

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO HAROLD BROUGHTON

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Harold Broughton and thank him for his service to the agricultural industry. His incredible accomplishment of being awarded the 2003 Lifetime Membership Award at the Western Colorado Horticultural Society is a testament not only to his extraordinary natural abilities, but also his incredible work ethic and indomitable human spirit.

This well deserved honor is the manifestation of a life-long passion, and could not have been bestowed upon a more deserving individual. As a fourth generation farmer, Harold Broughton has spent his career managing the fruit orchards for families and organizations throughout Colorado. He was able to start his own company in 1966 which would later be named Harold Broughton Orchards, LLC which electronically sizes, custom packs, brokers and ships fruit throughout the nation under the Tom-Tom label.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Harold Broughton is a person of unparalleled dedication and commitment to his life-long pursuit of horticulture and shipping fruit nationwide. It is not only his incredible devotion, but also his unrelenting passion for the fruit industry in Colorado that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Harold here today, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

### IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF DR. HELEN S. FAISON

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. Helen S. Faison, for her significant and groundbreaking professional accomplishments in the field of education, and for serving as a mentor, role model and inspiration for countless women and men in the City of Pittsburgh, PA, and far beyond.

Dr. Faison's unwavering integrity, strong work ethic, trailblazing spirit and energetic quest for knowledge led her to become one of the first African-American teachers in the Pittsburgh School District. After many decades of inspirational instruction, Dr. Faison became the first female, and the first African-American to be named high school principal within the City of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Faison was later appointed as deputy superintendent of the Pittsburgh School District. This was the highest administrative posi-

tion ever held by a woman in the district. Presently, Dr. Faison is the Director of the Pittsburgh Teachers Institute, and Education Department Chair and distinguished visiting professor at Chatham College. Beyond her monumental scholastic and professional contributions, awards and accolades, Dr. Faison has served as a beacon of inspiration, hope and living testament to countless students and colleagues—teaching by example that dreams can become reality.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Helen Faison, as she has been honored on February 5, 2004, by the 14th Annual Strong Men & Women: Excellence in Leadership series, sponsored by Dominion East Ohio. Dr. Faison's groundbreaking professional excellence and accomplishment as an outstanding teacher and educational leader has inspired, guided and enhanced the minds and hearts of countless young students through the years. Her continued commitment to education serves as a beacon of hope and light for people of all races so they may visualize and realize their dreams, and her journey continues to inspire us all.

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. GEORGE ROBINSON "ROBIN" SWIFT, JR.

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Escambia County and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. George Robinson "Robin" Swift, Jr., was a devoted family man and dedicated public servant throughout his entire life.

His desire to provide the best opportunities possible for his fellow Alabamians led him to become involved in state politics on both the local and statewide levels, culminating with a hard-fought campaign for governor in 1994. Prior to his run for elective office, Robin Swift participated on the campaign of former Governor Guy Hunt and served with distinction as the governor's finance director. It would be safe to say that the state of Alabama has never had a finer, more dedicated or more capable finance director than Robin Swift.

During his tenure as finance director, Robin was extremely diligent with the taxpayer's money and set the highest standard for all public servants. One of his former colleagues in the Alabama Finance Office, Lee Miller, paid tribute to Mr. Swift's tremendous success when he said, "He led by example, and was the best steward of the public trust I ever encountered at any level of government."

Mr. Speaker, while Robin Swift was an exemplary model of public service, his true love was America's free enterprise system where, as a small business owner in Atmore, he was

extremely familiar with the challenges and goals of running a successful business. That business, Swift Lumber Company, provides employment opportunities today to many dozens of hardworking men and women throughout South Alabama. While serving as president of Swift Lumber Company, Robin Swift and his family have provided a local anchor that remains an important part of the area economy to this day.

Additionally, Mr. Swift was a proud veteran of the United States Army and served with distinction for two years during the Korean War.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for the citizens of Escambia County and the state of Alabama. Mr. Swift will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Lucille King Swift, his daughter, Lisa Swift Marks, his son, G. Robin Swift, III, and his six grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID EPPICH

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to David Eppich, a man who for over twenty-five years has led a distinguished career in education and public service in Durango, Colorado. His incredible devotion to his community and involvement in youth programs was recently recognized by the Durango Chamber of Commerce, named David Eppich its Citizen of the Year.

This is an incredible honor for a Durango resident, and could not have been bestowed upon a more well deserving individual. For over a quarter of a century, David has worked with Fort Lewis College and emerged as a community leader actively involved in the youth programs in the Durango region. Humbled by the award, David believes there are many more well deserving individuals, and continues to encourage others to volunteer their time and resources to organizations in the Durango area.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that David Eppich is a person who possesses unparalleled dedication and commitment to his life long pursuit of public service. It is not only his incredible devotion, but also his passion for contributing to the youth programs in the Durango community that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. It is my distinct pleasure to honor David here today, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

• 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.

HONORING EVELYN BLAHA  
SZCZECZ

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my dear friend, Evelyn Blaha Szczecz of Newburgh Heights, Ohio, as she gathers with family and friends to celebrate her birthday on February 7—eighty years young, and as lively as ever.

With family central to her life, Mrs. Szczecz and her late husband, Clarence T. Szczecz, raised four children: Clarence, Roseanne, Robert and Brian. She is blessed with ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Beyond caring for her family, Mrs. Szczecz has been an involved member of the community, and continues to dedicate her time and talents to many civic endeavors. For nearly five decades, Mrs. Szczecz has been an integral part of our democratic system—working to support candidates, educate voters, and promote voter registration. She has been an active member of the Democratic Party of Newburgh Heights since 1959, and has held all positions within the Party throughout the years, from entertainment committee member, to treasurer, to president.

With a quick and agile mind, and an equally energized spirit, Mrs. Szczecz continues to volunteer her time and talents in service to her community. She continues her involvement in the Democratic Party of Newburgh Heights, and serving on the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections—as she has for the past fifty years. She also continues to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party and is President of the Golden Agers of Newburgh Heights.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Evelyn Blaha Szczecz, in joyous celebration of her 80th birthday. Mrs. Szczecz continues to be an inspiration to everyone in her life—especially to her family and friends. Her loyalty, friendship, convictions, boundless energy, joy, and good works are invaluable gifts to all of us who know her well, and her dedication and work has uplifted the Village of Newburgh Heights, and our entire community. We wish her continued health and happiness today, and all days to come.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE JACK TILLMAN ON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the Honorable Jack Tillman, Sheriff for Mobile County, Alabama, on the occasion of his being elected as president of the Alabama Sheriffs Association (ASA).

The ASA was designed to provide a professional network and link for the sheriffs in Alabama's 67 counties. Along with providing this link for law enforcement officials throughout

the State, the Sheriffs Association also serves as an important legislative tool on the State and Federal levels and advocates on behalf of its membership and their families. Since 1990, the ASA has also been actively involved with the "Jail Assistance Project," a program created to provide sheriffs, chiefs of police, and representatives of local governments with the tools to plan and staff new jail facilities, provide expert advice and assistance in evaluating correctional equipment, and develop training on various correctional issues.

Jack Tillman is very qualified to serve as the president of this organization and has an extensive background in the law enforcement field. On January 15, 2003, he was sworn in to begin his third term as Mobile County Sheriff. Prior to that, he served in the Mobile County Public School System as a Resource Officer. During his tenure with the school system, he successfully conducted numerous criminal investigations requiring collaboration with representatives from law enforcement agencies at the local, State, and Federal levels.

Sheriff Tillman's concern for and involvement in his community also extends outside the professional boundaries of the sheriff's office. He serves on numerous boards for civic and church groups and organizations dedicated to the young people of Mobile County.

Along with his wife, Deborah, their children Brian and Lindsay, and his many friends and colleagues, I wish to extend to Sheriff Jack Tillman my warmest congratulations on his election as president of the Alabama Sheriffs Association.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRAN  
WEAVER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Fran Weaver of Pueblo, Colorado passed away recently at the age of seventy-nine. Fran was a successful author and friend to many, and I would like to recognize her tremendous contributions to the Pueblo community before this body of Congress and this nation.

Fran was renowned for her devotion to education, and after raising her children, decided to return to college where she earned a degree in journalism. She delighted in writing her weekly column, "Midlife Musings," for The Pueblo Chieftain, as well as lecturing on national television and Crystal Cruises. She felt that old age should not be a reason to slow down, and, according to her former newspaper, "urged them to open themselves up to new experiences." As I reflect on Fran's accomplishments, it is evident that she heeded her own advice.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life of Fran Weaver. Fran's love of the written word and zest for life is truly an inspiration for us all. The Pueblo community and the State of Colorado will truly miss her, and my thoughts go out to Fran's loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
DONALD BOGART

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Donald Bogart—devoted family man, accomplished scientist, social justice activist and humanitarian.

Mr. Bogart grew up in a small apartment in Brooklyn, NY. He earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Arts. Immediately following graduation, Bogart, a brilliant scholar, was recruited by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics—NASA's forerunner. In 1943, Bogart moved to Cleveland to begin his accomplished career in nuclear physics at NASA—a career that spanned nearly 40 years. From 1958 to 1974, Mr. Bogart served as director of the nuclear physics branch at NASA Lewis Research Center, where he led a team of scientists to develop a nuclear rocket for a proposed manned space flight to Mars. Mr. Bogart moved into the area of solar energy and technology, making great strides in the field. Later, as a representative of the State Department, Bogart brought his expertise in the area of solar energy to India and the Philippines.

Outshining his significant achievement was his compassionate heart, strong convictions, and unyielding bravery as he consistently led local efforts on behalf of matters of human rights and civil rights, here at home and overseas. Mr. Bogart spoke publicly about the plight of Soviet Jews during the height of the cold war, and organized local groups to assist Jews to escape religious persecution in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. Donald Bogart—an exceptional man, scientist, and leader whose life reflected accomplishment, caring and joy. I offer my deepest condolences to his devoted wife, Marilyn, beloved children, Carol, Valerie, and Wendy, devoted grandchildren, Sam, Alex and Andre, and extended family and friends. Donald Bogart's brilliant and flawless legacy—both personally and professionally, will be remembered forever by family, friends and colleagues.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.  
KENDALL P. DEXTER

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Kendall Parker Dexter was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

Following his graduation from the University of Michigan, he joined International Paper Company in 1950 as a forester. After serving in various positions with the company in Mississippi, Mr. Dexter moved to Mobile, Alabama

in 1955 and began work as a conservation forester in International Paper's Gulf Woodlands Region. From 1962 to 1974, he served as a member of the management development and public relations departments at the Southern Kraft Division headquarters. Beginning in 1974 and continuing until his retirement, he served as the division's manager of governmental relations.

Along with his employment at International Paper, Mr. Dexter also served in various capacities as an outside consultant to the timber and paper industries, the Mobile Bar Pilots, and to representatives in both the Alabama State Legislature and the United States Congress. He also served as president of the Paper Industry Management Association.

In the midst of his intense professional schedule, Mr. Dexter also found time to serve in many community organizations and on several boards of directors. He was actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America and was an important part of the effort to organize and develop Camp Maubila in Jackson, Alabama. Mr. Dexter was also an active member of the Kiwanis Club, a past member of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as a member of the board of directors of the Mobile Symphony and Civic Music Association.

Mr. Dexter was also a proud veteran of the United States Air Force and served with distinction during the Korean War as both a navigator and bombardier aboard a B-26 "Invader." For his service, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout South Alabama. Mr. Dexter will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Lila Webb Dexter; his children, John Kendall Dexter, David Parker Dexter, Elizabeth Dexter, and Katherine Dexter Allen; his stepchildren, Lila McDuffie Bailey, Virginia McDuffie Siniard, and Hunter McDuffie, III; and 14 grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO THE MARCELLUS  
GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Marcellus girls varsity soccer team. The team had an outstanding season with a record of 23 wins, one tie, and one loss. They rose to become the section III class B champions, defeating Skaneateles, South Jefferson, and Ilion.

The team continued on to become the New York State class B regional champions defeating Chartham and Potsdam and became State champions defeating Alden by a score of 4 to 2 and Oneonta by a score of 1 to zero. The girls were all named Channel 9 Athletes of the Week on account of their many accomplishments.

In addition to their dedication to athletics, the team has also demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. All the girls on the team were selected as New York State Public

High School Athletic Association Scholar Athletes.

The team includes Sami Boyle, Maureen Dooley, Jenna Farneti, Kelly Hanlon, Candy Hoffman, Jocie Jankowski, Alyssa MacLachlan, Meghan Mannion, Alyse O'Brien, Katie O'Laughlin, Sarah Potter, Jessie Reynolds, Amanda Stessen, Hannah Vaughn, Sarah Vulcano, Katie Walter, Amy Ware, Jennifer Young, Katie Young, and Katie Zimmerman. These girls are a source of pride to our community and should be commended for their hard work and dedication.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCES  
JONES

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Frances Jones of Pueblo, Colorado, passed away recently at the age of one hundred and eleven. Frances was dedicated to her family, and tried to live each day to its fullest. She will be missed by many and I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing her amazing life before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Frances was born when Grover Cleveland was president, and went on to graduate from Central High School. She later helped found the Alpha Mu Delta Sorority, and married her best friend and soul mate John Jones. During World War II, Frances served as the chairwoman of the local Red Cross canteen. She also remained active in volunteering her time for the greater good of her community and worked with the Pueblo Kennel Club for forty years, taught piano, and mentored young cub scouts before retiring at the age of ninety-six. She is survived by a son, Tom, and his wife Lillian, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation and pay tribute to the life of Frances Jones. Frances' love of family and serving her community are truly a model of living life to its fullest. The Pueblo community, and the State of Colorado will truly miss her, and my thoughts go out to Frances' loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
ROBERTO OCASIO

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Roberto Ocasio. His love for family, music and community has left an indelible mark upon our city, and his passing has created a significant void for all who knew and loved him well.

Mr. Ocasio was born in New York City and raised in Cleveland. By the tender age of ten, he was performing in public, already greatly inspired by Latin music and jazz. He mastered

several instruments along the way, including guitar, piano, clarinet and saxophone. As a young man, he left Cleveland for New York City to further his musical education, then onto Boston, where he studied at Berklee College of Music, mastering composing and arranging.

Mr. Ocasio's Latin Jazz eight-piece band, Roberto Ocasio's Latin Jazz Project, entertained local and national audiences and won critical acclaim. For two consecutive years, Roberto Ocasio's Latin Jazz Project was awarded the Cleveland Free Times Music Award for "Best Jazz Band." More significantly than winning awards, Mr. Ocasio used his musical genius to reach out to the Hispanic community, offering instruction, song and hope by performing at schools, universities, churches and community events. Mr. Ocasio was honored as the "2001 Hispanic of the Year" by the offices of the United States Senate, in collaboration with Nuevos Horizontes Newspaper, for his exceptionally dedicated service to our Hispanic community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Roberto Ocasio, who freely shared his gifts of music, warmth, wit and concern for others. His life was lived joyously and his gift of song and humanity has touched countless lives. I extend my deepest condolences to those who loved and knew him well—his wonderful family and many friends. Although he will be deeply missed, the lyrical song of Roberto Ocasio's spirited life will resound in the hearts of everyone he loved and inspired—today, and for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE ANN BEDSOLE ON RECEIPT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS 2004 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISER AWARD

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the Honorable Ann Bedsole on the occasion of her being honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals with the organization's 2004 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award.

