolution 492, honoring Catholic Schools Week.

Guam has a long and rich history of Roman Catholicism dating back to the arrival of Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. The island eventually became an important stop along the Spanish Galleon Trade Route, eventually bringing Padre Diego Luis de San Vitores, who was on his way to the Philippines, to Guam.

Padre San Vitores would return to Guam in 1668, with a party of missionaries to bring Christianity to the people of Guam. They established a mission in the village of Hagatna which later became the site of the first Catholic Church and is now the seat of the Archdiocese of Guam. From these humble beginnings, the Roman Catholic faith has continued to grow, expanding its ministries to meet the changing needs of the faithful.

Recognizing the need for quality education rooted in the moral values of the Catholic faith, the first Bishop of Guam, Bishop Appollinaris Baumgartner invited the Religious Sisters of Mercy from North Carolina, the Stigmatine Fathers of Massachusetts, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame from Wisconsin to come to Guam where they eventually opened schools in villages throughout the island. Today, members of these Orders, as well as members of the Dominican, Franciscan, Jesuit, and Marist Orders continue to teach our children in the Catholic education system.

Guam's first Chamorro Bishop, Archbishop Felixberto Camacho Flores, made Catholic education a priority increasing the number of Catholic schools, expanding programs and improving school facilities.

Today, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hagatna remains committed to serving the people of Guam. Under the direction of the Most Reverend Anthony Sablan Apuron, OFM Cap, DD, Metropolitan Archbishop of Hagatna, the Catholic schools on Guam have remained committed to providing a quality academic education, grounded in faith and emphasizing service to humanity.

The contributions of the Catholic school system to the people of Guam are reflected in our local leaders in the clergy, government, and private-sector who are alumni of the Catholic schools. I am confident the influence of the Catholic schools will continue to have positive benefits for the people of Guam.

I would like to recognize and commend the Catholic schools in Guam for their commitment to instilling the principles of academic knowledge and sound moral values in the daily lives of our children. Those offering a secondary curriculum include: the Notre Dame High School in Talofoto, Father Duenas Memorial School in Ta'i, and Academy of Our Lady of Guam in Hagåtña. Additionally, those offering an elementary and middle school education include: Bishop Baumgartener Memorial School in Sinajaña, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Agat, St. Anthony School in Tamuning, Saint Francis School in Yoña, San Vicente School in Barrigada, and Santa Barbara School in Dededo. Finally, those offering a nursery school education include: the Dominican Child Care Development Center in Sinajaña, Infant of Prague in Ta'i, Maria Artero in Hagåtña, and Mercy Heights in Tamuning.

Finally, I want to recognize all the students, parents, teachers and administrators of Catholic schools in Guam and across the nation for their significant contributions to our society, both inside and outside of the classroom.

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HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOMER PITTARD CAMPUS SCHOOL

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**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Homer Pittard Campus School in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. In that span of time, the elementary school has helped train some of the finest educators and brightest students our country has to offer.

Created by an act of the Tennessee General Assembly, the Campus School has allowed education majors from Middle Tennessee State University to craft and hone their teaching skills under the watchful, experienced eyes of the university's clinical instructors. As a result, the children who have attended the Campus School have received an exceptional education.

As a laboratory, the school provides a hands-on, real-life environment to train teachers. And as an elementary school, it provides an opportunity for children to learn from innovative techniques and enthusiastic teachers. Fittingly, the school takes its name from a dedicated, respected educator who poured so much into his community.

As the Homer Pittard Campus School celebrates its 75th anniversary, I commend the people who had the vision to make this school possible. Murfreesboro's citizens have benefited tremendously from having such a school in the community. I hope the school's next 75 years will be as rewarding and successful as its first.

RECOGNIZING THE PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC ENERGY TRAINING CENTER

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Energy Training Center, which was established by Pacific Gas and Electric in 1978 to help California's low-income residents cope with rising utility costs, thus becoming the first utility company to offer energy education to members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, more than 46,000 people have been trained in the principles of energy efficiency, including employees from local community service agencies, private contractors, education specialists, and builders. Also, the Energy Training Center has provided training to employees of Pacific Gas and Electric Smarter Energy Line, which has assisted well over three million customer calls.

The Energy Training Center's innovative teaching techniques utilize hands-on experience. This has helped students perform more than two million energy surveys for single-family households and conduct site surveys on common-use areas serving more than one million multi-family units. All of this hard work has created more energy efficient households, and has conserved over 264 million kWh and over 34 million therms of energy, which has prevented more than 276 million pounds of carbon dioxide from polluting our environment.

