

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DENTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Denton Fire Department for their nominations of their department employees. For 130 years this fire department has fought to save the lives of citizens of the Denton area. This fire department has 122 firefighters and officers, eight 911 dispatchers, and one RSVP volunteer. It is not the equipment in these stations that makes Denton a safer place; it is the personnel that are hard at work to keep this community safe.

The philosophy of the fire department is that prevention is key to reducing the fire loss of our city. This department is able to maintain its high standards by acting towards arising situations and regulations. These firefighters take a proactive approach of educating citizens about fire safety and life safety through CPR classes and first aid classes. Even with programs in place, the Denton Fire Department strives to continue improvement in the quality of service provided to citizens by aggressively training officers in all areas of expertise. All of our fire department's continuing education programs exceed requirements suggested by the Texas Department of Health. This is proof that our firefighters are above average.

The individuals who work at the Denton County Fire Department are to be commended for their achievements in this past year. Without dedicated individuals the Denton County Fire Department would not serve at the high level it does. Brad Fuller, Brad Lahart, and Mike Tucker received Meritorious Service awards for their hard work and dedication of going beyond the normal job requirements to serve the Denton area. Also, Tim Tarlton's Crew at Station 3 "B" Shift has been awarded the Community Service Award for their methods of getting the message to children about fire safety in public schools. Likewise, Lisa Parker, who serves the Denton Fire Department with a cheerful personality and a positive attitude, has been awarded the EMS Excellence award. Furthermore, Jeff Knoles has been awarded special recognition for serving the Denton community in dual roles as a firefighter and paramedic since 1999.

The fire administration provides the leadership, vision and resources that our personnel need to provide the highest quality service to our citizens. The city staff and fire department employees coordinate efforts to maintain the quality of safety necessary for a city of Denton's size.

Firefighters are a necessary part of public life. Like in any other part of life, there are those who deserve special recognition. The individuals honored here today are some of those individuals.

CONGRATULATING THE EXPORT- IMPORT BANK ON ITS 70TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I want to help observe a landmark anniversary for an institution that sustains the jobs of thousands of Americans. February 12, 2004, marked the 70th anniversary of the Export-Import Bank, the official export credit agency of the United States. The Bank will have a celebration of this anniversary in the near future. The Export-Import Bank is an independent U.S. Government agency that creates and sustains American jobs by providing direct loans to buyers of U.S. exports, guarantees to commercial loans to buyers of U.S. products, and insurance products which greatly benefit short-term small business sales.

In an ideal world, export contracts would be won or lost on the basis of the cost and quality of the products being sold. However, as long as foreign export credit agencies provide concessionary financing to companies from their countries, the Export-Import Bank of the United States must "level the playing field" by protecting American exporters. The Export-Import Bank fills the necessary role of creating and sustaining American jobs here in the United States, where they are sorely needed.

Since its founding in 1934, the Export-Import Bank has supported over \$330 billion of U.S. exports from businesses large and small. In FY 2003, it supported \$14.3 billion in exports. Currently, about 85 percent of Export-Import transactions directly benefit small businesses. This amounts to almost 20 percent of the Bank's financings.

The Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act was signed into law on June 14, 2002 (Public Law No. 107-189). This Act reauthorized the Export-Import Bank through 2006 and made other appropriate changes to the charter of the Bank. The House Financial Services Committee continues to conduct oversight over the implementation of this Act.

Again, I extend my congratulations to the Export-Import Bank on its 70th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIVITY OF OUR SAVIOR CHURCH IN POR- TAGE, IN, DURING THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate the Nativity of Our Savior Church in Portage, IN, as they celebrate their 40th anniversary. During the weekend of September 11,

2004, and September 12, 2004, the Nativity of Our Savior Church will be celebrating their anniversary with an Anniversary Celebration Mass and an All-Parish Anniversary Celebration Family Picnic.

The Catholic faith began in Portage in the 1600's with early settlers and French trappers, and they named the area "New France." In 1882, Joseph Bailly, one of those early settlers, established a trading post which he called "Bailly-Town." This area included a chapel for his family as well as other nearby villagers to worship in. During the early 1960's, the Diocese of Gary purchased the land that is now the Nativity Parish and School.

As the population grew in Portage, Bishop Andrew Grutka along with other parish members, established a larger church, which was called "The Chapel on the Mall" because it was located at the north end of the Portage Shopping Mall. In 1964, this 10' by 50' drive-in church was visited by over 450 cars at each Sunday mass. It was in July 1965 that the Nativity of Our Savior Church was officially established with Father Joseph Till as its first pastor. On October 31, 1965, during the Feast of Christ the King, Nativity of Our Savior became a permanent church and it was formally dedicated by Bishop Grutka on Saturday, March 12, 1966.

In September 1975, the Nativity School opened its doors to 95 students in its first year. Since the founding of the Nativity of Our Savior Church in 1964 and the opening of the school in 1975, there have been many influential pastors who have led the congregation. These include: Father Joseph Till, Father William Spranger, Monsignor Carl Mengeling, Monsignor John Morales, Father John Scott, Father Patrick Kalich, and currently Father Walter Rakoczy. Today, the Nativity of Our Savior Church has over 2,200 registered families, over 200 students in their parish school, and over 600 students in their religious education program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Nativity of Our Savior Church on their 40th anniversary. They have provided support and guidance for all those in the Portage community, and will continue to serve their community through their selfless dedication and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO ELBIE J. HICKAMBOTTOM, SR.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of Elbie J. Hickambottom, Sr., who passed away on the evening of December 31, 2003.

Elbie Hickambottom began his life in Okmulgee, OK, in 1924. In 1925 his family

• 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.

moved to Pasadena, CA, where he grew up and attended Pasadena public schools. As a young adult he attended Pasadena City College and though his education was interrupted by his service in the military, he continued his academic pursuits at USC and completed his BA degree from the University of Omaha.

Mr. Hickambottom served in the U.S. Army during World War II and at 19 years old was one of the youngest first sergeants in Europe. He was recalled by the Army during the Korean war and commissioned as a second lieutenant. After 20 years of distinguished service, he retired in 1967 with the rank of major. During his career, he was awarded many decorations including twice receiving the Medal for Outstanding Service and three times the Army Commendation Medal. Elbie was a past commander of the Pasadena chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars and a recipient of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Patriot of the Year Award.

After Elbie's military retirement, he joined the Pasadena Redevelopment Agency in 1967 where he served as director of Relocation and Property Management, managing programs that assisted displaced families and small businesses. He subsequently worked as senior vice president of Municipal Services, Inc. a private redevelopment consulting firm from which he retired in 1985.

In 1979 Mr. Hickambottom was elected to the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education, where he served until he retired from the board in 1994. A champion for excellence in education and a strong voice for improving academic achievement for all students, particularly for disadvantaged and minority students, Elbie was often the conscience of the school board. He was an active member of the California Coalition of Black School Board Members, where his tenure included holding office on the Executive Board.

A dedicated community volunteer, Elbie participated in many organizations, including the NAACP, the Pasadena Educational Foundation, Young and Healthy, the Pasadena Commission on Children and Youth, Project Day, ROTC, and various other civic groups.

Elbie is survived by his wife of 52 years, Dolores, his children, Ann Marie, Elbie Jr., Leslie and John, sisters Verda Arnold and Wilmer Lane, niece Robin Foster, sister-in-law Agnes Brumfield, two brothers-in-law, Joseph Arceneaux and Oscar Dupre II, and many other nieces, nephews, cousins, and beloved friends.

I would like to convey my deepest sympathies to Elbie's family and friends, as well as extend my heartfelt thanks for his many contributions to the community. Elbie J. Hickambottom, Sr., will be missed by all who knew him.

KRISTY WICKLIFF AND E9-1-1
INSTITUTE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts made by the Enhanced 9-1-1 Institute for their lasting efforts to improve our Nation's 9-1-1 system. The E9-1-1 Institute is committed to educating and in-

forming citizens of the vital role the 9-1-1 service plays in our communities. Since 1968, 9-1-1 has been a means in which to report emergencies. Today, 9-1-1 is a key component to saving lives and property.

The E9-1-1 Institute has included every level of government, corporations large and small in addition to government policy makers, to convey the significance of the 9-1-1 service to all Americans. The institute continues to work very hard to show that every citizen of this country plays a vital role in making this system successful.

The outstanding efforts of E9-1-1 are most evident in a recent event in my district. I am honored to acknowledge Kristy Wickliff a resident of Southlake, Texas, who is being honored by the E9-1-1 Institute for the heroic act of saving her father's life in April of 2003. Kristy, age five at the time, successfully called 9-1-1 and then proceeded to the medicine cabinet where she was able to obtain and administer medication to her father while he was suffering from diabetic shock. Miss Wickliff will receive the Enhanced 9-1-1 Institute's "Citizen in Action" Award on Tuesday, February 24, 2004.

If it were not for the E9-1-1 Institute's dedication to improving the 9-1-1 system or their commitment to education, our ability to save lives and property would be greatly hindered by a lack of communication.

The 9-1-1 service is a necessary part of our daily lives. Like those who have used the service in a time of crisis, the individuals who work to make 9-1-1 a better system deserve to be honored.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, during the lengthy debate over campaign finance reform, some of us warned that appearances can be deceiving. The McCain-Feingold bill was supposed to empower ordinary voters, who were evidently thought incapable of exercising their own reason during election campaigns. The power shift has actually been to the unelected media and unaccountable special interest groups, mostly liberal, who have concentrated their control over what voters see and hear. Other voices have been muzzled, which is why U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia called the failure to strike down the law "a sad day for freedom of speech."

I commend to your attention this George Will column published in the Washington Post on February 22.

RENDERING POLITICS SPEECHLESS

(By George F. Will)

Two years ago President Bush, who had called it unconstitutional, signed the McCain-Feingold bill—furtively, at 8 a.m. in the Oval Office. The law expanded government restrictions on political speech, ostensibly to combat corruption or the "appearance" thereof. Bush probably signed it partly because the White House, thinking corruptly or appearing to do so, saw reelection advantage in this fiddling with the First Amendment.

And partly because the nation's newspaper editorial writers nearly unanimous in praise

of McCain-Feingold. The editorialists' advocacy of McCain-Feingold could appear corrupt: The bill increases the political influence of unregulated newspaper editorializing relative to increasingly restricted rival voices (parties, candidates and their financial supporters).

Last December the Supreme Court found no serious constitutional infirmity in the law because, although the Constitution says Congress shall make "no law" abridging freedom of speech, Congress has broad latitude to combat corruption or its appearance. There is the appearance of corruption when a legislator's views attract contributions from like-minded people, and then he acts in accordance with his and their views.

Today McCain-Feingold itself does not just appear to be corrupting. It is demonstrably and comprehensively so.

Most campaign money is spent on speech—disseminating ideas, primarily by broadcasting. McCain-Feingold's stated premise was that there is "too much" money in politics—hence, it follows, too much speech. McCain-Feingold's prudently unstated premise was that legislators know—and should legislate—the correct quantity of speech about themselves, the proper times for it and certain restrictions on the content of it.

Such legislating may not be corrupt, but it might appear so. And appearances are the essence of ethics, as understood by Washington's ethics industry.

Perhaps the White House embraced McCain-Feingold because it doubled to \$2,000 the permissible ceiling on "hard money" contributions crucial to the president's reelection campaign. Also, Republican national committees do better than their Democratic counterparts at raising smaller hard-dollar contributions.

Supposedly, the principal purpose of McCain-Feingold was to ban large "soft money" contributions to the parties ostensibly for "party-building" purposes. The delusional assumption of many McCain-Feingold enthusiasts was that when such contributions were banned, the people who had been eager to exert political influence by such contributions would say "Oh, well" and spend their money instead on high-definition televisions. Or something.

Actually, McCain-Feingold was moral grandstanding by many liberals who had no intention of abiding by its spirit—or its letter, for that matter—any more than they had abided by existing campaign finance law. To compensate for Republican advantages in raising strictly limited hard dollars, Democrats quickly formed a slew of committees technically disconnected from the party but allowed to receive unlimited soft dollars.

Allowed, that is, as long as the committees do not spend money "for the purpose of influencing any election for federal office." Under McCain-Feingold, and for 30 years before it, entities that raise and spend money for that purpose are subject to hard-dollar limits.

McCain-Feingold's ban on large soft-money contributions to political parties has spawned many groups, mostly liberal ones, to receive and spend such contributions as surrogates for the parties—groups such as America Coming Together. Ellen Malcolm, ACT's president, says her group aims to increase voter turnout in 17 states crucial to the presidential election in order "to beat George Bush."

It appears that she intends to influence a federal election. Nothing wrong with that. Citizens are supposed to do that. But liberals have been the prime movers in enacting laws against doing so with soft money, which organizations such as ACT exist to receive.

ACT says it "will coordinate with progressive organizations." But it had better not coordinate with the Democratic Party or candidates. There would be nothing morally wrong with such coordination. It should be a fundamental right—indeed, a civic virtue—for groups such as ACT to coordinate with like-minded political parties. But "coordination" is criminal under McCain-Feingold.

House Republicans are now trying to subpoena records of these Democratic groups, more hoping to have a chilling effect on them. This is disgusting—but Democrats deserve it because they have entangled America's core liberty, political speech, in an ever-thickening web of regulations they now are evading.

On Wednesday the Federal Election Commission, which is now in charge of deciding what speech is legal under McCain-Feingold and Supreme Court ambiguities, issued a ruling—many more to follow—of exquisite opacity. The chairman of the Republican National Committee said it "effectively shuts down" groups such as ACT and others. A spokesman for ACT cheerily said the group would continue "to operate robustly and effectively." It is a constitutional obscenity that no one now knows—or, pending many more FEC and court rulings, can know—what political speech is legal in this nation where the First Amendment is no longer even pertinent to protecting such speech.

TRIBUTE TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA THROUGHOUT ITS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana throughout its 50 years of service to the Northwest Indiana community. As the citizens of Lake County, Indiana celebrate the 50th Year Jubilee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana, we are reminded of the dedication and valiant efforts that have been made to incorporate education and community leadership in the region.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana began in the early 1950's when Mr. Paul Guist, Mr. Sid Holub, Mr. Robert Salvaggi and several other Gary businessmen decided that the children of Gary needed a place to go, complete with worthwhile activities, to help keep kids from spending time on street corners. Their efforts led to the incorporation of the Steel City Boys Club of Gary, Indiana on August 17, 1954.

The Boys Club was incorporated in 1954 when it operated in the hallways, auditorium, gymnasium and one room in the old Beveridge School in Tolleston. Its official name became Steel City Boys Club. In 1956, another club opened in the Webster School Gym located in Glen Park. This was the year that the organization also became a United Way Agency. An additional club eventually moved into the basement of the Assyrian Church where it remained until a permanent location at 7th and Adams was established through the efforts of Mr. John Will Anderson of the Anderson Company. Through Mr. An-

der's gift, the Old Moose Lodge building at 7th and Adams was purchased in 1965. Mr. Anderson and the Anderson Company donated the money and manpower to see that the building was completely renovated and ready for operation in October, 1967. The New Boys Club facility officially opened on October 23, 1967, appropriately dedicated as the John Will Anderson Boys Club.

Another Boys Club was opened in 1969 in the Salesian Prep School in Cedar Lake, and in November, 1976 that club moved to West 133rd Avenue. In 1982, the new Cedar Lake Club was built on Fairbanks Street where it remains today. In 1973, Katherine House and the East Chicago Boys Club merged to form the East Chicago-Katherine House Boys Club and became a unit of the Steel City Boys Club organization. In 1976, the John Will Anderson Club moved to the former Young Men's Christian Association building on 5th Avenue in Gary where it remains today. In 1977, the Steel City Boys Club corporate name was changed to the Boys Clubs of Northwest Indiana. In March of 1979, the Hammond Boys Club was established in the Miller School of Hessville, and today a new building built in 1994 proudly stands on Calumet Avenue. The Lake Station Club was opened in July of 2001.

In 1988, Boys Clubs of Northwest Indiana officially changed its name to Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana—as girls were recognized as official club members. In spite of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana's growth and changes, their philosophy has never changed—to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana, as well as its staff and community leaders on their 50th anniversary. Their many great accomplishments and service to Lake County, Indiana will forever be cherished and commended.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise to pay tribute to the extraordinary African-American men and women, past and present, who have shaped the rich history of our Nation.

The month of February has been designated as Black History Month to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of African-Americans throughout history. This year's national theme, "Brown v. Board of Education: 50th Anniversary," commemorates the historic Supreme Court decision declaring that segregation had no place in the laws of a free republic.

Over 50 years ago, in the Midwest town of Topeka, KS, a little girl named Linda Brown rode a bus 5 miles to school each day even though a public school was located only four blocks from her house. The school was not full and the little girl met all of the requirements to

attend—except for the color of her skin. It is hard to imagine that merely 50 years ago, public schools across our country were deeply segregated.

A team of brave lawyers from the NAACP would later appear before the Supreme Court to demand the justice contained within our founding principles—to demand equality for young Linda Brown and for all who had been denied the basic right of equality for far too long.

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court spoke unanimously and with great clarity when it declared that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." This decision continues to have an impact on our country today. Just last year, the Supreme Court upheld the core principles of Brown v. Board when it ruled that maintaining diversity in higher education is a compelling governmental interest. I was pleased to join other Members of Congress in filing an amicus brief with the Court expressing our belief that democratic values are enhanced by the interaction between students of diverse backgrounds and indicating our full support for the efforts of universities to create a more vibrant and enriching learning environment.

The decision in Brown v. Board would also forever change the landscape of the struggle for racial justice and equality in the United States and demonstrate the ability of individuals to effect true change. The congressional district that I represent can certainly recognize the ability of individuals to break through color barriers. Growing up in Pasadena in the early to mid-1900s, a young man named Jackie Robinson was an all-around athlete that would later change the sports world. Robinson won letters in football, baseball, basketball, and track at Pasadena's Muir Technical High School and Pasadena Junior College. Soon after, he would become the first athlete at UCLA to play on four varsity teams.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson would take the field to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers—a pioneer as the first African-American to play major league baseball. Robinson not only opened the door to pro sports for other African-American athletes, but his remarkable accomplishment would help chip away at prejudices in the minds of Americans and jumpstart the process of dismantling existing barriers throughout our society.

In this month of February, let us not only celebrate the accomplishments of those brave Americans who fought for racial justice, but let us work to keep their vision alive by continuing to break down barriers that exist and working to ensure equality of opportunity for all Americans.

GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gaylord Entertainment on their successful completion of the marvelous new Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center on Lake Grapevine ideally located in Grapevine, TX. The Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center will be tremendous venue for performances by local and national entertainers.

The Gaylord Texan will bring more economic stability to an already growing local economy with its creation of 1,300 new jobs and an estimated \$23 million in spending annually. The Gaylord Texan team has certainly set high standards for which other businesses will aspire.

Gaylord Entertainment has paired up with the city of Grapevine's Convention and Visitors Bureau and other local businesses to ensure a better quality of life for area residents, and a memorable visit for all those who pass through the front door. Whether it is to enjoy the scenic view of Lake Grapevine, an evening of dining and entertainment or to attend a business seminar, the Gaylord Texan is sure to meet the needs of its visitors.

For many years to come, the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center will receive the international spotlight for its state of the art entertainment facilities, 1,511 guest rooms, relaxing atmosphere, beautiful scenery, and a wide variety of activities to choose from.

We congratulate the efforts made by Gaylord Entertainment for the creation of this spectacular new facility. Best wishes to all who are involved and best of luck in future endeavors. In addition, we add our congratulations on having March 2, 2004, Texas Independence Day also named "Gaylord Appreciation Day" in Texas.

FLORALBA DEL MONTE, FIRST
LADY OF DOMINICAN CLASSICAL
MUSIC—A SALUTE ON HER 75TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Dominican concert pianist and piano teacher Floralba Del Monte, the "First Lady of Dominican Classical Music," who has just celebrated her 75th birthday, and who this year also celebrates several professional anniversaries: The 55th anniversary of her debut in the United States at Carnegie Hall; the 50th anniversary of her graduation from the Paris Conservatoire; the 45th anniversary of her appointment to the Piano Faculty at the Santo Domingo National Conservatoire of Music; the 53rd anniversary of her U.S. network television debut on CBS; and the 52nd anniversary of her debut in Washington, DC, at the Dominican Embassy.

Floralba Del Monte was the first Dominican concert pianist who performed in North America, and the first Dominican performer who appeared at world-famous Carnegie Hall in New York, making her professional and U.S. debuts there on June 14th, 1949, performing on this recital the U.S. premiere of the "Sambumbia" or Dominican Rhapsody for Piano by Dominican composer Juan Francisco García, "Father of Dominican Music." In the late 1940s and the early 1950s, she was the first Dominican classical musician who professionally appeared at several of the most prestigious concert halls in New York City, including Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, Steinway Hall, Kauffmann Auditorium and Labor Temple Concert Hall; at important venues such as the International School of Arts, American Women's Union, Fun & Fine Arts Club and the Women's Club of

New York; on radio stations and television networks such as NBC, CBS, The Voice of America, WNYC, and WLIB; and at distinguished residences in New York City, performances in which several Dominican piano works were performed for the first time in the U.S. These acclaimed performances established Floralba Del Monte on New York's classical music scene and social circles of the 1950s, the first Dominican performer to make a name for herself in New York.

Floralba Del Monte was the first Dominican performer to appear on U.S. network television, making her debut on CBS on October 1, 1951 as one of the selected artists invited to appear on the Arthur Godfrey Show special that inaugurated coast-to-coast television broadcasting in the United States. During this broadcast, she performed the world premiere of her own arrangement for three pianos of the popular "Malagueña" by Ernesto Lecuona, starring as the First Piano of the Pan-American Piano Trio. This piano trio was founded by Floralba Del Monte in New York, and made its world debut on that historic night, with Del Monte, Peruvian pianist Elvira Román and U.S. pianist Dolores Layko representing the three Americas—Central, South, and North.

Floralba Del Monte was the first Dominican performer who performed in the Nation's Capital, making her debut there on May 16, 1952, in a gala recital at the Dominican Embassy, and giving another recital at the Pan-American Union, in which she offered the Washington, DC, premieres of several Dominican piano works.

Floralba Del Monte is recognized as a pianist of exceptional interpretative force, holding a unique place in the Dominican Republic that consecrates her as one of the most revered Dominican artistic figures in Dominican history. In the Dominican Republic, as the concert pianist of most important legacy, and as the music educator of most influential pedagogical work, her artistic legacy that spans five decades of unprecedented achievements, includes: Performing the Dominican, North American, and European premieres of the most important and difficult piano works of Dominican music literature, distinguishing herself for her fervent patriotism, including Dominican piano works on her appearances in her country and abroad; being the first performer invited by the Dominican Government to give a concert tour in the country; being the mentor of the most important school of piano ever created in the Dominican Republic, a school comprising several generations of accomplished pianists, including winners of international music competitions, whom she taught during a distinguished tenure of more than 40 years as a Piano Faculty member at the Santo Domingo Conservatoire; and being director of the Santo Domingo Conservatoire, whose recently completed tenure of more than a decade is already regarded as the Golden Age of that preeminent Dominican institution. This legacy, deservingly consecrates Floralba Del Monte as the unrivaled "First Lady of Dominican Classical Music."

"SWEET AND SOUR SUBSIDIES"

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, trying to decide what is the greatest hypocrisy in politics is a hard job, but I believe that by sheer dollar volume the support of many who call themselves free market conservatives for the leading aspects of America's agricultural policy qualifies for the prize.

Few areas in public policy in this country are as heavily subsidized by the taxpayers, rigged against consumers, blatantly unfair to poor people in other parts of the world, and contemptuous of the whole notion of competition and free enterprise as American agriculture policy in various of its aspects.

