

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NEWLY ELECTED CASTLE ROCK, COLORADO COUNCILMEMBERS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is not an easy undertaking to answer the call to public service and run for local City Councils. Often the job of City Councilmember is thankless; it is with the highest regard for the services our elected officials do for our communities that I wish to pay tribute to the newly elected Castle Rock, Colorado City Council.

In April, returning Councilmembers Ray Waterman and Jay Richards and new City Councilmembers Ed Rusch (District 4) and Randy Reed (District 2) were sworn in by Judge Louis Gresh. The new council's first order of business was the unanimous election of City Councilmember Ray Waterman as Mayor.

Mr. Speaker, the newly elected council should be dedicated to improving their community. It is not only their devotion, but also their passion for contributing to the betterment of the Colorado community that I wish to recognize before this body. It is my distinct pleasure to honor the new and returning councilmembers here today, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3722, the Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004. This bill would prohibit the federal government from reimbursing hospitals for the emergency care they provide to undocumented immigrants. Under the bill, hospitals could only receive federal reimbursement if they provide the Department of Homeland Security with the patient's immigration status, financial data and employer information. The bill makes the immigrant's employer responsible for hospital costs and directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to initiate deportation proceedings against the immigrant.

Mr. Speaker, this bill flies in the face of the medical profession's mission. A hospital's job is to help any individual in need of health care, regardless of the patient's immigration status. We need to let our health care professionals do their jobs, not burden them with additional administrative details that, if imposed, will discourage immigrants from seeking care.

We already know the tremendous problems associated with the 44 million Americans who

are uninsured. It goes without saying that the uninsured are less likely to seek preventive health care and, as a result, get care at the hospital only when their health problems have reached emergency proportions. This bill would only exacerbate this problem and discourage our immigrant population from seeking health care at all, for fear of being reported to DHS. This would increase the health risk for citizens and immigrants, legal or not.

It is unconscionable to me that we would consider denying necessary health care services to individuals solely based on their immigration status. This is a wrong-headed approach to addressing our health care problems and would only serve to decrease access to care.

As such, I would urge my colleagues to vote against this bill and, instead, co-sponsor legislation that I have introduced to increase undocumented immigrants' access to quality health care. My legislation, H.R. 3273, would allow state and locally-funded programs to provide preventive and primary health care to undocumented aliens. H.R. 3273 addresses our health care problems at the source and would allow our local hospitals to see that their health care dollars are spent more wisely by preventing emergencies—not treating them.

Mr. Speaker, illnesses know no residency. Medical care shouldn't either. I urge my colleagues to reject the misguided Rohrabacher bill and address our health care problems—both in terms of access and funding—at the source by focusing their efforts on prevention.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT ALL AMERICANS OBSERVE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN VERSUS BOARD OF EDUCATION WITH A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING AND BUILDING ON THE LEGACY OF BROWN

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of one of the most important Supreme Court decisions handed down in our nation's history. On May 17, 1954 the United States Supreme Court ended federally sanctioned segregation in the case *Brown v. Board of Education* by unanimously ruling that "separate but equal" was unconstitutional. This landmark case, which overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the 1896 Supreme Court Case in which the doctrine of "separate but equal" was declared constitutional, provided the legal foundation for the civil rights movement in this country.

In his decision which challenged the conscience of the nation, Chief Justice Earl Warren argued:

To separate [black children] from others of similar age and qualifications solely because

of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone. . . . We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.

These powerful words began the slow process of integration and sparked the campaign for social justice in America.