Our community has greatly benefited from the Energy Training Center over the years, not only regarding energy conservation, but also from partnerships with local agencies. Throughout its years of operation, the Energy Training Center has made successful partnerships with the California Conservation Corps, California Energy Commission, and San Joaquin Delta College.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all my colleagues, I send my congratulations on the Energy Training Center's 25th Anniversary, and for setting a fine example of cooperation between private enterprise and the people it serves.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF EARL MCCANDLESS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, Colonel Earl McCandless lived in Solana Beach, California, near my Congressional District—and he and his family have been longtime friends of mine. Earl McCandless died last December 8, 2003, and I think his passing should be noted by the House of Representatives. He was a true Korean War hero, as well as being a musical genius who entertained Presidents and captains of industry at the Bohemian Grove in Northern California.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for inclusion in the RECORD at this time a wonderful outline of his life, as written in his obituary in the Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma's largest daily newspaper.

Earl R. "Mac" McCandless, accomplished pianist, retired Army Colonel and former

military aide to Presidents Dwight Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy, died Monday (12/8) of cancer in San Diego. He was 78. Before entering elementary school, McCandless discovered he had a gift for music. Without ever taking a lesson, he taught himself piano and organ, a talent that would later pay his way through his studies at UCLA and land him a job in his 20s playing background music on Art Linkletter's "House Party."

He enlisted in the Army right after graduating from Hobart High School (Hobart, Oklahoma) in 1943, served briefly in Guam and remained in the Army Reserve after his discharge in 1946. McCandless had just begun what seemed a promising career in music on Linkletter's show, when he was called up again to serve in the Korean War, in the Army Medical Service Corps. During his service there he was awarded a Silver Star and a Bronze Star. After another discharge and another call back, this time to Germany in 1953, McCandless decided to make the Army his career.

He earned a Masters' degree in hospital administration, and at one point in his career oversaw CHAMPUS, the Army's medical insurance program. As a handsome, unmarried young officer stationed in Washington, DC, he was offered the off-hours job of serving as a military social aide to President Eisenhower. The task involved attending State dinners and other formal White House functions, giving discreet protocol instructions to guests, escorting single women through receiving lines and whispering names of guests in the President's ear. He continued the social staffing duties through the administration of President Kennedy. He was a staunchly liberal Democrat who diplomatically avoided political discussions with many in his mostly conservative circle of friends, offering a drink or a "tune" to change the subject.

Col. McCandless retired from the Army in 1976 and settled in Solana Beach, where his small condominium overlooking the Pacific Ocean was dominated by a grand piano and his wall-to-wall collection of music on albums and tapes. Though devoted to his Army career, music was always a strong avocation. He enlivened hundreds of parties and events with his piano playing, and in his later years wrote, arranged and played two full musical productions for the Bohemian Club in Northern California.

He is survived by his brothers Jack McCandless of Denver, John McCandless of Oklahoma City, Bob McCandless of Washington, DC, and sisters-in-law Betty and Anne McCandless of Oklahoma City. Services will be private. Memorials can be made to the McCandless Fund, in memory of Earl and his mother, Leah, c/o Oklahoma University College of Fine Arts, 540 Parrington Oval, Rm. 122, Norman, Oklahoma, 73019. Checks should be made payable to the OU Foundation.

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HONORING PHILIP HOROWITZ FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure but a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of one of the outstanding members of our community, Philip Horowitz. Philip was 80 years old when he passed away last month, and in that time he left an indelible mark on the city of New Haven.

Emigrating from Russia, Philip's father, William, and his uncle, Jack, came to New Haven in 1913 and began selling fabric from a pushcart on Grand Avenue. With hard work, dedication and a dream, they opened a storefront nearby, and later, Horowitz Bros. moved to its home. In later years, Philip, his brother, Leonard, and their cousin, Arthur, took over the family business.

I have often said that small businesses are the backbone of our Nation's economy. Through the years, Horowitz Bros. has been a fixture in downtown New Haven, outlasting a number of large department stores as well as smaller, family-owned businesses which have gradually disappeared. For the last 90 years, Horowitz Bros. has been a valued treasure in the city of New Haven, a testament to the American dream and to the invaluable place small business has in a community.