I am frequently puzzled to hear many who declaim their staunch allegiance to free trade, low taxes, no government intervention in the economy, the free market, and unmitigated competition make an implicit exception when the subject is corn, cotton, wheat, peanuts, sugar, or other commodities. Apparently, there are people who believe that the works of Ludwig von Mises and Friedrich Hayek contain an invisible footnote that says that none of this applies to agriculture.

In the February 12 Washington Post, just before we went on our mid-winter break, George Will documented the blatant inconsistency with regard to the sugar program of the U.S., noting correctly that it has once again contributed to the demise of jobs in the United States by people who had been manufacturing candy. I disagree with much of Mr. Will's conservative approach to economic matters, so I do not agree therefore with everything he says in this column. But I salute his intellectual honesty in urging that the conservative economic principles he professes be applied across the board, without the exception for agriculture made by so many others who claim to be his conservative confreres.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 12, 2004]

SWEET AND SOUR SUBSIDIES

(By George Will)

Saturday, Valentine's Day, sweets will be showered on sweethearts—a bonanza for candymakers. But the very next day all 242 Fannie May and Fanny Farmer chocolate candy stores will be closed.

They and many jobs—625 of them at the firm's 75-year-old Chicago manufacturing plant—are, in part, casualties of that outdated facility, bad business decisions, and high U.S. labor and other costs. But jobs in America's candy industry also are jeopardized by protectionism, which is always advertised as job protection. In this case, the protectionism is an agriculture subsidy—sugar import quotas.

Chicago is no longer Carl Sandburg's wheat stacker and hog butcher, but it remains America's candy capital, home of Tootsie Rolls and many other treats. In 1970, employment by the city's candy manufacturers was 15,000. Today it is under 8,000, and falling.

Alpine Confections Inc. of Utah has bought Fannie May and Fanny Farmer and may continue some products. This is partly because the price of sugar is less important in soft chocolates than in hard candies.

But the end of 2003 brought the end of Brach's production of hard candy on the city's West Side. A decade ago, Brach's employed about 2,300 people. Until recently,

many of the remaining Teamster jobs paid \$19 an hour. Many signs in the abandoned Chicago facility were in Spanish, Polish and Greek for the immigrant workforce, most of whose jobs have gone to Mexico. Labor is cheaper there, but so is 92 percent of the raw material for hard candy—sugar. By moving outside the United States, Brach's can pay the world market price of sugar, which is one-half to one-third of the U.S. price as propped up by import quotas.

Life Savers, which for 90 years were made in America, are now made in Canada, where labor costs are comparable but the yearly cost of sugar is \$10 million less. Chicago's Ferrara Pan Candy Co., maker of Jawbreakers, Red Hots and Boston Baked Beans, has moved much of its production to Mexico and Canada.

Dueling economic studies, few of them disinterested, purport to demonstrate that more American jobs are saved or—much more plausibly—lost because protectionist quotas raise the price of sugar for 280 million Americans. In the life of this republic, in which rent-seeking—bending public power for private advantage—is pandemic, sugar quotas are symptomatic.

It was to a North Dakota radio station that Robert Zoelick, the U.S. trade representative, vowed that he would stand like Horatius at the bridge to block Australian sugar. The quotas can be considered among the bearable transaction costs of democracy, keeping North Dakota's, Minnesota's and other states' growers of sugar beets as well as Florida's, Louisiana's and other states' growers of sugar cane from starving.

Or seceding. Or, heaven forbid, being forced to grow something else. But protectionism is unconservative, unseemly and unhealthy—indeed, lethal.

Unconservative? Protectionism is a variant of what conservatives disparage as “industrial policy” when nonconservatives do it. It is government supplanting the market as the picker of economic winners. Another name for industrial policy is lemon socialism—survival of the unfit.

Unseemly? America has no better friend than Australia. Yet such is the power of American sugar interests that the Bush administration has forced Australia to acquiesce in continuing quotas on its sugar exports to America. That was a price for achieving the not-exactly “free trade” agreement signed last weekend. But look on the bright side: Restrictions on beef imports will be phased out over 18 years.

Is protectionism lethal? Promoted by Democrats hawking their compassion, protectionism could somewhat flatten the trajectory of America's rising prosperity. But protectionism could kill millions in developing nations by slowing world growth, thereby impeding those nations from achieving prosperity sufficient to pay for potable water, inoculations, etc. Developed nations spend \$1 billion a day on agriculture subsidies that prevent poor nations' farmers from competing in the world market.

Sugar quotas, although a bipartisan addiction, are worst when defended by Republicans who actually know better and who lose their ability to make a principled argument against the Democrats' protectionist temptation. Fortunately, splendid trouble may be on the horizon.

Last September's collapse of the World Trade Organization's ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, meant that the pernicious “peace clause” was not renewed. For nine years it has prevented the WTO from treating agricultural subsidies as what they obviously are—market distortions incompatible with free trade. For Americans, a fight over that is worth having, and losing.

CAPTAIN JOHN DARRAH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain John Darrah. For the last four years Captain Darrah has served as the president of the Allied Pilots Association (APA), the largest independent pilots' union in the world with more than 11,500 members.

APA serves as the collective bargaining agent for all American Airlines pilots. It devotes more than 20 percent of its dues income to support aviation safety while working to improve benefits, pensions, hours of employment, and working conditions for its members.

During the spring of 2003, the airline industry was distressed. Fears of terrorism, a troubled economy, and the war in Iraq were all causing a weak travel demand.

This trend was especially hard on American Airlines. They announced that they would file for bankruptcy if they could not cut labor costs by \$1.8 billion a year. If the pilots, ground workers, or flight attendants unions rejected the concessions package that was offered, the AMR Corp., the parent company of American Airlines, vowed to file Chapter 11.

John Darrah was president of the Allied Pilots Association during this difficult time. He led his union to accept the concessions, staying off bankruptcy for AMR Corp. During the crisis he said, “To willingly take our airline and our company into bankruptcy would not be a better alternative . . . There is no upside to bankruptcy.”

As Captain Darrah's term as president of the APA comes to an end, I would like to commend him for the role he played in saving his airline and his company from bankruptcy. He has stood up to harsh criticism, but also saved thousands of jobs. We are proud of his achievements.

AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 264 to commemorate next year's 200th anniversary of the birth of Constantino Brumidi. I was pleased to join with my colleague, the gentleman from Florida, as an original cosponsor of this resolution.

Constantino Brumidi is known today as the Michelangelo of the United States Capitol building. He is most known for The Apotheosis of George Washington, the painting that depicts our first president's ascension into heaven, that adorns the interior ceiling of the central rotunda.

Brumidi was unknown in America when he began a mural to honor George Washington in 1855 shortly after immigrating to the United States. Over the next 25 years, he also painted the corridors on the first floor of the Senate wing and the first tribute to an African-Amer-

ican in the Capitol by depicting Crispus Attucks's patriotic death that touched off the Boston Massacre in 1770.

Initially, some believed that Brumidi's artistic styles and abilities were more suited to the Vatican and other buildings in Europe, places he contributed works before coming to America. But many historians have noted that Brumidi was the only person capable of painting the Capitol building in the glorious manner befitting the literal crowning achievement of liberty and democracy that it represents. Few in the United States had Brumidi's special talents as a fresco artist that utilized painting with watercolors on wet plaster.

Constantino Brumidi's experience is not unlike the ancestors of more than 26 million Americans of Italian descent that blended their centuries-old traditions with the relatively young history of the United States. Our country is indebted to their time, talents and skills that have beautified our country and inspired great achievements.

Each year, hundreds of Long Island school children gaze upward at Brumidi's work in the Capitol building's rotunda and sprawling corridors. They see important scenes in American history, from the development of the steam engine to the ending of the Civil War. Brumidi's work not only beautifies the Capitol, but it brings history to life and makes one dream of what the future holds for our great nation.

It is important that Brumidi's contributions and sacrifices are remembered. He is every bit as important to American history as the epic scenes and figures he brought to life. It is my hope that all of my colleagues will join me today in honoring Brumidi's legacy by voting in favor of this resolution.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF STANLEY E. SPRAGUE FROM THE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, whereas, over the last thirty years, Stanley E. Sprague has represented Orange County in a variety of forms on major water issues.

Whereas, Mr. Sprague joined the Municipal Water District of Orange County in 1972.

Whereas, Mr. Sprague has served as General Manager of the Municipal Water District of Orange County since 1983.

Whereas, the Municipal Water District of Orange County is a wholesale water agency charged with providing imported water to its thirty member agencies.

Whereas, in his role as General Manager of Municipal Water District of Orange County, Mr. Sprague's primary responsibility has been to assure that the present and future water needs of its member agencies are met.

Whereas, the Municipal Water District of Orange County is the second largest member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, serving imported water to 2.3 million residents in roughly 80 percent of Orange County, one-third of whom rely solely on imported water.

Whereas, Mr. Sprague has been instrumental in forming partnerships to increase water use efficiency in Orange County.

Whereas, Mr. Sprague has taken a primary role in focusing the CALFED efforts towards meeting Southern California's supply reliability and water quality needs.

Whereas, Mr. Sprague has been involved in providing expert testimony on a myriad of water issues at both the State and Federal level.

Therefore, I join with the entire Orange County Congressional delegation in acknowledging the vital role that Stanley E. Sprague has played in Orange County's water supply, and wish him well upon his retirement from the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

CURRENT STATUS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, in the last ninety years, Taiwan and the United States of America have been allies, partners, and friends. In times of need and turmoil, both countries have always come to each other's aid. In the aftermath of the tragedies of September 11th, 2001 Taiwan immediately offered condolences to the victims of those terrorist attacks, expressed shock over the attacks and condemned such violence. Moreover, to show solidarity with the American people, Taiwan's government ordered flags be flown at half-mast for two days, took every action to protect U.S. citizens on the island, including stepped-up security at the American Institute in Taiwan, and asked all Taiwan offices in the U.S. to cancel their National Day celebrations.

Today Taiwan is under pressure by China. China accuses Taiwan's planned peace referendum as a move toward Taiwanese independence and says it would push Taiwan to the "abyss of war." Such rhetoric is a clear distortion of Taiwan's true intent. In the face of an overwhelming military threat against Taiwan, Taiwanese president Chen Shui-bian in this referendum is asking his voters whether they should buy more anti-missile weapons if China refuses to withdraw missiles targeted at Taiwan and whether Taiwan should open up talks with China about issues of peace.

Taiwan has no intention to provoke China into conflict. It merely aims to avoid war and free its people from the fear that they now face on a daily basis. Taiwan, our ally and friend, is a democracy with a competitive party system and they should have the inherent right to self-determine their own policies and the future of the island without the prospect of fear. I sincerely urge a continuation of peace across the Taiwan straits as well as the good relations between the Taiwanese people and Americans.

HONORING THE SACRAMENTO LIONS CLUB ON THEIR 50TH AN- NIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization with a distinguished history of community service to the Capital Region. The Sacramento Senator Lions Club will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary Celebration on March 6, 2004. As the members and friends of the Sacramento Senator Lions Club gather to celebrate this momentous occasion, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most important and respected civic groups.

The Sacramento Senator Lions Club was chartered on April 4, 1954 to become a part of the Lions Club, the world's largest service organization. Lions Clubs are non-political, non-sectarian service clubs composed of the community's leading business and professional people. The purpose of a Lions Club is more than good fellowship and club social life. The purpose is to recognize community needs and develop means of meeting them, either through its own effort or in cooperation with other agencies. Lionism is an active and effective medium for national and world service, exerting tremendous influence for national welfare, international amity and human progress socially, culturally and economically. For the past 50 years, the Sacramento Senators Lions Club embodies all of the best qualities that Lionism represents.

The Sacramento Senator Lions Club was the first all Americans of Japanese ancestry in the United States. The Sacramento Senator Lions Club was founded upon the principle that the club should strive to provide its members with the opportunities to collectively serve the community through efforts of fund-raising and hands-on-service projects. Today, the Sacramento Senator Lions Club is a vital service organization that is composed of civic-minded persons of both sexes and many diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The Sacramento Senator Lions Club has a history of community service that stretches beyond Sacramento and across international borders. The Sacramento Senator Lions Club reached a twinning agreement with the Osaka Tezukayama Lions Club of Japan during the International Lions Club in New Orleans in 1977. In recent years, mutual donations have been made to projects in Osaka, Japan. Donations to the Sacramento Senator Lions Club have played a great role in developing the fragrance garden for the visually handicapped and the Japanese garden for children at the Fairytale Town. In addition, the Sacramento Senator Lions Club is also actively involved in helping many other local organizations; Canine Companion for the Blind, City of Hope, My Sister's House for Abused Women, just to name a few. The Sacramento Senator Lions Club commitment to improve the quality of life for people from all different walks of life is truly commendable and admirable.

The Sacramento Senator Lions Club is internationally renowned as one of the most successful and respected Lions Club chapters in the world. The lofty status of the Sacramento Senator Lions Club was confirmed

when their member, Kay K. Fukushima, was elected to be the 86th President of the International Association of Lions Club for the year 2002–2003.

Mr. Speaker, as the friends and family of the Sacramento Senator Lions Club gather to celebrate their 50 years of great service to the people of Sacramento, I am honored to pay tribute to one of the Capital Region's most active service organizations. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the Sacramento Senator Lions Club continued success in all its future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANNE CISLE MURRAY FOR HER COMMITMENT TO HELPING CHILDREN AT RISK

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Anne Cisle Murray, whose commitment to helping children at risk is being honored by the Boys Hope Girls Hope organization of Illinois as the 2004 recipient of the Joseph S. Kearney Heart of Gold award.

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Illinois is a privately funded organization that reaches out to children who have shown academic promise, yet live with a family or in a community that has put them at risk. The mission of BHGH is to provide these children with stable home and academic environments and support them in all their endeavors up through college.

Originally from Hamilton, Ohio, Anne Cisle Murray graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a business degree in 1974, a member of the first co-ed graduating class. In 1979 she married Steve Murray with whom she has three children, Tricia, Dan and Mac. Anne's devotion to her family has carried over into her Community through the time and effort she dedicated to the at-risk youth of Illinois. Her accomplishments and hard work as a mother, mentor and organizer in the public service arena will be recognized and commemorated in our nation's capitol today.

Since joining Boys Hope Girls Hope of Illinois, Anne Cisle Murray has served all the executive positions on the organization's Women's Board. In addition to her presence on the Board of Directors and the Marketing Committee, she has also served as President, Vice President, Secretary, Dinner Dance Chairperson and Auction Chairperson.

On a personal level, Anne and her family have been generous to the BHGH organization for many years. Anne reaches out to the community by welcoming young students in the program to her home to facilitate social interaction and familiarity with the other program families. Her general thoughtfulness and care ensure the success of the BHGH program and its participants.

Anne Cisle Murray's determination to enrich the lives of children has made her a priceless member of Boys Hope Girls Hope of Illinois. By investing her time and love of children into this organization, Anne Cisle Murray has helped to make the future brighter for the at-risk children of Illinois.

WQED'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let my House colleagues know about a notable milestone. WQED Multimedia in Pittsburgh is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year.

Debuting on April 1, 1954, WQED was the nation's first community-owned television station. At the time, leaders in the Pittsburgh community saw a need for an educational TV station in addition to the already present commercial ones. As station founder Leland Hazard stated, "On this station you will find a children's hour designed to determine whether it is necessary for someone to get killed to entertain young folks." And that is exactly what the station has done. Beginning with Fred Rogers' "Children's Hour," the station has continued to produce wholesome, thoughtful, and nonviolent shows that entertain and educate both young and old.

Which is one of the reasons that, today, WQED Multimedia is one of the most valued Pittsburgh institutions, providing educational, cultural, and informational programming for both local and national audiences.

As the programs WQED produces show, education has always been a priority for the organization. Everyone is familiar, of course, with "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," the award-winning children's program, but not everyone knows that WQED has also produced a lot of other high-quality children's educational programs over the years, including "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" and "Once Upon a Classic". In addition, WQED has produced a nationally broadcast science quarterly program entitled "The Infinite Voyage" and a number of National Geographic Specials.

WQED Multimedia is also very involved in cultural promotion and preservation. WQED's radio station broadcasts various types of classical music locally, and it promotes Pittsburgh music nationally and internationally through broadcasts of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the River City Brass Band, America's only full time professional brass band. Many of WQED TV 13's programs also seek to promote American culture. In fact, other public broadcasting stations throughout the country have copied the station's program "Things that Aren't there Anymore"—and several of Rick Sebak's programs celebrating American's favorite pastimes, such as "Great Old Amusement Parks" and "A Hot Dog Program," have aired nationally. These programs and many others clearly demonstrate WQED's commitment to telling America's Stories with the American Classics, All-American Documentaries, an American Soundtrack and America's Home Cooking series.

Informing viewers about the world and community is another important goal for WQED Multimedia. One outlet it uses to do this is Pittsburgh Magazine, which informs readers about the interesting people and places in and around the city. Additionally, WQED Multimedia provides an Educational Resource Center for teachers and has a community outreach program that combines the power of the media with community involvement to help inform Pittsburghers of important issues affecting them.

The more than 250 awards that WQED Multimedia has won over the years, including 60 Emmy's and 12 Peabody's, bear witness to the consistently high quality of programs the organization is producing.

Today, over 1,000,000 Pittsburgh households depend upon WQED. It is now the parent company of WQED TV Channel 13, WQED radio Channel 89.3 FM, WQED radio Channel 89.7 FM in Johnstown, PITTSBURGH magazine, local and national television and radio productions, www.wqed.org, and the WQED Education Resource Center.

Pittsburgh is justifiably proud of WQED Multimedia. Its broadcast, print, and Internet productions educate and entertain millions of Americans across the country. I want to congratulate WQED Multimedia on its 50th anniversary. I hope that WQED's high-quality contributions to our community—and this Nation—will continue for many years to come.

HONORING JULIO AVAEL FOR HIS
OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO
THE KEY WEST COMMUNITY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Julio Avel, Key West City Manager for his significant contribution to the citizens of the city of Key West. As a tribute to his dedication, the Miami-Dade County Office of the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners have designated Saturday, February 21, 2004, as Julio Avel Day.

During his 8-year tenure as Key West City Manager, Julio has demonstrated a profound commitment to our community. He has been especially instrumental in enhancing the government through implementation of historic preservation projects, neighborhood and park revitalization, and other citywide infrastructure improvements.

Julio's hard work has enabled him to become not only a dynamic city manager, but also an energetic member of the community.

HONORING SHARP HEALTHCARE'S
WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 14th Annual Sharp Women's Health Symposium. This year's symposium, scheduled for Saturday, February 28 at the San Diego Convention Center, focuses on women recharging for their health, their family, and their career. The Sharp Women's Health Symposium's mission is to empower women to assume greater personal responsibility for their own health and the health of their families. I offer the following resolution in recognition of the Sharp Women's Health Symposium:

Whereas, since 1989, Sharp HealthCare has hosted a daylong health symposium for women in San Diego and this event is widely

recognized as one of the most successful women's health symposiums in the country offer women a day of fun and health education. Since 1989, more than 16,000 women have attended the symposium.

Whereas, the Sharp Women's Health Symposium has become one of the largest women's health events in the country. One of the attractions of this event is keeping the focus on San Diego community and wellness resources. While the event reaches nearly 2,000 women in San Diego, many women travel great distances to attend the symposium because currently, there isn't an event in their geographical area that meets their needs like the symposium does.

Whereas, Sharp recognizes that women have special healthcare needs throughout all stages of their lives. The symposium energizes, inspires and enlightens San Diego women as they invest in their health and their lives. Participants gain new understandings that lead to better decision-making and improved physical and emotional health.

Whereas, women are seeking health and wellness information especially with the trend towards mind-body-spirit medicine. The Sharp Women's Health Symposium was developed to meet the needs of busy women and provide a one-day symposium—a sort of one stop shopping of practical health information.

Whereas, the Sharp Symposium energizes, inspires, and enlightens women to take an interest in their health. The event educates women about their bodies, and hopes that through the knowledge they gain, women will make better decisions regarding their health both physically and emotionally.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate Sharp Healthcare on its continuing success in educating women about healthcare. As a son, a husband, and the father of two daughters who is committed to programs to improve women's health, I applaud Sharp Healthcare for its longstanding efforts to improve the lives of women across the country.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF
TAYLOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taylor Elementary School of Henderson, NV, for the efforts of its administrators, faculty, students, and community in promoting the importance of reading. Through their participation in the National Reading Is Fundamental Competition, the members of Taylor Elementary School exemplify how our children thrive when given support—both in the classroom and from the surrounding community.

As they work to achieve national recognition for their Reading Is Fundamental efforts, the children and faculty of Taylor Elementary have gained the aid of the entire Henderson community; including high school students, local business men and women, and the mayor of Henderson, Jim Gibson. The importance of reading to these children and their teachers highlights the fact that true breakthroughs in education occur most effectively in the classroom. I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the efforts of those involved and

wish Taylor Elementary School all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO ALLOW A CREDIT AGAINST THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX WHERE STOCK ACQUIRED PURSUANT TO AN INCENTIVE STOCK OPTION IS SOLD OR EXCHANGED AT A LOSS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to ask for my colleagues' support on a bill I recently introduced. The bill will remedy a great injustice inflicted upon numerous taxpayers as a result of the operation of the Alternative Minimum Tax, AMT, system on the sale of shares of stock acquired by the exercise of incentive stock options, ISOs.

Many companies offer ISOs to reward the innovation and loyalty of their employees. Instead of being a reward, however, this generosity can result in an exorbitant tax burden on the employee. To illustrate, imagine an employee chooses to exercise his or her ISO to purchase 1,000 shares at \$10 each when the fair market value of those shares is \$100 per share. On paper, the employee just made \$90,000. At the end of the tax year, the AMT forces the employee to pay a tax on the \$90,000 gain of more than \$25,000, based on a taxpayer earning \$75,000 per year and supporting a family of four.

ISOs often require an employee to hold shares for a certain period of time. In my illustration, the employee is finally able to sell his shares a year later when, as has been the case many times over during the recent years, the unpredictability of the market forces the stock price down to \$40 per share. The employee gains \$30 per share for a total gain of \$30,000. The employee, however, already paid taxes on a \$90,000 gain. The tax liability on a \$30,000 gain is just over \$9,000—approximately \$16,000 less than what was paid in the year the ISOs were exercised. Due to the complicated nature of the AMT tax system, it could take the employee up to 11 years to recover that additional money paid to IRS on a liability that he did not really owe. That is money that our economy badly needs to be reinvested.

My bill will rectify this injustice in our tax system by amending the Internal Revenue Code to allow an immediate refundable credit in the tax year a taxpayer sells his or her shares, when that sale is made at a fair market value which is less than the fair market value used to determine the tax in the year the ISO was exercised. This refundable credit will merely be a return of money that the individual taxpayer paid into the general revenue but which he or she did not actually owe.

I ask all Members to join me in this effort to rectify this unbearable and unjustified tax burden from many middle-income families.

UNCLE ARTHUR AND ORVILLE WRIGHT

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the media reported that Rover and Opportunity were exploring the Martian surface. Mars is about 35 million miles from Earth, yet man can reach that alien world.

On December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, an equally awe-inspiring event took place. It was there that Wilbur and Orville Wright gave birth to man's ability to fly by successfully testing the first powered, heavier-than-aircraft that achieved sustained flight with a pilot aboard. The first flight was only 120 feet, far less than the distance to Mars, but that single event defined the 20th Century.