Fifty years later, we have come a long way in realizing the promise of *Brown* but still have much work to do. While *Brown* broke down the barriers of segregation, many of our schools remain separate and unequal. This has occurred primarily because minority students are concentrated in urban settings where schools continue to fall short of providing adequate education. While many whites are able to leave the inner city for the suburbs where they can receive a better education, minorities remain trapped in failing urban schools simply because their parents lack the financial resources to secure a better education for their children. As a result, minority students continue to lag behind in reading, math, writing, geography and science and have a much higher dropout rate than whites, according to a recent Department of Education report.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the groundbreaking case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, it is imperative that we continue to work to fulfill its promise to provide equal education for all Americans regardless of their race, religion, sex or socio-economic status. Fifty years ago, the Supreme Court laid out its vision for our nation's schools. It is now time for Congress to ensure that that vision becomes reality.

In this year in which Congress will reauthorize the Higher Education Act, we as a body need to take bold steps to provide poor and minority students at the primary and secondary levels with adequate resources to ensure that the door to higher education is open to all. We must fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act, protect Head Start, provide adequate funding for after school programs and make college more affordable for everyone. Doing so will help fulfill the promise of *Brown*, a promise that we as a nation cannot afford to break.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, as we remember those who sacrificed their lives for our Nation on this Memorial Day, let us remember that daily we reap the benefits of the bravery of America's veterans. They have been our liberties' steadfast defenders.

Soon hundreds of thousands of World War II veterans will gather on the National Mall to help dedicate the newest Memorial commemorating their heroic service to our country and

• 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 their fellow soldiers who gave their lives defending our freedom. The WWII Memorial recognizes and celebrates the sacrifices and unfailing loyalty that veterans demonstrated for America.

However, it has been more than sixty years since the United States joined the war efforts, yet the promises that our government initially made to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line in fighting in the Second World War are being endangered by the hacking away at the veterans' budget. They were promised health care. Most of all, they were guaranteed that their Nation would not turn a blind eye to their future needs. However, these promises have been dulled and slowed, and more and more of our World War II veterans are quietly slipping away, never to know what could have been if their government had fulfilled their promise.

We still have time to correct this injustice and to take care of our World War II veterans before it is too late. Our Nation needs to move further in a direction that allows us to reward our veterans for their sacrifices they have made, wherever and whenever they made it. Our veterans and our soldiers today remain foremost in the thoughts and minds of Americans, and along with our devoted attention given to those who wear America's uniform. Without our veterans, there would be no America, and time and time again, our veterans put the life of their country before their own. It is time that their country finally rewards them for the unfailing dedication each has demonstrated throughout their lifetime.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SMOKY HILL
HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL
SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to applaud the accomplishments of a group of Aurora, Colorado students. The National Science Bowl team from Smoky Hill High School—Nathan Artz, Chris Krueger, Anthony Eskridge, Andrew Scacco, Jessa Forthofer and their coach, Mary Bartholomew—won their regional tournament, and will be here in Washington, DC to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl Competition.

The National Science Bowl is a 4-day event, in which students attend science seminars and workshops and participate in the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Model Car Challenge. The last two days of the event, teams from across the nation are pitted against each other in a verbal competition covering every branch of science and mathematics from algebra to zoology.

The Smoky Hill team has worked diligently throughout the year to prepare for this competition and have demonstrated their academic domination in their regional successes. It is my pleasure to honor their commitment to scholastic excellence, and to wish them all the best at the competition and in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BOB PETERSON:
TEXAS OPTOMETRIST
OF THE YEAR 2004

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent, Dr. Bob Peterson. Dr. Peterson was recently named Optometrist of the Year by the Texas Optometric Association. He has also been awarded the prestigious William D. Pittman Leadership Award by the University of Houston's College of Optometry, which recognized Dr. Peterson's leadership in the Northshore community.

Both of these honors represent the culmination of Dr. Peterson's thirty years of leadership in our community. A fellow graduate of the University of Houston, Dr. Peterson knows the true meaning of service. During his day job as an optometrist, Dr. Peterson works to ensure the healthy vision of his Northshore patients. However, his work day rarely ends at 5 o'clock. He has been a trusted volunteer for Lord of the Streets, working to help Houston's homeless population obtain prescription glasses. He is also a member of the Northshore Rotary Club and the Northshore Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Peterson also recognizes the tremendous importance of education. Having served on the Galena Park School Board and currently a member of the Harris County Board of Education, Dr. Peterson knows the importance of a good education for our children, who are the future of our country. His work on area school boards and for the Education Foundation of Harris County is a testament to his dedication to our children and our future.