Horowitz Bros. holds a special place in the hearts of employees and customers alike. I have fond memories of going with my mother to pick out fabrics for the dresses she would make for me as a child. While waiting for my mother to choose her fabrics, you could always find me rearranging the many spools of thread, a habit which I am sure caused some chaos, but was always met with a good-natured smile. It is not an exaggeration to say that Philip was the very heart and soul of the store. His dedication, compassion and generosity is well known to all who had the opportunity to meet him. Philip was often characterized as a good man, a friend to all. His warmth, kindness and gentle spirit touched the lives of so many, and it is in that way that he will always be remembered.

I am proud to stand today to honor Philip Horowitz and all that he meant to the New Haven community. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Hilda, his brother, Leonard, and his entire family. New Haven has lost a true community treasure in Philip Horowitz; however, I know that his memory will continue to live in the hearts and minds of all who knew him.

#### HONORING DALE BUTLER

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Butler for 30 years of dedicated service to the Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office. On Friday, January 30th, he will be commended at an event held in his honor in Modesto, California.

Dale was raised in the Westside of Stanislaus County and was employed as a migrant farm worker. He served as a Personnel Specialist in the United States Navy for 4 years beginning in 1962. In 1967, he worked as the Production Control Scheduler for Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant. Mr. Butler later went to California State University, Stanislaus, to be the Tutorial Supervisor under the Educational Opportunity Program. In 1971, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from California State University, Stanislaus.

Dale began his career with the Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office in 1971 and held numerous positions in the Personnel De-

partment. At present, he holds the Deputy Executive Officer position and oversees the Purchasing, Central Services, and Fleet Services Divisions.

Mr. Butler is an active member in a vast number of professional as well as community associations. He currently holds membership in the Central California Chapter of International Personnel Management Association, the California Association of Public Purchasing Officers, the National Association of Purchasing Managers for Central California, and the Institute for Supply Management. Dale's community activities involve being president of the Stanislaus County Fair Board and being associated with Stanislaus County's Latino Community Round Table, the Hispanic Leadership Council, the Mabuhay Club and the Modesto Bee's Hispanic Advisory Council.

The awards and accomplishments achieved by Mr. Butler have been great in number and prestigious in status. He was given a Special Recognition Award for Promoting Equal Rights by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, an Outstanding Latino of the Year Award by his Latino Community Round Table, and a Humanitarian of the Year Award by the California Association of Physically Handicapped, Inc. He is co-owner of Hispanic Enterprises, LLC, a multiservice Hispanic-Owned Business, and has graduated from the Intergovernmental Management Training Program and the Leadership Modesto Program. His fluency in Spanish and dedication to the community add to the success he has achieved over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Butler upon his retirement from the Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dale a fulfilling retirement.

#### PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE SUDAN

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as you are keenly aware, the road to peace for the people of Sudan has been long and perilous. Last July, I spoke on the floor about the prospects for peace in the Sudan and the progress that was being made in negotiations between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army. I am gratified to report that agreement has now been reached on the issue of wealth-sharing; and just this past weekend, issues were resolved with regard to the Nuba Mountain and Southern Blue Nile regions, two of the three disputed areas between the parties. My understanding is that an agreement on the disputed areas will be signed as soon as resolution can be reached on the third disputed area, Abyei.

Mr. Speaker, we remain optimistic that these recent events will soon lead to an historic accord on a Framework Agreement, which will, at last, bring an end to the 20-year war in Sudan and bring peace and social stability to all the people of Sudan.

Mr. Speaker, peace is near in the Sudan.

I would like to recognize the commitment of President Bashir and the Khartoum government and that of SPLM/A and Mr. Garang in

their tireless efforts to make this historic moment possible. I would also like to recognize the continuing commitment of this administration to achieving peace in the Sudan and that of Special Envoy John Danforth for his role as a catalyst for the peace process.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating this historic milestone and in praying that a peace agreement will soon be reached. We should look forward to the day when peace is at hand, when U.S. sanctions can be lifted and Sudan removed from the State Department's State Sponsors of Terrorists list and given the opportunity to receive the benefits of American ingenuity, technology and investment for their sustained growth and economic prosperity.

#### THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF BLACK STATE LEGISLATORS

### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a versatile and committed group of elected officials in Miami-Dade County who are members of the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators (FCBSL). On Thursday, January 29, 2004, they will be spearheading the 2004 Miami Regional Issues Conference, beginning with a town hall meeting on the "High Stakes of the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT)" to be held at Miami Edison Middle School.

Joining them are parents and community leaders, school administrators and teachers, as well as elected and appointed officials from Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida. This conference comes at an opportune time when there is a need to foster greater knowledge and involvement regarding government and politics among residents of our various neighborhoods.