In the December 2003 issue of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Magazine, I learned, through an article written by my brother, Tom Simmons, that our family has a connection to the Wright Brothers. Our Great Uncle Arthur Ruhl was one of only six journalists in May 1908 to watch the Wright Brothers work with their aircraft at Kitty Hawk. An article about what Uncle Arthur saw appeared in *Colliers* magazine on May 30, 1908. But this story doesn't end with Uncle Arthur's article. He sent a copy of his story to the Wright Brothers and Orville sent back a warm reply. Emboldened by the inventor's response, and his own curiosity, Uncle Arthur wrote back and asked if he could take a flight. Orville responded that they had so many requests they were limiting their passengers to Army officials.

Undaunted, Uncle Arthur continued his correspondence with Orville Wright. By 1910 the Wright Brothers were exhibiting their aircraft because the public was paying to watch the flights. Who should be covering one of the exhibitions for *Colliers Weekly* but Uncle Arthur. He was watching Orville Wright train one of his students when the inventor extended the long sought invitation.

Uncle Arthur found the adventure exhilarating. He wrote, "It was now that we seemed, indeed, to be going like the wind—a wonderful sensation, like nothing else, so near to the earth, yet spurning it."

I fly between Washington and my home in Connecticut just about every weekend. Today air travel does not inspire the awe described by Uncle Arthur. But it is an amazing thing—the ability to fly thousands of miles around the world in a matter of hours, or to set foot on a planet that our ancestors looked at every night with amazement and wonder. I can now look at flight through the eyes of my Uncle Arthur; and I will probably never look at the trip between Washington and Connecticut so casually ever again.

HONORING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LUBBOCK

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge the Junior

League of Lubbock as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Through the course of my life, I have seen the Junior League do amazing things. As their mission statement reads, they were created to be "an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving our community through the effective action of trained volunteers". As innovative and radical as this mission statement sounded half a century ago, the League stands firm today, backed by a half century of successes.

In February of 1954, the Junior Welfare League of Lubbock was born into the Association of Junior Leagues International. Armed with a charter that was approved on March 15 of the same year, theirs has been a story of untiring determination and commitment. They have, over the past fifty years, been the gateway for several incredible women who have dedicated themselves to the cause of society. The League has consistently helped these women gain invaluable training and leadership skills, while providing for innumerable volunteer opportunities. Moreover, the fundraisers conducted by the organization over past years have borne fruit in the form of approximately three million dollars. This amount has added to the sparkle of the Lubbock community in the form of several outstanding and worthwhile projects. For example, Ronald McDonald House, Safety City, Fire Safety House, Children's Advocacy Center, and Legacy Play Village are just a few of their many noted accomplishments.

In this age and era, one often hears of how the cloud of selfishness and distrust has eclipsed our world. However, looking upon an organization like the Junior Welfare League of Lubbock, one cannot help but experience the light of compassion and giving that motivates it. It is even more impressive when one considers the discipline with which the volunteers work and coordinate. Without doubt, the League has whole-heartedly striven to fulfill the goals that they set when they were first formed.

The 183rd member to join the Association of Junior Leagues International, the Lubbock League is named as one of its finest chapters today. Indeed, it is impossible to imagine Lubbock without its beloved Junior Welfare League. Through their various volunteer projects, the organization has been instrumental in propelling Lubbock's growing prosperity. More importantly, it has served to act as an influential wind wane for the youth, and has repeatedly inspired the community to take up more volunteer projects. The organization's integrity and service-minded approach has endeared it to all the residents of Lubbock, and I am sure that I am not alone when I say that it has become a part of Lubbock history and society.

To dream of social work is not difficult. However, to actually persevere toward implementing that dream is not easy because it takes a lot of dedication, creativity and initiative. And so, when we celebrate 50 years of existence of the Lubbock's Junior Welfare League, we are actually celebrating those qualities and people that have made these 50 years a successful reality.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my hearty congratulations to the Junior League of Lubbock. I applaud them and extend my sincere wishes for all their future endeavors.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING UNC
CHARLOTTE CHANCELLOR EMERITUS
DEAN WALLACE COLVARD

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize UNC Charlotte Chancellor Emeritus Dean Wallace Colvard. On February 24, 2004 he will receive an award that recognizes his lasting impact on our nation. Dr. Colvard, 90, is the 2004 recipient of The Echo Award Against Indifference, given by the Echo Foundation in honor of his lifelong commitment to equity and justice.

Dr. Colvard is best known for his courageous stand against racial discrimination in 1963 as president of Mississippi State University, when he challenged an unwritten state policy and allowed the basketball team to travel to Loyola of Chicago to compete in the NCAA tournament against African American players. Although his team lost, 61–51, Colvard and Mississippi State won national respect for their quest to end segregation—and opened doors of opportunity for future generations.

Forty years later, in 2003, Mississippi State made national news for earning its second trip to the NCAA, and Colvard's actions were chronicled in a Sports Illustrated story looking back on the historic event. To this day, Colvard downplays the significance of his decision, saying he only did what was right.

Dr. Colvard was born in the Appalachian Mountains in Grassy Creek, N.C. in 1913—in a home with no electricity, indoor plumbing or running water. He was the first member of his family to go to college, entering the work-study program at Berea College in Kentucky with \$100 in his pocket. Those humble beginnings instilled in him a lifelong commitment to equity and justice.

He went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in animal physiology from the University of Missouri and a doctoral degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University. He has served as superintendent of North Carolina Agricultural Research Stations; professor and head of the animal science department and later, dean of agriculture at North Carolina State College; president of Mississippi State University; and first chancellor of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He played an instrumental role in shaping the new university by securing regional and national accreditation for its programs and building a campus to accommodate enrollment that swelled from 1,700 to 8,705 students during his chancellorship.

Dr. Colvard was also instrumental in creating University Research Park and Discovery Place Science Museum in Charlotte, and the North Carolina School for Math and Science in Durham—the nation's first public, residential high school that emphasizes a science and mathematics curriculum. Among Colvard's many honors are the United States Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Award (1966); the University of North Carolina University Award (1989); the North Carolina Public Service Award, presented by Gov. James Martin (1990); and honorary degrees from

Purdue University, Belmont Abbey College, UNC Charlotte and Berea College.

HONORING SARA BERLIN: A
YOUNG AND TRULY INSPIRING
COMMUNITY LEADER

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Miami's youngest community leaders, 11-year-old Sara Berlin, a 6th grader from Jacobson Sinai Academy Bergman Upper School in Miami. On Friday, February 13, 2004, Sara was honored by community leaders and organizers of "Do The Right Thing of Miami, Inc.," a program under the auspices of the City of Miami Police Department.

Although I have not had the opportunity to meet Sara yet, I feel as though I know her after reading her book about the agonizing plight of Haitian children. I do reserve the utmost respect for her recent and compassionate work.

It is my understanding that Sara was genuinely inspired to write her book after researching the plight of Haitian children and learning about my bill which would allow alien children to be transferred from the Department of Homeland Security to the Office of Refugee Resettlement within 72 hours of apprehension, and to be released from custody and placed into the community with a qualified relative or caretaker within 15 days of such apprehension. I am delighted to know that Sara included me in her book.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, our quest for simple justice and fairness for newly-arrived Haitians evokes the storied stance of our Nation as the defender of due process and human rights, particularly when the beneficiaries of our action are helpless children.

I am so grateful that Ms. Sara Berlin, a magnificent advocate in her own right, has added her own brave words to ours. We are strengthened yet again by her timely voice to the cause that calls attention to the cruel disenfranchisement of Haitians and their children.

Sarah writes,

Everyone should help kids. They shouldn't be locked up. Everyone should donate or do something to help out. It is really not fair. Kids should be able to live freely.

With her book on Haiti and specifically Haitian children, we are inspired by a greater appreciation of their struggles. I am moved by the inspiring description written about Sara's work of compassion thus: "I'm proud that Sara has taken an interest in helping others. The feelings she expressed, and the desire to help, are genuine and spontaneous."

I join our community in honoring Sara and her parents, classmates and teachers as they come together at the city of Miami Police Department. It is without a doubt that we will long remember this wonderful day as Sara inspires those of us who continue to care for the voiceless children of the world. We are comforted by her words in articulating their struggles to be free and living in a democratic country like ours.

Indeed, I am privileged to have been encouraged and inspired by her work, and I thank her for giving me the honor of representing her in the U.S. Congress.

IN HONOR OF AMERICA'S
FIREFIGHTERS

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, Please allow me to extend my thanks and gratitude to a class of extraordinary Americans who put their lives on the line daily for the security of our nation and its citizens—our firefighters. Yesterday marked National Firefighter's Day, and it is important for us to realize that in almost any emergency, the first agency called is the fire department—putting America's firemen and women among our nation's first lines of defense.

Every hour of every day, the 21,000 fire companies across the nation stand ready to answer the call. In my home state of Louisiana, nearly 20,000 firefighters in 592 departments are prepared to encounter any threat. While we may not see these men and women every day, their importance is unquestioned when an emergency arises.

Not only do firefighters provide our citizens with dependability in security, but their record of civic duty is long withstanding. Firefighters dedicate much of their free time to volunteer in their local communities. We've seen them at the grocery stores and intersections, encouraging citizens to "Fill the Boot" to contribute to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, for which they've raised nearly \$200 million over the past 50 years. When off-duty, a firefighter will often stop to help a stranded motorist, render aid at an accident, or just stop whatever they are doing to help. Our quality of life in America is better thanks to the services of our law enforcement, first responders and firefighters.

The security role our firefighters retain has evolved beyond just putting out fires. Our firefighters now deal with hazardous material response and medical emergencies. They train to be first responders and paramedics, comprise search and rescue squads to retrieve trapped victims in burning or collapsed buildings, and extract injured persons from car accidents. Some departments also have SCUBA teams and high angle rescuers.

The role of our firefighters changed forever when we witnessed 343 of them give their lives just two years ago. On 9/11, hundreds of firefighters rushed up the stairs of the burning World Trade Center, as everyone else was rushing down and out of the building. They saved thousands with their selfless bravery.

Now, after 9/11, we see more than ever the vital role firefighters play in our nation's security and preparedness. There should be no doubt that our firefighters remain squarely on the front lines of homeland security; and if terrorists strike again, they will be the first ones on the scene risking it all for our well being.

On National Firefighter's Day—and everyday—let's remember to say "thanks" to all of our brave and selfless firefighters.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ESTHER
"KITTY" BUHLER BRADLEY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Mrs. Esther "Kitty" Buhler Bradley, widow of General Omar N. Bradley, the last five-star general of the U.S. Army.

Mrs. Bradley was born in New York City and graduated from Manhattan Business College. In the late 1940s, she took a U.S. Government job in Japan and also began freelance writing for the military newspaper Stars & Stripes and the news service United Press. While on an assignment for the United Press in Okinawa, she first met General Bradley. She soon developed a close relationship with General Bradley and secured the rights to his life story, which she hoped to turn into a motion picture.

Upon returning to the United States in the 1950s, Mrs. Bradley found work as a film and television writer under the name Kitty Buhler. Some of her most notable projects were the 1958 Victor Mature film, "China Doll," and two television production series, "The 20th Century Fox Hour" and "My Three Sons."

In 1966, following the death of General Bradley's first wife, Mrs. Bradley and General Bradley were reunited, then married in San Diego.

Although Mrs. Bradley never realized her dream of taking her husband's life story to the big screen, parts of General Bradley's career were chronicled in the 1970 "Patton," starring George C. Scott as General George Patton and Karl Malden as General Bradley. The couple worked closely together, assisting in the making of the film.

For nearly 15 years, the Bradleys lived happily together. Mrs. Bradley not only was a loving wife to the highly respected and admired five-star general but also a successful freelance writer and screenwriter in her own right.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and work of Mrs. Bradley and express my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved her.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
HELIAS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING
CRUSADERS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Helias High School Marching Crusaders from Jefferson City, Missouri, have earned first place honors in the SBC/Cotton Bowl's band competition.

Under the direction of Ray Cardwell, the students placed first for middle-sized schools in the field competition, parade and jazz band categories.

Mr. Speaker, the Helias High School Marching Crusaders represented their school and their State with honor and distinction. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating them on their fine performance.

TRIBUTE TO BROWNIE TROOP 139
OF SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the girls of Brownie Troop 139 of South Haven, Michigan, who have over the last few months sent numerous care packages to our troops serving in Iraq. These young ladies have shown remarkable dedication and devotion to our troops, and I am confident that this great project has been received with gratitude and appreciation from those overseas.

Since the troop began their project, they have collected more than \$1,200 worth of items totaling 345 pounds. Some of the items these generous girls have sent include granola bars, playing cards, batteries, hand lotion, boot laces, and of course Girl Scout cookies. Over the holidays, the girls put together special packages to give our troops a sense of home.

Brownie Troop 139 is comprised of Jeanne Lyon, leader of Troop 139; Marilyn Shaefer, co-leader; Stephanie Balke; Maggie Filbrandt; Jessica Overholser; Hannah Lyon; Shelby Murphy; Erin Cooper; and Lauren Montgomery. The magnificent work this troop has done to encourage morale and give support to our troops has been inspiring. It greatly pleases me to honor the great charity these girls have done, and I find their patriotism and selflessness to be deeply moving.

PROTESTING THE U.N. GENERAL
ASSEMBLY'S DECISION TO RULE
ON THE LEGALITY OF ISRAEL'S
SECURITY FENCE

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protest the U.N. General Assembly's decision to rule on the legality of Israel's security fence.

I have just recently returned from Israel, where I had the opportunity to see firsthand the issues surrounding the security fence. Simply stated, Mr. Speaker, the purpose behind this temporary fence is to protect the Israeli people from suicide bombers and terrorists in a region marked by violence and instability.

However, the issue here today is not the lawfulness of Israel's security fence. It is the appropriateness of bringing such a complicated and political issue before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in an unbalanced manner.

I am encouraged by the administration's support for Israel before the court and agree that such proceedings could undermine the negotiations already under way between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. I encourage Congress to join the administration in sending a strong message to the U.N. opposing this anti-Israel decision.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
BYRON SPENCER PETERSEN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Matt and Wendy Petersen are celebrating the birth of their son, Byron Spencer Petersen; and

Whereas, Byron Spencer was born on the 16th day of February, 2004, and weighed 9 pounds and 6 ounces; and

Whereas, the Petersens have all occasion to celebrate with friends and family as they welcome Byron Spencer into their family;

Therefore, I join with the Members of Congress and their staff in congratulating Matt and Wendy Petersen and wishing Byron Spencer a very happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING JEAN E. SAWITZKY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jean E. Sawitzky. Jean will have completed 38 years of loyal and productive work for the United States Postal Service on February 29, 2004.

Jean Sawitzky began her outstanding career at the West Sacramento post office soon after graduating from high school. She worked her way up through the administrative ranks and has served as the Postmaster for Courtland and Clarksburg, California. In addition to running an efficient office, Jean's smile and superior customer service have marked her tenure. She will be missed.

Jean has also been a very active member of the West Sacramento and Delta communities, serving as a member and leader of numerous civic, church and community-service organizations.

In recent years she has become widely known for the quality and originality of her handmade quilts, and has been honored at the Yolo County and California State Fairs. Jean now teaches this craft to others in northern California.

We are confident that in her retirement years, Jean will find more time to invest in community service and her artistic endeavors. I want to thank Jean for her years of excellent service and wish her well in the active retirement years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Jean E. Sawitzky for her contributions to her community and her service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING SUE HOLMAN AND
SUSAN WEEKS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two extraordinary women who have jointly been named the city

of Sonoma's 2004 Alcaldesas, or honorary mayors.

For more than 10 years, Sue Holman and Susan Weeks have volunteered countless hours to Sonoma Valley's Meals on Wheels program. They work 5 days a week preparing 2 gourmet meals for housebound residents. A typical weekly fare is pork chops in mushroom sauce, spicy lamb logs, linguini and clams, tamale pie and roast beef. Over the past 10 years, they calculate that they have prepared a quarter of a million meals.

In addition to all of the food preparation, they prepare the menus, shop for groceries, do all of the baking, maintain inventory control and supervise the 90 volunteers who package and deliver the food and assist in the kitchen.

They recognize that many of the people they serve live alone and try to make each day special. Each holiday has a theme meal, and each client receives a personalized present or two at Christmas of Hanukkah and on their birthday, plus a split of wine or champagne.

They are able to maintain a high quality of fare and bolster the spirits of the people they serve while running the only all-volunteer Meals on Wheels program in the State of California.

In recognition of their contributions, the city of Sonoma designated them "los dos Alcaldesas," following a 28-year-old tradition of selecting someone in the community who works selflessly on behalf of others. The Alcaldese/Alcaldesa reflects the town's Spanish and Mexican heritage and the "honorary mayors" will preside at all ceremonial functions on behalf of the city.

Susan Weeks settled in Sonoma 18 years ago following an international career that took her to Jerusalem, South Africa and Washington, D.C. In addition to Meals on Wheels, she has also been active in public safety and infrastructure issues, and working with the Verano Springs Association and the Sonoma Valley Citizens Action Committee.

Sue Holman is a retired investment banker who has been in Sonoma 11 years. An animal lover, she was one of the driving forces in the establishment of Sonoma's only dog park.

Mr. Speaker, Susan Weeks and Sue Holman provide an invaluable service to their community, and it is appropriate that we honor them today as Sonoma, California's 2004 Dos Alcaldesas.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. JEREMY AND ANN PAVA—SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY LEADERS IN SERVICE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the contributions made by Mr. Jeremy Pava and Mrs. Ann Pava to the Jewish community. Over the courses of their lives, they have contributed greatly through both their service and generosity to the advancement of Jewish causes in New England.

Ann sits on the boards of both the Association of Modern Orthodox Day Schools at Yeshiva University as well as the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance. She also serves as the

President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield in Massachusetts. In 1999 Ms. Pava received this same Federation's Young Leadership Award.

Jeremy currently sits on the finance committee of the Heritage Academy and continues to serve as a trustee of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, as he has done since its inception. In the past, he has been the president of Congregation Kodimoh and the campaign chair for the Young Men's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield. In 1999 he received the Kodimoh Brotherhood Humanitarian Award. At present, he also is a managing partner at Aspen Square Management, a real estate investment company in West Springfield.

Alone their actions are more than noteworthy, however, together they have given even more to the Jewish community. They are a founding family, and generous supporters, of the Hebrew High School of New England in West Hartford, which opened in 1996. Additionally, Ann was the founding President. HHNE is the only Jewish high school between New York and Boston, serving families from different observant backgrounds in Springfield, Hartford, and New Haven regardless of their financial situation.

This school has grown significantly since its inception in 1996. This burgeoning school is now pushing the limits of its current location, thanks in no small part to the work of Mr. and Mrs. Pava. They have both contributed immensely to the school's vitality and growth. As a result, they are to be honored at the Hebrew High School's first Annual Scholarship Dinner. The proceeds will go towards a new building to house the school, so that it may continue to grow and serve more members of the Jewish community in New England.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to two extraordinary people from the Springfield area. Their work for HHNE, Jewish education, and the Springfield community is commendable, and the standard they set for public service is outstanding. People, such as the Pavas, are what make Springfield such a wonderful place to live, and I am personally glad to share this city with them.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2004 FEBRUARY 11, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, continuing my earlier statement, time is again running out in our effort to reauthorize our Federal highway, public transit, and transportation safety programs. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) expired on September 30, 2003, and Congress passed a 5-month extension, which expires on February 29. On September 24, during consideration of that extension bill, I stated: "I am afraid . . . we will be back here on this floor once again pleading for another extension of time to keep transportation programs from once again expiring. . . . I do not want to be back on this floor saying again what I said 6 years ago, time is running out."

Well, time is running out and we must again extend the programs. Why? Because ideology, not good policy, is driving this debate.

On November 19, 73 Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure introduced H.R. 3550, authorizing \$375 billion for the highway, transit, and transportation safety programs for the next six years. Today, the bill has 137 cosponsors. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee was poised to mark up this legislation last week, but the Republican Leadership has delayed its consideration.

Despite the fact that the funding levels included in our bill were derived from the Department of Transportation's highway and transit needs report, the Administration strongly opposes additional infrastructure investment. Last week, the President submitted his Budget to Congress and it flat-lined the highway and transit programs, and did not include one additional dollar for highway and transit investment over the next 6 years.

Why? When our country's economic strength, improve business productivity, and our desire to create a safe, efficient transportation system are all dependent upon increasing investment in our Nation's infrastructure, why does the Administration oppose such investment? It cannot be because of any renewed Republican concern about the size of the deficit—the President proposes \$1.2 trillion of new tax breaks that, if enacted, would result in a total of \$3.2 trillion of new tax breaks, primarily targeted at the wealthiest Americans, since assuming office in 2001.

When this Administration and the Republican-led Congress have presided over an economy that has seen the number of unemployed workers increase by 2.4 million workers and the construction industry is suffering under a 9.3 percent unemployment rate, why does this Administration oppose infrastructure investment that its own Department of Transportation estimates will create 47,500 jobs and \$6.2 billion for every \$1 billion of Federal funds invested? I am sure that the 800,000 construction workers who look for work each month would gladly line up for the more than 1.7 million construction jobs this bill will create and sustain over the next six years, including 445,000 jobs this year alone.

Why? Because the Administration and some of the Republican Leadership would rather kneel at the altar of "no new gas taxes" than develop the policy necessary to invest in our Nation's infrastructure. A few days ago, in an interview, President Bush implied that the highway and transit programs were fueling the Federal budget deficit. Nothing could be further from the truth. Nearly all of the expenditures from these programs are funded by the Highway Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is financed by revenues from user fees. It is a "pay-as-you-go" program; outgoing expenditures are tied to incoming revenues; and the revenues may only be used for infrastructure investment.

The Trust Fund is a model of fiscal discipline. The Byrd Amendment serves as an anti-deficiency mechanism that prevents the Trust Fund from over-spending. This system of user fees has been well-tested by decades of experience. It provides a clear and unambiguous way to provide the revenues required to make the necessary improvements to the system.

It is for these reasons that the bipartisan leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee propose to restore the purchasing power of the gas tax, which was last increased more than a decade ago. Under the Committee's proposal, the gas tax would increase by a nickel and the average commuter would pay only an additional \$36 per year. The user fee system has served us well. We should further utilize the strengths of that system to generate the necessary revenues to meet the needs of the transportation system.

Regrettably, the reason we are here today with another extension bill is because Administration ideology and political expediency is trumping good policy. The reauthorization bill is again delayed. As we approach the summer construction season, States will be slow to make the necessary investments during these uncertain times. Good-paying jobs will be lost or never created. Last fall, State transportation officials estimated that an extension bill would mean \$2.1 billion in project delays and the loss of more than 90,000 jobs. This extension simply compounds those losses.

Instead, we now face vigorous behind-the-scenes efforts by the Administration and the Republican Leadership to cut the funding levels in our bipartisan bill and develop budget schemes that shift money from one account to another—to increase revenue to the Highway Trust Fund without increasing the user fee. While I will work with all parties to ensure that we find the necessary resources to increase our transportation investment, I will not support smoke-and-mirror proposals that simply further ideological objectives or political expediency, but not the long-term interests of the highway and transit programs.

Faced with these current roadblocks, we must again extend the highway, transit, and transportation safety programs or face a shutdown of both the Department of Transportation agencies and Federal surface transportation funding.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, there is one other very important element of this extension that deserves mention. That element is its continuation of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) program, as that program is set forth in TEA 21. Since enactment of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, Congress has included a program to aid socially and economically disadvantaged businesses to successfully compete for transportation construction contracts. Because of this program, we have made impressive strides in increasing the participation of minority- and women-owned businesses in Federally-assisted transportation construction contracts. Today, more than 20,000 DBE's participate in the program. However, as recent evidence demonstrates, there continues to be a compelling need for the DBE program.