Senator Ann Bedsole has been a distinguished member of the Mobile, Alabama, community and a tremendous advocate for all of south Alabama for over three decades. In 1978, she was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives and served in that capacity for one term. Four years later, in 1982, she became the first woman ever elected to the Alabama State Senate, and was a candidate for governor in 1994.

During her career in the Alabama State Legislature, Senator Bedsole was instrumental in the creation of the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile, Alabama. Working closely with fellow legislators and members of various agencies in state government, she was able to secure support for the institution and has provided a great deal of support since it opened in 1991. In the two decades since its inception, Senator Bedsole has served as both vice president and president of the ASMS Foundation Board of Directors.

Throughout her long fundraising and volunteer career, her crowning achievement was undoubtedly the City of Mobile's Tricentennial Celebration in 2002. This event, celebrating the 300 year history of Mobile, drew thousands of visitors to this historic center and brought tourists, dignitaries, and media representatives from all across the United States and around the world. The celebration's schedule of concerts, exhibitions, festivals, and sporting events were a tremendous success and required a great deal of financial support. Under her leadership and guidance as chairman of the festival, Senator Bedsole was able to solicit more than \$5 million in private, local, state, and committee funds and in-kind services. Her efforts in organizing and leading this event led to a truly memorable celebration of the history and tradition of Mobile.

Along with her strong involvement in the community, Senator Bedsole is involved in many charitable organizations including serving on the boards of the Cybil Smith Charitable Trust and the J.L. Bedsole Foundation.

Senator Bedsole's efforts in the fields of volunteerism and fundraising have also led to significant recognition in previous years, and she has been honored as First Lady of Mobile in 1972 and Mobilian of the Year in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, there are few individuals more dedicated or more committed to helping their communities than Ann Bedsole, and I would like to offer my congratulations on both the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser award and for her many personal and professional achievements. I know her husband, Palmer Bedsole, and her many family and friends join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts on behalf of Mobile and the state of Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO THE AQUINAS BOYS'  
VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Aquinas boys' varsity soccer team. The team had an outstanding season with a record of 22 wins, no losses, and two ties. The team rose to become class B State champions, defeating Westhill by a score of four to zero. This was the second time the boys have captured this title in 4 years.

The entire Aquinas lineup was overflowing with speed and skill that the team's opponents could not match. Keith Manscuk, Chris Roland, Steve Fantuzzo, and Frank Iacovangelo all contributed to Aquinas' victory with one goal apiece. Westhill's coach, Ronald Ficken, hailed the team as not only the best in class B, but also the best team in the State in any class.

The team includes Latim Bitek, Connor Burgasser, Sean Connell, Anthony Dambra, Stephen Fantuzzo, Frank Iacovangelo, Adam Kelly, Daniel Kolb, Corey Lown, Keith Manscuk, James Marsala, Chris Nacca, Patrick Nicholas, Jaymes Nowicki, Dominic Pettinari, Joe Pettinari, Chris Roland, Mike Roorda, Brad Torchia, and Cory Wisecup. The team was coached by Joe LaPietra and Tad Valentino. These boys are a source of pride to

our community and should be commended for their hard work and dedication.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID  
NOVAK

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you to pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. David Novak of Pueblo, Colorado passed away recently at the age of seventy-three. David will always be remembered as a devoted family man and educator of his community's youth, 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.

David began his career as a special education teacher in Pueblo, Colorado after graduating from Adams State College in 1952. He was an advocate for youth throughout his community, and instrumental in organizing youth baseball leagues. David's passion about youth baseball played an instrumental role in bringing the 1976 Babe Ruth Youth World Series to Pueblo, Colorado. Because of his dedication to the sport, he was inducted into the Greater Pueblo Sports Association Hall of Fame in 1980. He is survived by his wife and best friend, Laurel, their children, Michael, Patrick and Rebecca, eight grandchildren, and two brothers, Tony Novak and Joe Martell.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the inspiring life of David Novak. He was a beloved man who made a tremendous impact on his community through his many years of educational leadership and organizing youth baseball. David's love of family and public service is truly a model for us all. The Pueblo community and the State of Colorado will truly miss David, and my thoughts go out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
WILLIAM C. NIEBERDING

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. William C. Nieberding—devoted family man, accomplished scientist, active community leader, and admired friend and mentor.

Mr. Nieberding graduated from John Carroll University with a Bachelor of Science degree in physics in 1957, and attained a Master of Science degree in physics one year later. In 1959, Mr. Nieberding began employment at NASA Glenn Research Center as a research engineer. He was promoted several times throughout his tenure at NASA, and at the time of his retirement in 1995, held the position of Deputy Chief of the Instrumentation and Control Technology Division. Mr. Nieberding's professional life reflects several significant accomplishments and innovations in

the field of aeronautics, space propulsion and space research. He was awarded the NASA Exceptional Service Medal for his outstanding achievement in the development of advanced instrumentation used in aeronautic and space research programs. He was considered the leading national authority regarding this area of study, offering his expertise to aeronautic researchers from around the world. His name is one of a select few stored within a Mars rover that he helped to create.

Beyond his professional work, Mr. Nieberding was deeply dedicated to his community. He served on the Fairview Park Planning Commission, and was an active member of St. Angela Merici Catholic Church, where he served as President of the Parish Council for two years.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. William C. Nieberding, an exceptional man, scientist, and leader whose life reflected accomplishment, caring and joy. I offer my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Mary Ellen, his beloved children, Timothy, Therese and the memory of Christine; his beloved grandchildren, Emily and Mitchell; and his entire extended family. Mr. Nieberding's brilliant and flawless legacy, both personally and professionally, will be remembered forever by family, friends and colleagues, and will shine for all time across the starry night.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.  
BEN C. STIMPSON

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Ben C. Stimpson was a devoted family man and dedicated business leader and conservationist throughout his life.

After attending the University of Alabama for a number of years, he left in 1945 to join the United States Army. At the conclusion of his enlistment, Mr. Stimpson returned home to join his brothers in the family timber business, Ben May's Gulf Lumber Company, in Mobile, Alabama. Over the next several years, he and his family built Ben May's into one of the largest sawmills in the State of Alabama, and Mr. Stimpson served as president of the company. Through his work in the timber industry, he had the opportunity to become affiliated with several professional organizations and served in various leadership capacities with these groups. These include serving as a director of the Alabama Forest Products Association, director of the Southern Forest Products Association, and chairman of the board of the Southern Pine Inspection Bureau. As a result of his professional success and industry involvement, Mr. Stimpson was inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame in 2002 at the University of Alabama.

Along with his work in the timber industry, Mr. Stimpson was also actively involved in the conservation and preservation of the wildlife and natural resources of his native State. Between 1971 and 1984, he served as a member of the Conservation Advisory Board for the

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. He was also a member of the Alabama Wildlife Federation for many years and was both a member of the board of directors and past president of that organization. In 1964, he was recognized for his tremendous efforts in the field of conservation when he was awarded the Governor's Conservation Award by then-Governor George C. Wallace.

In the midst of his busy professional schedule, Mr. Stimpson also found time to serve in many community organizations and on several boards of directors. He was a member of the board of Mobile Infirmary for 25 years; he served for 20 years as a past chairman, president, and member of the St. Paul's Episcopal School board of trustees; and was a vestryman at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout South Alabama. Mr. Stimpson will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Nedra Greer Stimpson; his children, Nedra Stimpson Crosby, John L. Stimpson, Ben C. Stimpson, Jr., Mary Stimpson Turner, and Greer Stimpson Stephens; his brother, William Herbert Stimpson; and 16 grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SYRACUSE  
UNIVERSITY LEADERS KENNETH  
AND MARY ANN SHAW

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Chancellor Kenneth A. Shaw, Ph.D., and Associate to the Chancellor, Mary Ann Shaw, M.S. Both Dr. and Mrs. Shaw are retiring administrators at Syracuse University and active members of the central New York community.

Kenneth A. Shaw has served as chancellor of Syracuse University with great honor since 1991. Prior to coming to Syracuse, Chancellor Shaw presided over the 26-campus University of Wisconsin system that serves more than 160,000 students. In addition, Dr. Shaw was chancellor of the Southern Illinois University system from 1979 to 1986, president of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville from 1977 to 1979, and vice president and dean of Towson State University from 1969 to 1977.

Dr. Shaw is the recipient of honorary degrees from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in 2002; Purdue University, 1990; Illinois State University, 1987; Illinois College, 1986; and Towson State University, 1979. He was also awarded the NCAA's Silver Anniversary Award in 1986 and received the Advancement and Support of Education's District II Chief Executive Leadership Award.

Recently Chancellor Shaw was elected chairman of the Metropolitan Development Association, a regional development, planning, and research organization including a 12-county area in upstate New York. In retirement, Chancellor Shaw plans on taking a more active role with the association.

Mary Ann Shaw is the associate of the chancellor of Syracuse University and has

held this position since 1991. At Syracuse University she works closely with the Office of Institutional Advancement and assists her husband, Chancellor Kenneth A. Shaw.

During her tenure as associate, Mrs. Shaw has helped found and direct the University's Center for Public and Community Service, which promotes public and community service as a fundamental part of the teaching and learning experience. Mrs. Shaw was an original founder of the Syracuse University Literacy Corps, a cadre of SU students who tutor young students in local schools. Mrs. Shaw is currently the chair of the steering committee for the development of the Central New York Children's Hospital and was instrumental in the development of United Way's Success By Six. Mrs. Shaw has also been active as a member and/or officer of the following community organizations: Lifetime Healthcare, Inc., BlueCross BlueShield of Central New York, Inc., the Salvation Army of the Syracuse Area, Syracuse Stage, Syracuse Symphony, and Central New York Community Foundation.

Chancellor Shaw has long been known among the Syracuse University student body for his accessibility and visibility not only in university activities, but in everyday student life. The chancellor has demonstrated his profound commitment to the education of students in many ways; none more significant than his connection and engagement with the Syracuse University student body.

Upon hearing of the chancellor's plans to retire, the Syracuse University student newspaper, the Daily Orange, published an editorial that praised his willingness to defend the newspaper's freedom of speech and his consistent availability to answer questions and talk with the student writers. The editorial wrote that Chancellor Shaw 'recognized the importance of an independent student voice amid a university of administrative voices.'

The Shaws' dedication to the constant advancement of the resources and ideas available to students is reflected in the university's many academic achievements. Chancellor and Mrs. Shaw will leave a lasting influence on the relationship between the Syracuse community and the university. The success attained by the Shaws is attributed largely in part to their genuine concern and interest in providing an atmosphere that fosters growth and discovery.

Both Chancellor and Mrs. Shaw have made a far-reaching impact on the students and faculty of Syracuse University as well as the surrounding community. Their leadership has elevated the educational curriculum and caliber of student attending and graduating from Syracuse University. Chancellor and Mrs. Shaw have set an educational precedent that solidifies Syracuse as a top collegiate program.

On behalf of the students, faculty and community members of Syracuse, I extend my sincere gratitude for the dedication and service Chancellor Shaw and Mrs. Shaw have offered to the community. We look forward to their continued involvement in local civic and business organizations in retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOUISE  
GARCIA

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to pay tribute to the passing of a great woman from my district. Louise Garcia, a native of Durango, Colorado, recently passed away at the age of 85. Louise dedicated her life to improving public transportation and serving the Durango community. I am honored today to bring her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today.

Louise will forever be remembered as a pioneer of the transportation system in Durango. She worked as both a dispatcher and a bookkeeper for the city bus and Opportunity Bus transportation systems. Louise dedicated her time, energy and even personal living space to the betterment of the city's bus system. Louise enjoyed the outdoors and often volunteered to take children camping with the local Community Action organization. Louise was also an active member of the Mother's Club and the choir at her local church.

Mr. Speaker, Louise Garcia was a dedicated woman that selflessly served her Durango community, and I am honored to pay tribute to such a generous public servant. Her lifetime of service is an incredible model for all Americans and my thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this difficult time of bereavement.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE  
HONORABLE JUDGE PATRICIA  
ANN BLACKMON

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Judge Patricia Ann Blackmon, for her significant and groundbreaking professional accomplishments, and for serving as an inspiration and role model for minority women in Cleveland, Ohio, and far beyond.

Her unwavering integrity and strong work ethics were gifts from her mother, who taught by example during her childhood in Mississippi. Blackmon was the first member of her family to attend college, graduating magna cum laude from Tougaloo College in Mississippi with a Bachelor's Degree in African American Studies, political science and history. Her quest for knowledge and personal growth led her away from her Mississippi home, north to Cleveland, to earn a law degree at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Throughout her noteworthy career as an attorney, Judge Blackmon has served as the chief prosecutor for the City of Cleveland, assistant director of Victims/Witness Program, and professor at Dyke College. Presently, Judge Blackmon holds the monumental title as the first African-American woman to preside over the Court of Appeals of Ohio. Judge Blackmon has served, and continues to serve, on many civic advisory boards. She currently serves as

trustee for the Cleveland Bar Association, Lake Erie College, and the Black Women's Political Committee. For her outstanding contribution to the legal profession, Judge Blackmon has been awarded numerous personal and professional awards, including her induction into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, and the 1996 Alumni of the Year Award from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Judge Patricia Ann Blackmon, as she is being honored on February 5, 2004, by the 14th Annual Strong Men & Women: Excellence in Leadership series, sponsored by Dominion East Ohio. Judge Blackmon's professional excellence and accomplishment as a distinguished attorney and judge serves as a beacon of hope and light for people of all races so they may visualize and realize their dreams. And Judge Blackmon's journey from Mississippi to Ohio reflects tenacity, integrity, dreams and hope, and she continues to inspire us all.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL  
BRADFORD C. BRIGHTMAN ON  
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize one of the exemplary servicemen who has served the great State of Alabama and our country in ensuring freedom for the American people. Brigadier General Bradford C. Brightman has not only offered his knowledge and expertise to the Nation while serving, but he has taught the men and women who have served under him to do the same. Today I wish to recognize his numerous accomplishments and honor his distinguished career on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army.

General Brightman served our country for 1 year as a combat engineer enlisted man and then was commissioned on May 16, 1969, after completing the United States Army Engineer Officer Candidate School. He served on active duty from May 1969 until July 1975, during which time he spent 19 months of combat aviation duty with the 1st Aviation Brigade in Vietnam. He also served as an Operations Officer and Flight Instructor at the United States Army Aviation School, Fort Rucker, Alabama, before leaving active duty in August 1975 and joining the Alabama National Guard.

As a member of the National Guard, General Brightman served his country in a number of aviation unit assignments and in staff positions with group and higher headquarters. These positions have also included assignments as the Deputy Commander of the 62nd Troop Command in Montgomery and Commander of the 226th Area Support Group in Mobile, Alabama.

General Brightman has received numerous awards during his service including the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievements Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He has also been awarded the Armed Forces Reserve

Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Unit Citation, Master Army Aviator Badge, Senior Army Aviator Badge, Veterans Service Medal of Alabama, Special Service Medal of Alabama, and the Faithful Service Medal of Alabama.