In its most vivid history, the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators was incorporated in 1982 upon the election of nine prominent African Americans to the Florida House of Representatives. Indeed, the life of each of these legislators, and those that have followed, has become legendary and about as close to the impossible dream as I have witnessed.

These preeminent leaders will spearhead this 2-day conference, which will cover crucial issues such as Affordable Access to Health Care, Juvenile and Criminal Justice, Telecommunications, Hip Hop and Politics, Front Porch Florida, and Florida's Pari Mutuels. The Florida Caucus leads a critical gathering of concerned citizens, as well as the virtues of responsible and competent public servants who aspire to expound their unwavering positions on equal educational opportunities for minorities, the controversial incongruence of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), along with their unconditional passion for justice, equal rights, and educational opportunity for all.

In a special manner, ever since I have known the members of the Miami Black Caucus delegation, these leaders have always been at the forefront of ensuring equal participation in the shared duties and responsibilities on the part of Miami-Dade County's citizenry.

At the same time, their forceful advocacy for adhering to the tenets of equal treatment under the law not only in the halls of academia, but also in every segment of our State government agencies has become legendary. In fact, countless others have been touched by their genuine commitment to public service, especially to minorities who could least fend for themselves.

The legislators forming the Miami Regional Issues Conference Committee truly exemplify a unique and responsive leadership whose courageous vision and wisdom appeal to the critical issues impacting our community and the entire State of Florida.

I would like to extend my personal invitation to all those interested in our State government to enable them to seize the opportunity to renew and enhance their commitment to our common well-being as we prepare to meet the many challenges of our times. I honor these distinguished colleagues and fellow public servants of mine.

REMEMBERING THE MAYOR OF  
PONCE, PR, RAFAEL  
"CHURUMBA" CORDERO  
SANTIAGO

### HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend the people of Puerto Rico have lost a great man. Rafael Cordero Santiago, mayor of the Municipality of Ponce for the last 16 years, unexpectedly passed away Saturday morning at the age of 61. "Churumba," as he was fondly known to everyone back home, was a pillar of strength in the Popular Democratic Party. He was an accomplished politician, a hardworking administrator, and a true and honest patriot. His unwavering commitment and dedication to his country, his party, and his beloved city of Ponce are testaments to his extraordinary character.

Born in Ponce in 1942, Cordero Santiago dedicated the majority of his life to public service. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in political science, economics, and social science from the Catholic University of Puerto Rico in Ponce, he began his public career in the Department of Commerce of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in 1964. From there, he moved on to serve as a special assistant to then-president of the Puerto Rican senate, Rafael Hernandez Colon, followed by terms as auxiliary Secretary of Domestic Commerce in the Department of Commerce of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and as administrator of the Right to Employment Administration. In 1988 he was elected mayor of Ponce, a position that he proudly occupied until his death.

His work in Ponce spanned almost 2 decades and is marked by great improvement and progress in the region, as evidenced by the city's economic and social growth. His most recent achievement was the approval of the Plan de Ordenacion Territorial de Ponce, which gives the city ample funding for infrastructure projects, including the Port of the Americas. I worked closely with the mayor in support of Port of the Americas, which will bring a state-of-the-art transshipment facility to Ponce that will provide for lasting job growth

and economic development. Upon completion, the Port of the Americas will become the leading port in the Caribbean.

He is survived by his wife, Madeleine Velasco, and his twin daughters, Solange Marie and Mara Bianca. His years of hard work and dedication to his family, his country, and his city will live on in his unforgettable legacy. Please join me in honoring this exemplary Puerto Rican's life and supporting his family in their time of sorrow.

### HONORING JEAN SCHULZ

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jean Schulz, who is stepping down as the National Board President of Canine Companions for Independence after 15 years of dedicated service.

Jean Schulz has been committed to developing and enhancing the services that CCI provides, and with her leadership, CCI places twice as many dogs with people with disabilities as they did when she took over as president. The Jean and Charles Schulz Campus, which serves as the National Headquarters and Northwest Regional Center of Canine Companions for Independence, was built due to the efforts of Ms. Schulz and her late husband, Charles M. Schulz, creator of the Peanuts comic strip.

In 1997, Jean and Charles M. Schulz were instrumental in creating the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center designed to preserve and educate people about Charles M. Schulz, the Peanuts comic strip and its characters. Ms. Schulz remains an active member on the board of directors of the museum.

Dedicated to various environmental, educational and human service organizations over the years, the Schulzes donated \$5 million to Sonoma State University to build the Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center that houses a state-of-the-art library, computer labs and an art gallery. This facility has become a hub of student activity.