The current program is narrowly tailored to allow States to set and refine goals for participation of disadvantaged businesses in Federally-assisted transportation contracts. These goals must be appropriate for the State's population. Further, the current program requires States to try and meet those goals by race-neutral means. It is only when race-neutral means fail to achieve sufficient DBE participation, that race-conscious means may be used.

Indeed, as recent data provided by the States have shown, the lasting effects of discrimination are such that the overwhelming majority of States must continue to use race-

conscious means to try and achieve their participation goals. For example, my home state of Minnesota established a goal for 2002 of 10.3 percent DBE participation in Federally-assisted transportation construction contracts. Minnesota officials determined that only 2.6 percent of this goal could be achieved with race-neutral means and 7.7 percent would need to be met using race-conscious means. Despite its good-faith effort to achieve this self-imposed goal, Minnesota was only able to achieve 6.63 percent DBE participation.

Minnesota's experience demonstrates two important facts about the program. First, as courts throughout the country have found, the DBE program is truly one of setting goals; it is not a quota system. States must make a good-faith effort to achieve its goal. Second, the goal setting required by the DBE program is crucial to increasing participation of DBE's in Federally-assisted transportation contracts. In Minnesota state-funded transportation contracts, where there was no DBE goal established, DBE participation was only 4.42 percent.

By extending this program today, we specifically reaffirm the government's compelling interest in ensuring that States receiving Federal funds for transportation construction make a good faith effort to ensure participation by minority- and women-owned businesses in those construction projects.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3783.

HONORING SUSAN BOOTH FOR HER
OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community, Susan Booth, as she is honored by the Devon Rotary and named a Paul Harris fellow. The Paul Harris fellow recognition was created in memory of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, as a way to show appreciation for contributions to the foundation's charitable and educational program. Every Paul Harris fellow receives a pin, medallion and a certificate when he or she becomes a fellow, identifying the recipient as an advocate of the foundation's goals of world peace and international understanding. The commitment and dedication that Susan has demonstrated is indeed a reflection of all that the Rotary stands for. It is wonderful to see her work so proudly recognized by her community.

Founder of the Archway Foundation, Susan has spent nearly 15 years collecting donations to feed and clothe homeless children in Romania. Inspired by a television program about Romanian orphans abandoned when communism collapsed, Susan, a railroad conductor on a commuter train between Connecticut and New York's Grand Central Station, switched to night shifts so that she could earn a master's degree in social work. Upon completing her degree, Susan went to Bucharest on a week's vacation in search of these Romanian orphans who were living in sewers

and abandoned buildings. With only a short list of contacts, Susan was fortunate to find an individual who knew where to look. "In that sewer, I found my life's work," she has said. Indeed, she has dedicated countless hours to her mission.

Operating out of her own home and a post office box, Susan collects clothing and donations and has been awarded hundreds of thousands in charitable grants. Through her hard work and the generosity of her contributors, Archway has been able to purchase two small homes in Romania as well as employ several Romanians. One of the homes is used as a soup kitchen from which volunteers take food out to hundreds of homeless children every week and provide groceries to squatter families who take refuge in abandoned buildings.

It is not often that you find an individual with such dedication and commitment. Susan's good work has touched the lives of thousands of needy children. More importantly, she has inspired countless numbers of people to donate their time and energy to provide one of life's most precious gifts: hope.

I am proud to stand today to join the Devon Rotary and the many family and friends who have gathered this evening in extending my sincere thanks and heart-felt congratulations to Susan Booth as she is named a Paul Harris fellow. Yours is a legacy that is sure to continue to inspire generations to come.

INDIA DISSOLVES PARLIAMENT:
ELECTIONS COMING; MINORITY
NATIONS SHOULD VOTE FOR
FREEDOM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I noticed the other day that India is dissolving its Parliament on February 6. They will be having new elections soon, perhaps as soon as March.

These elections, unlike ours, change faces, but don't seem to change policy. The repression of minorities continues no matter who wins. This repression has killed over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of other minorities. More than 52,000 Sikhs, as well as tens of thousands of other minorities, continue to be held as political prisoners. Yet India cites elections like the ones upcoming to show that it is a democracy.

That isn't very democratic for the minorities, is it, Mr. Speaker? As I have said before, the mere fact that they have the right to choose their oppressors doesn't mean they live in a democracy.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has issued an open letter to the Sikhs in Punjab on the elections urging the Sikhs in Punjab to reject all major parties and vote for candidates inclined to support the freedom of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence on October 7, 1987. That is the only way the Sikhs can survive. The Akali Dal is corrupt, he points out, and the Congress Party organized the June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple, the seat of Sikhism.

We can support this cause by stopping U.S. aid to India until human rights are fully observed for all people there and by declaring our support for a free and fair vote on the subject of independence for Khalistan, for Kashmir, for Nagalim, and for all the minority nations of South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the Council of Khalistan's open letter on the upcoming elections into the RECORD at this time.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, February 4, 2004.

OPEN LETTER TO THE KHALSA PANTH
PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED; ELECTIONS COMING
SIKHS MUST STOP SUPPORTING CORRUPT
BADAL, WHO DIMINISHED IMAGE OF SIKH NATION
ONLY IN A FREE KHALISTAN CAN SIKHS
PROSPER AKALI LEADERSHIP CONTROLLED BY
INDIAN GOVERNMENT

DEAR KHALSA PANTH: WAHEGURU JI KA
KHALSA, WAHEGURU JI KI FATEHI!

The Indian government has dissolved Parliament. New elections are coming, perhaps as soon as March. Elections under the Indian Constitution will not free the Sikh Nation. Use this opportunity, however, to elect committed, honest Sikhs who are committed to freeing Khalistan to Parliament. Do not support Badal or the Akalis. They are corrupt and have betrayed the Khalsa Panth. Not even a single Akali protested the unprecedented corruption of Badal. They have disgraced the name of the old Akalis who sacrificed their lives for the well being of the Sikh Nation.

The Guru gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation. ("In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi.") The Sikh Nation must achieve it. We always remember it by reciting every morning and evening, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

The fire of freedom still burns strong and bright in the heart of the Sikh Nation. Last year Sikhs openly held seminars in Punjab on the subject of Khalistan. This is a very good sign and we salute the people who participated in these seminars. They are keeping the flame of freedom lit. Now I urge Sikhs to unite and take action to liberate our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. It is time to start a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation.

Never forget that the Akal Takht Sahib and Darbar Sahib are under the control of the Indian government, the same Indian government that has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs in the past twenty years. The Jathedar of the Akal Takht and the head granthi of Darbar Sahib toe the line that the Indian government tells them. They are not appointed by the Khalsa Panth. The SGPC, which appoints them, does not represent the Sikh Nation anymore. They have become the puppets of the Indian government and have lost credibility with the Sikh Nation. Otherwise they would behave like a real Jathedar, Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, rather than like Indian government puppet Jathedar Aroor Singh, who gave a Siropa to General Dyer for the massacre at Jalianawa Bagh. These institutions will remain under the control of the Indian regime until we free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation and oppression and sever our relations with the New Delhi government.

Yet the Akali Dal continues to support Badal, even though he was prosecuted and jailed for his corruption. According to India-West, the Punjab Vigilance Bureau carried out raids on Badal's properties for several months and filed a charge-sheet in a local court charging Mr. Badal with siphoning off Rs. 784 million, the equivalent of \$17 million in U.S. money, during his five years as chief

minister. The article says that Mr. Badal and his family hold assets of Rs. 43.26 billion (nearly \$1 billion), most of which are located outside India. Half the population of India lives below the international poverty line. About 40 percent live on less than \$2 per day.

The Badal government was the most corrupt one in Punjab's history. They sold jobs for a fixed fee. They came up with a new, dignified term for bribery: "fee for service." If you didn't pay the fee, you didn't get the service. The Chief Minister's wife was so experienced that she could pick up a bag of money and tell how much money was in it. Parkash Singh Badal was a disaster for Punjab and a disgrace to the Sikh Nation. How can the Akali Dal, which is supposed to represent the interests of the Sikh Nation, continue to support him?

Badal's corruption brought Punjab to bankruptcy. He was bankrupt morally and religiously as well as bankrupting Punjab financially. It is time for new leadership that shows the moral fabric a Sikh is supposed to have. Badal has destroyed the moral fabric of the Sikh religion. What happened to the concept of fairness and honesty?

The Akalis who protest Badal's prosecution are morally degenerate. They are destroying the moral fabric of Sikhism as a religion and a society. They should be ashamed of themselves. In addition to stealing from the people of Punjab, Mr. Badal worked against the cause of Sikh freedom. Badal was under the complete control of his masters in New Delhi, the militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalist BJP. He has a long record of betraying the Sikh Nation.

The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikh during June 1984 in Punjab. If Sikhs will not even protect the sanctity of the Golden Temple, how can the Sikh Nation survive as a nation?

The Akali Dal has lost all its credibility. The Badal government was so corrupt openly and no Akali leader would come forward and tell Badal and his wife to stop this unparalleled corruption. That is why the Akali Dal was defeated in the elections by the Congress Party. The Sikh Nation never can forgive or forget the attack on the Golden Temple. The Congress Party is the enemy of the Sikh Nation. Badal was so corrupt that the Sikhs had to vote for their enemy, the Congress Party, rather than Badal and his henchmen because there was no other party to vote for.

Because Sikhs are slaves in India, there is nobody to defend the Sikh interests internationally. Recently, an issue came up of the French banning the wearing of turbans in school. If Khalistan were free, the Sikh Nation could call the French Ambassador and tell him to stop this harassment of Sikhs. Our Ambassador to France would tell the French government the same thing: the turban is part of the Sikh religion and Sikhs should not be harassed.

Remember the words of Professor Darshan Singh, former Akal Takht Jathedar: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Sikhs should vote only for candidates who are prepared to do so. Otherwise, you are just voting to condemn your children and grandchildren to continued slavery under brutal Brahmin theocratic rule.

The time to achieve our independence is now. India is not one country. It has 18 official languages. Soon Kashmir will be free from Indian occupation. Now America is involved in it. As L.K. Advani predicted, "When Kashmir goes, India goes." We agree with him.

When I met President Bush on December 5, he personally told me, "I am aware of the Sikh and Kashmiri problem and we stopped India and Pakistan from going to nuclear

war." The Sikh diaspora has a moral responsibility to help the Sikh Nation to achieve its sovereignty by freeing Khalistan from Indian occupation.

The time has come to liberate our homeland. It is the only way that we can prevent further degenerations of the Sikh Nation like the Badal regime. Sikhs must claim their birthright by liberating Khalistan. Only by freeing Khalistan will we put an end to this corruption and restore control of Punjab and its assets to the people, to whom it rightfully belongs. A free Khalistan is a must for the survival of the Sikh nation and will provide an optimal environment for the Sikh Nation to progress to its optimum potential politically, religiously, and economically.

Panth Da Sewadar,
Dr. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

HONORING JULIE DEMARIA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to honor Julie DeMaria and her family, and the people of San Jose on the establishment of Operation Care and Comfort.

Operation Care and Comfort is a self-funded, all-volunteer organization whose sole purpose is to supply care packages to the men and women of our military serving overseas. Since last summer Julie rallied neighborhood volunteers and businesses to donate items, including T-shirts, pins, hats and food items to send in the care packages. Most importantly, hand written letters of support are included in each package to the troops, showing our gratitude, and support for their service to our country.

Because of Julie's efforts, the San Jose community has now shipped over 27,500 pounds of care packages to our troops and she is still going! Her devotion to her community and love for her country does not go unrecognized.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I want to thank Julie DeMaria, her family, and all the volunteers in the San Jose Community involved in Operation Care and Comfort for their service to the United States.

REMEMBERING LUCILLE
WESTBROOK

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to rise in honor of the life and lasting memory of Lucille Westbrook. Lucille, a fifth-generation Arkansan, was born in the small town of Nathan, attended Nashville public schools, and spent her life as an involved citizen, advancing issues dearest to her and worked to preserve the heritage of her community and state. She passed away Saturday, January 31, 2004, at the age of 86.

Described by those who knew her well as "brilliant" and "beloved", Lucille was a well known face and name to the citizens of Howard County. Early in her life, she worked for

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and later for Senator William J. Fulbright. Lucille remained active in Democratic politics, serving as an election official in Democratic primaries and general elections in Howard County.

She remained an active and influential member of the community through her volunteer service and civic activities. She was a charter member of the Mine Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a Board member of the Nashville Cemetery Association, and a Board member and President of the Howard County Library System.

Lucille's thirst for knowledge led her to become the area's unofficial historian. In this capacity, she co-founded the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives in Washington, Arkansas where she volunteered for 24 years, serving as Director of the Archives from 1990–2002. Other projects important to her included working to restore and preserve buildings in nearby Washington and completing a book about the Corinth area in Howard County.

I know the impact which individuals like Lucille can have on a small community. She continually made a priority of helping others learn more about their neighborhoods, communities and family heritages. In 1979, the Arkansas Historical Association recognized her work in preserving the role of history in our lives by establishing an annual \$500 award, named in her honor, to the author of the best report on a topic in Arkansas history.

I extend my warmest sympathies to her brother Parker Westbrook of Nashville, her extended family, and the countless friends and individuals who knew and loved Lucille.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
LT. COLONEL PETE GANDY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of my constituents, who will soon be joining the ranks of the retired commissioned officers of the United States Air Force, Lt. Colonel Pete Gandy.

Colonel Gandy, a master navigator with 3,600 flying hours and a graduate of the Squadron Officers School and Air Command and Staff College, has served his country honorably and faithfully for the past thirty years.

Upon graduation through the ROTC program at Memphis State University, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force. Colonel Gandy later received training as a navigator at Mather Air Force Base in California.

Throughout Colonel Gandy's career, he was assigned a multitude of important missions for the betterment of our country's security. His work history and past responsibilities have served as a testament of faith and trust that America has bestowed upon him.

While on active duty, he was assigned Chief of the Munitions Maintenance Division, 1st Strategic Air Division at Vandenberg AFB, California, where he was responsible for test launches for Minuteman III and Titan II ICBM re-entry vehicles. Colonel Gandy also served at Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt AFB, Nebraska where he was involved

with planning and installation of Minuteman III missiles at SAC bases in North Dakota.

After his training as a radar navigator, Colonel Gandy was assigned to a B–52 combat crew of the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot AFB, North Dakota. He served as an instructor and flight examiner with the Wing's Standardization and Evaluation Division during his ARC Light tour to U Tapao Air Base, Thailand and Anderson, AFB, Guam. Upon Colonel Gandy's return to the United States, he received orders to the Plans, Policy, and Programs Division at Headquarters SAC where he worked to increase our Nation's security.

While on inactive duty in the Tennessee Air National Guard as a C–130 navigator, he participated in numerous exercises and deployments to Europe, Central and South America, and Southwest Asia in support of Operations Just Cause and Desert Shield.

In July 1993 Colonel Gandy received a commission in the Louisiana State Guard, promoted to the rank of Colonel, and served as the Disaster Preparedness Liaison for the City of New Orleans. This assignment made him a key player with the state and the city to improve hurricane preparedness.

During his career he was awarded the Defense Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Medal for Meritorious Achievement, among others.

Much of his success was due to the total and unwavering support of his wife, Janice and two children David and Tricia.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize this brave airman for the example he has set for our country, and for Northwest Florida. I offer my sincere thanks for all that he has done for Northwest Florida and the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO MARK MARCHUS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mark Marchus and thank him for his many contributions to Routt County, Colorado. After 6 years of impeccable service to the Routt County Regional Building Department, Mark announced his impending retirement. He has done much to enhance his community, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his service.

During his tenure with the Routt County Regional Building Department, Mark distinguished himself as an able and competent leader. He made the department more customer friendly, and was instrumental in developing a computer tracking system to aid contractors to monitor each step involved in receiving a building permit. He also implemented an interactive voice system that allows contractors to request building inspections until Midnight the day before. These technological improvements significantly improved the department's efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mark Marchus and wish him all the best as he steps down on April 30 from the Routt County Regional Building Department. He has dedicated his time and energy toward the betterment of the Routt county community and cer-

tainly deserves the praise and admiration of this body of Congress and this Nation. Mark, thank you for your dedicated service.

CONGRATULATING CHARLES
FLACK UPON RECEIVING THE
B'NAI B'RITH COMMUNITY SERV-
ICE AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my very good friend, Charles "Rusty" Flack, Jr., of Dallas, Pennsylvania, who received the Community Service Award from the Seligman J. Strauss Lodge No. 139 of the B'nai B'rith. Mr. Flack received the award on February 22, 2004 at the 58th annual Lincoln Day Dinner. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Flack for this well-deserved honor and expressing our appreciation for the positive contributions he has made to Northeastern Pennsylvania as both a businessman and as a member of the community.

For nearly a quarter of a century, Mr. Flack has served as Chairman and CEO of Diamond Manufacturing Company, a West Wyoming-based company that employs 250 individuals and has grown to become North America's largest supplier of perforated metals. In 1998, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry bestowed upon Diamond Manufacturing Company its Small Business of the Year Award, and in 2001, Diamond Manufacturing earned the distinction of being one of the Best Places to Work in Pennsylvania. These achievements are especially noteworthy because Rusty and his brother Hal inherited Diamond Manufacturing under tragic circumstances when their father died suddenly at an early age. Although only in their twenties when they took over the business, Rusty and Hal have led Diamond not only to survive, but to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I do not rise today merely to extol the success Mr. Flack has had as a businessman, though those accomplishments should not be dismissed. Despite the responsibilities any small business demands from its owner, Rusty has always remained involved in numerous civic, religious and educational endeavors and organizations. In each instance, he has performed with a commitment worthy of the award he is about to receive. I have called upon him myself on numerous occasions to seek his counsel and request his assistance in mediating difficult situations. The respect with which he is held within the community helped enormously in bringing adverse parties together.

Among his many civic activities, Mr. Flack currently serves as Chairman of the Wyoming Valley Health Care System, the largest employer in Luzerne County; as the treasurer of the Wyoming Seminary, a prominent K–12 preparatory school in Northeastern Pennsylvania; and as a trustee for the College of Misericordia, a leading institution of higher learning. As an active member of the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Dallas, Pennsylvania, Mr. Flack has sung in the choir, taught religion to young churchgoers, and served in the vestry as a senior warden.

Mr. Speaker, earning the esteem of the B'nai B'rith deserves this body's recognition because it is a widely respected organization dedicated to the community it shares with people of all faiths. It is a privilege for me to stand before the House of Representatives to honor an individual like Charles "Rusty" Flack, Jr. I offer my deepest congratulations to him on his becoming a recipient of a Community Service Award, and I urge my colleagues to join Seligman J. Strauss Lodge No. 139 and me in extending our gratitude and admiration to a remarkable citizen who has distinguished himself as a businessman and a civic leader.

KERRY STATEMENT CALLING
SIKHS TERRORISTS A MISTAKE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as an American and a Democrat, it was not good news when I was informed by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, that Senator JOHN KERRY, the frontrunner for my party's nomination for President, had made a speech in Oklahoma on January 31 in which he described the Sikhs as terrorists. This is a mistake on Senator KERRY's part and one I hope he will correct promptly.

I have been following South Asian affairs for some time now and I can tell you that Sikhs are committed to freedom. I have met members of the Sikh community here in the United States, which is half a million strong, and they are hardworking people who are dedicated to their families, their religion, America, and freedom for their Sikh brothers and sisters back home in Punjab, Khalistan.

The Indian government has been oppressing the Sikhs ever since independence. Shortly after India got its independence, the Indian government sent out a memo describing Sikhs as "a criminal class" and ordering police to take special measures to suppress them. This is shameful. Since 1984, India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, according to the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights organizations. They hold over 52,000 political prisoners. Some have been in illegal custody without charge or trial for 20 years, Mr. Speaker. Two decades! Is that a democratic way to do things?

India's propaganda machine is working overtime to maintain this false picture of Sikhs as a "criminal class" devoted to terrorism. They have even hired two lobbying firms, expensive ones, to carry out this work. Unfortunately, it appears that they managed to misinform the Senator from Massachusetts on this matter. I am sure he will correct himself soon, and I urge him to do so.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, it is up to us to do what we can to press for democracy in the subcontinent. Cutting off India's aid would be a good start. This is one of the most effective ways to promote basic human rights for everyone in South Asia. Another very effective means would be to call on India to hold a free and fair vote on the question of independence, the democratic way. By doing this, we help bring the glow of freedom and the blessings of liberty to everyone in that troubled part of the world.

I also call on Senator KERRY to recognize the legitimate aspirations of the Sikhs and the others fighting to free themselves from the yoke of Indian oppression. That they are doing so by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means shows that the Indian government's picture of them as terrorists is false. I await the Senator's correction.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to add the Council of Khalistan's letter to Senator KERRY requesting a correction and repudiation of his statement to the RECORD so that people can see the real situation in South Asia.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, February 11, 2004.

Senator JOHN F. KERRY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KERRY: I am writing to you today on behalf of half a million Sikh Americans and over 25 million Sikhs worldwide to say that your remarks equating Sikhs with terrorists were offensive to the Sikh community. While giving a speech in Oklahoma, you referred to "the Sikhs in India" as an example of terrorism.

Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic, revealed religion, not a part of any other religion. Sikhs are distinctive by our religion, language, and culture from any other people on Earth.

Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849. Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims, and Christians all participated in the government. Sikhs are a separate nation and people.

At the time of India's independence, three nations were to receive sovereign power: the Muslims, who got Pakistan, the Hindus, who got India, and the Sikhs. Sikhs took their share with India on the solemn promise that Sikhs would enjoy "the glow of freedom" in Punjab and no law affecting Sikh rights would be passed without our consent. Instead, almost as soon as the ink was dry on India's independence, Nehru sent out a directive describing Sikhs as "a criminal class" and ordering police to take extraordinary measures against us.

Since June 1984, India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human rights groups and published in the book *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. A report from the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Indian forces carried out the March 2000 massacre in the village of Chithisinghpura, according to two independent investigations. Indian forces were caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Sikh Gurdwara and Sikh homes in a village in Kashmir. Sikh and Muslim villagers joined hands to stop them.

The book *Soft Target*, written by two Canadian journalists, Zuhair Kashmeri of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Brian McAndrew of the *Toronto Star*, shows conclusively that the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 innocent people, to blame it on the Sikhs and have an excuse for more repression.

Other minorities such as Christians and Muslims, among others, have also felt the lash of Indian repression. Over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland have been killed by the terrorist Indian regime. Nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, churches have been burned, schools and prayer halls have been destroyed, all with impunity. A mob of militant Hindus affiliated with the parent organization of the ruling BJP mur-

dered missionary Graham Staines and his two sons by burning them to death while they slept in their jeep, all the while chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. India threw missionary Joseph Cooper from Pennsylvania out of the country after he was beaten so severely that he had to spend a week in the hospital. A Christian religious festival on the theme "Jesus is the answer" was broken up by police gunfire.

Almost two years ago, Muslims were massacred in Gujarat while police were ordered to stand by and do nothing, according to Indian newspaper reports. One newspaper quoted a policeman as saying that the Indian government planned the massacre in advance. This is an eerie parallel to the 1984 massacre of Sikhs in Delhi, in which police were locked in their barracks while the state-run radio and television called for more Sikh blood.

An Indian Cabinet minister was quoted as saying that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindu. This kind of religious fanaticism as state policy is dangerous and anti-democratic. We would not want it in America; why should we support it in India?