The Texas Optometric Association and the University of Houston couldn't have chosen a more dedicated, service-oriented optometrist to honor. Dr. Peterson deserves these honors and more for his tireless efforts, both in and out of the doctor's office, to keep our community healthy, strong and productive. I am honored to have him as a constituent and congratulate him on these awards and his outstanding achievements.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MIRIAM
THOMAS, S.C.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to once again pay tribute to Sister Miriam Thomas S.C., a phenomenal individual who has devoted her life to enhancing the lives of others. On Saturday, May 15, 2004, the College of Mount Saint Vincent will award Sister Thomas with the Seton Medal. Named for Saint Elizabeth Seton, this rarely given medal celebrates the virtues of hard work and service and is the highest award the college confers.

Sister Thomas was born and received her early education in South Brooklyn. Upon graduation from high school, she answered the calling to devote her life to God. At age 18

she entered Sisters of Charity where she received an invaluable theological education as well as a degree from Mount Saint Vincent College in the Bronx. Once she professed her vows, Sister Thomas brought her newly-honed ministry skills to Ascension Grammar School in Manhattan, where she remained for 8 years. She then relocated to Ponce, Puerto Rico where her education was enriched at Catholic University. After years of study she was finally ready for the South Bronx. There, she was assigned to St. Athanasius Parish where she has shared her gift of easing souls and invoking smiles for the past 42 years.

In 1972, Sister Thomas, along with her neighbors, heard that a woman who served as the administrator of Simpson Street Development Association was murdered while on the job. Courage and an unfaltering sense of devotion allowed Sister Thomas to stand up and fill this important position. There, with a tireless and supportive staff, Sister Thomas works miracles daily by providing social services and emotional guidance to people in need. Beyond these commitments, Sister Thomas also sits on the South Bronx Community Board 2 as chairperson. Her involvements in other community-based organizations are too numerous to mention. She says that her ceaseless community involvement was inspired by Father Louis Gigante, a visionary and dear friend.

Mr. Speaker, throughout her many years of service Sister Thomas has helped countless people change their outlook on life using her remarkable gift of translating the gospel into terms that lay individuals can understand. She is truly an extraordinary woman who is very much deserving of this prestigious award.

For her many years of service, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this incredible woman as the College of Mount Saint Vincent honors her with the Seton Medal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, 2003, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 177 on H. Con. Res. 420, recognizing National Transportation Week, 178 on H. Con. Res. 423, authorizing Capitol Grounds for the dedication of World War II Memorial, and 179 on H. Con. Res. 403 condemning the Sudan for civilian attacks in the Darfur region, due to transportation problems in getting to Washington, DC. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on all three resolutions.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SALEM TIMES-REGISTER

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the Salem Times-Register, the community newspaper that has served the good people of Salem, Virginia, for the past 150 years.

While big city daily newspapers and television stations jostle to see how many stories they can cover about war, murder, mayhem and people who have done things they shouldn't, community newspapers such as the Salem Times-Register put on their front pages articles about a hometown student who scored a perfect 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test; what the family of an autistic child is doing at home to help him be as much of a regular kid as possible and Air Force Capt. Matt Stephens' visit while home from Iraq to West Salem Elementary School where he was a fourth-grader and met his future wife.

And so it has been since The Salem Weekly Register was founded in 1854.

Today there are eight papers in the chain, all printed on the company's press in the plant at 1633 W. Main Street in Salem.