Ms. Schulz's combination of leadership and commitment to her community has earned her many awards and honors. She received a Key to the City from the Santa Rosa City Council, was the recipient of a Leadership Award from the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce and received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the Sonoma State University.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Jean Schulz for her many contributions to Canine Companions for Independence and the entire community.

CONGRATULATING KATHY  
CLONINGER, NEW CHIEF EXECU-  
TIVE OFFICER FOR THE GIRL  
SCOUTS OF AMERICA

#### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege today of honoring Kathy Cloninger, the

new Chief Executive Officer for the Girl Scouts of America.

Ms. Cloninger is a native of Nashville, Tennessee in my district. She has been a long-time advocate for the Girl Scouts and has an accomplished history in not-for-profit leadership. Before her recent appointment to the post of CEO, Ms. Cloninger served as the head of the Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley in Nashville. During her tenure there, Girl Scout membership in our region rose to more than 25,000 girls—an increase of nearly 40 percent. She was also responsible for creating an outreach program that tripled the number of African American Girl Scouts, increased the participation of Hispanic girls, and brought more than 1,000 girls in public housing into the program.

In Nashville, Ms. Cloninger also helped to found the Association of Non-Profit Executives and has served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the Center for Non-Profit Management, Leadership Nashville, and the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville. She has also held top-level positions at the Kellogg Foundation and the YWCA.

With more than 3.7 million current members, the Girl Scouts have been a cherished American institution for the past 90 years. The qualities of leadership, values and social conscience that the Girl Scouts instill in their members have served as guideposts for many generations of girls and young women, including in my own family. I am proud to say that my wife, Martha, and my daughter, Mary, have been Girl Scouts members and continue to be supporters of this fine organization.

I have every confidence that Ms. Cloninger will continue her excellent leadership of the Girl Scouts on the national level. In our present times, it is now more important than ever to maintain organizations and programs that provide positive leadership and encouragement for our nation's young people. In light of her proven record and her devotion to the ideals of the Girl Scouts, I have no doubt that Kathy Cloninger will prove to be an excellent role model and leader to guide our young girls into the 21st century.

On behalf of the people of the fifth district of Tennessee and your hometown, Nashville, I am proud to extend to Ms. Cloninger my warmest wishes and congratulations.

INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY, JANUARY  
26, 2004

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2004*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to one of the most important dates on the calendar for the people of India, as well as for the people of Indian descent who have settled in the United States and around the world. January 26th is Republic Day, an occasion that inspires pride and patriotism for the people of India.

On January 26, 1950, India became a Republic, devoted to the principles of democracy and secularism. At that time, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the nation's first president. Since then, despite the challenges of sustaining economic development and promoting tolerance and cooperation amongst its

many ethnic, religious and linguistic communities, India has stuck to the path of free and fair elections, a multi-party political system and the orderly transfer of power from one government to its successor.

On that special day in 1950, India adopted its Constitution. It should be noted that India derived key aspects of her Constitution, particularly its statement of Fundamental Rights, from our own Bill Of Rights. On the eve of Republic Day several years ago, India's President K.R. Narayanan stated in his address to the nation: "Let us remember, it is under the flexible and spacious provisions of our Constitution, that democracy has flourished during the last fifty years and that India has achieved an unprecedented unity and cohesion as a nation and made remarkable progress in the social and economic fields."

India and the United States both proclaimed their independence from British colonial rule. The Indian independence movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi had strong moral support from American intellectuals, political leaders and journalists. Just last week-end, we paid tribute to one of our greatest American leaders, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King derived many of his ideas of non-violent resistance to injustice from the teachings and the actions of Mahatma Gandhi.

As the world's two largest democracies, the United States and India have a natural relationship, based on their shared values of diversity, democracy and prosperity. These two countries have steadily grown closer for the past ten years, and most recently, the United States' campaign to fight global terrorism has brought the two countries even closer.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001 India was one of the first countries to come forward to the United States with an offer of full assistance and cooperation in this new global fight against terrorism. India has sadly been afflicted with terrorism from Pakistani-based terrorist groups throughout the last 15 years, and since September 11th, there have been terrorist attacks against India on a near daily basis. It is only natural that these two countries are united in the global fight against terrorism, as well as on many other fronts.

Lastly, I want to note that throughout the South Asian region, India stands alone as a pillar of democracy, stability and growth. I join both Indians in India and over 1.8 million Indians living here in the United States in celebrating India's Republic Day.