On October 7, 1987, Sikhs declared their independence from India, naming their new country Khalistan. We are committed to liberating Khalistan by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means. History shows that multinational states such as Austria-Hungary, the Soviet Union, and India are doomed to fall apart. We intend to see that this happens peacefully, in the manner of Czechoslovakia, not violently like Yugoslavia. Yet simply supporting a sovereign, independent Khalistan is what India calls terrorism.

The 20,000 Sikhs who were murdered in the June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple and 37 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab were not terrorists. They were seeking refuge from the Indian government's tyranny. Yet the Indian government insists on describing them as "terrorists," as if repeating it often enough will make it true.

Senator Kerry, we respectfully request that you apologize to the Sikh Nation and the Sikh community in the United States for your remark. I urge you to support measures to bring freedom to all the people of the subcontinent. Sikhs share the commitment to freedom you showed when you fought in Vietnam and in your service in public office. There was even a Sikh member of Congress in the late 1950s, Dalip Singh Saund of California. We look forward to working with you in the future to bring the blessings of liberty to everyone in the subcontinent.

If you would like any further information or would like to meet about these issues, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

HONORING THE VIETNAMESE
BHIKSHU BUDDHIST COUNCIL'S
CEREMONIAL REMEMBRANCE OF
MASTER MINH DANG QUANG

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the San Jose Vietnamese Bhikshu Buddhist Council's annual remembrance of Buddhist Master Minh Dang Quang.

According to the Bhikshu Buddhist Council, Master Minh Dang Quang founded the indigenous Vietnamese Buddhist Order "Tang Gia

Khat Si", normally referred to in English as the Mendicant Buddhist Order, in Southern Vietnam. This order represents a unique combination of Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. On the Second day of the Second month in the Year of the Horse (1954) during a time of political turmoil, Master Minh Dang Quang went missing and the Monks and Nuns of this order observe his disappearance each year as a religious ceremony.

According to the Bhikshu Buddhist Council, this year marks the 50th anniversary to celebrate the long-lasting work of Buddhist Master Minh Dang Quang and his founding of the Vietnamese Sakya Muni Dharma School of Buddhism. Although, Master Minh Dang Quang is not with us today, his followers continue their Master's teachings in Vietnam and all over the world.

I am pleased to know that in my City of San Jose, California, the Vietnamese Bhikshu Buddhist Council can freely meet, worship, and practice their faith without fear of persecution.

But that is not enough. We must demand that all Buddhists around the world, and others attempting to practice and worship their faith, are able to do so freely without fear of persecution.

We must continue passing legislation like the Vietnam Human Rights Act to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam and House Resolution 427 that praises the courageous leadership of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam and the urgent need for religious freedom and related human rights in Vietnam.

We cannot sit idly by as the Vietnamese government continues to oppress its people while hiding behind the veil of free trade. On this special day, I recognize the 50th Anniversary of the remembrance of Buddhist Master Minh Dang Quang and reassert my commitment to fighting for human rights in Vietnam.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF DR.
DONALD L. MILLER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor the life of Dr. Donald L. Miller. He lived a life devoted to the love, care and education of others and leaves a legacy carried on by the many lives he touched; either directly through personal relations or indirectly through his efforts to improve the quality of health care now available to Arkansans.

Dr. Miller was born in Little Rock, received his doctorate of medicine from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and spent nearly his entire life devoting energy and vision to the improvement of health care in Arkansas.

Dr. Miller was a member of numerous community, university, and professional committees and organizations including the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, and the First United Methodist Church. However, it was his work with Area Health Education Center programs that gained him the greatest notoriety. Dr. Miller served as an influential force in getting the program under way in the state and became Director of the Pine Bluff Area Health Education Center.

As Director, he earned the esteem of his fellow members of the American College of Physicians, who would write that "his greatest achievement has been the development of the most productive AHEC program in Arkansas." In 1995, they presented Dr. Miller with the Robert Shields Abernathy Award for Excellence in Internal Medicine in recognition of his achievements and sustained commitment to the program.

Under the vision and leadership of Dr. Miller, countless students as well as residents of internal medicine and family practice are more adequately trained in the various technical aspects of health care through the work of the Pine Bluff AHEC. As a result, many quality physicians have been attracted to the area where they now provide quality health care to the citizens of Southeast Arkansas. It is yet another indication of the broad impact Dr. Miller has had on his state, his community, and his fellow citizens.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Peggy, and his daughters, Mollie, Sheila, and Karen. I extend my sincerest sympathies to them and can only hope that we find some solace in the lasting legacy of Donald Miller as his spirit lives on in each of us.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
LT. COL. ROBERT L. REINLIE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lt. Col. Robert L. Reinlie for his tireless fight for his fellow veterans.

Lt. Col. Reinlie and the late William O. "Sam" Schism engaged Col. George "Bud" Day, Medal of Honor recipient and former POW, as their attorney. By becoming a plaintiff in a 1996 lawsuit, Lt. Col. Reinlie challenged the United States government to honor healthcare commitments made to WWII/Korea era military retirees.

Lt. Col. Reinlie's extraordinary farsighted vision recognized the need for a plan to support his legal efforts. Lt. Col. Reinlie took it upon himself to begin organizing, what later became the Class Act Group.

With untiring and aggressive pursuit, Lt. Col. Reinlie's efforts were extended into a nationwide grass roots network that was instrumental in forging Congressional legislation favorable to military retirees. Lt. Col. Reinlie helped initiate this grass roots initiative through billboards, letter writing campaigns, demonstrations, phone and fax communication blitzes, meetings, marches, web sites, letters to editors, press releases, all geared to influencing Congressional attention. His dynamic and selfless leadership and commitment drove him to a presence in Class Act Group office spaces, even when extensive surgery was imminent and during extended rehabilitation.

His tireless dedication served as a contributing and encouraging factor for his attorney, Col. Day, and the legal fight to the United States Supreme Court. This fight led by Lt. Col. Reinlie was a major contributing factor to the military retiree medical benefit now referred to as TRICARE for Life and The Senior Pharmacy Program. The WWII/Korea era mili-

tary retiree fight is not over and Lt. Col. Reinlie, at the young age of 82, is still in the battle to honor his fellow veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I, on behalf of the United States Congress, salute Lt. Col. Reinlie. With the encouragement and significant contribution from his wife Marilyn, he reflects a great credit upon himself, our Nation, and the courage of soldiers that gave us the freedom we enjoy today. I offer my sincere thanks for all that he has done for Northwest Florida and this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JOE ESPINOZA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Joe Espinoza, who passed away recently at the age of ninety-two. Joe embodied the ideals of patriotism, integrity and love of family that we, as Americans, have come to expect from our public servants. As his family mourns the loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Joe and pay tribute to his contributions to his city, state and country.

Joe began his service to this nation as a Marine in World War II, and following an honorable discharge, returned to Colorado where he and his wife, Melissa, opened their family restaurant and bar, El Patio. He entered a life of public service in 1978 when he was elected Mayor of San Luis, an office he held for three terms. During his tenure, Joe enjoyed the distinction of being the town's oldest mayor. He is survived by two sons, Josito and Abby; four daughters, Theresa, Margaret, Joetta, and Claudine; twenty-two grandchildren, thirty-one great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the memory of Joe Espinoza. He was a beloved family man and public servant who also made numerous contributions to his community. The San Luis community and the State of Colorado will truly miss Joe, and my thoughts go out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

CHARLES ADONIZIO, JR. HONORED
POSTHUMOUSLY BY PITTSBURGH
SUNDAY DISPATCH

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to the life of my very good friend, the late Charles "Cugsy" Adonizio. On Sunday, February 8, 2004, the Pittsburgh Sunday Dispatch honored his life with the Joseph Saporito Award for Lifetime of Service to Greater Pittston. A loving husband to Helen for 57 years and the father of six children, Charles Adonizio, Jr. passed away last October at the age of 88 years old.

The editor of the Sunday Dispatch, Ed Ackerman, recently wrote an excellent story outlining the life of this community-spirited man

who inspired so many in the Greater Pittston area of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I would like to reprint that article below.

JOSEPH SAPORITO LIFETIME OF SERVICE
AWARD

If you knew "Cugsy" Adonizio you know he always cried when he was happy. He'd tell a funny story and inevitably his laughter turned to tears.

Such paradox tells the story of Cugsy's life. He was successful, yet humble, strict yet compassionate, powerful yet gentle.

In his later years, as he battled a heart condition, Cugsy became weak yet strong. He needed the assistance of a cane, but still walked a couple of miles every day. And while walking was difficult for him, swinging a golf club was not. He scored a hole-in-one at the age of 81.

And the paradox continues since his death on October 26 at 88 years old. "In a funny way," his wife Helen says, "he's more alive than ever. I talk to him all the time and, in his own way, I believe he answers me."

Charles Adonizio Jr.—"Cugsy" to most, just "Cugs" to his wife of 57 years—is today honored posthumously with the Joseph Saporito Award for Lifetime of Service to Greater Pittston.

He received a similar honor in 1979 when he was named Man of the Year by St. Michael's School for Boys. It was a fitting tribute for a man who dedicated a good part of his life to helping troubled youth.

As Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Luzerne County from 1962 until his retirement in 1982, Cugsy earned a reputation as a compassionate disciplinarian. He was more concerned with rehabilitation than punishment. He saw a system that needed fixing and he set about to fix it.

Cugsy graduated from Pittston High School (later returning as school director) and Duquesne University, who since placed his name on their Who's Who list.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a full lieutenant at the time of his discharge. He spent 33 months on active duty in the Pacific.

He organized the Wyoming Valley Naval Reserve and became its first commanding officer. He retired in 1955 as a Lieutenant Commander.

He was a Past Exalted Ruler of the Pittston Elks, Fourth Degree and Life Member of the Knights of Columbus, Past Commander of Fort Pittston Post V.F.W., and first President of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Holy Name Society.

He and Helen are parents of six children: Judy Yanchek, Gloria Blandina, the late Mary Christine Thompson, Charles III, Jane Adonizio Lukas, and Dr. Patrick.

SIKHS PROTEST INDIAN REPUBLIC
DAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, India celebrated its Republic Day, the anniversary of the adoption of its Constitution. Now if it would only live by that constitution.

The Council of Khalistan organized a successful protest outside the Indian Embassy here in Washington. While India celebrated, minorities are being killed. India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and tens of thousands of other mi-

norities. There are tens of thousands of political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. These include over 52,000 Sikhs, a study from the Movement Against State Repression showed. That doesn't sound like a republic to me.

People came to the protest from all over the East Coast. They chanted slogans like "Khalistan Zindabad," "Long live Khalistan," and many others. They educated the public about the repression of minorities in India while the attendees at the Ambassador's party celebrated India's freedom.

We salute India's freedom, but it is time that these benefits extended to everyone within its borders, not just the Brahmin elites and their friends. It is time for the repression to end and for the minorities to live in freedom too.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of repression is unacceptable in any country, but especially in one that proclaims itself democratic.

Perhaps they feel that this repression is necessary to hold the country together, since India is not a single nation but many nations thrown together under one banner, much like the Soviet Union or the Austro-Hungarian Empire. History shows that such nations cannot long survive.

Now I know you're wondering what America can do to help. We should uphold and support the principle of self-determination for all people. The right to self-determination is the cornerstone of democracy.

The time has come to end our aid to India so that all the people there can enjoy the glow of freedom. The best way to secure the blessings of liberty for everyone within India's artificial borders is to stop aiding the tyrants who oppress them with U.S. taxpayer dollars. The other thing that we must do, Mr. Speaker, perhaps equally important, is to take a stand for the essential right of self-determination by putting this Congress on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite with international monitoring on the question of independence for all the minority nations of the subcontinent. This will ensure them the opportunity to enjoy the full rights of free people.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued an outstanding press release on its Republic Day protest. I would like to insert it into the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues and the public.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2004.

SIKHS PROTEST INDIAN GENOCIDE ON REPUBLIC
DAY

DEMAND FREEDOM FOR SIKH NATION OF
KHALISTAN. NO DEMOCRACY FOR SIKHS,
CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS, OTHERS

Sikhs from around the East Coast demonstrated in Washington, D.C. today to protest the ongoing genocide against the Sikh Nation and other minorities by the Hindu fundamentalist, terrorist Government of India. They raised slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad", "India out of Khalistan," "2-4-6-8, India is a Fascist state," and other slogans.

India's Republic Day celebrates the day in 1950 when India adopted its Constitution. But what India calls "Republic Day" is Genocide Day for the minority peoples and nations of South Asia. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 85,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's mur-

ders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." According to a study by the Movement Against State Repression, 52,268 Sikhs are being held in illegal detention as political prisoners without charge or trial. Some of them have been held since 1984!

"India is not a democracy for Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, and other minorities," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh Nation's struggle for independence. "The rights guaranteed in the Indian constitution are not enjoyed by non-Hindus," he said. "While India celebrates, Sikhs and others are dying," he said. "Is that something to celebrate?"

Christian missionary Joseph Cooper was expelled from India after a mob of militant Hindu nationalists allied with the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), a pro-Fascist organization that is the parent organization of the ruling BJP, beat him so severely he had to spend a week in the hospital. In 2002, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were attacked in Gujarat while police were ordered to stand aside, reminiscent of the 1984 Delhi massacres of Sikhs. Indian newspapers reported that the government planned the Gujarat massacre in advance.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalsa.

"It is good that American pressure has forced India and Pakistan to talk about Kashmir," said Dr. Aulakh. "But the atrocities still continue. Khalistan, Kashmir, and all the nations of South Asia have the right to self-determination," he said. "In a democracy, you cannot rule the people against their will." On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan. On December 5, Dr. Aulakh met President Bush. "I am aware of the Sikh and Kashmiri problem," President Bush told him.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. India is ruled by Hindu theocrats whose agenda is "Hindu, Hindi, Hindutva, Hindu Rashtra," or total Hindu domination of every facet of Indian life. An Indian Cabinet minister said that everyone who lives in India must be a Hindu or subservient to Hindus.

Sikhs ruled Punjab until 1849 when the British conquered the subcontinent. Sikhs were equal partners during the transfer of power from the British. The Muslim leader Jinnah got Pakistan, the Hindu leaders got India, but the Sikh leadership was fooled by the Hindu leadership promising that Sikhs would have "the glow of freedom" in Northwest India. The Sikhs took their share with India on that promise.

"Democracies don't commit genocide," Dr. Aulakh said. "Only in a free and sovereign Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper. In a democracy, the right to self-determination is the sine qua non and India should allow a

plebiscite for the freedom of the Sikh Nation," he said. "India should also allow self-determination in Christian Nagaland, Kashmir, Assam, and the other nations fighting for freedom to bring peace to South Asia."

"As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh,'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

HONORING ESTHER MEDINA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY, INC

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the great contributions of Esther Medina, the executive director of the Mexican American Community Services Agency, Inc. (MACSA). Founded in 1964, MACSA has established itself as the leader in the Latino community in the area of advocacy, social justice, youth/family/senior services, implementation and operation of two charter schools and the development of affordable housing.

Esther Medina was hired as the executive director of MACSA in 1982. At that time, MACSA was on the verge of losing funding from the United Way and was put on a 3-month corrective action plan to prove fiscal solvency, stable management and leadership. At that time, the finances were in such disarray, MACSA had no money in its budget to operate. Esther was able to convince the United Way to allocate \$27,000 to keep its doors open for 3 more months. Through Esther's efforts, she transformed MACSA from an organization with 1 full-time and 1 part-time employee, on the verge of having its doors closed forever, to an organization with 120 employees and an annual operating budget of over seven million dollars as well as developing and owning its current headquarter building, 2 acclaimed affordable housing projects for seniors, a full service 25,000 square foot multi-service youth center, a youth/teen intervention center, and 2 public charter high schools.

Esther Medina exemplifies the characteristics of a competent leader by being true to her values as a human being. The astounding success of MACSA is clearly attributable to her outstanding leadership.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF THOMAS MCRAE

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise in honor of the life and legacy of Thomas McRae III. He was a loving father and husband, a statesman, a leader, a public servant, and a tireless advocate of helping the less fortunate. He recently passed away at the age of 65 at his family's home in Arkadelphia.

Tom McRae, who was deeply rooted in an affluent Arkansas political family, graduated from El Dorado High School in 1956, and went on to earn a History degree from the University of Arkansas and a law degree from the University of Arkansas Law School. Upon graduation, he volunteered to go to Nepal with the Peace Corps in 1964, a 2-year experience that would give him a new perspective on society and allow him to perform extensive social work on behalf of Nepalese villagers and farmers.

Tom became a household name in 1990 when he ran in the Democratic primaries against Governor Bill Clinton in the face of overwhelming odds. He finished a strong second in a field of six, proving that odds are no detriment to a steadfast spirit and determination to fight for the causes and ideals in which you believe. It was a fight he would continue years later by directing nonprofit programs in Mississippi and Kentucky, helping the rural poor get loans and find jobs.

Throughout his life, Tom distinguished himself through a sustained commitment to his ideals and his community. He devoted himself to uplifting society by helping those less fortunate. His character is an example of the values we, as parents, teachers, community members, and legislators, hope to instill in our next generation. Bill Clinton spoke for many of us when he said, "I respected, admired and liked Tom McRae, and I will be forever grateful for the lifetime of service he gave to Arkansas."

I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Christine, his children, Catherine and Thomas, as well as all of those who knew and loved him. Although he may no longer be with us, his spirit and his legacy live on in the examples he set and the many lives he touched.

TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE CLEMENT

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise before you to recognize Marjorie Clement of Jefferson County, Colorado, who recently passed away at the age of 81. She was a stellar public servant who will be missed by many, and I think it appropriate that we remember her life before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Marjorie was appointed Jefferson County Commissioner in 1981, and was elected to serve for two additional terms. An ardent supporter of preserving Colorado's open spaces, Marjorie worked tirelessly to preserve some of Colorado's most beautiful landscapes and vistas. Marjorie became the second woman elected to the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners, and will be remembered as a great defender of the citizens in her community. In addition to her elected office, Marjorie also contributed to her community as a member of the Jefferson County Historical Commission and the Jefferson County Historical Society. Marjorie was an avid outdoorswoman, enjoying horseback riding, tennis, and skiing. She is survived by a daughter, Elizabeth Graham, a son, Lawrence Clement, five grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this Nation to pay tribute to the life of Marjorie Clement. Marjorie was a beloved woman who made a tremendous impact on her community through her many selfless years in public service. The Jefferson County community and the State of Colorado will truly miss her, and my thoughts go out to Marjorie's loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN URGES SIKH ORGANIZATIONS TO TAKE STRONG STAND FOR FREEDOM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently, the French National Assembly enacted a law banning religious symbols such as "conspicuous crosses," yarmulkes, Muslim headscarves, and Sikh turbans from schools. Many religious organizations spoke out against it, including many Sikh organizations. Belgium is thinking about such a law also.

The Council of Khalistan wrote a letter on February 11 noting that none of the other Sikh organizations mentioned the persecution of Sikhs in India or their struggle for freedom in their communications about this law. Yet a free and sovereign Sikh homeland, Khalistan, would have put the Sikhs in a much stronger position to protest these discriminatory and unfair rules.

The letter, brought to me by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the tireless fighter for freedom in South Asia, calls on Sikh organizations to stand up to the repression by working for freedom for the Sikh people.

In my years of public service, I have had the privilege of knowing many Sikhs. They are hardworking people and they are very supportive of the cause of freedom. Yet the Indian government's response is to step up the repression in the name of Hindutva—total Hindu domination of every facet of life in the subcontinent. An Indian Cabinet minister even said that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus.

Over a quarter of a million Sikhs have been killed by the Indian government in the last 20 years, Mr. Speaker. More than 52,000 are political prisoners. Even one political prisoner is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. Even one government murder is unacceptable, especially when no one is punished for it and especially when the country where it happens proudly proclaims its commitment to democratic values.

Over 200 years ago, Americans fought to achieve our independence from an overbearing British monarchy. Today, the Sikhs fight for their freedom by peaceful means, which the Indian government falsely describes as terrorist. We are the beacon of hope for the freedom-loving people of the world, Mr. Speaker. We owe it to them and to ourselves to help them if we can.

One way to help is to stop aid to India as long as these egregious human rights violations continue. Everyone is entitled to live in peace and freedom, to go to work and enjoy life with the family and friends. Yet minorities in India are unable to do that because militant Hindus aligned with the RSS, the parent organization of the ruling party, and the government itself in many cases commit terrible acts

of violence against Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Dalits, Assamese, Bodos, Tamils, Manipuris, and other minorities. This is unacceptable and the hardworking taxpayers of our country should not be called upon to support it.

Another measure that we can take is to declare our strong support for freedom through a free and fair plebiscite on independence where it is sought. India is a multinational state and history shows that such states do not survive. By helping to ensure that democracy is allowed to work for the cause of freedom and self-determination, we can make sure that whatever changes occur in the sub-continent happen peacefully.

Mr. Speaker, I don't mean to be long-winded, so I will stop here and place the Council of Khalistan's excellent open letter into the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2004.

Open Letter to Sikh Organizations and Institutions:

AN APPEAL TO THE KHALSA PANTH
ONLY IN A FREE KHALISTAN CAN SIKHS PROSPER—EVERY SIKH MUST WORK TO LIBERATE KHALISTAN

DEAR KHALSA PANTH: Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

Recently, France passed a law banning the wearing of turbans and other religious symbols such as yarmulkes, Muslim head scarves, and "conspicuous crosses" in schools. This is a major violation of religious rights. Belgium is considering a similar law. Sikhs must do whatever we can to protest this unfair, discriminatory action.

Because Sikhs are slaves in India, there is nobody to defend the Sikh interests internationally. Recently, an issue came up of the French banning the wearing of turbans in school. If Khalistan were free, the Sikh Nation could call the French Ambassador and tell him to stop this harassment of Sikhs. Our Ambassador to France would tell the French government the same thing: the turban is part of the Sikh religion and Sikhs should not be harassed.

When Khalistan is free, we will be in a much stronger position to fight such offenses against our religion. We will be able to exert influence that we cannot bring to bear now. This is just one more reason that the liberation of Khalistan is essential. Yet prominent Sikh organizations like the Sikh Council on Religion and Education (SCORE), SMART, the Sikh Coalition, and other organizations refuse to mention the oppression of the Sikhs by the Indian regime and the struggle to liberate Khalistan. They are more concerned about their positions than about the Sikh people. These organizations are heavily infiltrated and often controlled by operatives of the Indian government. We appreciate the British Sikh Federation, which continually promotes the cause of Sikh rights and freedom for Khalistan. These other organizations must promote the cause of Sikh freedom as well. Whenever they have the opportunity to communicate with the outside world, they should promote freedom and independence for Khalistan.

The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying "In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi." The Sikh Nation must achieve its independence to fulfill the mandate of the Guru. We always remember it by reciting every morning and evening, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening? I urge Sikhs to unite and take action to liberate our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. It is time to start a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation.

Never forget that the Akal Takht Sahib and Darbar Sahib are under the control of the Indian government, the same Indian government that has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs in the past twenty years. The Jathedar of the Akal Takht and the head granthi of Darbar Sahib toe the line that the Indian government tells them. They are not appointed by the Khalsa Panth. The SGPC also is controlled by the Indian government that has brutally murdered our people. These institutions will remain under the control of the Indian regime until we free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation and oppression and sever our relations with the New Delhi government.

The Indian government invaded and desecrated the Golden Temple and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs during June 1984 in Punjab. If Sikhs will not even protect the sanctity of the Golden Temple, how can the Sikh Nation survive as a nation?

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human rights groups. These figures were published in Inderjit Singh Jaijee's excellent book, *The Politics of Genocide*. According to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), the Indian regime admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. They are being held without charge or trial, some of them since 1984!