In addition to his successful military career, General Brightman has also achieved success in the academic arena, earning a degree in civil engineering from Auburn University in 1977 and his MBA from Troy State University in 1985. He attended three military educational facilities including Army Command and General Staff College, Associate Logistics Executive Development Course, and the Army War College. In 1992, General Brightman received the United States Civilian Achievement Award for his participation in the writing of the Panama Canal Treaty Implementation Plan. Currently, General Brightman works as a Senior Project Manager with a management and engineering services company in Mobile.

Mr. Speaker, Brigadier General Bradford C. Brightman has selflessly offered his life and services for his country. It is for this devotion that I would like to extend our most sincere thanks and gracious appreciation on the occasion of his retirement. While the United States Army National Guard will certainly miss the benefit of his leadership and experience, I know I join with his family and many friends and colleagues in wishing him continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO THE TULLY BOYS  
VARSITY CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Tully boys varsity cross-country team. The team had an outstanding season, capturing the class D State title. Tully posted the meet's low score of 38 points, beating their closest opponent, Oakfield-Alabama by 42 points.

Seniors Lopez Lomong and Dominic Luka led their team to victory with a 1-2 finish. Other runners who placed for the State championship team were senior Bennett Hillenbrand in 20th place, freshman Tommy Miexell in 28th place, and Matt Kinne in 42nd place. These young men led their team to the second State championship in school history by a Tully athletic team.

The team includes Greg Hartnett, Tommy Miexell, Scott Vandermelon, Mike Heyman, Jeremiah Fraser, Casey Knapp, Brent Hartnett, Matt Kinne, Justin Rood, Travis Kushner, Kevin Easton, Dan Hatch, Rune Anderson, Lopez Lomong, Dominic Luka, Bennett Hillenbrand, Zac Long, and Pat Jordan. The team is coached by Jim Paccia. These young men are a source of pride to our community and should be commended for their hard work and dedication.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WALTER  
PREDOVICH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you to pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Walter Predovich of Pueblo, Colorado recently passed away at the age of eighty-four. He will always be remembered as a devoted family man and highly respected attorney throughout the state. I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in remembering his life before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Walter began his career by answering his nation's call to duty in serving his country in the Navy. After an honorable discharge, he returned to Colorado to graduate from Colorado College and later the University of Denver School of Law. He went on to practice law for more than half a century and retired as a senior partner in the law firm of Predovich, Ward and Banner. Walter was also passionate about the arts, and served on the board of directors of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, where he had been president and chief operating officer for almost fifteen years. He is survived by his wife and best friend of fifty-seven years, Marjorie, their two sons, Walter and David, and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the wonderful life of Walter Predovich. Walter was a beloved man who made a tremendous impact on his community through his many years of service in his profession and to the performing arts. Walter's love of family and community service is truly a model to us all. The Pueblo community and the State of Colorado will truly miss Walter, and my thoughts go out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

HONORING CLEVELAND READS—  
GREATER CLEVELAND'S LITERACY COALITION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Cleveland Reads, as they enter into their seventeenth year of offering the gift of literacy to thousands of Greater Clevelanders. For many children and adults, learning to read and write also brings a significant sense of accomplishment, self-esteem, and the promise and possibility of a renewed and brighter future.

Established in 1987, Cleveland Reads, a non-profit organization, has consistently worked to draw individuals, businesses and agencies into their volunteer literacy projects and campaign. Recently, Cleveland Reads was awarded a significant monetary grant from the United Parcel Service (UPS). The UPS award will enable the agency to enhance their existing volunteer outreach programs, and will also be used to create an effective tutoring model that will be initiated within our community's literacy coalition.

Cleveland Reads serves as the parent organization for over two hundred and twenty sites. Cleveland Reads recruits and trains tutors, researches leading methods in the literacy arena, and provides resources, guidance and support for literacy services throughout our region. Additionally, Cleveland Reads works to create local and national awareness regarding literacy issues within all levels of government and throughout the private sector.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Cleveland Reads. This vital agency has uplifted the lives of thousands of individuals, young and old—individuals who can now read and write, hope, dream and achieve. Cleveland Reads provides people with the tools to realize their goals by illuminating their horizon with promise and possibility shedding new light on their future—and bringing new hope to our community, and to our entire Nation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF ROCKY FLATS SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT ACT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to make it more likely that red tape and missing documents will not frustrate Congress's attempt to provide compensation and care for some nuclear-weapons workers made sick by on-job exposure to radiation.

The bill is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado, Mr. BEAUPREZ. I appreciate his support.

The bill would revise the part of the Energy Employees Occupational Injury Compensation Act ("the Act") that specifies which covered workers are part of what the law designates as the "Special Exposure Cohort."

The revision would extend this "special exposure cohort" status to Department of Energy employees, Department of Energy contractor employees, or atomic weapons employees—all terms defined by the current law—who have worked at the Rocky Flats site, in Colorado, for at least 250 days or will have worked there that long by January 1, 2006.

The result would be to help provide the Act's benefits to any of those workers who contracted a radiation-linked cancer specified in the Act after beginning employment at Rocky Flats.

As the law now stands, before a Rocky Flats worker suffering from a covered cancer can receive benefits, it must be established that the cancer is as likely as not to have resulted from on-the-job exposure to radiation.

That sounds like a reasonable requirement—and it would be appropriate for Rocky Flats if we had adequate documentation of radiation exposures for the years when it was producing nuclear-weapons components as well as for the more recent time when DOE and its contractors have been working to clean it up and prepare it for closure.

However, in fact there were serious shortcomings in the monitoring of Rocky Flats workers' radiation exposures and in the necessary recordkeeping—to say nothing of the slowness of the current administrative process for making the required determinations con-

cerning links between exposure and employment.

This means there is a real risk that a significant number of Rocky Flats workers who should be able to benefit from the Act will not obtain its benefits in a timely manner or will be denied them entirely.

The bill would prevent this miscarriage of justice, by recognizing that Rocky Flats workers have been plagued by the same kinds of administrative problems that entangled workers at some other locations—administrative problems that were addressed through inclusion in the Act of the provisions related to the "Special Exposure Cohort."

My understating of the need for this bill by meeting with Rocky Flats workers and their representatives and by consulting experts. I have particularly benefited from the great experience and expertise of Dr. Robert Bistline. Dr. Bistline has served as Program Manager of the Energy Department's Oversight of Radiation Protection Program at the Rocky Flats field office and has few if any peers in terms of his understanding of the problems addressed by the bill.

In particular, the bill reflects these aspects of Rocky Flats history—

Many worker exposures were unmonitored over the lifetime of the plant. Even within the past month a former worker from the 1950's was monitored under the Former Radiation Worker Program and found to have a significant internal deposition that had been undetected and unrecorded for more than 50 years.

No lung counter for detecting and measuring plutonium and americium in the lungs existed at Rocky Flats until the late 1960's. Without this equipment the very insoluble oxide forms of plutonium cannot be detected and a large number of workers had inhalation exposures that went undetected and unmeasured.

Exposure to neutron radiation was not monitored until the late 1950's and most of those measurements through 1970 have been found to be in error. In some areas of the plant the neutron doses were as much as 2 to 10 times as great as the gamma doses received by workers but only gamma doses were recorded. The old neutron films are being re-read but those doses have not yet been added to the workers' records or been used in NIOSH's dose reconstructions for Rocky Flats workers.

Radiation exposures for many workers were not measured or were missing, therefore, the records are incomplete or estimated doses were assigned. There are many inaccuracies in the exposure records that NIOSH is using to determine whether Rocky Flats workers qualify for compensation under the Act.

The model that has been used for dose reconstruction by NIOSH in determining whether Rocky Flats workers qualify for compensation under the Act is in error. The default values used for particle size and solubility of the internally deposited plutonium in workers are in error. Use of these erroneous values reduces the actual internal doses for claimants by as much as 3 to 10 times less than the Rocky Flats records and autopsy data indicate.

Some Rocky Flats workers, despite having worked with tons of plutonium and having known exposures leading to serious health effects, have been denied compensation under the Act as a result of potentially flawed calculations based on records that are incom-

plete or in error as well as the use of incorrect models.

Mr. Speaker, since early in my tenure in Congress I have worked to make good on promises of a fairer deal for the nuclear-weapons workers who helped America win the Cold War. That was why enactment and improvement of the compensation Act has been one of my top priorities. I saw this as a very important matter for our country—and especially for many Coloradans because our state is home to the Rocky Flats site, which for decades was a key part of the nuclear-weapons complex.

Now the site's military mission has ended, and the Rocky Flats workers are pressing to complete the job of cleaning it up and preparing it for closure. But while they are taking care of the site, we in Congress need to take care of them and the others who worked there in the past.

That was the purpose of the compensation act. I am very proud that I was able to help achieve its enactment, but I am also aware that it is not perfect. The bill being introduced today will not remedy all the shortcoming of the current law, but it will make it better.

For the benefit of our colleague, I am attaching an outline of the bill's provisions:

#### *Section 1: Short Title, Findings, and Purpose*

Subsection (a) provides a short title, "Rocky Flats Special Cohort Act."

Subsection (b) sets forth several findings regarding the need for the legislation.

Subsection (c) states the bill's purpose: "to revise the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act so as to include certain past and present Rocky Flats workers as members of the special exposure cohort."

#### *Section 2: Definition of Member of Special Exposure Cohort*

Subsection (a) amends section 3621(14) of the Energy Employees Occupational Injury Compensation Act (EEOICPA). The effect of the amendment is to provide that a person employed by the Department of Energy or any of its contractors for an aggregate of at least 250 work days at Rocky Flats before January 1, 2006 would be a "member of the Special Exposure Cohort." Under EEOICPA, a member of the special exposure cohort suffering from one of the cancers specified in the Act is covered by the Act if the cancer was contracted after the person began employment at a covered facility.

Subsection (b) provides that someone employed by the Energy Department or any of its contractors for an aggregate of at least 250 work days at Rocky Flats before January 1, 2006 may apply for compensation or benefits under EEOICPA even if the person had previously been denied compensation or benefits under the Act. This is to make clear that the subsection (a)'s change in the law will apply to people who had applied previously.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, during an absence yesterday, I regrettably missed rollcall votes 25 to 27. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 25, "yea"; rollcall No. 26, "yea"; rollcall No. 27, "yea".

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO TODD LAWS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district who has dedicated his life to improving the lives of the citizens of Taiwan. Todd Laws, of Delta County, Colorado, started his mission ten years ago by devoting his time and efforts to help improve the lives of Taiwanese youths. Todd's work serves as a valuable model of service to us all, and I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing his achievements before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Todd recently returned from Taiwan after an intensive week of facilitating training for the Young Life leaders within the country, an organization that combines Christian beliefs with basic human values. While there, he taught basic skills such as balancing a checkbook, marketing oneself for jobs, and morality. Todd hopes to return to Taiwan in the near future, to continue this noble and worthy cause.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Todd Laws for reaching out to the youth of Taiwan. He has truly demonstrated a devotion to the teaching of morals and values to the world's youth, and I would like to thank him for his contributions to this noble endeavor before this body of Congress and this Nation today. Thanks for your service.

## HONORING DORIS CHERRY

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to acknowledge Ms. Doris Cherry, who has recently been named "Employee of the Year" by Congressional Guest Services, for her 28 years of exemplary service at the Longworth Cafeteria.

Ms. Cherry is well known by members of my staff and other congressional offices for her extraordinary reputation of friendliness and warmth. While she is being recognized as the "Employee of the Year", I daresay that if a poll were taken of the many thousands of people who use the Longworth Cafeteria, she would easily win any competition where customer service, patience and genuine kindness were at stake.

At a time when civility in human relations is arguably at low ebb, people like Doris Cherry remind us that a simple smile can make an enormous difference in all of our lives. She treats her job as an art, and not just a profession.

Doris has the kind of personality that warms the heart. She is a person we can all learn from. Perhaps her last years in Longworth will be spent on the other side of the cash register? She would make a great candidate for office and would no doubt have many admirers on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following article from Roll Call newspaper in the RECORD, as a fitting tribute to this very gifted woman.

## CAFETERIA WORKER IS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

(By Zach Miller)

For 28 years, Doris Cherry has been a regular sight in the Longworth Cafeteria. Working the checkout lines for the past 15 years, she is the friendly face at the end of a long line of hungry staffers. This year, Guest Services has named her Employee of the Year.

"I am very excited and very happy," Cherry said of the award, but in her now-trade-mark selfless attitude she added, "I am happy when my customers are happy. They come to the Food Court for a break. My job is to make them leave with a smile."

Born in Clinton, N.C., Cherry came to Washington, D.C., as a child. In 1976, she started work in the Longworth Cafeteria as a line server before becoming a grill cook and deli server. After a decade of making food, Doris moved to the checkout line registers, where she became the warm and kind fixture collecting money from House patrons and in return giving them a smile and a hello.

Cherry's manager, Eran Nuran, said she is a sweet person who genuinely cares about everyone she meets. "She is one of the most dependable team members here at Longworth. Customers will line up to 20 people at a time to get a chance to speak to Doris. Other registers will be open, but they think she is worth the wait," Nuran said.

Cherry once received a letter from a regular customer informing her he was leaving his job. In the letter the customer confessed that even though his office had free coffee every morning prepared for the staff, he would come to the cafeteria and pay for a cup just so he could say hello to her.

Cherry and her husband, Reginald, have four children and seven grandchildren.

## RECOGNIZING MARIO DeSANTIS FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Yonkers, New York, resident Mario DeSantis on his retirement after 57 years of service on behalf of Americans in Westchester County and all over the country.

As a young clerk at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Mr. DeSantis helped organize the employees of what was then the Manhattan District of the IRS as members of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU). The NTEU is the largest independent non-postal Federal employees union in the country, representing about 150,000 workers in 29 different government agencies. NTEU Chapter 47, to which Mr. DeSantis belongs and which he helped found, now represents 1,600 IRS employees in New York City and Westchester County.

Mr. DeSantis quickly took a leadership role in NTEU Chapter 47. As he rose through the ranks of the IRS to become a revenue officer, Mr. DeSantis also rose through the ranks of NTEU Chapter 47 as a steward, assistant chief steward, and associate vice president. His enthusiastic and effective work in these roles led to his election as national vice president for District 5 at the 1985 NTEU national convention.

He has also served as the legislative coordinator for Chapter 47 for the past 20 years. In this post, Mr. DeSantis has led the chapter's legislative advocacy program on behalf of all Federal employees. He has lobbied for better pay and benefits, against schemes to contract out government work, and to protect overtime pay. He has been particularly successful at organizing voter registration efforts. Each year, these drives have registered hundreds of citizens across Westchester County to vote. Because of his success as legislative coordinator, he came to lead the New York State delegation to the NTEU legislative conferences.

Mr. DeSantis is also a talented jazz musician and a member of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM). He has performed both professionally and at Chapter 47 holiday parties. His work on behalf of members of both AFM and NTEU came together in Las Vegas in 1995 during the NTEU national convention. Mr. DeSantis organized convention delegates to help walk a picket line at Caesar's Palace in solidarity with picketing members of AFM.