How can a democratic state hold political prisoners? The regime has made over 50,000 Sikhs "disappear" by picking them up, torturing and murdering them, and then secretly cremating them, declaring them "unidentified." Their bodies are not given to their families. The bodies of Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke and Sardar Jaswant Singh Khalra, who were murdered by the police, were never given to their families.

Other minorities also feel the lash of Indian repression. India has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947 and murdered priests, raped nuns, burned churches, and destroyed Christian schools and prayer halls. They expelled missionary Joseph Cooper from the country after militant Hindu nationalists beat him up so badly that he had to be in the hospital for a week. Missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were burned to death while sleeping in their jeep by a mob of militant Hindus chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. Since they were allied with the pro-Fascist RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP, they were able to commit this atrocity with impunity. Muslims were massacred in Gujarat while the police were under orders to stand aside and let the massacre occur, a frightening parallel to the 1984 Delhi massacres of Sikhs. A policeman told an Indian newspaper that the Gujarat massacre was planned in advance by the government.

This kind of treatment of its minorities only confirms the kind of country that India, is. It is a fundamentalist Hindu theocracy, not secular or democratic at all. Remember what Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple, told America's National Public Radio in 1997: "The Indian government, they are always boasting that they are democratic, that they are secular. They have nothing to do with a secularism, nothing to do with a democracy. They just kill Sikhs just to please the majority."

Remember the words of Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." The time to achieve our independence is now. India is not one country. It is a polyglot empire thrown together under one roof

for the administrative convenience of the British colonialists. It has 18 official languages. History shows that such countries are doomed to fall apart. India will collapse just like the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Soviet Union, and other multinational states.

Soon Kashmir will be free from Indian occupation. Now America is involved in it. As L.K. Advani predicted, "When Kashmir goes, India goes." We agree with him and we urge the Indian government to hold a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence and to sit down with representatives of the Sikh Nation to negotiate the boundaries of a sovereign, independent Khalistan. We want to make sure that India's collapse happens peacefully like that of Czechoslovakia, not violently like the breakup of Yugoslavia. The essence of democracy is self-determination. It is time for India to act like the democracy it claims to be.

When I met President Bush on December 5, he personally told me, "I am aware of the Sikh and Kashmiri problem and we stopped India and Pakistan from going to nuclear war." The Sikh diaspora has a moral responsibility to help the Sikh Nation to achieve its sovereignty by freeing Khalistan from Indian occupation.

The time has come to liberate our homeland. Sikhs must claim their birthright by liberating Khalistan. Only by freeing Khalistan will we put an end to this corruption and restore control of Punjab and its assets to the people, to whom it rightfully belongs. A free Khalistan is a must for the survival of the Sikh nation and will provide an optimal environment for the Sikh Nation to progress to its optimum potential politically, religiously, and economically.

Panth Da Sewadar,
DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES RICHARD BUTLER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you to pay tribute to the life of a remarkable man from my district. Charles Richard Butler of Durango, Colorado passed away recently at the age of 80. Charles will always be remembered as a devoted family man and patriot, and I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing his amazing life before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Charles began his career serving his country in the Navy, and played an integral role in unloading landing craft tanks on Utah beach during the D-Day invasion. After his honorable discharge, he went on to graduate from the University of Colorado in Boulder with both his undergraduate and graduate degrees in geology. Throughout his 35-year career, Charles worked in a variety of geological capacities and was highly respected as an expert in his field. Charles will also be remembered for leading an adventurous life, having both mined the wilds of Alaska, and searched for gold in Mexico. He is survived by his daughter, Ann, his niece Sarah Sumner and her daughters Laura, Julia and Meredith; his brothers William, Howard, and David along with numerous nieces, nephews, grand nieces and grand nephews.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this Nation to pay tribute to the inspiring life of Charles Richard Butler. He was a beloved family man who made a tremendous impact in the field of geology. The Durango community, and the State of Colorado will truly miss Charles, and my thoughts go out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

THE NECESSITY OF AN ENERGY
BILL

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from February 6, 2004, Omaha World-Herald.

While the energy bill conference report is obviously not perfect—it contains excesses and too much parochial pork-barrel—the legislation would provide many important improvements over the current situation. Among its beneficial provisions, the measure is designed to improve the nation's electricity transmission capacity and reliability. It also supports alternative power sources and promotes a cleaner environment. As the editorial indicates, the conference report can be improved in certain ways while retaining its beneficial provisions.

It is imperative for Congress to pass a sensible long-term energy policy which will help assure Americans of development of diverse, reliable, affordable energy sources with an emphasis on energy conservation. After years of inaction, this Member believes that it is absolutely essential to enact comprehensive energy legislation. It is overdue.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Feb. 6, 2004]

THAWING ENERGY POLICY

Signs of movement are appearing in Congress' deadlock over a comprehensive energy bill.

The \$31 billion bill passed the House but fell two votes shy of breaking a filibuster in the Senate last November. The bill was a mixed bag, containing needed electrical-grid improvements and tax breaks and incentives for alternative energy sources, including a doubling of the nation's ethanol production. But it also would have rolled back some air and water pollution standards and was bloated with more than \$11 billion in tax breaks and favors to gain votes.

Among the objectionable provisions was liability protection for makers of the gasoline additive MTBE. That would shift to state and local governments the estimated \$29 billion cost of cleaning groundwater contaminated by MTBE.

Pete Domenici, chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, said he'll drop that provision. Good. It's an outrageous provision, but killing it will need the agreement of the House, where it still has strong backing from Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

Also likely to be cut in negotiations is the bill's exorbitant cost—more than half of which was targeted to existing oil, gas, coal and nuclear power production.

The electric-grid and ethanol proposals, fortunately, appear likely to emerge in either a slimmed-down energy bill or as separate proposals.

But the energy bill had many other provisions aimed at making a start (a small one, but a start nonetheless) on setting a new

course for the nation's energy policies: tax breaks for alternative-fuel vehicles; tax credits for consumer-level energy-efficiency measures; tax credits for power plant investments in clean coal technology.

These are the important provisions for Congress to safeguard as compromises are sought to pass this vital legislation. (The fact that compromises are finally being openly discussed, after a Republican-only conference committee cooked up the current bill behind closed doors, is a victory all its own for political debate.)

The chance to plot such a course change for the nation's energy policy is an opportunity not to be missed. We're glad to see it's now open to reasonable compromise.

RECOGNIZING DAVID RYAN
CLOUSE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Ryan Clouse of Hopkinsville, KY, for his selection as a student delegate to represent Kentucky at the 42nd Annual United States Senate Youth Program. Ryan was one of two students chosen to participate from the State of Kentucky for this prestigious honor. Selection as a delegate is an honor few receive. Students are required to be involved in student organizations, community activities and achieve academically.

Ryan has excelled in academics. He has served as an officer and member in the various organizations in his school. He participated in the Governor's Cup Program. He has been a valuable member of his schools soccer team, basketball team and tennis team. Ryan has been involved in his church and community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent David Ryan Clouse in my District. I extend my congratulations to him for his achievements, and I am proud to bring his accomplishments to the attention of this House.

TRIBUTE TO TOM O'KEEFE FOR 30
YEARS OF PROTECTING CALI-
FORNIANS FROM WILDFIRES

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute today to a dedicated public servant who for the past 30 years has devoted his life to protecting southern Californians from the danger of wildfires. I can say sincerely that many of my constituents owe their lives and homes to the hard work and leadership of Thomas O'Keefe, who is retiring as chief of the San Bernardino Unit of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Tom O'Keefe began his career in public service in 1968 as a member of the United States Coast Guard, where he served aboard the ice breaker Storis in Alaska.

After his 4 years in the Coast Guard, chief O'Keefe began his work for CDF on October 1, 1974 as a Fire Control Assistant in the Orange Ranger Unit. In 3 years, he was pro-

moted to a Fire Apparatus Engineer and was assigned to the El Cerrito Forest Fire Station (FFS) in the Riverside Ranger Unit. He moved up to Fire Captain in August of 1981 and was assigned to Indian Wells and later to a Training Fire Captain position in the Riverside Ranger Unit Headquarters.

In April of 1986, Tom O'Keefe became Battalion Chief in the Riverside Training Section and three years later was made a field Battalion Chief in San Jacinto. Moving up quickly in the ranks, he was named a Division Chief in 1989, in charge of the Staff Services Division and later headed the Emergency Services Division for Riverside County. In October 1996, he was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Riverside Ranger Unit and was finally named Chief of the San Bernardino Ranger Unit in July 1999.

Mr. Speaker, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is our statewide firefighting agency, and Chief O'Keefe has played an active role in many historic events, ranging from the Los Angeles riots to the Northridge earthquake. The agency is also charged with forestry management and fire prevention, and I am most grateful for Chief O'Keefe's efforts to deal with the terrible tree dieoff in the San Bernardino mountains.

On October 21, 2003 wildfires erupted throughout southern California. These fires were some of the most costly and devastating wildfires in the State's history. Two of these fires were located in San Bernardino County, and the Old Fire in my district destroyed more than 1,000 homes. Chief O'Keefe led the CDF in playing a central role as firefighters evacuated tens of thousands of residents, saved thousands of structures and protected and held the fire back from destroying the entire forest. Chief O'Keefe had already been selected to receive the Director's Leadership Award, but the recognition was especially deserved in light of his leadership and professionalism in the fires of 2003.

Thanks greatly to the efforts of Chief O'Keefe and the CDF, most of our mountain residents were able to return home after the fires. They have expressed their gratitude in many ways, and I thank him personally as we wish him well on his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in saluting this public servant, and sending him and his wife Nancy our best wishes.

RECOGNIZING DEREK SCOTT KING
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Derek Scott King, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Derek has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Derek has been involved with scouting, he has earned 33 merit badges and is a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Derek

has also attended the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia and the Junior Leader Training Conference at the Pony Express Council.

For his Eagle Scout project, Derek built a new sign for the Alta Vista Baptist Church.

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

TRIBUTE TO FRUITA MONUMENT
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise before you today to pay tribute to the students of Fruita Monument High School who recently devoted their time and efforts toward improving the lives of others. Last year, 25 students joined the Committee for a Merry Christmas For All to construct, collect and distribute Christmas toys to needy children in Colorado. Their actions serve as a valuable model of community service, and I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their tremendous contributions to the State of Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation.

The Committee for a Merry Christmas For All was established 17 years ago. Since the committee's beginning, the Grand Junction Free Press reports that "Students have designed and constructed nearly 5,000 toys . . . and they've collected another nearly 6,000." This past year, under the tutelage of their teachers Ed Reid and Mel Crider, the students constructed and distributed a variety of toys. On the Saturday preceding Christmas, the students and their teachers met at Fruita Monument High School and distributed the collection of toys to children in need throughout the Grand Junction community. This is an amazing group of young citizens, and I am proud to highlight their amazing actions here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, it is a high honor to rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to each member of the Committee for a Merry Christmas For All. I would also like to thank their teachers Ed and Mel, who have dedicated their time and efforts to make this service possible. These efforts have brightened the lives of thousands of needy children in Colorado, and the State will forever remain grateful. It is my honor to offer my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Committee and School, and I thank them for their service.

HONORING JAMES HUFF

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, this month James Huff retires—again. A mentor, a confidant, a family friend, and a counselor since before I ran for Congress, Jim represents the best Mississippi has to offer and will be irreplaceable on my staff.

Jim and Marilyn Huff reared two children and proudly claim 5 grandchildren. For 32 years he worked at the Masonite Corporation in Laurel. As operations manager at Masonite, he was one of the leading businessmen in Jones County, where I grew up and first appreciated his wisdom, wit, and integrity.

President George H. W. Bush put Jim's knowledge and expertise to work, appointing him Mississippi's state director of the Farmers Home Administration. Excelling as administrator and leader, Jim was next asked by President Bush to come to Washington DC and serve as the national administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration.

Years later, Jim's political knowledge of Mississippi and Washington DC benefited my work both in my first campaign for Congress and then as I worked to serve the constituents of Mississippi's Third District. Few freshman Congressmen could boast of such unique experience on staff. His guidance was exceptional; his advice, outstanding.

Jim continues to be a servant in his community. He is a leader at the Hebron Baptist Church where his abilities as a Sunday school teacher and work as a deacon are well known and appreciated. Active in the Kiwanis Club, people in Jones County know they can come to Jim for advice and assistance during life's struggles.

The pages of Mississippi record a lifetime of public service and private engagement from Jim Huff. He will never fully retire. He may have more time now to work his cattle farm and relax at his favorite fishing hole, and more time to spend with his loving family.

When I think of Jim Huff, I think of honesty, service, humor, and experience. I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi. I join the rest of my staff in saying we will miss him, but I know I will see him often because he is more than a colleague and assistant. He is family and will remain near in my heart, constant in my thoughts, and always in my prayers.

HONORING RAHEEN TYSON
HEIGHTER

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues an address that I delivered at the memorial service of Raheen Tyson Heighter, a fallen soldier from my district on November 11, 2003.

Raheen Tyson Heighter went to the Middle East willingly, sacrificed selflessly, and served proudly.

In the two and a quarter centuries of our nation's history, our country has faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles. But in generation after generation, Americans have risen to the occasion and met every challenge.

In the 18th century, our forefathers were able to beat back the greatest military superpower in the world to secure our independence. In the 19th century, Americans defeated the greatest injustice in the world—slavery. And in the 20th century, millions of patriots, in what has come to be known as America's greatest generation, defeated the greatest evil the world has ever known—the Nazis.

Raheen is part of a generation that faces a newer, but no less dangerous tyranny.

He is a child of Long Island. He went to this high school. In many ways, he is very much like the hundreds of thousands of other children in our community—with one remarkable exception.

Raheen was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to secure the blessings of liberty for his countrymen, for our children, and for America's future.

By sacrificing himself for our way of life, Raheen, in the words of his mother, "died an American hero."

By fighting for a better world, Raheen, as the poet John Gillespie Magee, Jr. wrote, "slipped the surly bonds of earth" to "touch the face of God."

May his name be remembered throughout history, and may he serve as a source of strength and pride to American generations yet unborn.

HONORING PFC ARMANDO
SORIANO

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of PFC Armando Soriano.

PFC Soriano was a constituent of the 29th District of Texas, and a true hero, who died on February 1, 2004, while serving his country in Haditha, Iraq.

Armando Soriano joined the Army 2 months after graduating from South Houston High School in 2002. Soriano was assigned to the howitzer battery, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, in Fort Carson, Colorado. His unit in Iraq was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His vehicle, traveling with another one on a supply route, slid off a road and rolled over during bad weather.

Armando Soriano leaves behind his two parents, Clotilde and Enrique, and 4 younger siblings.

I know his parents, family and friends are devastated by this loss, but they should be proud of the great man Armando Soriano had become and that he died a hero while serving his country.

His loss will be felt by all of South Houston, and I ask that you remember the Soriano family in your thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LAWRENCE T.
GERATY PRESIDENT OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Dr. Larry Geraty is one of these individuals. On Wednesday, February 25, 2004,

he will be honored at a surprise dinner for ten years of academic and community excellence.

Dr. Geraty grew up as a citizen of the world as part of a Seventh-day Adventist missionary family who lived and worked in China, Burma, Hong Kong, and Lebanon. Dr. Geraty received a rich educational experience from attending schools in China, Hong Kong, Lebanon, England, Germany, France, Israel, California, Maryland, Michigan, and Massachusetts. These experiences set him on a lifelong course committed to the values of diversity and education.

After completing his undergraduate degree at Pacific Union College, Dr. Geraty graduated from the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He then served a short term as a pastor in Santa Ana, California. Later, Dr. Geraty joined the Andrews Theological Seminary faculty, he first went to Harvard University to study Hebrew Bible and biblical archaeology where he earned and received with distinction his Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Returning to Andrews Theological Seminary as Professor of Archaeology and History of Antiquity, Dr. Geraty distinguished himself as a teacher and scholar for the next 13 years, teaching also in Jamaica, Jordan, Trinidad, Costa Rica, Europe, and Australia, and directed a series of major archaeological expeditions to the Middle East. During this time he was also the curator of the Horn Archaeological Museum and founding Director of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University.

In his notable scholarly career, Dr. Geraty has received numerous honors, including a Fulbright Fellowship and served as advisor on archaeology to former Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. Dr. Geraty also served as president of several scholarly societies; vice president of the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan; lectured all over the world and contributed to numerous publications.

Adding to his teaching focus, in 1985 Dr. Geraty became president of Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts where he earned the reputation as a progressive academic administrator. Since July 1993 Dr. Geraty has served as President and professor of archeology at La Sierra University in Riverside, California, where he has also become active in the community, serving currently on the boards of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, United Way of the Inland Valleys, The Employers Group, Metro Riverside International Cabinet, Mayor's Higher Education/Business Council, Raincross Club, Monday Morning Group, and the Riverside Youth Action Executive Policy Board.

In the year 2000, Dr. Geraty received the P. E. MacAllister Award for Excellence in Field Archeology from the American Schools of Oriental Research, and in 2001, the Charles Elliott Weniger Award for Excellence at Pacific Union College. On July 1, 2002, he began a three-year term as president of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), the premier organization for American archeologists working in the Middle East. From headquarters at Boston and Emory universities, he will supervise an annual scholarly convention, the publication of several scholarly books and journals, the accreditation of American archaeological projects in the Middle East and relate to research centers in Jerusalem, Amman, and Nicosia.

Dr. Geraty and his wife, Gillian, have a daughter in Colorado, a son in Michigan, and

between them five grandchildren. Truly, one of Dr. Geraty's most impressive accomplishments has been his ability to remain active as an archaeologist and churchman while continuing to lead and direct a university which combines the religious values of a faith community, the educational ideals of a liberal arts college, and the research opportunities of a comprehensive university.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH WILLIAM
MICHAEL FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph William Michael, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has earned 38 merit badges and is a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He served on Cub Scout Camp staff for 5 years. Joseph has also attended the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia and the Junior Leader Training Conference at the Pony Express Council.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joseph built a stadium canopy for the Winston High School baseball field.

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

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ELWAY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to John Elway, a remarkable individual and stellar athlete from the State of Colorado. John will be forever revered as one of the most outstanding quarterbacks to ever play in the National Football League. In recognition of his achievements and dedication to the sport, John was recently selected to enter into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor is a true testament to his extraordinary leadership and commitment to excellence both on and off the field, and it is my honor to highlight his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

John captured the attention of sports enthusiasts worldwide throughout his impressive career. He began playing for the Denver Broncos in 1983, and went on to lead his team to five playoff appearances, five Superbowls, and two Superbowl victories. Upon his retirement in 1998, John had amassed more victories than any quarterback in the history of the NFL. As further testament to his career accomplish-

ments, John was chosen to enter the Pro Football Hall of Fame on his first year of eligibility.

John is also well known as an active leader off the field, and has for many years, contributed his time and energies toward improving the lives of his fellow citizens. In 1987, John founded The Elway Foundation, an organization that has been instrumental in raising over \$3 million to help eliminate child abuse. The money has been used to aid the Family Advocacy, Care, Education, Support organization and The Kempe Children's Center. John's dedication to his community truly serves as a valuable model of civic service to today's youth and young athletes.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that John Elway is a person whose unparalleled dedication and hard work both led him to the top of his profession in the National Football League. The combination of his incredible talent and unrelenting passion for competition, combined with an unconquerable human spirit, has led to his selection as a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. It is my distinct pleasure to recognize his achievements before this body of Congress and this nation today, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. You have made your teammates, your fans, and the State of Colorado proud.

UNCLE ARTHUR AND ORVILLE
WRIGHT

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the media reported that Rover and Opportunity were exploring the Martian surface. Mars is about 35 million miles from Earth, yet man can reach that alien world.

On December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, an equally awe-inspiring event took place. It was there that Wilbur and Orville Wright gave birth to man's ability to fly by successfully testing the first powered, heavier-than-air craft that achieved sustained flight with a pilot aboard. The first flight was only 120 feet, far less than the distance to Mars, but that single event defined the 20th Century.

In the December 2003 issue of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Magazine, I learned, through an article written by my brother, Tom Simmons, that our family has a connection to the Wright Brothers. Our Great Uncle Arthur Ruhl was one of only six journalists in May 1908 to watch the Wright Brothers work with their aircraft at Kitty Hawk.

An article about what Uncle Arthur saw appeared in *Colliers* magazine on May 30, 1908. But this story doesn't end with Uncle Arthur's article. He sent a copy of his story to the Wright Brothers and Orville sent back a warm reply. Emboldened by the inventor's response, and his own curiosity, Uncle Arthur wrote back and asked if he could take a flight. Orville responded that they had so many requests they were limiting their passengers to Army officials.

Undaunted, Uncle Arthur continued his correspondence with Orville Wright, and by 1910 the Wright Brothers were exhibiting their aircraft because the public was paying to watch the flights. Who should be covering one of the

exhibitions for *Colliers Weekly* but Uncle Arthur. He was watching Orville Wright train one of his students when the inventor extended the long sought invitation.

Uncle Arthur found the adventure exhilarating. He wrote, "It was now that we seemed, indeed, to be going like the wind—a wonderful sensation, like nothing else, so near to the earth, yet spurning it."

I fly between Washington and my home in Connecticut just about every weekend. Today air travel does not inspire the awe described by Uncle Arthur. But it is an amazing thing—the ability to fly thousands of miles around the world in a matter of hours, or to set foot on a planet that our ancestors looked at every night with amazement and wonder.

I can now look at flight through the eyes of my Uncle Arthur; and I will probably never look at the trip between Washington and Connecticut so casually ever again.

[From the AOPA Pilot, Dec. 2003]

UP IN THE AIR WITH ORVILLE

(By Tom Simmons)

There are many ways to "catch the flying bug." One of the most common occurs when a pilot offers a nonpilot a ride in his airplane. If this ever happened to you (since you're reading AOPA Pilot today) chances are good that you said, "You bet!" Chances are also good that the pilot was certified by the FAA and his airplane was a certificated airframe.

So imagine, for a moment, the same situation but with slightly altered circumstances. Imagine that the pilot has never taken a flying lesson in his life and knows nothing about aerodynamics other than what he has taught himself through trial and error. Imagine that the airplane is home-built, the most recent in a succession of airframes built by this self taught pilot because he keeps modifying the control system and all his previous airplanes have been destroyed in flying accidents. And finally, imagine that the seat you are offered is a wooden chair bolted to the wing, without cockpit or cowling surrounding it, and not even a seat belt to hold you in place. Still interested?

I know of a man who said, "You bet!" under the exact circumstances I've just described. He was my great-uncle, Arthur Ruhl, a feature writer for *Collier's Weekly* in the early decades of the twentieth century. And the pilot who took him for his first thrill ride was Orville Wright.

The story begins in May 1908. The Wright brothers had returned to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, to test a two-man machine built according to contract specifications for the Army Signal Corps. My great-uncle was one of six journalists watching surreptitiously from a stand of trees a half-mile away. At the time, the Wrights were still secretive about their invention and refused to fly in front of witnesses (which fueled doubts about their claims of successful flights) so the journalists stayed out of sight.

They watched two flights, including the first two-man flight the Wrights had ever attempted. As Uncle Arthur's article in the May 30 edition of *Collier's* describes it: "A hundred yards away, the great bird swung to the right and swept grandly by, broadside on. Some cows grazing on the beach grass threw their heads upward, and whirling about, galloped away in terror ahead of the approaching machine. It swept on far above them indifferently, approached the sand hills three-quarters of a mile to the left, rose to them, soared over and down the other side."

Uncle Arthur was clearly thrilled by what he saw. He sent a copy of his article, "History at Kill Devil Hill," to the Wright brothers

and received a warm reply from Orville. "I thought your account of the maneuverings of the newspaper men at Kill Devil Hills the most interesting thing I have ever seen concerning our experiments," Orville wrote. Pretty high praise.