This anecdote clearly demonstrates the devotion and enthusiasm that Mr. DeSantis has brought to his struggle in support of workers all over the United States, from Federal employees to professional musicians. We can all take inspiration from the way that he sees a problem in society, whether the high number of unregistered voters or a lack of adequate benefits for workers, and commits himself to help fix that problem.

I thank Mr. DeSantis for almost 6 decades of public service and wish him the best in his retirement. The IRS, the members of NTEU and AFM, and the residents of Westchester County will all miss him. I am confident that, although he is retiring, the legacy Mr. DeSantis leaves behind will continue to motivate others to embrace service to their country with the commitment and energy that he did.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD NICHOLS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Richard Nichols, a citizen that has dedicated his life toward aiding others in medical distress. Richard has been an outstanding paramedic in Craig, Colorado and I would like to ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing him before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Richard began his service to his community ten years ago as an ambulance driver, and before long enrolled in an EMT basic course. Seeing the benefit of his increasing skill level, Richard earned his paramedic license through the University of Colorado at Yampa Valley Medical Center. Today he values each opportunity where his crew's skills are tested and the patient walks out of the hospital, healed. Richard is also instrumental in the classroom where he teaches an EMT basic course at the Community College of Northwest Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Richard Nichols is a person who possesses unparalleled dedication and commitment to not only

each patient he treats, but also his students hoping to follow in his footsteps. It is his incredible talent and spirit of enthusiasm with which he has always conducted himself that I wish to bring before this body of Congress and this Nation today. Thanks for your continued service.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN  
WESLEY WINTERS, SR.

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great North Carolinian, John Wesley Winters, Sr.

North Carolina and its capital city, Raleigh, lost one of its most outstanding citizens with the death of John Wesley Winters, Sr., on February 15. Mr. Winters was a builder, land developer, civil leader, and a pioneer in improving race relations in his city and State. He was a loyal Democrat and an innovative champion for human rights.

Mr. Winters worked as a milkman and airport skycap in his youth, saving his money with the goal of becoming a builder for south-east Raleigh's African American community. In 1957, he opened his home-building company and began building homes. Each year brought more houses. In the early 1960s he developed Biltmore Hills as a neighborhood of affordable homes for middle-class African American families. He named the streets of the subdivision for famous African Americans, including (Ralph) Bunche and (Ella) Fitzgerald Drives and (Roy) Campanella Lane. He later developed Madonna Acres, an upper-level development near St. Augustine's College, and Wintershaven, an apartment complex for senior citizens.

Elected to the Raleigh City Council in 1961, only a year after the Greensboro drug store sit-ins launched the civil rights movement in North Carolina, Mr. Winters was thrust into a key leadership role in Raleigh and Wake County. His was the voice on the city council raised to help the city respond to the civil rights revolution. Quiet-spoken, diplomatic, determined, he was a tower of strength for both whites and blacks as the city responded to the demands for equal rights. When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., visited Raleigh in 1961, it was Mr. Winters who was asked to pick him up at the airport and drive him to the speech. Former Governor James B. Hunt called Mr. Winters "the best bridge-builder between the races that has ever come along in North Carolina." Governor Hunt was later to appoint Mr. Winters to the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

In 1974, Mr. Winters and Mr. Fred Alexander of Charlotte were elected to the North Carolina State Senate. They were the first two African Americans elected to that body since Reconstruction. With quiet determination and hard work, Mr. Winters quickly became a leader in the State senate, forming life-long friendships with North Carolina's political leaders. He was a friend of Governors, Senators, Congressmen and Presidents. Governor Terry Sanford, whose term as Governor corresponded with the civil rights protests, was a personal friend and sought Mr. Winters' advice.

Mr. Winters is survived by his wife of 63 years Marie; by seven children, Frances, John, Jr., Donna, Naomi, Rebecca, Roland and Seaneia; by a brother, Joseph Winters of Raleigh; by a sister, Delores Scotto of Port Charlotte, Florida; by eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

His courage and his leadership will be missed in Raleigh, Wake County, and North Carolina. If God charges each of us that we leave the world a better place than we found it on our birth, John Winters succeeded admirably. He lived, as the Chinese proverb says, "in interesting times." We can only thank God that a kind Providence saw fit to place us on the same highway of life with John Winters and made him our friend.

IN MEMORY OF BISHOP AND MRS.  
R.E. RANGER

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month 2004, I rise today to recognize an outstanding and historic African American ministry and church in my district. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Bishop & Mrs. R.E. Ranger and historic Wayside Church of God In Christ, Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas.

Bishop R.E. Ranger served as the legendary Pastor of Wayside Church of God In Christ from January 16, 1930 until January 6, 1992—a period of 62 years of continuous ministry at the same Church location at 2100 Beckham Place, Fort Worth, Texas 76104—and is believed to have served one of the longest tenures as a Pastor of the same church—if not the longest—of any pastor in Fort Worth history and one of the longest continuous pastoral tenures in the State of Texas.

Bishop R.E. Ranger was born on Sunday, January 22, 1899 in the small, southern, rural area of Wilson Creek community, Allenhurst, Texas in Matagorda County and was a serious, disciplined student who became a voracious reader and independent learner who acknowledged the call of God to preach the gospel at age 17 in San Antonio, Texas and continued as a gospel preacher for over 75 years (Diamond Jubilee).

Bishop R.E. Ranger rose from very humble beginnings on his own via early self-education at the St. Mary's Baptist Church using Catholic books and materials and without customary parental support to become an outstanding radio and TV trailblazer and pioneer in Fort Worth, Texas, as well as the nation and with the aid and assistance of radio and TV stations owned by Amon Carter, Jr.—WBAP Radio and WBAP-TV—achieved a number of historic 'firsts' in the 1930's, 40's and 50's, including but not limited to: the Founding Bishop of the Church of God In Christ (Southeast) in Texas; a pioneering Pastor and Bishop in the Church of God In Christ in the State of Texas; the first African American appointed a denominational Bishop in Fort Worth History; the first African American minister in America to receive 'national' radio air time; the first African American minister in the South to have a national radio ministry in the early 1930's; first African American minister south of the Mason/Dixon line to have weekly broadcasts short

waved to many parts of the world—such as Australia, South America and England; and, became internationally known and his homilies were featured on television from such locales as Piccadilly Square in London and Honolulu, Hawaii; first African American minister in America to be seen in a "live" television worship service from a church auditorium; featured in June 1949 issue of Ebony Magazine as one of the "Outstanding Black Ministers on Radio"; and a survey revealed his WBAP radio audience to be about six (6) million at its peak.

Bishop R.E. Ranger was the historic minister of the Wayside Church of God In Christ. In 1944, he personally drew up the blueprints for the current Wayside Church after receiving a God-given vision of a new, brick church in the "shape of a cross" with a tower. With that vision, he tore down the former church facility—the "Little Wooden Church on the Hill"—with his own hands.

Bishop R.E. Ranger was a pioneer in the Church of God in Christ in the state of Texas and was appointed Presiding Bishop of the Church of God In Christ (Southeast) by the founder of the Church of God In Christ—Bishop C.H. Mason. He also became an influential state and national religious leader headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas.

Bishop R.E. Ranger willingly opened doors for activities for the good of the larger community and provided material and spiritual assistance to countless numbers of people in need. As a member of the NAACP and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, he was actively involved in religious, civic, and educational activities and the struggle for human rights.

Mrs. Blanche Mae Ranger was born March 20, 1904 in Houston, Texas, and graduated from the City of Houston's Normal and Colored High School on June 1, 1922. She also received a teaching degree from the historic Tuskegee Normal & Industrial Institute on May 22, 1924, during the time of George Washington Carver. Blanche Mae Ranger served with Bishop Ranger at Wayside Church from January 16, 1930 until her passing on October 26, 1985.

Mrs. Blanche Mae Ranger was an exemplary Christian wife, a licensed missionary, musician and singer of the radio/TV ministry theme song—"The Old Ship of Zion", homemaker, mother of eleven (11) children, home economics teacher, poll tax collector and civic worker of Fort Worth, Texas. She reared and supported the education of a host of children and grandchildren who studied at and received numerous college and postgraduate degrees from institutions such as Huston Tillotson, Wiley College, Hastings Law School (UC), Lincoln University, University of Minnesota, Howard University, Howard University Law School, Lane College, University of Texas, Rutgers Law School, Morehouse College, Bowdoin College, Harvard Law School, University of Michigan Law School, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Oberlin College, MIT, Stanford, Boston University, Perdue University, Northwestern University, United States Air Force Academy, Loyola Marymont University, and University of Virginia.

I am very proud of the achievements of Bishop and Mrs. R.E. Ranger and historic Wayside Church. Thanks to their significant achievements, Bishop and Mrs. R.E. Ranger and Wayside Church were symbols of selfless

service and achievement for African American citizens in our community and across this nation.

In recognition of its historic past, Wayside Church is currently in the process of receiving an official designation as a Cultural and Historical Landmark of the City of Fort Worth and is being considered for a Texas Historical Landmark designation and the National Register of Historic Places.

Wayside Church of God In Christ, Inc., congratulations on 92 years (1912–2004) of outstanding local, state, and national service!

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN MRAULE

### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to John Mraule, a man who for over twenty-five years has dedicated himself to developing women athletics while rising to the top ranks of Colorado high school basketball coaches. His recent induction into the Colorado High School Activities Association Hall of Fame is a testament to his incredible ability to develop outstanding women athletes as well as his unparalleled work ethic.

This incredible honor is the manifestation of a life-long passion, and could not have been bestowed upon a more deserving individual. John started the women's basketball program at Montrose High School before it was a sanctioned sport, and since has led his teams to eleven league titles, ten district championships, thirteen state tournaments, and the state championships in 1985 and 1991. As further proof of his coaching abilities, John has been named the Southwestern League Coach of the Year, and was named State Coach of the Year during his team's championship season in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that John Mraule is a person of unparalleled dedication and commitment to women athletics who coaches his teams on a championship level. It is John's incredible talent, unrelenting passion for competition, and drive for perfection that I wish to bring to the attention of this body of Congress. John is a remarkable man who has taken the Montrose High School girl's basketball program to extraordinary heights. It is my distinct pleasure to honor him here today, and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND RESULTS ACT

### HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce important legislation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our Federal government—the Program Assessment and Results Act, or PAR Act. As elected representatives of the people, we have a responsibility to use taxpayer dollars in the most effective way possible. As Congress formulates its budget

each year, we must have the best information available to us on which to base our spending decisions.

The Government Performance and Results Act, or GPRA, has laid a solid foundation for agencies working with Congress to set strategic goals and begin to utilize performance based information. Building on GPRA, we must take the next step toward reforming the way the government conducts business.

One of the key aspects of any reform effort is to change the prevailing mind set. If our emphasis is on creating a more results-oriented government, then we must change our mind set from outputs to outcomes. It takes time to achieve this type of cultural shift. The reforms of the early 1990s—the CFO Act, GPRA and others—are just beginning to work as intended.

Prior efforts to make the federal government more effective—the Hoover Commission, Zero-Based Budgeting, the Planning-Programming-Budgeting System, Reinventing Government—have come and gone with little lasting effect. Federal managers have learned that if they wait, each new administration is likely to attempt yet another broad-based reform. From a management standpoint, it is difficult in that type of environment to make long-range plans; and it's next to impossible to achieve the kind of cultural shift needed to reform the management of the federal government.

Major reform takes time. By enacting GPRA, Congress put government reform in statute. Because of this statutory framework, federal managers now look at the requirements for performance plans and strategic plans required by GPRA and know they are here to stay regardless of changes in Congress and the Executive Branch. When the first round of strategic plans fell short of expectations, the reform effort was not scrapped—it was improved. Now, ten years after GPRA was enacted, we have strategic plans that are more in line with what was envisioned. We have seen slow, sustainable improvement.

GPRA requires that agencies focus attention on program evaluation as one of six aspects of their strategic plans. Unfortunately, according to a draft report from the General Accounting Office, program evaluation is the one area where departments consistently come up short. Not only have agencies failed to comply with this requirement, the valuable information that stands to be gained from these evaluations is not culled, coordinated, or presented in a useful way.

We have seen great progress in meeting other objectives set out in GPRA. In 1997, only 76 percent of federal managers had developed performance measures. By 2003, that number had risen to 89 percent. It is now time to strengthen GPRA to address the shortfall we see in program evaluation.

By creating and using the Program Assessment Rating Tool, or PART, this Administration has gone a step beyond the strategic plans required by GPRA and implemented a system for evaluating the performance and results of federal programs. The next logical step is to codify the requirement for a coordinated evidence-based review of programs. In looking at this legislation that I am introducing today, we must ask ourselves, do we believe that better understanding how government operates program by program is a good idea. If the answer to that question is yes, and I believe it is, then we should work to ensure that

program assessments be required for this and every future administration.

This legislation does not seek to codify the use of the PART specifically. Rather, this bill amends GPRA by establishing a requirement for program reviews. Specifically, the Office of Management and Budget is required under the Act to review each program activity at least once every five years. By requiring OMB to be responsible for overseeing program assessment data, we will take a great step forward in realizing the reform envisioned by GPRA and make the federal government more efficient and results oriented.

Information gleaned from these program reviews needs to be useful across the board to all stakeholders. Members of Congress, taxpayers, federal managers and the Executive Branch need to know if programs are being managed effectively and if they are achieving the desired result. Further, this legislation, once enacted, will allow us to compare data among different agencies, to see how different programs with similar goals are achieving results. Members of Congress can use the information to make informed budget decisions and conduct more effective oversight. It will help the taxpayers see what they are getting for their money. Most important, federal managers will use the information to improve the way they manage programs. The results will be a more effective and efficient government for the good of all Americans.

#### COMMEMORATING NORTH DAKOTA'S PRISONER OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION SOLDIERS

### HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, at an event last year commemorating North Dakota's Prisoner of War and Missing in Action soldiers, I had the privilege of listening to Joanna Sherman read from her essay, "Freedom's Obligation." Joanna's work was chosen as the North Dakota State winner in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Scholarship Contest. This essay is a testament to the great value of instilling patriotism and the appreciation of our Nation's freedom into our Nation's youth.

I would like to include in the RECORD her essay, which eloquently describes the meaning of freedom and the cost of preserving it. I commend Joanna for her achievement.

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION  
(BY JOANNA SHERMAN)

The ancient Athenian leader Pericles, a proponent of democracy, once said, "Freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it." Freedom is America's greatest gift, and it is the duty of the American people to honor and cherish it. Our great gift of freedom relies heavily on three obligations: remembering the past, understanding the present, and committing to the future.

How can we ensure tomorrow's freedom? We must remember that today's freedom was paid for by the sacrifices of yesterday. From the past, there are countless personal stories that remember freedom's fight. My grandparents' story is only one of them. They were married July 2, 1942. One week later my

grandfather was inducted into the army at Fort Snelling. During World War II, he served in Patton's Third Army in the European Theatre and fought in "The Battle of the Bulge." My grandmother has told us many stories of these difficult times. During the first months after their marriage, she was able to follow him across the country while he completed his training and was on maneuvers. Each day he would call her from the base and would tell her, "Lucille, one day my calls will stop, and you will know that means I have been shipped out." One day the calls did stop. She went back to her hometown and waited. Three long years later, he returned home. They were so lucky. Her younger brother, many of his friends, and so many others, did not come back. Our freedoms were "paid in full" by those brave men and women who have put freedom far above themselves. However, the luxury of our freedom must not make us complacent. We too may find ourselves again face to face with hardships such as those experienced by past generations. We must remember their courage. In remembering their stories of honor, dignity and sacrifice, I can only pray that we preserve our freedom today with the same measure of success.

Samuel Johnson once wrote, "The future is purchased by the present." I believe that freedom is no different. We must have an understanding of the evil present today. On September 11th, our freedom and our way of life came under attack. The brave men and women of the past who sacrificed their lives to extinguish evil in the world, will have not died in vain if we continue to extinguish the evil that is present today. Like yesterday's Nazis, today's terrorists want to drive freedom into extinction. They must not, and will not win if we defend our precious freedom. We must do it for ourselves, and for the future generations of Americans. Now is the time to purchase the freedom of the future.

We have a supreme obligation to commit ourselves to do our duty for our country. We must pay the price for tomorrow's freedom. Tomorrow's children must be assured by our generation that it is our duty to protect their freedom. Some of us will become soldiers like my grandfather, and some will serve in other ways, but all of us must be willing to sacrifice, and remain committed to play a part and pay the price today for freedom tomorrow.

All of us can help pay for tomorrow's freedom by dedicating ourselves to what our ancestors have fought so hard for, and carrying out obligations of remembrance, understanding, and commitment. Remember by learning your history and by listening to those with stories to tell. Understand by being aware and mindful of current history, and commit to this country by being willing to sacrifice to preserve our freedom. Call it patriotism. Call it love of country. Call it loyalty. But whatever you call it, keep it in your heart, and freedom will always follow.

My grandparents have been married for 60 years. They are my heroes!

#### RECOGNIZING OF THE GE AIRCRAFT ENGINES PLANT IN EVENDALE

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people who work at the GE Aircraft Engines plant in Evendale, Ohio. This facility was recently recognized and awarded

Voluntary Protection Program Star status by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for its outstanding achievements in workplace safety.

Headquartered in Evendale, Ohio, GE Aircraft Engines is the world's leading producer of large and small jet engines for commercial and military aircraft. Additional work and services at the plant include aircraft-derived engines for marine applications and aviation services.

The OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) promotes effective worksite-based safety and health. In the VPP, management, labor, and OSHA establish cooperative relationships at workplaces to implement a comprehensive safety and health management system. Approval into the VPP is OSHA's official recognition for the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have implemented exemplary safety and health management systems. In short, it represents a commitment to go beyond compliance to achieve workplace safety.

Less than 0.1 percent of companies are VPP certified. GE has 82 OSHA VPP sites—more than any other company in the nation. As a result of these efforts, 56,000 GE employees, including those in Evendale, enjoy exceptional workplace safety standards. The GE Aircraft Engines plant in Evendale is the largest VPP site in Ohio, the largest GE site to achieve VPP Star status and the largest federal VPP Star manufacturing facility in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the GE Aircraft Engines plant in Evendale for being awarded the prestigious VPP Star status. All of us in Greater Cincinnati congratulate the plant's management and employees on their dedication to outstanding workplace safety standards.

#### HONORING THE IRONWORKERS LOCAL 84 ON 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Houston's Ironworkers Local 84 and to celebrate their one-hundredth year representing the interests of Houston's ironworkers. Our country's ironworkers have long been admired for the architectural wonders they created while working under tremendously dangerous conditions.

For the past one hundred years, the Ironworkers of Local 84 have put their blood and sweat into the bridges and skyscrapers that have become Houston's celebrated landmarks. Their service to the Houston community, however, did not cease with the end of the work day. During times of war, the ironworkers answered the call for help and offered their skills in the homefront effort to win the war.

Houston's ironworkers also have a long history of standing by each other. Local 84 has historically purchased cemetery plots to make sure that any deceased ironworker receives an honorable burial. Local 84 was Texas's first Ironworkers union to establish a pension fund and medical insurance for its members. Local 84 recognized early the importance of job

training skills in remaining competitive in the field and Houston's Local 84 started an apprenticeship school and a program to upgrade the skills of its journeymen.

Local 84's commitment to its members, to the Houston community, and to the nation as a whole cannot be exaggerated. Therefore, on this day, I salute the hard-working men and women of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, Local 84 and thank them for one hundred years of service. Our great city would not be standing as tall without them, and I wish them great success for the next hundred years.

#### TRIBUTE TO TASKER L. EDMISTON

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to Tasker L. Edmiston who recently passed away, at the age of ninety-four. Mr. Edmiston was a remarkable man whose accomplishments were legion and whose passion was indefatigable. He was an avid outdoorsman and a very important figure in California's conservation movement.

Mr. Edmiston was born on January 22, 1910, in Los Angeles, California. His love for the environment and the outdoors began as a young boy. He was a Sea Scout, an Explorer Scout and later he ran track and set several records in speed-climbing.

During World War II, Mr. Edmiston demonstrated his creativity and entrepreneurial spirit by inventing a new series of food canning machinery. His invention increased the volume and quality of food that was distributed to the Armed Forces in the Pacific.

In the 1960's and 1970's, Mr. Edmiston turned his attention to the conservation movement. He was one of the cofounders and the first treasurer of the Southern California Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. He proved to be instrumental in the establishment of the Edmund C. Jaeger Nature Sanctuary and the Desert Lily Sanctuary. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Desert Protective Council and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs.

Mr. Edmiston is survived by his son, Joseph T. Edmiston, his daughter-in-law, Pepper Edmiston, and seven grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Tasker L. Edmiston and offering our heartfelt condolences to his family members.

#### TRIBUTE TO EDWARD H. "NED" SCHWARZ

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, Edward H. "Ned" Schwarz, 74, of Lawrence, Boy Scout leader, veteran, businessman, father, and friend to his home town of Lawrence, Massachusetts, died February 1, 2004. A graduate of Melrose High School, he attended MIT for 2 years then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served stateside during the Korean conflict.

He completed his degree in electrical engineering from Merrimack College after his time in the Air Force and went on to work at the former Western Electric in North Andover as an electrical design engineer. After taking an early retirement he opened the Totem Pole Camping Store in North Andover. He was a man of faith and was a 45-year member of the former United Presbyterian Church of Lawrence where he was an ordained Elder. These are the eloquent words of Charles D. Boddy, Jr. who read this eulogy at the funeral:

Daniel Webster once compared New Hampshire's Old Man of the Mountains to a tradesman's sign hanging above the front door of a store indicating the nature of the tradesman's trade. He stated that God had hung out the Old Man of the Mountains as if to say, "here we build men." It is, therefore, oddly fitting that we should lose Uncle Ned, another icon of the mountains, within a year of the fall of the Old Man. Uncle Ned was himself, a builder of men.

Monday nights, 7-9 p.m., first three Mondays of the month, September to June. For more than 40 years, if you were a boy growing up on Prospect Hill in Lawrence, these nights were reserved. Fathers in the neighborhood packed up their young sons and brought them to Uncle Ned who spent these hours nurturing the boys' resourcefulness and self-reliance through the scouting program. I am fortunate to have been one of those boys, and my words speak for all of us.

I well remember sitting with him, as a boy, as he taught me my knots. His thick fingers routinely tracing the course of rope as they had done so many times with so many other scouts before me. The process of making the knot was so ingrained in him from years of practice, rehearsal, and repetition. Later, as a young scout leader I watched again as he taught another boy the lesson, now his fingers slightly gnarled by the faint touch of arthritis that, alone, betrayed his age. As I watched him teach, year after year, I myself learned that his lesson was not one of knots, but one of life. By patiently guiding each scout, he let him know that he mattered, he was important. By teaching the simple lessons, he instructed us that the greatest lesson was personal contact: that a communion of souls could bridge the greatest of differences. Hence, you will see among his scouts and admirers members of every creed and race, followers of every cause, the elite and powerful, as well as the simple and humble. Uncle Ned related to us all. He effortlessly collected friends along his journey.

He was a mentor to all the boys who passed through his scout troop, growing with them, changing his methods as the times changed, but always giving generously of his time and himself. He was a man who saw solutions not problems, and saw friends, never enemies. In the highly political climate of his home City, he followed the path to improve us through unity and friendship, through our commonality, and avoided the thorny path of criticism and divisiveness.

Without a doubt, Uncle Ned has returned to the camp in the highest summit from which he started his 74 year hike. He rests at a camp made safe by the Great Scoutmaster in the Heavens. Boss Butthmann, Troop 2's first scoutmaster, along with all of Troop 2's finest, who have passed before, are at his side. He has marked his final trail with the scout orienteer's sign of a dot within a circle indicating "Gone home." There he sits, and there he waits, tending a roaring fire. Uncle Ned, the faithful Scoutmaster will guide and guard his troop until the last of us is safe at home by his side.

Ned Schwarz was very proud of Charlie Boddy, the young man who delivered the eu-

logy at his memorial service, as he was of all his scouts. Charlie went on to public service following Ned's example of public service and civic duty becoming City Solicitor for Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Besides spending countless hours with his beloved scouts, Ned worked tirelessly to revitalize his neighborhood and his hometown. Ned led graffiti removal efforts, park clean-ups and helped to organize the annual National Night Out celebration for his Prospect Hill neighborhood. He belonged to numerous civic organizations including the Lawrence Historical Commission, the Lawrence Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, and the Prospect Hill Back Bay Neighborhood Association, in which he served in various leadership positions over the years along with his dear friend, Jim Ross. The two of them took great pride in constructing the Neighborhood Association's parade floats which won numerous awards.

Edward H. "Ned" Schwarz will be remembered by his loving wife Gloria, his wife of 50 years; sons Edward R. and his wife Julie of Salem, N.H., and Erich H. and his wife Amy of Lawrence; daughters Lynn and her husband Edward McNamara of Merrimack, N.H., and Beverly and her husband John Cody of Haverhill; grandchildren John, Christopher and Catherine McNamara, Emily Schwarz, Tom and Dan Cody and Andrew and Nysa Schwarz; sisters Dorothy Gretchen Perkins and Hope Cox of Maine; and several nieces and nephews; a grateful City and thousands of young men whose lives he touched.

#### REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF DUDLEY L. TADEMY

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr Speaker, one of the privileges of serving as a member of Congress is that you work with some amazing people. The halls of our buildings are filled with bright and energetic Americans, and every now and then among them a true hero.

By my definition, a hero is someone who would never use that word. Dudley Tadem, who is leaving the Armed Services Committee staff this week, fits that definition. But he fits anyone's definition of an honorable patriot.

Before Dudley came to Capitol Hill, before he took on the job of overseeing the military's readiness for the Armed Services Committee, before he was the assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Atomic Energy, before all of those achievements that would be enough credit for any man, he was thirty years a soldier. As Captain Tadem, he served in Vietnam, and what service that was.

Mr. Speaker, even those members not familiar with the details of that grueling war may have heard of Landing Zone X-Ray, and the la Drang Valley. They are familiar names, thanks to the book "We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young." That story, of how the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) endured one of the most brutal engagements of that war, is also part of the story of Dudley Tadem. He was there. And as the fire support coordinator for the 3rd Brigade, he devised and directed the artillery plan that was central to holding the enemy at bay and creating an escape path for hundreds

of overrun American soldiers. Across our country are men, their children, and grandchildren who would not be with us but for Dudley Tadem.

As he said of that time, "It's our job to get the job done and get those kids home safe." He brought that same dedication and mission to his work with the Armed Services Committee—always putting the soldier first.

For the last ten years, he has carried a Herculean load on the committee staff. He oversees military readiness, now a \$140 billion portfolio; all Department of Energy nuclear weapons related activities, another \$16 billion annually; all Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs—that's another \$18 billion—and matters concerning two of my favorite subjects, organization of the Department of Defense and professional military education. That's more oversight responsibility in one man than some entire full committees on the Hill! And there's nobody you or I would trust more to carry those astounding tasks.

Nothing I or anyone can say here can do justice to Dudley Tadem's service, in uniform or after. Yet to speak with him, you would never guess at it. He is, in a word we don't use enough in Congress, humble. His gentle character and cheerful whistle belie a man of great discipline—still keeping up a daily physical training regimen, you'd never guess that he was older than most members. But he remains young in spirit, mentoring junior staff, and active in his church, where he counsels troubled youth.

Now he can begin to devote proper time to Audrey, who does so much to keep Dudley humble. And instead of serving sixty committee members, Dudley's priority will be six grandchildren, and I believe they already have him more fully scheduled than we ever did.

Best of all, we know that any time the Committee gets in a jam, we can call upon the inspiration of an American who has honored this Congress with his service. I salute Dudley Tadem, and know that all members will join me in gratitude for his company and devotion.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DAVID SCHAFFER

#### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of our long-time staff members on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on his retirement. David Schaffer is retiring as the Majority Staff Director and Senior Counsel of the House Aviation Subcommittee at the end of this month.

David joined the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation in 1984 as Assistant Minority Counsel for the Subcommittee on Aviation, became the Minority Counsel of the Aviation Subcommittee in 1992 and then Majority Counsel in January 1995.

Over the course of his 26 years in the federal government, including 6 years with the Civil Aeronautics Board, his efforts have directly contributed to many of this Committee's significant legislative efforts to enhance the overall safety, efficiency, competitiveness and security of our Nation's aviation system.

During my tenure as Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee from 1989 through 1994, David was a fixture at our hearings, sitting at the elbow of my Republican colleagues John Paul Hammerschmidt and William Clinger. As we crafted some of the most important aviation law of our time, including the Aviation Security Improvement Act of 1990 and the Aviation Noise and Capacity Act of 1990, David was always at the negotiating table, working with my staff and me toward the common goal of effective legislation.

As the Majority Counsel for the Aviation Subcommittee, David was instrumental in crafting the Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR 21), Federal Aviation Authorization Act of 1996, the Aviation Medical Assistance Act, Pilot Records Improvement Act, Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act, and the Aviation and Transportation Security Act.

His bipartisan, non-confrontational approach to crafting legislation, his painstaking attention to detail, and his mastery of the subject matter has been most impressive and has been greatly appreciated by my staff, and by me.

I know that his work has required great personal sacrifice and I commend him for his unwavering commitment to excellence. I wish him nothing but the best as he moves on to the next phase of his exemplary career.

#### EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, during my service as a Member of Congress, I have from time to time worked with the Export-Import Bank on matters particularly important to significant employers within my district. In an ideal world, there would be no subsidies of any sort for exports. But in the real world which we inhabit, Americans seeking business elsewhere often confront heavy subsidies from other countries, and without an instrumentality like the Export-Import Bank, these American enterprises would be at an unfair disadvantage. The Export-Import Bank's existence enables many American companies to compete on even terms, with good results both for the companies that provide goods and services and those that benefit from them. For example, several years ago I was proud to work with the Export-Import Bank to make it possible for the Raytheon Corporation to receive a major contract in Brazil, which allowed Raytheon to use its technical skills for environmental purposes. Without Export-Import Bank aid, the Raytheon effort would have been unsuccessful, not through any fault of their own, but because of heavy subsidies from the national governments of competitors.