Perhaps it was these kind words from Orville that emboldened my uncle to make his next contact in September 1908. Orville was then in Washington, D.C., flying the acceptance trials for the Army, and on September 9 he had taken up his first passenger. Uncle Arthur wrote him and asked to be taken up for a flight. Orville's handwritten reply appears on Cosmos Club stationery.

Sep. 14, 1908.

My dear Mr. Ruhl: I have your letter, and I am sure it would give me great pleasure to take you up with me in our machine, but I have had so many requests that I hardly see how I can take you without giving offense to others. I am limiting the number of passengers to the Army officials at present. I am sorry that you were not able to remain to see some of the flights, but hope you may be able to come down again.

Very truly yours

Orville Wright

Strong winds prevented Orville from flying for several days. On September 17, his next flight after writing my uncle, Orville took Lt. Thomas Selfridge up as his passenger. One of the propellers separated, sliced a guy wire, and caused the machine to crash. Selfridge was killed.

A more timid man might have abandoned his hopes of flying right then and there. But not Arthur Ruhl. When Orville recovered from injuries sustained in the accident and returned to work in May 1909, he found a letter waiting for him. Uncle Arthur still wanted to take a flight. Orville again refused.

Orville wrote back: We shall not be able to make any flights before we go to Washington, and once we get to work there we shall have to devote every flight to teaching our pupils. Besides if we take one passenger we will be besieged with requests from people whom it will be almost impossible to refuse. You will readily see how much embarrassment it will make us if we begin to take passengers. It would give us pleasure to take you for a little spin, in recompense for the suffering you endured, on "the firing line" but we did not see how we can do it. We shall be glad to see you in Washington in you find it convenient to be there while we are at work on our government contract.

But that's not the end of the story. In 1910, the Wrights decided to enter the exhibition business. Americans weren't buying airplanes but they were paying to watch others fly them. So the real money in aviation was out on the flying circuit. In order to compete in as many events as possible, Orville started training pilots for the Wright brothers team. Instruction was conducted at Huffman Prairie, a hummocky pasture eight miles outside of Dayton. And once again, Arthur Ruhl was there to cover the story for *Collier's Weekly*.

For a nonpilot writing in 1910, Uncle Arthur's understanding of aerodynamics was impressive. In the *Collier's* article, he writes: "One of the first things to learn, of course, is that the air isn't the simple homogeneous medium it seems to be. It boils and shifts and swirls as current fights tide, and the aeroplane is sailing, not across the stream, but through it."

"Take, for instance, this peaceful cow pasture on a bright June morning. The sky is an even blue and the solitary tree across the field seems drenched in slumbering sunshine. Yet, as a matter of fact, any one of many interesting things are happening near the tree. Maybe the air is streaking up from it as it would streak up a chimney flue, or swirling round it as water swirls around a rock, and

if you are flying into the wind and at the tree, the wind may come pouring down over it and upon you like an invisible waterfall."

Uncle Arthur also seems to have understood the Wrights' control system pretty well. "The wings and vertical rudder work together in their machine. The same pull which depresses the left wing-tip and increases its angle of incidence—gives it a firmer grip on the air, so to say—lifts the right wing-tip and lightens its grip accordingly; at the same time the rear rudder turns to the right, thus tending to counteract the combined drag and lift of the wings and bring the machine back to an even keel."

Uncle Arthur watched Orville train his students until the sun edged toward the horizon. "And then he gave an invitation which had been sought ever since a baking spring morning two years ago, when six weary and tick-bitten corresponding rowed, waded, tramped, and crawled for several hours to a spot under Kill Devil Hill and there saw the Wright machine in successful flight across the Kitty Hawk sands. 'You're elected,' said Orville and I climbed in.

"The passengers' seat in the Wright machine is in the middle. The engine is at his right, and the driver is at his left, so that the balance is the same whether an extra man is carried or not. You sit on a small wooden seat with a back, grasp one of the uprights with your right hand, and rest your feet on a cross-bar. Although not fastened in, one is pretty safely caged by a guy-wire, which passes diagonally across and close to one's chest."

Thus seated, wearing a three-piece suit and jaunty cap, Uncle Arthur headed for the heavens.

"Curious and rather uncanny air trends strike the machine more or less continually as it flies. From the way it vibrates, from the little flapping pennant in front, most of all from an instinct which can only be acquired by experience, the veteran knows pretty well what is happening and how to meet it. But as the novice feels himself suddenly boosted up or dropped with a sensation much like that felt when an elevator suddenly drops or rises, he can only sit tight and trust the man beside him.

"And it was up here, about three hundred feet in the air, that Orville treated me to the only maneuver which a regular bird-man could, I suppose, have regarded as remotely in the nature of an adventure. For any one tired of life and listlessly seeking a new sensation, I can thoroughly recommend it. Just get the Wrights to take you up a few hundred feet, and then as you hand there above the abyss, like a lamb in a condor's claws, bring the great bird up standing and stiffly 'banked,' swing it around in a diameter of, say, two hundred feet."

Imagine that. Uncle Arthur, sitting on a seat with no seat belt, up in the air for the first time in his life, flying at about the height of a 30-story building—and Orville puts the plane into a tight banked turn. I don't know how you would have felt and I'm not sure how I would have felt. But my great-uncle loved it! His article, titled "Up in the Air With Orville," is filled with his joy from the experience.

"Thus we slid down, faster than ever now, with the wind blowing the tears out of our eyes; and just before touching ground came up with exquisite ease and went skimming round the field just tickling the weed tops. It was now that we seemed, indeed, to be going like the wind—a wonderful sensation, like nothing else, so near to the earth, yet spurning it. Twice around the field we went, keeping an even distance from the ground, as if on an invisible track, and then Orville shut off the engine and we slid down upon the grass just as a duck on the wing slides into water." Wow.

Arthur Ruhl died in 1935 and his files were packed into boxes that went into storage for more than 60 years. I recently came into possession of his papers, which include both articles for *Collier's*, three letters from Orville Wright, and a note from Katherine Wright, the brothers' sister, thanking Arthur for some sweet peas he brought to dinner at the Wrights' home on Hawthorne Street in Dayton.

RECOGNIZING THE CLASS ACT GROUP GRASSROOTS CONFERENCE TO RESTORE THE BROKEN PROMISE OF MILITARY RETIREE HEALTH CARE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Col. George "Bud" Day and the members of the Class Act Group who have worked so hard to restore health care to America's military retirees. I salute them for their grassroots efforts that helped make Tricare for Life the law of the land, and I commend them for coming together on February 17, 2004, in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, to develop a strategy to convince Congress to make good on more of the broken promises. I especially appreciate their efforts to enact H.R. 3474, the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act, a bipartisan bill that I was proud to introduce.

The purpose of the recent meeting takes on a greater urgency because we must prepare to honor a new generation of veterans who have been willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our government must be accountable for the promises it makes to young men and women who are asked to serve our country in this way.

Generations of young men and women were recruited into the uniformed services with the promise that health care would be there for them when they retired after serving a career in service. But while these career soldiers put their lives on the line for our country, the government did not keep its end of the contract. Finally, the Courts have laid to rest the matter of who is responsible for making good on those promises—the United States Congress.

The Class Act Group convention is in the best tradition of American democracy—they are joining together to petition their elected representatives to do the right thing and make good on promises the government made to our military retirees. As veterans, they have already set a good example for our young people by protecting our freedoms and rights. And by organizing this grassroots movement they are doing it again by exercising those freedoms and rights.

I send my congratulations to the Class Act Group for a job well done! I will work with CAG and anyone else who shares our goal, to see that Congress does Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DUE PROCESS FOR JOSE PADILLA

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court has agreed to hear two important cases regarding the balance between national security and the rights of American citizens. And in a February 24th editorial, the Rocky Mountain News clearly explains why we all have a stake in the outcome of the cases involving Yasr Hamdi and Jose Portillo.

While both evidently are American citizens now being held as unlawful combatants, their cases are not identical. As the editorial explains:

Both men are citizens, but the incarceration of Hamdi seems less convincingly a civil-rights incursion than the incarceration of Padilla. While Hamdi deserves his day in court, grabbing a prisoner at the site of armed hostilities in a foreign country is a different matter from picking someone up at a domestic airport.

And, in the words of the editorial, here is the bottom line:

The obvious issue with Padilla is that if the administration can stick him away as long as it likes without an indictment or court proceedings of any kind, why can't it do the same thing with any of us?

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly the point, and exactly why the Portillo case is so important. For the benefit of our colleagues, I am attaching the full text of the editorial.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Feb. 24, 2004]

PADILLA DESERVES DUE PROCESS—STILL

Some argue the Bush administration was justified in arresting a U.S. citizen and holding him for two years without due process because, after all, he was in league with terrorists. The logical fallacy here is known as begging the question—you assume the conclusion in the proposition.

How can the administration know Jose Padilla was a terrorist intent on mass killings through use of a "dirty" bomb without due process? And if this can be proven, why doesn't the government initiate a trial?

The Supreme Court is now going to take on the question of whether the administration violated the Constitution in holding Padilla, arrested in Chicago after a trip abroad, and Yaser Hamdi, captured in a battlefield in Afghanistan. Both men are citizens, but the incarceration of Hamdi seems less convincingly a civil-rights incursion than the incarceration of Padilla. While Hamdi deserves his day in court, grabbing a prisoner at the site of armed hostilities in a foreign country is a different matter from picking someone up at a domestic airport.

The obvious issue with Padilla is that if the administration can stick him away as long as it likes without an indictment or court proceedings of any kind, why can't it do the same thing with any of us?

It's hard to see how the Supreme Court could side with the administration in the Padilla case, even if a few other presidents, most notably Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, have gotten away with the suspension of due process. Moreover, there is language both in Article I of the Constitution and the Fifth Amendment that allows exceptions to due process protections when there is a public danger. We simply don't believe that language would be correctly applied to the Padilla situation.

SPEECH OF DR. ARCH BARRETT

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD a speech given by a former staffer of the House Armed Services Committee, Arch Barrett. Arch is one of the most unassuming people I know, but was one of the most remarkable and able staffers I've met during my 20 years on Capitol Hill.

Arch had an undergraduate degree from both the West Point and Harvard, and later got his Ph.D. in political economy and government from Harvard. He entered the Air Force as a second lieutenant in 1957, saw plenty of action in Vietnam, and retired as a colonel in 1981. While in the Air Force, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 12 oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service and Air Force Commendation Medals, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

As distinguished as his military record is, his greatest effect on the military came after he became a staffer for the House Armed Services Committee. If it were not for Arch Barrett, I do not believe Congress would have enacted the Goldwater-Nichols Act. Goldwater-Nichols forced the separate branches of the Armed Services to work cooperatively, and our forces would not be nearly as effective today had it not been for the Goldwater-Nichols Act. The Pentagon fought Goldwater-Nichols tooth and nail, and it took us about 4 years to actually pass the legislation. Whenever the Pentagon raised an objection, we sent Arch Barrett over and he'd argue with the naysayers until they ran out of objections and had to relent. It was a virtuoso performance by someone who had mastered the subject matter.

Arch Barrett is now a professor at the Navy Post-Graduate School in Monterey, still serving his country. He gave the graduation address to the Naval Postgraduate School's Joint Professional Military Education Course in June 2003. In that speech, Arch of course downplayed his own role in establishing Goldwater-Nichols, but did recognize important contributions from several Members of Congress. One of those is a man I, like Arch Barrett, admire—my good friend and colleague from Missouri, the Ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, Ike Skelton.

I commend Arch's speech to all those with an interest in the founding of the Goldwater-Nichols legislation, and I am proud to enter it into the RECORD.

REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP IN DEFENSE AND PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION REFORM
(By Archie D. Barrett)

Sixteen years ago, in 1987, Congressman Les Aspin asked me whether there was an uncompleted task in the area of Defense Department restructuring that could be assigned to Representative Ike Skelton. Aspin was the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the U. S. House of Representatives. Skelton was a mid-level Democrat on the Committee who was intensely interested in improving the quality and performance of our Armed Forces. I was a member of Mr. Aspin's Committee staff.

At the time, the Pentagon was making little progress in implementing the education

provisions of the 1986 Goldwater-Nichols Act. The Act required a reassessment and re-vamping of professional military education to assure that it supported the new emphasis on joint military planning and operations. I suggested to Chairman Aspin that Rep. Skelton could provide a signal contribution to the improvement of the nation's armed forces if he could be persuaded to lead a congressional panel charged with bringing PME into line with the goals of the Goldwater-Nichols Act. Subsequently, Rep. Skelton seized on the opportunity and ultimately fathered the significant changes in Professional Military Education that have culminated in your presence here as JPME graduates at the Naval Postgraduate School.

My remarks today will be addressed to the leadership displayed by Rep. Skelton and two other individuals that eventually led to this gathering.

We usually think of a leader as someone who is in charge or who heads an organization. I for one barely qualify. My most extraordinary experience in that regard was leading aircraft on night combat missions in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. But the aircrews I commanded came together for only one mission and very little "leadership", as we usually think of it, was involved. On the other hand, many of you in the audience have been, or will be, called upon to lead in the traditional sense. You may rightly ask what I could convey to you on the subject. I certainly asked that question of myself when I began to contemplate this address.

My answer is that I have had the privilege of observing others use their ability, their positions, and their prestige to exert leadership on matters of great importance to our country. Basically, a leader influences other people to behave as he or she wishes. The leaders I will discuss influenced the behavior of hundreds of thousands of members of the armed forces, including you in this audience. It is because of my experience with those men that I can discuss aspects of leadership.

At about the time you graduates were attending high school, I retired from the Air Force and joined the staff of the Armed Services Committee. In February 1982, General David Jones, the nation's most senior military officer, testified that there were fundamental flaws in the structure of the highest military body in our Armed Forces, the Joint Chiefs of Staff—or JCS, as it is often called. He proposed that Congress legislate far-reaching changes.

Gen. Jones was chairman of the JCS. At the time, he was in his late '50s. He was a tall, dark haired, distinguished looking man in his Air Force uniform with the 4 stars on each shoulder.

The general charged that the JCS, a committee consisting of the chiefs of each service, had difficulty making decisions and providing advice to the President from an overall national defense perspective because each chief aggressively pursued the interests of his own service. Moreover, he claimed, the service chiefs had used their positions on the JCS to weaken the field commanders—the CINCS—whose mission it is to plan and conduct military operations. Each service chief wanted to keep as much control of his soldiers, sailors, airmen, or marines as possible. Each chief also sought to maximize his service's budget for tanks, planes, or ships regardless of the needs of the other services. It is no wonder, then, that when the services were called on to work together in military operations, their joint performance was often unsatisfactory.

Most of you in this room are accustomed to hearing of nothing but an unbroken string of military successes during your lifetime. Those of us who are older remember a much

more uneven pattern of military performances. Jones could point to a whole string of flawed military operations to support his allegations.

In Vietnam, the JCS disregarded the principle of unity of command. There were two land chains of command and four air chains of command largely because of each service's sensitivity about placing its forces under the command of a general or admiral of another service.

In 1980, the services were unable to work together in an attempt to rescue American Embassy hostages in Iran. Two aircraft collided on the ground killing several servicemen and dooming the operation. The subsequent investigation revealed gaping disconnects among the services in training for the operation and, once again, flaws in the chain of command.

Going back to World War II, friendly fire from Navy ships shot down Army aircraft during the invasion of Sicily killing paratroopers and aircrews due to inadequate communications and coordination among the services.

Also, in World War II, the Army and the Navy divided the Pacific into two commands, one headed by Gen. MacArthur and the other by Admiral Nimitz, because they could not agree on a unified command structure. The result was a near disaster at Leyte Gulf that could have prolonged the war.

In 1983, a year after Gen. Jones first testified, 241 young servicemen were killed in a terrorist attack on a Marine barracks in Beirut. The investigation revealed glaring inadequacies in the military chain of command that wound its way from the Pentagon through Army, Air Force, and Navy flag officers to the Marine colonel and his unit on the ground.

In that same year, it took over 6000 U.S. troops to defeat 600 Cubans on Grenada. After action reports revealed that inadequate communications among the services hindered naval gunfire and air-to-ground support of the troops in combat.

These and other flawed military operations were not merely unfortunate incidents. As you well know, the price of substandard performance of our armed forces in war is paid in the lives of young Americans.

Obviously, General Jones was raising issues of fundamental importance to the American people. But why did the general voice his criticisms on Capitol Hill? Why did Jones not rely on his Commander-in-Chief to address the problems? One answer is that the administration was not interested. A more fundamental answer involves a fact many people do not realize. The Constitution makes the Congress, not the President, responsible for the organization of the nation's defense. The U. S. House of Representatives delegates oversight of that responsibility to the Committee on Armed Services, and further, to one of its subcommittees.

Representative Richard White, a Democrat from El Paso, was the chairman of the subcommittee responsible for overseeing defense organization in 1982. White was about 70. He was tall and slim. He was soft-spoken. His ruddy complexion reflected the time he had spent in the West Texas sun. His subcommittee focused primarily on investigations—defense contractor fraud, for example. Almost a quarter century had passed since Congress enacted major changes in defense organization. Understandably, Chairman White knew little about the subject. But he was acutely aware that he was responsible for that part of the Constitution that assigned defense organization to Congress.

In April, White convened hearings to determine whether Gen. Jones' criticisms were valid and to ascertain what action Congress should take. The hearings lasted until late

July and covered over 1000 pages. The Reagan Administration strongly opposed reorganization. With few exceptions, the Pentagon witnesses opposed change. On the other hand, many witnesses who had previously served in the Pentagon or White House in high civilian positions sided with Jones. They emphasized that the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as constituted, simply did not and could not provide adequate military advice to the President due to the conflicting service interests that dominated the chiefs' thinking. A number of high-ranking retired military officers also agreed with Jones. Others strongly disagreed.

Mr. White presided over every hearing. Listening to the conflicting views of the witnesses soon provided him the education in defense organization issues that he lacked when the hearings began. He made himself an expert through his perseverance.

Only a few other congressmen, however, attended the hearings regularly. Focusing on defense organization is about as exciting as watching paint dry. Moreover, with the Pentagon leadership and the President adamantly opposed to changes, few legislators felt that the investment of their time would be worth the effort.

At the conclusion of the hearings, Chairman White introduced a bill to reorganize the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He had decided that Jones was right. White's subcommittee approved his bill with few changes. One Congressman stated that he did not know much about the complicated issues addressed in the bill. He could confidently support the bill, he said, because Chairman White had presided over the lengthy hearings and was an expert who knew what must be done.

White presented his bill to the full Committee on Armed Services in August. The Committee approved it and referred it to the House of Representatives. In the fall, with Chairman White leading the debate, the House passed the bill and referred it to the Senate. In December, Mr. White persuaded Senator Tower, a fellow Texan, to hold a hearing on his bill before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

That is the end of my story about Rep. White. Soon after the December hearing Congress adjourned and White's bill died, as do all bills that have not been enacted at the end of each Congress. There was no time for the Senate to consider the legislation. Moreover, Mr. White disappeared from Capitol Hill at the same time. You see, he had long ago decided to retire and did not run for reelection even though he would have had no trouble winning another term. Interestingly, by that time General Jones had also retired. He continued to push for reorganization, however.

RECOGNIZING BETHANY SMITH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bethany Smith, a very dedicated and enthusiastic member of my Washington, D.C., congressional staff.

Bethany has served my office for 7 months, as well as serving as a staffer and intern for Congressman PETE SESSIONS. As our office scheduler, she has established a passion for working on the Hill. Bethany holds dear the people she has worked with as a Hill staffer.

My office and I greatly value Bethany's hard work and commitment. Constituents have

grown to know her attention to detail, knowledge of many issues, and personal touch that should not go unrecognized. Her dedication to the Sixth District of Missouri has shown through over the past few months, which is evident by the appreciation of all she works with.

It is unfortunate for countless people that Bethany will be leaving the House of Representatives, as she has left her unique stamp on many. I, as well as my office, wish Bethany the very best in her future career with Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHINSON.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bethany Smith for her many important contributions to myself, my staff, all those she has worked with on the Hill, and for all those she has served. She will be missed by many.

REGARDING THE NEBRASKA
STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. TOM OSBORNE

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the tremendously positive contributions of teachers across the state of Nebraska. Our teachers are hard-working, dedicated public servants who serve on the front lines of our society. I have worked extensively with the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) as well as the National Education Association (NEA). I have worked closely with the NSEA and its educator-members and the NEA here in Washington on many issues of mutual concern. Teaching is the most important job in the world. Our teachers deserve our appreciation and respect.

PENINSULA SINAI CONGREGA-
TION'S 36TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Peninsula Sinai Congregation on the occasion of its 36th Anniversary. From its humble beginnings the Peninsula Sinai Congregation has grown to include 252 member families in Foster City, California, located in my Congressional District and has become an integral part of the community's social and moral fabric.

In 1967, four pioneers organized the first meeting of the Peninsula Sinai Congregation in a San Mateo church. As the population of the congregation increased it was forced to move, first to the Peninsula JCC and later to its own facility in Foster City, California in 1979. At that time there was one small building that included an education wing comprised of four classrooms, a kitchen and the Col. David J. Reina Memorial Library. Five years later the facility was expanded to include a sanctuary/social hall and as well as administrative offices. Finally in May 2000, the Congregation completed a substantial remodeling, which included the creation of a dedicated sanctuary, a lounge, a full catering kitchen as

well as additional classrooms and an expansion of the library.

Mr. Speaker, from four pioneers the Sinai Peninsula Congregation is now a full service religious center, providing a Jewish education for its members from cradle to grave. In addition to Hebrew school programs for children in grades 3–10, the Congregation has a very active Adult education program. This program includes "How to" instruction about rituals and holidays, as well as Adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah opportunities for adult members who had not yet experienced this celebrated rite of passage.

Mr. Speaker, the Peninsula Sinai Congregation also hosts an annual Chen Shapira Memorial Concert as its major fundraiser for the Chen Shapira Jewish Culture Fund. This fund is named after the late Chen Hayim Shapira who was born in Israel but emigrated to San Francisco in 1965, and dedicated his life to broadening Jewish education and promoting Jewish and Israeli music and culture in the Bay Area. Although Mr. Shapira passed away in 2000, this fund continues his work by supporting positive Jewish cultural awareness.

Mr. Speaker, in the Jewish tradition the number 18, called "chai," is considered lucky, and since 36 is 18 doubled, the number 36 is known as "double chai" is also considered lucky. Therefore, on the celebration of the Peninsula Sinai Congregation's double chai anniversary, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Peninsula Sinai Congregation on its extraordinary growth and wish the congregation continued successes in the future.

IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY
SERVICES BLOCK GRANT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3030) to amend the Community Service Block Grant Act to provide for quality improvements:

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to further extend my remarks from the Debate on H.R. 3030 on February 4 2004. In my remarks on H.R. 3030, Mr. BOEHNER and I discussed portions of the 1972 debate addressing the 702 exemption of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The following provides more in-depth explanations of Senator Ervin and Senator Allen's comments in 1972 regarding this issue. Please insert these comments at the end of my remarks or appropriate place regarding this debate.

I believe it is important to consider the rest of the 1972 legislative history on the amendment to the 702 exemption of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and to discuss the comments of the lead proponents of the 1972 amendment to the 702 exemption of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, Senators Sam Ervin (D-NC) and James Allen (D-AL). You will find that these senators rallied support for broadening this exemption by citing examples of religious institutions that they said did not receive federal financial aid, but were supported by private funds. It underscores my point

about the difference between discrimination with private funds and discrimination with taxpayer funds.