Most recently, I was glad to join several of my Massachusetts and New Hampshire colleagues in urging the Export-Import Bank to show support in a meaningful way for the Malden Mills Company, whose owner, Aaron Feuerstein, has justly drawn widespread praise for his combination of economic wisdom and social responsibility. I was pleased that the Export-Import Bank did respond in ways that were very important in this situation, and I am pleased that we have this entity in

place to provide this kind of essential assistance to American companies who would otherwise be facing unfairness.

#### IN MEMORY OF RICHARD P. RAMEY

### HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, with great sorrow I rise today to recognize Richard P. Ramey, an Ohio citizen from my district, who gave his life fighting for our country. On Sunday, February 8th, 2004, in Iraq, Staff Sergeant Ramey was killed by a roadside bomb.

From training as a boy scout to his position on the Perry High School football team and then as a member of the Army, Staff Sergeant Ramey grew to be a leader. He graduated from high school in 1995 and began his career serving in the Army that same year. He was carrying on a family tradition in military service.

This outstanding young man showed courage and a commitment to protect those who could not protect themselves. Those who knew him recognized how proud he was to serve in the military. Staff Sergeant Ramey is a true hero and a reminder of the dedication evidenced by all the men and women all over the world fighting the war on terror. We must reflect on this great life and all the good that is being done in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Ramey and his family will be forever in our hearts and prayers. May we keep them in mind as they struggle through this difficult period of mourning.

#### INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT NEW MEXICO FROM THE COMPARATIVE COST ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to exempt my home state of New Mexico from the Comparative Cost Adjustment (CCA), or "premium support" provisions included in the recently passed Medicare Prescription Drug Bill. I am pleased to introduce this bill as companion legislation to a bill that Senator JEFF BINGAMAN is introducing in the other chamber today.

Mr. Speaker, when the House passed H.R. 1 at the end of November, I strongly opposed this legislation and voted accordingly. Today, I stand here still as strongly opposed to the newly implemented law as I did when we passed the bill the first two times it came to the floor last year. One of my strongest objections to the legislation was the inclusion of the CCA program, which requires the Medicare fee-for-service program to compete against the new Medicare Advantage program. This CCA program will last for 6 years and will be applied in a limited number of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs).

This provision is one of the worst in what was an extremely disappointing piece of legis-

lation. Not only does this provision undercut the Medicare program, it outright threatens it by taking it down the road toward privatization. Rather than defined benefits beginning in 2010, seniors would receive a set premium payment—like a voucher—from the government, based on a combination of the process private plans charged and the cost of Medicare fee-for-service in their area. Seniors would enroll in either a private plan or fee-for-service, but those who picked a plan that was more expensive than the defined premium contribution would need to pay the difference out of their own pocket. This is not the way the Medicare program has been run in the past and its not the way it should run in the future.

In order to ensure that New Mexico's seniors keep their defined benefit plans when the time comes for the CCA to go into effect, I am introducing this legislation today. This legislation will exempt regions of New Mexico from being one of the MSA's used as part of the CCA program. Many studies have shown that a likely outcome of these privatization provisions in the new law is that seniors will have to pay more than they do now to stay in fee-for-service.

Mr. Speaker, these demonstration plans will dramatically alter the Medicare landscape for our seniors. For the first time in the history of Medicare, seniors would end up paying different premiums for the exact same fee-for-service benefit. I don't want New Mexico's seniors, or our nation's seniors facing the end of the safety and security they have come to know under the Medicare program.

Mr. Speaker, I know Mr. BINGAMAN and I are not the only members in our respective chamber's who feel this way. Several other Senators and Members have either introduced or are preparing to introduce similar legislation. I hope the leadership of each chamber recognizes the danger of the CCA program and takes action to protect New Mexico and our nation's seniors.

#### TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS TROOPS AT FT. POLK, LA

### HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep appreciation for the contributions of Arkansas National Guardsmen currently training at Ft. Polk Louisiana preparing for deployment to Iraq and their families who await their safe return.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit these fine men and women and witness their training. Designed to mimic what the troops will face in the field, their exercises are impressive in scope and in our troops' ability to accomplish the monumental tasks regularly laid before them.

More impressive than the accomplishments, however, were dedicated Arkansans; far from home and preparing to go farther. They did not complain about living in tents, carrying heavy gear or the long days of hard training. And when this country called them to service, they did not hesitate.

As they prepare for their mission, it is imperative we consider more than their coming task,

we must remember who they are. They are fathers, mothers, sons and daughters who will soon be in harm's way. In Arkansas—and elsewhere—they have families who love them and communities that will miss them.

We cannot thank these brave men and women enough for their sacrifice. We can only salute their commitment and do what we can to support them when they return. On behalf of Congress, I extend our deepest gratitude to our men and women in uniform.

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HONORING SUPERINTENDENT BILL  
MCNEAL

**HON. BRAD MILLER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the public schools are where we deliver on the promise of equality of opportunity. Today I rise to honor a man who has been delivering on that promise throughout his 29 years of service to Wake County public schools.

Bill McNeal has served Wake County kids in every capacity—as a social studies teacher, a principal, and a county administrator. After 3 years at the helm of our school system, folks back home knew we were lucky to have him as our school superintendent.

Now our secret is out. This week the American Association of School Administrators named Bill McNeal the National Superintendent of the Year.

Superintendent Bill McNeal has proven that even the loftiest ambitions can be met with hard work, boundless determination, and strong leadership. A key author of Wake County's ambitious Goal 2003 program, he has delivered results.

In 1998, 75.4 percent of Wake's third graders were testing at or above grade level in math. In 2003, 93.5 percent achieved the mark. Wake's fourth and fifth graders fared even better, with 95 percent achieving at or above grade level scores. Last year, Wake's high school students averaged a 1067 SAT score, the highest average ever in the school district.

Even more remarkable has been Bill McNeal's campaign to narrow the achievement gap for Wake's diverse and ever expanding student population. The achievement gap in math for students on free or reduced lunch shrank from 35 percent in 1998 to 16 percent in 2003 and in reading shrank from 35 percent in 1998 to 21 percent in 2003—all while student performance has increased across the board.

Not one to sit back and enjoy these successes, Bill McNeal recently implemented the Goal 2008 program to continue to push ahead. He has outlined a blueprint to increase student achievement across the district's elementary, middle, and high schools over the next 5 years. His goal is to have 95 percent of all students in grades 3 through 12 at or above grade level by 2008.

Mr. Speaker, we are honored by Bill McNeal's service to our kids and our community, and I look forward to working with him and our dedicated administrators, teachers, and parents to deliver on the promise of equality of opportunity.

HONORING JAMES A. "BUDDY"  
CONNER

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James A. "Buddy" Conner, who has contributed some 45 years of service to the defense of our Nation as a leader, a worker, and a soldier.

Mr. Conner is retiring from a 43-year career with BWX Technologies, where he rose from his first assignment as an associate engineer and technician to become one of the company's four highest-ranking executives.

Mr. Conner was born in Appomattox, Virginia, and after finishing his primary education, devoted two years of service to the United States Marine Corps.

Upon his arrival back home, Mr. Conner took a short trip west to the town of Lynchburg and began working at the recently built Nuclear Facilities Plant while he earned his business degree from Lynchburg College. He would spend the next 40 years at that site, eventually leading the Naval Nuclear Fuel Division, which supplies the United States Navy with all of its nuclear fuel. During his tenure, in 2000, Mr. Conner joined the BWXT team vying for the operations contract for the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. For Buddy, this was a chance to lead a facility that is still as monumentally important in our nation's defense as it was during one of our country's biggest security successes, the Manhattan Project.

BWXT won the contract, and Mr. Conner has spent the last three years helping to ensure the site will continue to be the unique jewel in America's first line of nuclear defense. When America has called on Buddy and Y-12 to provide stewardship and security to a safe and reliable stockpile of nuclear weapon components and materials, they have stood at the ready.

Since taking the helm of the operating contract for the site, Buddy and his management team have lead Y-12 into an exciting new era. From modernization plans that are transforming our country's Fort Knox of highly enriched uranium into an efficient storage and production facility, to the renewal of the worker's spirit and enthusiasm through aggressive recruitment and mentoring programs that are bringing in the future of Y-12—Buddy and company have set Y-12 on a fantastic course.

Mr. Conner rose through the ranks of one of our premier defense contractors because of his intelligence, dedication, and outstanding work ethic. In short: he is the real deal.

Mr. Conner's 45 years of devotion to our Nation's security are not to be forgotten. That is why today I am proud to recognize Mr. Conner's efforts for his years of service to the defense of our country.

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OBSERVING THE PASSING OF  
AMERICA'S "OLDEST MAN"

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today Maryland mourns the loss of William Coates, thought to

be the oldest man in America and certainly someone who made a lifetime of contributions to our state.

Mr. Coates was born in Maryland on June 2, 1889 and lived to see many of our nation's most important moments, including the Wright Brothers' first flight, the Great Depression, two World Wars, the Civil Rights movement and the Space age.

Over the span of his life in our great state, Mr. Coates worked with the Maryland State Highway Department in the 1930s building roads for the state, and as a tobacco farmer on a variety of farms throughout Prince George's County including Claggett Farm in Upper Marlboro.

Mr. Coates leaves behind him a caring family of nine children, 21 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren, many of whom still live in Prince George's County. His life, like the times he lived through, will long be fondly remembered by his family and friends and those of us who marveled at his longevity.

William Coates' extended and healthy life is also a tribute to a dedicated investment in medical research. Mr. Coates' life shows us that by investing in research, we can all improve our lives and our health.

William Coates has dedicated a life of service to our state and community, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

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SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENCY

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my disappointment with Federal Reserve Chairman Greenspan's remarks to the House Budget Committee regarding Social Security.

In his testimony, Chairman Greenspan suggests that possible remedies for the record deficits and \$7 trillion debt include increasing the Social Security retirement age and cutting benefits for future recipients.

I want my constituents to know that I will not support any proposal to decrease or eliminate Social Security, nor will I support an increase in the retirement age. Social Security is an entitlement—a right—for the millions of Americans who pay into the program with each and every paycheck. The government has made a commitment to seniors and current workers alike that Social Security will be available upon retirement. We cannot go back on our word.

In Rhode Island, Social Security provides a vital lifeline for a significant percentage of the population. Rhode Island ranks fifth in the nation for the percentage of residents over 75 and sixth in the nation for those over 65. In my district alone, 110,000 people rely on Social Security for their livelihood, and its importance will continue to grow as the baby boom generation begins to retire. Rhode Islanders spend their lives contributing to the vitality of our communities and our country—and paying into Social Security. They are entitled to the benefits they have earned and should not have to worry about whether Social Security will continue to be there when they need it.

Chairman Greenspan is right about one point: this country needs a "greater discipline"

on budgetary matters. I believe that discipline must come from the White House. Congress can no longer afford runaway tax cuts and corporate welfare while neglecting long-term fiscal solvency and current priorities like health care and education.

What Chairman Greenspan neglected to state was that the President's reckless disregard for fiscal responsibility led to a \$521 billion deficit in FY 2004. When President Bush took office in 2001, he inherited a projected \$5.6 trillion surplus over ten years. Just three short years later, we have a projected \$1.9 trillion deficit, a shocking turnaround. While the President was dealt a difficult hand with a recession and the attacks of September 11, many of the fiscal woes are a result of repeated tax cuts that benefit the wealthiest Americans. Our promise to seniors has been bypassed in order to line the pockets of the President's wealthy friends.

Every man, woman, and child in Rhode Island and around the country would owe more than \$24,000 if we were to erase the national debt today. Due to increasing deficits, this amount is only going to increase until we take serious steps to cut wasteful government spending and collect the revenue to meet America's priorities and promises. Baby boomers will challenge the Social Security system, but through responsible fiscal policy, the government will be able to keep this program afloat.

Ensuring the solvency is not the task of one person or one party. Saving Social Security will require difficult decisions, but we cannot play politics with Americans' futures. More than anything, we need an Administration that respects fiscal responsibility and recognizes that in a time of war and recession, we should not be giving trillion-dollar tax cuts to the most privileged Americans. I urge my colleagues to reject Chairman Greenspan's calls to cut benefits to our nation's seniors and instead work to restore fiscal responsibility to our government.

#### HONORING HAHNVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN**  
OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to offer my congratulations to the Hahnville High School Tigers football team of Boutte, Louisiana for winning the Louisiana 5A Football Championship game on December 13, 2003 in the New Orleans Superdome.

Led by their head coach, Lou Valdin, the Hahnville Tigers capped off a fairytale season when they defeated the Evangel Eagles 41–35. This year's win marks the school's sixth state championship title, the most recent in 1994, and seals off their perfect 15–0 season. It also gives Lou Valdin his first state title as a head coach.

On their march to this year's championship, the Tigers defeated Fountainebleau, Barbe, Higgins, and Carencro in the playoffs before meeting Evangel in finals. The championship game was a great effort by both teams, but in the end the Hahnville Tigers came away the victors.

I am proud to report that during the championship game the Tigers compiled over 450

total yards on offense on an Evangel defense that had only allowed just over 230 yards per game this season. I would especially like to note the efforts of three key offensive players: Darius Reynaud, Bryant Lee and Craig Turner. Reynaud and Lee both tied 5A Prep Classic records and Reynaud was named the Player of the Game by the media. Reynaud rushed for 184 yards on 31 carries and two touchdowns. He also led the Tigers in receiving yards with 86 on three receptions and a touchdown. Those three touchdowns tied a 5A Prep Classic record for most touchdowns and most points scored. This championship game was monumental in so many ways for both teams. The two teams broke or tied 27 5A Prep Classic records, including most points scored by two teams.

The whole effort was aided by Principal Barbara Fuselier, and all of the students, staff and parents of Hahnville High School who have shown their support for the players and coaches. It was truly a community effort that accomplished this great victory. I would like to commend all of the players and coaches who have shown true dedication to their sport, and I am extremely proud of their accomplishment. It is with great pride that we congratulate and wish them luck in all their future endeavors.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2004

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Congressional Gold Medal Program Enhancement Act of 2004." Passage of this legislation will ensure that the medals Congress confers will continue to honor truly exceptional achievement.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, Congress created the Congressional Gold Medal honor in 1776 to recognize military leaders, and then honored George Washington for his heroic service in the Revolutionary War. Since then, the medal program has evolved to become the highest civilian honor Congress confers, and medals have gone to those who have attained exceptional achievement, including General Douglas MacArthur; General Colin Powell; Mother Teresa; Pope John Paul II; British Prime Ministers Winston Churchill and Tony Blair; Jonas Salk; Robert H. Goddard and Rosa Parks.

However, a disturbing trend has started to emerge in which Congress approves numerous medals each year, and in some cases approves medals for groups rather than individuals. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that either of these trends is in the spirit of the gold medal concept. This legislation seeks to clarify guidelines under which the medals may be awarded, and strengthen the honor of the process.

Under the new guidelines, Congressional Gold Medals could only be awarded to an individual, not to a group. While there are many groups of people deserving recognition, I believe the medal should be awarded for outstanding, individual achievement.

Also under this legislation, no more than two medals could be awarded in any single year.