I recommend for the House's consideration an article that will be published soon entitled, Religion-based Employment Decisions and Federally Funded Jobs: Congressional Debate, Law and Policy, written by Melissa Rogers, Visiting Professor of Religion and Public Policy at Wake Forest University. Rogers is former executive director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life and former general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee, and she has spent a lot of time working on this issue.

Rogers writes: "It is true . . . that [Senators Ervin and Allen, the prime proponents of the 1972 amendment to the 702 exemption of Title VII] considered an institution-wide exemption for religious organizations from Title VII to be crucial to religious autonomy and freedom. It is often recalled, for example, that Senator Ervin repeatedly said that his amendment was designed 'to take the political hands of Caesar off of the institutions of God, where they have no place to be.'

"But what has not been recalled," Rogers notes, "is that, in his argument for allowing religious organizations to make religion-based employment decisions institution-wide, Senator Ervin repeatedly used an example of a religious institution from his home state that, as he stressed, '[was] not supported in any respect by the Federal Government,' but by religious adherents."

Specifically, Senator Ervin said the following:

"We have a college in North Carolina known as Davidson College that is affiliated with the Southern Presbyterian Church. Davidson College is supported by the fees of its students and by the voluntary contributions of people interested in its activities. It is not supported in any respect by the Federal Government

This college was founded and is controlled by people who believe in giving a Christian education to the students of the institution . . . [It has] a regulation, which says that any person who is chosen to be a full professor at the institution shall be a member of an Evangelical Christian Church"

Senator Ervin then asked Senator Allen, his colleague and supporter: Is there "anything immoral or ought [there] to be anything illegal in people who support a college devoted to giving a Christian education taking steps to assure that the youth who attend it should be instructed on any subject, whether religious or nonreligious, by teachers who are members of a Christian church?" And, in response to a question later in the debate, Ervin emphasized again that Davidson College was "supported by fees of the students and voluntary gifts of people who believe in giving the kind of education this institution gives."

Senator Allen echoed this argument in his own statements. He commented: "Under our system of religious freedom, which would be violated by this EEOC bill, religious organizations have seen fit to use their own resources to establish church schools at every level of education—elementary, secondary, and institutions of higher education. They did so because they wanted youth taught in a religious atmosphere and by Christian instructors." Senator Allen also quoted Senator Ervin stating: "[I]f the members of the Presbyterian Church, or the members of the Catholic

Church, or the members of the Lutheran Church, or the members of any other religious body see fit to establish, through their own resources, an institution of learning for the instruction of youth, and they want the youth of that institution to be taught by persons they regard as Christian professors, even in nonreligious subjects such as mathematics or trigonometry or philosophy, they should have the unqualified right to do that.”

Accordingly, Professor Rogers concludes: “The 1972 legislative history reveals that the lead sponsors of the 702 amendment rallied support for their amendments by offering examples of religious institutions that they said did not receive government financial aid, but were supported with private funds. Far from supporting [religious discrimination in publicly funded jobs], this evidence cuts directly against it. Thus, any suggestion that the 1972 legislative history offers support for allowing religious organizations to make religion-based employment decisions with regard to government-funded positions is simply incorrect.”

So, if those most interested in this amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Act would go back and look at the debate, he or she would find that Senators Ervin and Allen were rallying support for broadening the 702 exemption by referring to religious institutions that they said were supported with private money.

But we are not talking about those kinds of situations today. Instead, we are talking about the people's money, the American tax dollar, and I think there is a huge difference there.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the League of United Latin American Citizens on 75 years of outstanding service. Your work has improved the lives of millions of Hispanic Americans and has benefited our entire country.

Seventy-five years ago, the founders of the League of United Latin American Citizens, better known as LULAC, joined together to establish an organization that would become the largest, oldest and most successful Hispanic civil rights and service organization in the United States. Since its inception on February 17, 1919, in Corpus Christi, Texas, LULAC has championed the cause of Hispanic Americans in education, employment, economic development and civil rights.

LULAC has developed a comprehensive set of nationwide programs fostering educational attainment, job training, housing, scholarships, citizenship, and voter registration. Its members throughout the Nation have developed a tremendous track record advancing the prosperity and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States. LULAC's legislative platform promotes humanitarian relief for immigrants, increased educational opportunities for our youth, and equal treatment for all Hispanics in the United States and its territories, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

This year the League of United Latin American Citizens will celebrate 75 years of com-

munity service to increase educational opportunities and improve the quality of life for Hispanic Americans. I am proud to join my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the LULAC membership, and Americans across the country in commending LULAC on 75 years of service and the great contributions LULAC has made to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, 2004, this Member unavoidably missed Roll Call vote No. 14 on H.J. Res. 84, a resolution honoring former President Ronald Reagan on the occasion of his 93rd birthday. Had this Member been present, this Member would have voted “aye.”

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL J. RICE

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor the achievements of Russell J. Rice, Chief of Police for the city of Placentia, California, who is retiring after 30 years of exemplary service.

Chief Rice's leadership and impressive record of academic career and civic involvement has earned the admiration and respect of all those who have had the privilege of working with him. He was named P.O.S.T. Command College, Outstanding Student for Academic Achievement, Class 18, 1994; City of Placentia, Employee of the Year, 1986; Placentia Police Officer's Association, Officer of the Year, 1985; and Disabled American Veterans, Outstanding Police Officer, 1984 and 1985.

I would like to congratulate Chief Rice on these many accomplishments and sincerely thank him for his ongoing commitment to the community, which he has served so admirably.

TRIBUTE TO BARRY HIRSCHFELD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the Hirschfeld family's impressive tradition of business excellence and philanthropy in Colorado. For over three generations, the Hirschfeld's have dedicated their time and efforts toward improving their Denver community. In acknowledgment of the family's many contributions, Barry Hirschfeld, his father Edward, and grandfather A.B. were recently inducted into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame.

The Hirschfeld legacy began when A.B. founded the A.B. Hirschfeld Press Company in

1907 by printing business cards with a hand press. It has grown to one of the largest printing companies in the area, employing 150 members of the community, and boasts annual earnings of \$23 million. The Hirschfeld's entrepreneurial spirit guided them into a number of other prominent business ventures. A.B.'s love for sports resulted in his co-ownership of the Denver Broncos and Denver Bears. Edward's interest in telecommunications led him to start a local television station, and he was instrumental in helping to bring cable television to Denver through Mile High Cable. Barry, the current president of Hirschfeld Press, took an early interest in telecommunications as well, starting a car phone company in 1984, and has pursued various real estate interests throughout the Denver region.

The Hirschfeld family is also well known for their philanthropic endeavors. A.B. served on no less than fifty civic organizations during his life, and founded the Denver Housing Authority, which has worked to help low-income families. Edward actively participated in numerous Jewish and social organizations, was a co-founder of the Hundred Club of Denver, and served as board chairman of Mile High United Way. Today, Barry and his wife Arlene tirelessly devote their efforts to numerous community activities and charitable organizations, such as the Boettcher Foundation and aiding in the creation of the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District.

Mr. Speaker, the drive the Hirschfeld family has shown in their business and charitable activities have made them true civic leaders in their community. For nearly a century, the Hirschfeld family has left an indelible mark of excellence on the City of Denver and the State of Colorado. It is my privilege to extend my sincere congratulations to the Hirschfeld's on their induction into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING KENNETH E. LEE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenneth E. Lee, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kenneth has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Kenneth has been involved with scouting, he has earned 39 merit badges and is a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He served on Cub Scout Camp staff for 5 years. Kenneth has also attended the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia and the Junior Leader Training Conference at the Pony Express Council.

For his Eagle Scout project, Kenneth built a handicap ramp for the Winston United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kenneth E. Lee for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America

and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING UNC TV MANAGER TOM HOWE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the contributions of one of North Carolina's most tenacious and visionary leaders: Tom Howe.

Many North Carolinians might not recognize Tom's name, but they surely have seen his work. Tom is the Director and General Manager of UNC-TV, our state's highly respected public television network. Last month, he received the Governors' Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Nashville/Midsouth Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. This prestigious Emmy award is given annually to recognize an "outstanding industry leader," a designation that fits Tom perfectly.

For more than a decade, Tom has presided over our state's 11-station public television network, bringing us comprehensive coverage of public affairs and a deepened understanding of North Carolina's past, present, and future.

I have had the privilege of working with Tom in the policy arena. He fought a courageous and somewhat lonely battle for years for equitable treatment for UNC-TV and other systems similarly situated from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Public Broadcasting System. The successful resolution of this matter is still yielding benefits and will for years to come. More recently, Tom has spoken out effectively on the preservation of localism and community standards on our airwaves in the context of the Federal Communications Commission's decision on media concentration.

Tom has been ahead of the curve in television's digital conversion, anticipating industry trends and leading the way in innovative technology. Not only has he beaten the FCC deadline for digital conversion, he has also brought 4-channel multicasting to UNC-TV, ensuring even greater coverage and enhanced educational opportunities for viewers. His dedication and persistence have ensured that UNC-TV continues to be an exemplary network, both in terms of the technology he utilizes and the programs he broadcasts.

Tom Howe knows television, and he uses the power of the medium to effect positive change: to inform, to educate, and to bring viewers the kind of meaningful programming that is increasingly hard to find. I congratulate him for this well-deserved award, and I thank him for his commitment and leadership.

HONORING DAVID E. SCHAFFER

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a most distinguished public

servant, Mr. David E. Schaffer, Senior Counsel on the Transportation Committee's Aviation Subcommittee. Mr. Schaffer is retiring after twenty-six years of Federal service, including the past 20 years with the Committee. His unmatched knowledge in the field of aviation, as well as his engaging personality, will be sorely missed in the halls of Congress. David's work stands as a prime example of the good that can be accomplished through public service. The American people have been quite fortunate to have Mr. Schaffer's expertise and guidance throughout his career. Every single aviation law passed in the last two decades is marked with David's creative ideas and approaches. As an attachment to my remarks, a list of all aviation laws passed during David's tenure is included.

David's ability to work with people on both sides of the aisle serves as a major reason for the overwhelming bipartisan support aviation legislation has gathered over the last twenty years. His evenhanded and steady demeanor, as well as his thoughtful approach to a matter ensures that all ideas are heard, and that every opinion is considered. The relationships that David has cultivated among both government and industry officials has allowed for a free exchange of ideas on a wide variety of issues. Such exchanges have helped foster the growth of our nation's aviation industry. He has earned an immeasurable amount of respect from everyone with whom he has worked, including Members of Congress, staff, and those in the transportation community.

David began his career in public service in 1978, when he joined the Office of General Counsel of the Civil Aeronautics Board as an attorney, specializing in rules, legislation, and litigation involving small community air service, international air service, consumer protection, and charters. In 1984, he began work with the Aviation Subcommittee as an Assistant Minority Counsel in 1992, and Majority Counsel in 1995. Throughout his tenure with the Aviation Subcommittee, he has been involved in all aspects of aviation legislation, including safety, security, airline competition, international air service, the Airport Improvement Program, air traffic control modernization, Federal Aviation Administration reform, and oversight of the Federal Aviation Administration, Transportation Security Administration, and the National Transportation Safety Board.

David's leadership proved critical in the weeks following the events of September 11, 2001. His experience played an essential role in creating the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, which helped restore confidence to the flying public. In a most precarious time for our nation, we were extremely fortunate to have someone like David Schaffer assisting us. Most recently, his assistance led to the successful passage of Vision 100, the FAA Reauthorization Act, which will have a lasting effect on the aviation industry for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of David Schaffer, and wish him well in whatever venture he seeks next. I would also like to offer an extended note of gratitude on behalf of the previous Chairmen of the Transportation Committee and Aviation Subcommittee whom David has served with great distinction. We wish you good luck and again say thank you for all you have done for both the Congress as well as the American people.

AVIATION LAWS PASSED DURING DAVID SCHAFFER'S TENURE

108th Congress

H.R. 2115, Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act

S. 579, National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2003

107th Congress

H.R. 2926, Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act

S. 1447, Aviation and Transportation Security Act

106th Congress

H.R. 1000, Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century

S. 2440, Airport Security Improvement Act of 2000

105th Congress

H.R. 2476, To amend title 49, United States Code, to require the National Transportation Safety Board and individual foreign air carriers to address the needs of families of passengers involved in aircraft accidents involving foreign air carriers.

H.R. 2626, To make clarifications to the Pilot Records Improvement Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2843, Aviation Medical Assistance Act of 1998

104th Congress

H.R. 3159, National Transportation Safety Board Amendments of 1996

H.R. 3539, Federal Aviation Authorization Act of 1996

103rd Congress

H.R. 904, To amend the Airport and Airway Safety, Capacity, Noise Improvement, and Inter-nodal Transportation Act of 1992 with respect to the establishment of the National Commission to Ensure a Strong Competitive Airline Industry.

H.R. 2440, Independent Safety Board Act Amendments of 1994

H.R. 2739, Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994

S. 1458, General Aviation Revitalization Authorization Act of 1994

102nd Congress

H.R. 5481, FAA Civil Penalty Administrative Assessment Act of 1992

H.R. 6168, Airport and Airway Safety, Capacity, Noise Improvement, and Intermodal Transportation Act of 1992

101st Congress

H.R. 968, Noise Reduction Reimbursement Act of 1989

H.R. 5732, Aviation Security Improvement Act of 1990

H.R. 3671, To amend the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 to extend the civil penalty assessment demonstration program.

H.R. 5131, To amend the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 to extend the civil penalty assessment demonstration program, and for other purposes.

100th Congress

H.R. 2310, Airport and Airway Improvement Amendments of 1987

S. 623, Independent Safety Board Act Amendments of 1987

S. 1628, An original bill to extend the Aviation Insurance Program for 5 years

99th Congress

S. 2703, Air Carrier Access Act of 1986

98th Congress

H.R. 5297, Civil Aeronautics Board Sunset Act of 1984

S. 197, A bill to direct the Secretary of the Department of Transportation to conduct an independent study to determine the adequacy of certain industry practices and Federal Aviation Administration rules and regulations, and for other purposes.

S. 1146, Aviation Drug-Trafficking Control Act

INTRODUCING THE BELARUS
FREEDOM ACT OF 2004

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Belarus Freedom Act of 2004. This bill will graduate Belarus from the requirements of the Jackson-Vanik statute and thereby establish permanent normal trade relations with that country.

The Jackson-Vanik amendment was adopted in 1974, during a time when the U.S.S.R. was imposing enormous "education repayment fees" on anyone seeking to emigrate from that country. The statute was designed to prevent temporary restoration of an already suspended "most favored nation" treatment unless its freedom of emigration requirement is complied with. After the break-up of the U.S.S.R., the successor countries found themselves subject to Jackson-Vanik—meaning that they had to prove yearly that they allowed free emigration in order to enjoy normal trade relations with the United States. Several former Soviet republics have already been permanently graduated from Jackson-Vanik, and several others are in the process of being graduated. Belarus has gained a presidential waiver for every year since 1992, indicating its ongoing compliance with the requirements. Therefore it is time to recognize the passing of the Soviet era and move on toward better trade relations with Belarus.

Though some have tried to read additional requirements into the original amendment, Jackson-Vanik is in reality solely about freedom of emigration. And, as I have stated, Belarus has attained a Presidential waiver every year since 1992.

Time and time again we see that peaceful trade and good relations with other countries does much more to foster democratization and liberalization than sanctions, diplomatic expulsions, and accusations. Our Founding Fathers recognized this when they cautioned against foreign entanglements and counseled instead free trade and friendly relations with all countries who seek the same.

I hope my colleagues will join with me as cosponsors of this bill and support further constructive relations with the Republic of Belarus.

HONORING MR. MARK SIMONI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary to honor Mr. Mark Simoni, 9th District Rear Commodore of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, for his hard work and dedication to promoting recreational boating safety within the Great Lakes and the Saginaw Bay. On February 21, 2004, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flint Flotilla 15-02, will

gather to honor Mr. Simoni during the "Change of Watch" awards ceremony to be held in my hometown of Flint, Michigan at Mario's Restaurant.

Mark Simoni was born in Flint, Michigan, on December 19, 1952. He graduated from Grand Blanc High School in 1971, and upon completion he attended the University of Michigan and Northwestern University. In 1991 Mark became a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary-Saginaw 15-05. Mark has unselfishly given of his time and resources to ensure the safety of boaters and families. His commitment to the U.S. Coast Guard team mission led him to hold elected offices such as Flotilla Commander-Saginaw 15-05, Division 15 Captain from 2002-2003, and Vice Captain from 2000-2001. Mark has also held staff positions on the Flotilla, Division, District/Region and National level. Recently (2004) Mark was promoted to 9th District Region Rear Commodore of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Mark has volunteered countless hours in the areas of Public Education, Vessel Safety Checks, Safety Patrols, Search and Rescue, Maritime Security and Environmental Protection. A fine example of loyalty is when he used his personal watercraft to patrol the Great Lakes along with other auxiliaries to ensure that Michigan waterways were secure after the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center tragedy. Mark has proven himself worthy of his new title as 9th District Region Rear Commodore. This new position will allow him the opportunity to provide administrative and supervisory support to the Flotillas and Divisions within his district.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating Mr. Mark Simoni on his promotion and also in honoring him for his past deeds. He has and continues to serve his country with enthusiasm and steadfastness. I wish him all the best in the future.

BLACK EAGLE WINS GRAMMY

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Black Eagle, the winner of the 2004 Grammy for Best Native American Music Album. This drum group from Jemez Pueblo draws upon the rich history of the Native American Powwow for musical inspiration. Their fifteen years of performing has developed a deep and broad following across the country. It is my great honor to congratulate them for this win.

Black Eagle formed in 1989 after group leader Malcolm Yepa attended a powwow in Lame Deer, Montana. He became enamored with the singing and drum playing being performed and upon returning to Jemez Pueblo, Malcolm and his brother David Yepa Jr. formed Black Eagle. Cousins who had heard of Malcolm's experience were eager to join and the group soon consisted of twenty-one members.

After learning popular songs by listening to the recordings from other drum groups, Black Eagle began performing at local powwows. Their music coalesced into a definitive sound

as they gained experience and soon the group was drawing wide recognition. Touring across the country during the next few years brought encounters with several others in the same musical vein, including fellow drum group, Black Lodge of White Swan, Washington.

It was at this time, after speaking with Black Lodge, that Black Eagle began writing and performing original music written by members of the group. Making the music even more exceptional was the fact that it was written, and performed, in the Towa language, the dialect of the Jemez Pueblo. Such a project had never been done before, and release of their freshman album, titled, "Volume I," brought wide praise.

The production of music by Black Eagle continued unabated. "Vol. II," the group's second album, was quickly followed by, "Soaring High" and "Star Child." By 2001, when they released their fifth album, "Life Goes On," Black Eagle had gained a wide following through extensive touring and word-of-mouth. This fifth work however, would be the work that gave Black Eagle national prominence and critical acclaim. A collection of round dance and hand drum songs, "Life Goes On," garnered a Grammy nomination under the "Best Native American Music Album" category.

While the 2002 awards ceremony did not bring a win for the group, Black Eagle was bolstered by the nomination and in March of 2003, they released, "Flying Free." This sixth work utilized new technology to create a "live" recording sound in the studio and also bridged Native American music history when bells used on legendary group XIT's albums were played by Black Eagle.

"Flying Free" was nominated, and won, the 2004 Grammy for "Best Native American Music Album." Black Eagle's roots, which reside deep within the Jemez culture, are reflected on the album. Jemez Pueblo has a very long history in the great State of New Mexico, and continues to this day to preserve its cultural, spiritual and traditional customs. Events at the Pueblo, including feast days, dances, and arts and crafts shows, are still the primary responsibility of several members of the group.

Going from a single teenager captivated by the music of his people to a familial, rooted award-winning group, Malcolm Yepa and Black Eagle are to be applauded for their musical achievements, commended for their loyalty to the history of the powwow, and wished the very best in their future aspirations.

KOOTENAI VALLEY RESOURCE
INITIATIVE

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House a shining example of our great experiment in democracy. The Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative came to life in 2001, the result of collaboration between the Boundary County Board of Commissioners, the City of Bonners Ferry, and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. The mission of the KVRI is to act as a locally based effort to improve coordination, integration, and implementation of existing local, state, and federal programs that can effectively maintain, enhance,

and restore the social, cultural, economic, and natural resource bases in their community. Mr. Speaker, after personally viewing this group in action, I am happy to report this is a successful endeavor.

The KVRI membership consists of private citizens and landowners, local governments, federal and state agencies, an environmental advocacy group, and Indian Nation, and representatives of business and industry within the lower Kootenai basin of Idaho. The Initiative is a sign of tremendous change in Boundary County. It signals a move from combat to collaboration and should serve as a model for other communities around the country with severe contention over natural resource issues. The members of the KVRI work hard to find areas of common concern with which they, as a community, can pursue solutions to challenges such as fisheries recovery, flood flow elevations, TMDL planning, and the development of a wetland conservation strategy.

Mr. Speaker, the collaborative spirit of the KVRI, and its members' determination to find common sense solutions that move the community forward, should serve as an inspiration to us all. I would like to thank the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative for demonstrating how this great experiment in democracy is supposed to function.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JOHN
BENNETT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of former Grand Junction Mayor John Bennett, who after a long battle with an illness, passed away at the age of sixty-six. John was a true American patriot, and a beloved friend and colleague to many in his Colorado community. In his years spent in public

service, John embodied the ideals of integrity and courage that we, as Americans, have come to expect. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community, state and country.

Mayor Bennett lived an immensely rich and full life, always holding firm to his beliefs in serving his community and country. He spent over twenty years defending this Nation, serving in the Air Force and the Army, where he earned a reputation as a solid and dependable leader. After his retirement, John continued to feel a call to service and dedicated his efforts toward improving the lives of his Grand Junction community. He served as a member of the Grand Junction City Council, and was elected mayor in 1988, where he was known for his judiciousness and problem-solving skills.

Mr. Speaker, we are all at a great loss because of Mayor Bennett's passing, but can be comforted in knowing he helped make Grand Junction a better place for future generations. I would like to extend my heartfelt sorrow to his wife of over twenty years, Barbara, and his loving children, Tammy, Vicki, and William. Mayor Bennett's selfless dedication to Grand Junction, the State of Colorado, and the United States has helped ensure a promising future for our great country and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress. I am proud to have known such a great man who enriched the lives of his family, community, and Nation.

HONORING BERNICE FELDMAN
MAYERS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the contributions of Bernice

Feldman Mayers of Dallas, Texas, and am pleased to be joined in this tribute by my colleague, Representative WEXLER of Florida. Mrs. Mayers was not only a dedicated teacher of special-needs students, but shares the distinction of being related to two members of the South Florida delegation—Congressman WEXLER and myself. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy of warmth, dedication and caring.

Born in the Bronx, New York, Mrs. Mayers moved with her family to Dallas, Texas, at the age of five. She graduated from Forest Avenue High School at the age of 15 and received her bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma at the age of 19. Following graduation, Mrs. Mayers began to volunteer for a number of organizations including the City of Hope, a cancer research center. Mrs. Mayers also served as the president of the Dallas Chapter, where she coordinated the first ever cancer research study in the Dallas area.

After receiving her master's degree in special education from Texas Women's University in 1967, Mrs. Mayers began her teaching career with Sam Houston Junior High School. She served as the head of the school's special education department, well-known as a fierce advocate for students with special needs. Mrs. Mayers retired in 1992, but she continued to work as both a substitute teacher and as a Hebrew teacher at Congregation Beth Torah. She also committed her energies to Forest Avenue Alumni Association and the Tom C. Gooch Elementary School in Dallas.

Mrs. Mayers is survived by her husband, two sons, four grandchildren and numerous friends and extended family, all who will miss her greatly.