A similar limitation has worked extraordinarily well for the commemorative coin programs struck by the United States Mint: under reform legislation I authored and Congress passed in 1995, only two coin programs may be conducted in any year. This reform improved the commemorative coin honor and similar standards could improve the process for awarding the Congressional Gold Medal.

It concerns me, Mr. Speaker, that limiting the number of coin programs a year but having no limitation on Congressional Gold Medals—we award five or six in some years—could someday devalue the medals. Mr. Speaker, this is a simple piece of legislation with great meaning. It will ensure the future integrity and true honor of the award. It is my goal that each recipient—President, civil rights leader, military hero, inventor, noted healer—who receives a Congressional Gold Medal will remain part of a unique honor, bestowed by the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, few can argue with the idea that these medals are an important indicator of American appreciation and gratitude. To maintain this standard, I will work to move the "Congressional Gold Medal Program Enhancement Act" quickly, in order to take effect at the beginning of the next Congress. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and look forward to working with the Financial Services Committee to bring this bill to the House Floor.

**PATRICK PHELAN 2003 GATORADE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Patrick Phelan, of Wilbraham & Monson Academy, on his selection as the 2003 Gatorade National High School Player of the Year in Boys Soccer. Out of the more than 300,000 young men across the country who play soccer, he was selected for this prestigious award based on athletics, academic achievement, and overall character. This selection, which has been given out for nineteen years in ten different sports, places him in the elite company of highly regarded athletes such as NFL co-MVP Peyton Manning, U.S. Olympic Gold Medallist Marion Jones, and basketball stars Lisa Leslie and LeBron James.

Gatorade is not the first to sing the praises of Patrick Phelan, though. His coach, Gary Cook, refers to him as, "the best player I have coached in my twenty eight years in high school." Beyond being an amazing player, Patrick is also an important leader on the team. According to Cook, "everyday he trains with a purpose and he makes everyone around him better. He was a great captain and teammate."

As a defender, Patrick scored six goals and was attributed with five assists this past season. Along with his on-field performance, the leadership he provided in his role as team captain helped elevate the team to a 12–1–2 regular season and a berth in the Class B New England Prep School Semi-Finals.

Patrick does more than play soccer, though. Academically, he stands out with a grade point

average of 3.74. At Wilbraham, he is a member of the Spanish Club. Additionally, he manages to give back to the community through his work with young children as the computer aid at Here We Grow Preschool. He has also figured out a way to include his soccer skills with his community service efforts as a volunteer at Top Soccer, which hosts clinics for disabled children.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to this young man attending Wilbraham & Monson Academy. Patrick Phelan's accomplishments transcend any single niche; he excels in athletics, scholarship, and community service. He has done many things to be proud of, and it is a great pleasure to see him recognized for his dedication and hard work. Patrick, congratulations on being selected as Gatorade's National High School Boys Soccer Player of the Year, and good luck in your future endeavors.

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### FREEDOM FOR OMAR RODRÍGUEZ SALUDES

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#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Omar Rodríguez Saludes, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Rodríguez has been active in the Cuban pro-democracy movement since 1995. In his capacity as an activist for freedom, he has worked primarily as an independent journalist and photographer. Mr. Rodríguez is the director of the New Press, an independent news agency in Havana.

Mr. Rodríguez has dedicated his life to reporting and photographing the truth in totalitarian Cuba. Because Castro's totalitarian regime denies and abhors the truth, Mr. Rodríguez has been continually arrested and harassed by the dictator's ruthless machinery of repression. According to Amnesty International, Mr. Rodríguez was detained repeatedly between December 1998 and January 2002 for attempting to disseminate the truth about the only totalitarian dictatorship in the Western Hemisphere.

On March 20, 2003, as part of the brutal crackdown on Cuban pro-democracy activists, Mr. Rodríguez was arrested by the totalitarian government. Amnesty International reports that Mr. Rodríguez was convicted based on accusations such as "he photographed places that, because of the state they were in, gave a distorted image of Cuban reality."

After this sham trial, Mr. Rodríguez was sentenced to 27 years in the totalitarian gulag. I repeat, Mr. Rodríguez was sentenced to 27 years in Castro's gulag, because he captured the truth about a decayed, bankrupt, and ruthless regime on his roles of film.

Mr. Speaker, we must fight for freedom whenever and wherever human beings are shackled by totalitarian dictators. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Omar Rodríguez Saludes and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

### "PUEBLO" RESOLUTION

#### HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on 28 January 1968, the U.S.S. *Pueblo*, under the command of Cmdr. Lloyd "Pete" Bucher was attacked by four North Korean torpedo boats while in international waters. The attack resulted in the death of one Navy sailor and the capture of Cmdr. Bucher and his crew.

Held in concrete cells, the *Pueblo* crew was starved and tortured for 11 months. Fed mostly turnips, many of the malnourished crewmembers began to lose their sight. They were repeatedly beaten and burned on steam radiators.

By all accounts Cmdr. Bucher bore the brunt of the North Korean's wrath. Crewman James Kell explained it this way: "We were all beaten, we all were tortured. But [Bucher] had it double, triple, quadruple what we got."

Stu Russell, another crewman, echoes Kell's praise of Cmdr. Bucher: "The man was a giant. No matter who did what, he was always punished. I simply don't know where he got the strength and courage to go through what he did."

In January 2004, Cmdr. Lloyd "Pete" Bucher passed away and was subsequently buried with honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma, San Diego, California. He died an American hero.

Today, joined by 15 bi-partisan colleagues, I introduce this Resolution to honor Cmdr. Lloyd "Pete" Bucher and the crew of the U.S.S. *Pueblo* who served our country, and suffered while doing so. They sacrificed that each of us may enjoy the liberty for which so many others have given the ultimate sacrifice.

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### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 24, 2004, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 25, 26, and 27, for family reasons. Had I been here, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 25; "aye" on rollcall No. 26; and "aye" on rollcall No. 27.

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### LIMIT ON DEDUCTION FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PATENTS AND SIMILAR PROPERTY

#### HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would tighten the tax rules for technology donations. The proposal would prevent the abusive transactions, but would allow the fair market value of legitimate gifts of technology to be deducted when the technology is transferred to universities, teaching hospitals, or nonprofit research institutions. My good friend and former House col-

league, PAT ROBERTS, has introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

Taxpayers are permitted to deduct the fair market value of patents and related technology that are donated to tax exempt charities. The benefit from the tax savings generated by patent and technology donations encourages the private owners of technology to transfer the patent to credentialed institutions that can develop it, creating new markets, improving people's lives, creating jobs, and strengthening the educational capabilities and innovative skills of our universities, teaching hospitals and research institutions.

In recent years the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department have identified serious problems that have allowed unscrupulous taxpayers to abuse the law. In some cases, technology of questionable value is donated to tax exempt entities that are either incapable or unwilling to develop it. Any "value" deducted in these cases is clearly exaggerated. In some cases, donor appraisals of otherwise valuable technology to a credentialed donee may have stated values that are inflated.

The Treasury Department has proposed a solution to these problems that would effectively eliminate any current deduction for donors of technology. While I strongly support measures to clean up the current law and tighten the rules for deductible gifts of technology, I believe Treasury's proposal goes too far.

My proposal would limit the incentive to very specific circumstances. Deductions would be limited to technology gifts in cases when all rights, title and interest in technology are transferred to either a university, teaching hospital, or non-profit research institute that is able to apply its credentialed expertise to the development of the technology. Under the proposal, the donor and donee of any cash included with a qualified gift must agree to limit its use to the development of the technology gift.

The bill adds a number of measures to avoid abuse in this area. Qualified appraisals and qualified appraisers are required and defined. One or more appraisals (second appraisal if value is over \$5 million) would be required without regard to any value limitation. The Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe regulations or guidance regarding the qualified appraisals and qualified appraisers. In addition, other anti-abuse measures to prevent the bundling of patents or similar property and/or manipulation of the tax basis in order to increase the amount of the contribution are included.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important measure.

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### SLIMMING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT

#### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of government spending. Prescription medicines for seniors, helping families own their own homes, supporting education and defending America—the list of the government's responsibilities to the American

people is numerous. But, while it is the government's responsibility to provide assistance to the needy and fund programs for our children and seniors, it is intolerable to provide these services at the cost of leaving a crippling burden of debt on our children and grandchildren.

When Congress passed the budget last year, it required us to identify ways to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse. A task force was put together that was asked to report its findings. Since then, Congress and the General Accounting Office have identified over \$85 billion in waste and fraud in government programs.

There are quite a few outrageous examples of wasteful Federal spending. The Energy and Commerce Committee reported that by eliminating double-payments for welfare and Medicaid the Federal Government could save \$3.7 billion over 10 years. The Education and Workforce Committee found that the government could save \$340 million each year by allowing the Internal Revenue Service to verify the income eligibility of Pell Grant applicants. The Judiciary Committee reported that the Department of Justice spends about \$2 million a year more than necessary on employee training.

There are also numerous examples of duplicative programs. The Federal Government has over 50 different programs in eight Federal agencies to assist the homeless. Sixteen of those programs are specifically reserved for the homeless. Most of these programs have different eligibility standards and application procedures, making it difficult for the homeless population to receive help. The Federal Government operates 342 programs working in economic development. Six agencies and 26 programs serve to build roads and streets. Seven agencies and 31 programs fund water and sewer-related activities.

Mr. Speaker, while these findings are a great step in reducing government spending there is still more work to be done. The percentage of waste in the Federal Government would be intolerable in the private sector. I believe that with further investigation and inquiry, we can find even more examples of waste, fraud and abuse. Congress should be accountable for every dollar of the taxpayer's money. By reducing waste and duplication we can create a slimmer, more effective government. With a government as large and as far-reaching as that of the United States, small mistakes and oversights can amount to millions of dollars of waste. Correcting those mistakes and saving these dollars should be a priority for every member of Congress. Working Americans deserve the best possible government at the lowest possible cost.

Waste is a symptom of an ineffective government. Combating waste does not imply hostility toward government, but a desire to strengthen government programs so that they can serve constituents effectively. I believe it is possible to continue funding our priorities while also remaining fiscally responsible. By seeking to balance the budget we can bring accountability to government programs and departments.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT  
RODGER F. DEWEY

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Master Sergeant Rodger F. Dewey.

Master Sergeant Dewey, a career Marine, will be retiring after 24 years of honorable and faithful service to this country.

Master Sergeant Dewey has served with distinction. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1980 while still in High School. He has had numerous duty assignments. Some of these assignments included the Naval Academy, Marine Barracks Washington, DC, the 1989 Presidential Inauguration Committee and the Navy and Marine Corps Liaison Office for the House of Representatives.

Master Sergeant Dewey provided incredible support to the Members of Congress. While in the Liaison Office, he addressed congressional inquiries fielding constituent questions. Master Sergeant Dewey was instrumental in educating Members and staff about the policies and goals for the Department of Navy and the Marine Corps.

Master Dewey has volunteered in many organizations and programs both with the Marine Corps and throughout Baltimore County. Over the past 6 years he has been instrumental in providing gifts and food for families in Eastern Baltimore County and Annapolis. As the Toys for Tots Coordinator he has collected and distributed over 90,000 toys to those children in need. Also, with the help of his wife Betty, a Baltimore County Police Officer, they have distributed over 600 holiday food baskets to families in the Dundalk and Essex areas. His satisfaction is in seeing the families and the children sharing a happy holiday.

In 2003 Master Sergeant Dewey was selected as the Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association's Marine of the Year for 2002. This award is presented to the Marine that best supports the Naval Cryptologic missions. As Administrative Chief for a Battalion consisting of eight separate and remote companies co-located with the Navy Security Group Activities and National Intelligence Agency sites around the world, Master Sergeant Dewey's superior sustained performance was noteworthy. Through his dynamic leadership and unswerving dedication to duty, he ensured that Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion was successful in every endeavor, and he personally ensured every company's overall administrative requirements were fully met; regardless of where the company was; the United Kingdom, Hawaii, and throughout the United States.

The Marine Corps has been a career and home to Master Sergeant Dewey for 24 years. He has touched the lives of all who he has come in contact with. His leadership and guidance will be missed. The Marine's of his past and present will miss him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Master Sergeant Dewey for his service to the United States Marine Corps and to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN BEARDEN  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin Bearden, 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 65, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the 9 years Justin has been involved with scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, and troop guide. Justin has also been inducted into the Order of the Arrow as an Ordeal member.

Justin's Eagle Scout project was the restoration of the exterior of the Patterson Assembly of God Parsonage.

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

RECOGNIZING MR. RAUL VARGAS

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the numerous contributions of Mr. Raul Vargas of the University of Southern California (USC). For more than three decades, Mr. Vargas has pioneered higher education accessibility for minority students in southern California and throughout America.

A graduate of prestigious universities, including the University of Southern California, former Army veteran and life-long educator, Mr. Vargas is one of the nine founding members of the Mexican American Alumni Association (MAAA) at USC. Under his leadership, the MAAA and its supporters have provided unprecedented financial assistance to Latino students entering USC since 1974. Totalling over \$10 million, the MAAA has awarded nearly 6,000 scholarships to outstanding Latino undergraduate and graduate students. For this reason, the MAAA is currently the largest and most prestigious Hispanic alumni association in the nation.

Since its inception in 1974, the MAAA has raised a major portion of its scholarship money from its Annual Scholarship Dinner in February and its Scholarship Golf Classic Tournament in June. The Scholarship Dinner, the elder of the two events, draws hundreds of USC alumni, donors, and supporters and raises hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Within the last 10 years, the success of the two annual events has helped the USC MAAA's Endowment Fund to now proudly exceed \$2 million.

Mr. Vargas has been recognized by prominent institutions and organizations. He was named Hispanic of the Year by the National

Hispanic Scholarship Fund; won the Spirit of Education Award by the American Diabetes Association; and earned the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Mr. Raul Vargas currently ranks among the top leaders in higher education. Above all, he exemplifies the excellence in American leadership today.

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TRIBUTE TO KIP LOMBARD

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of Oregon's finest citizens and most dedicated public servants, the late Benjamin "Kip" Lombard, Jr. It is with great sadness that I report that Kip passed away last year at the age of sixty-two, though he lives on in the memories of the many people he touched during his life and the grateful citizens on whose behalf he worked so tirelessly.

Mr. Speaker, Kip Lombard was a true son of the State of Oregon, and his love for his native state was evident in the many labors he performed for the betterment of his fellow Oregonians. Kip was blessed with both a keen intellect and the motivation to use his intellectual gifts in the service of others. He graduated with honors as a member of the first class of the University of Oregon Honors College, an institution reserved for only the most academically gifted. Knowing firsthand the value of a good education, Kip was a steadfast advocate for promoting academic excellence in Oregon. He served on the Jackson County Education Service District, Southern Oregon University's Regional Advisory Board, and as a volunteer on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Association.

Mr. Speaker, while Kip's contributions to his community and state were diverse, he made perhaps his greatest mark in his role as State Representative. Kip served faithfully in the Oregon State Legislature from 1977 to 1985, where he quickly gained a reputation for his effectiveness, conviction, personal integrity and abiding respect for others. When the big jobs had to be done, Kip was always there, working relentlessly and forsaking the limelight. He was fiercely loyal to his southern Oregon constituents, yet committed to making Oregon the greatest state in the Union. He was, in short, a true gentleman and statesman in the finest tradition of Oregon's greatest public leaders.

Kip was widely respected for his thorough knowledge of Western water issues, both during his service in the legislature and in his law practice. As an attorney in private practice Kip brought the same high standards to his profession that he brought to the State House, and his clients were well served by him.

Mr. Speaker, although Kip's life was distinguished by many impressive accomplishments and the recognition that attended his achievements, I know that as a humble man his greatest source of pride was attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Many of Kip's finest qualities were learned and nurtured in the Scouts, and he maintained a close relationship to Scouting throughout his life.

Kip Lombard's passing subtracts from the number of truly good men in this world, but it will be impossible for us ever to forget that Kip left this world a better place than he found it. Kip will always remain an inspiration to me, and his life's work will always represent the ideal of using one's God-given abilities on behalf of others.

Mr. Speaker, Kip was a man of many distinguished titles, but he valued none of them more highly than the titles of husband and father. I know the solemn pride that his wife, Bernadette, his children, Christopher and Ian, and his grandson, Samuel Benjamin, must certainly feel. While he has left their side in this world, I hope they find consolation in the knowledge that his was a life extremely well lived. For my part, I am grateful to have called Kip Lombard my friend and to have been associated with a man whose tireless work will benefit the State of Oregon for generations.

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TAIWAN'S UPCOMING REFERENDUM

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the referendum offered by Taiwan's President, the Honorable Chen Shui-bian, for the March 20, 2004 election ballot will not alter the status quo of cross-strait relations.

This referendum does not seek a declaration of independence. Rather, it is intended to express the Taiwanese people's immediate and legitimate concerns regarding the peace and security of the region. Taiwan is a thriving democracy that promotes freedom and the rule of law. The upcoming referendum will allow its people to freely express their views, which is a fundamental human right guaranteed by international law.

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HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the rich history of African Americans as we celebrate African American History Month.

Throughout our Nation's history, African Americans have made vast contributions to all aspects of American society—music, literature, sports, education, science, business, and politics. This month and throughout the year we honor these contributions and the wonderful African American men and women whose stellar achievements have left a positive imprint on our society.

We remember in a very special way this month the thousands of African Americans serving in the United States Armed Forces. From the Revolutionary War to the war in Iraq, African Americans have served our Nation in high numbers and with great distinction and honor. We honor this proud history and all African Americans currently defending our Nation and its freedoms.

I encourage those living in my district in Los Angeles County, California, and around the

country to take time this month to learn more about vast cultural and historical contributions made by African Americans to our great Nation.

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TRIBUTE TO LENN HANNON

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to a fine American, a true gentleman and a good friend of mine, Lenn Hannon, on the occasion of his retirement from the Oregon State Senate. It is a pleasure to honor Lenn and his lovely wife, Dixie, who have stood together in public life for more than 30 years and together have made invaluable contributions to the State of Oregon and its people.

Mr. Speaker, Lenn Hannon traces his interest in public service to 1960 when, as a high school junior and member of the school band, Lenn had an opportunity to shake hands with a young Senator campaigning for President named John F. Kennedy. Inspired by Kennedy's call to public service, Lenn would go on to live his life by Kennedy's famous admonition: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

Lenn began his career in public service in 1974, when he won a seat in the State Senate by a mere 37 votes. During his first years in the Senate, Hannon developed a reputation as a smart, open-minded and fair lawmaker whose concern for the people he represented was far greater than his concern for himself. In 1980, Lenn switched parties to become one of only seven Republicans in the State Senate. Over the years he gradually built up seniority to become the Senate's senior Republican and Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. During this time, he devoted himself to a wide range of issues, from strengthening education and arts programs to combating substance abuse and managing federal land issues. One of his greatest accomplishments in the State Legislature was his success in helping to develop Southern Oregon University into a premiere educational institution for southern Oregon. The reverence his name inspires among SOU faculty, staff and alumni is a testament to his enduring contributions to the university.

Mr. Speaker, now that Lenn's service in the State Senate has come to an end, Lenn will serve on the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, a role that will allow him to continue serving the citizens of Oregon. He and Dixie will move to Salem for the new job, but their hearts will always remain in the community where they are so well loved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these extraordinary Americans, Lenn and Dixie Hannon. I would like to thank them both personally for all they have done for the people of southern Oregon, the Second District, and the State of Oregon. I wish Lenn and Dixie and their entire family all the best in future endeavors.

BOTSWANA, ONE OF THE GREATEST SUCCESS STORIES IN AFRICA

**HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues an excellent and informative television program that featured the country of Botswana as one of the greatest success stories in Africa. It was the Today Show on NBC on Monday, Feb. 9, during the series "Where in the World is Matt Lauer?"

Many Americans know Botswana from having seen or visited its wonderful game parks on safari, but this program told Botswana's complete story. We learned how the country protects its precious animals, how the country is courageously facing its problem with HIV and AIDS and how its diamonds are mined and secured.

Botswana's diamond industry, a global leader and innovator, was featured. Mr. Louis Nchindo, general manager of the Debswana Diamond Company, told Mr. Lauer how the country has insured that its clean diamonds are kept out of the world of illegitimate "conflict diamonds" by carefully managing the process from mining to export. He described the elaborate security measures including the requirements for licensed dealers throughout the process. I was proud to work with Mr. Nchindo in setting up a process for labeling diamonds to keep them out of the illicit trade. Debswana and Mr. Nchindo are to be commended for their efforts in this regard.

Mr. Lauer mentioned how Botswana is a stable democracy and "all-around wonderful place," with first class accommodations in the game parks and which rightly boasts a rich and welcoming culture.

I was pleased to see Botswana honored by NBC and commend the country, a good friend of the United States, to my colleagues.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DR. DOROTHY HEIGHT

SPEECH OF

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2004*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today's resolution regarding the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Dorothy Height reminds us in this age of cynicism that one person can truly make a difference in our society. I was pleased to co-sponsor the legislation to award Dr. Height with the Congressional Gold Medal, and I am pleased to support this measure today. I have great admiration for Dr. Height, a living legend and pioneer of civil rights, women's rights, and racial justice.

Beginning as a civil rights advocate in the 1930s, Dr. Height gained prominence through

her tireless efforts to promote interracial schooling, to register and educate voters, and to increase the visibility and status of women in our society.

One of her many contributions was establishing Wednesdays in Mississippi, a unique project that brought together northern and southern women to get to know one another and work side-by-side for racial justice in the segregated south. That project lives on in that, today, the Children's Defense Fund has adopted the Wednesdays in Mississippi model for its innovative Wednesdays in Washington and at Home program, which enables advocates for children—especially poor, minority, and disabled children—to make their voices heard here in the nation's capital and across the country.

As president of the National Council of Negro Women since 1957, she has helped establish model programs on issues ranging from teenage parenting to the eradication of hunger. She also established the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Museum and Archives for Black Women, the first institution devoted to the history of black women.

Her leadership in struggle for equality, social justice, and human rights for all peoples is an example for us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather and travel delays from my district, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 25, "yes"; rollcall No. 26, "yes"; rollcall No. 27, "yes."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL ORDER

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I want to celebrate Black History Month and the upcoming 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

In 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court stated that separate is inherently unequal. The Court concluded, "that in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." The Court found that the evils of racial segregation affected students' motivation and retarded educational and mental development.

Education is a right, not a privilege. The Court wrote: ". . . it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he (or she) is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms."

In the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, Barbara Byrd-Bennett, CEO of the Cleveland Municipal School District continues this legacy Brown v. Board of Education, championing the rights of our young people and working to ensure that they are afforded the best education possible. Six years ago, in 1998, the Cleveland Municipal School District ranked last among Ohio school systems, and was placed in academic emergency status. Under the direction of Ms. Byrd-Bennett the Cleveland Municipal School District now stands as one of Ohio's "most improved school districts."

Under Ms. Byrd-Bennett's leadership academic successes are clear.

Reading scores have increased by more than 30 percent.

Children have breakfast and lunch at school at no cost, and over 93 percent are immunized.

Graduation rates have increased by 10 percent and 74 percent of last year's graduates went on to college.

Suspensions are down nearly 45 percent, expulsions are down 9 percent and assaults on students are down 13 percent.

Reading results were up 19 percent and 28 percent, respectively, in one academic year, in the 4th and 6th grades.

Only 22 percent of 4th grade students passed the State reading test in 1998 compared to 59 percent passed, in 2003, an increase of 37 percent from 5 years ago. Reading performance at the 6th grade has improved by 32 percent.

I believe that education is the key to success. I am working on behalf of all the constituents of the 11th Congressional District in Ohio to make sure that public education remains the number one issue in America. I want for those who have a desire to go to college to be prepared and equipped with the tools necessary for success.

While highlighting successes and recognizing achievements, we must also focus on current realities to further aid us in shaping national education priorities. According to the National Education Association:

Poor and minority children risk doing poorly in school. Contributing factors include: rigorous curriculum, teacher preparation/experience/attendance, class size, technology-assisted instruction, school safety, parent participation, student mobility, birth weight, lead poisoning, and nutrition.

In 1994, 31 percent of black, 24 percent of Hispanic, and 35 percent of American Indian high school graduates took remedial courses, compared to 15 percent of whites and Asians.

Few minorities have access to or are enrolled in Advanced Placement courses.

Student achievement gap still wide.

Only 5 percent of African American 4th grade students and 4 percent of 8th grade students met national proficiency standards in 1996.

In addition, under the Bush budget \$9.4 billion less for education than was promised in the No Child Left Behind Act; this means that 2.4 million children will not get the help with reading and math they were promised. Under the Bush budget 56,000 teachers won't get training and 1.3 million children won't get the after school programs they were promised.

According to the National Education Association, the budget eliminates funds for 38 pro-

grams, including dropout prevention and gifted and talented education, and once again fails to increase Pell Grants for our nation's poorest college students. Yet, incredibly, the President wants \$50 million for a national experiment with school vouchers, which take away much needed resources from public schools, and

trillions more in tax cuts continue to flow to the wealthy.

We have come a long way; however, we still have a long way to go.

Today I rise to celebrate the anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*. I am proud to be an American. I salute African Americans

like Barbara Byrd-Bennett who believed in the fight for justice, believed in their dreams for equality and continue to pave the way for a better tomorrow.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2004 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 1

10:30 a.m.  
Appropriations  
Defense Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Defense. SD-192

11 a.m.  
Governmental Affairs  
Financial Management, the Budget, and International Security Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the management, investment, and oversight policies of the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) to ensure the integrity of federal employees' retirement savings. SD-342

MARCH 2

9 a.m.  
Foreign Relations  
To hold oversight hearings to examine certain foreign assistance programs. SD-419

9:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005 and the future years defense program. SH-216

10 a.m.  
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To resume hearings to examine current investigations and regulatory actions regarding the mutual fund industry, focusing on fund operations and governance. SD-538

Appropriations  
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Commerce. SD-192

Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed fiscal year 2005 budget for the Forest Service. SD-366

Appropriations  
Homeland Security Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for science and technology programs, information analysis, and infrastructure protection. SD-124

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine suicide prevention and youth. SD-430

2:15 p.m.  
Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the final report of the Department of Veterans' Affairs' Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission. SR-418

2:30 p.m.  
Armed Services  
Personnel Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine active component, Reserve component and civilian personnel programs, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005. SR-232A

3 p.m.  
Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine North Korea's nuclear situation. SH-216

MARCH 3

9:30 a.m.  
Environment and Public Works  
To hold oversight hearings to examine grants management within the Environmental Protection Agency. SD-406

Finance  
To hold hearings to examine health insurance challenges. SD-215

Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine building operational readiness in Foreign Affairs agencies. SH-216

10 a.m.  
Judiciary  
Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine national implications of the Massachusetts Goodridge decision and the judicial invalidation of traditional marriage laws. SD-226

Appropriations  
Defense Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Army. SD-192

Appropriations  
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, and Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. SD-124

Indian Affairs  
To hold oversight hearings to examine the status of the completion of the National Museum of the American Indian. SR-485

2 p.m.  
Armed Services  
SeaPower Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine future Navy and Marine Corps capabilities and requirements in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005 and the future years defense program. SR-232A

2:30 p.m.  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine S. 1420, to establish terms and conditions for use of certain Federal land by outfitters and to facilitate public opportunities for the recreational use and enjoyment of such land. SD-366

MARCH 4

9:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
To hold open and closed hearings to examine the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2005, focusing on military strategy and operational requirements (closed in SH-219). SH-216

10 a.m.  
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine higher education. SD-430

Veterans' Affairs  
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Jewish War Veterans, and the Blinded Veterans Association. 345 CHOB

11 a.m.  
Appropriations  
Legislative Branch Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the General Accounting Office, the Government Printing Office, and the Congressional Budget Office. SD-116

2 p.m.  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
Marketing, Inspection, and Product Promotion Subcommittee  
To hold oversight hearings to examine the development of a national animal identification plan. SH-216

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control  
To hold hearings to examine the current status of federal efforts to coordinate and combat money laundering and terrorist financing. SD-215

2:30 p.m.  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Energy Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine new nuclear power generation in the United States. SD-366

MARCH 9

9:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; to be followed by a closed session in SH-219. SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources  
National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine H.R. 1446, to support the efforts of the California Missions Foundation to restore and repair the Spanish colonial and mission-era missions in the State of California and to preserve the artworks and artifacts of these missions, S. 1306, to introduce the efforts of the California Missions Foundation to restore and repair the Spanish colonial and mission-era missions in the State of California and to preserve the artworks and artifacts of these missions, and H.R. 1521, to provide for additional lands to be included within the boundary of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in the State of Pennsylvania.

SD-366

MARCH 10

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

SH-216

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Armed Services

SeaPower Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the U.S. Transportation Command in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005 and the future years defense program.

SR-232A

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1354, to resolve certain conveyances and provide for alternative land selections under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act related to Cape Fox Corporation and Sealaska Corporation, S. 1575 and H.R. 1092, both to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to sell certain parcels of Federal land in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada, S. 1778, to

authorize a land conveyance between the United State and the City of Craig, Alaska, S. 1819 and H.R. 272, both to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land to Lander County, Nevada, and the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to Eureka County, Nevada, for continued use as cemeteries, and H.R. 3249, to extend the term of the Forest Counties Payments Committee.

SD-366

MARCH 11

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Children and Families Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine child and family issues.

SD-430

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 2086, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to improve the reclamation of abandoned mines, and S. 2049, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to reauthorize collection of reclamation fees, revise the abandoned mine reclamation program, promote re-mining, authorize the Office of Surface Mining to collect the black lung excise tax, and make sundry other changes.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Airland Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Army Transformation in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005 and the future years defense program.

SR-232A

MARCH 18

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, and the Fleet Reserve Association.

345 CHOB

MARCH 23

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine atomic energy defense activities of the Depart-

ment of Energy relating to the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2005.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine mental health services.

SD-430

MARCH 25

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the role of the U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Special Operations Command in defending the homeland and in the global war on terrorism, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005; to be followed by a closed session in SH-219.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Employment, Safety, and Training Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine MSDS and OSHA hazardous commission.

SD-430

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Military Officers Association of America.

345 CHOB

MARCH 31

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

SEPTEMBER 21

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345 CHOB