Wilson Koeppel and Jeff Stumb purchased the Salem Times-Register and its then-three sister papers in March 2001. The two men had already bought the Christiansburg News Messenger and the Radford News Journal in November 2000. Koeppel's son, Lawson Koeppel, is the bright young general manager of the Salem paper and the five others in Main Street Newspapers that serve communities in the Roanoke Valley.

Today the Salem Times-Register continues as "The only paper that puts Salem first," concentrating on news of Salem and Salem people. In addition, in 2004 the Times Register went online, along with its sister papers, giving former Salem residents across the world a way to keep up with their hometown news.

In 2003 the Times-Register distinguished itself by winning the Virginia Press Association's Sweepstakes Award as the best newspaper out of all the newspapers its circulation size in the state.

The staff continues to bring the people of the Salem area the best in local news, sports coverage, photographs, items about accomplishments by Salem students and adults, business news and advertisements.

Koeppel and Stumb purchased the Salem paper, The Fincastle Herald, The Vinton Messenger and The New Castle Record from Ray and Jeanne Robinson.

For more than 30 years, Ray Robinson, who remains as publisher emeritus, never missed being there when the newspaper rolled off the presses each Wednesday. Because there were only five people in the early years, everybody had to do a little bit of everything.

"The delivery boy was me. The photographer was me. The design and makeup of the papers was me. The assistant pressman was me," Robinson recalled.

Shortly after the Times-Register was founded, like many others it was a casualty of the Civil War and quit publishing in 1861. It was reincarnated as the Roanoke Times, a weekly, in 1866. The paper's name changed with subsequent owners, with more than 14 different publishers and editors over the next few years.

The Register officially merged with the Roanoke Times weekly in 1883. Salem wasn't a one-newspaper town, though. The Salem Sentinel was founded the following year, and according to author Woody Middleton, the two were intensely competitive. "The Times-Register was published each Friday in a two-story frame building on College Avenue adjacent to the Town Hall. The Sentinel came off the press each Tuesday."

Like most small newspapers in the early 1900s, front pages of both papers were filled with national and international news. Readers had to look inside, where coverage of social events and who visited whom got equal space with community developments.

Subscribers paid \$1 a year for their papers.

The Sentinel merged with the Times-Register in 1903 after about six months of the respective editors sniping at each other through their columns.

For 33 years the name of the paper was The Salem Times-Register and Sentinel. Sentinel was dropped from the masthead in 1936 and since then, it has been the Salem Times-Register.

It is with great pride that I congratulate the talented staff that puts out the Salem Times-Register on reaching this milestone and I wish them continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, I was participating in the World Economic Forum in Amman, Jordan and, therefore, missed three recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on recorded vote No. 177, "yes" on recorded vote No. 178, and "yes" on recorded vote No. 179.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4281, the Small Business Health Fairness Act, which will allow small business to join together to better provide their hardworking employees with health care coverage. This important legislation will solve the serious problem with the growing number of uninsured American workers.

It is reported that as many as 60 percent of America's 43.6 million uninsured are employed in small businesses throughout the country. Over the last few years, small business employers have become unable to provide their workers with affordable health care as a result of the rapid and unjust rise in the cost of health insurance.

As a former small business owner, I understand the plight felt by employers, who want nothing more than to provide employees and their families with quality health care.

The Small Business Health Fairness Act will afford these smaller businesses the same rights that large corporations and unions have and enable their representative associations to form Association Health Plans (AHPs), which will offer health care nationwide to member businesses. AHPs will be crucial in closing the gap the small business community is facing

with the increase of uninsured American workers.

It is imperative that we act now by passing this legislation so that our nation's small business employees can immediately begin receiving health care for their families.

Last year, the House passed a virtually identical bill with strong bipartisan support, but it unfortunately never saw the light of day in the Senate. I am hopeful that this body will pass this measure today, and quickly send it to the Senate for consideration. We can no longer allow these dedicated employees to live and work without health insurance.

I thank the Chairman for giving me time to talk about my strong support of H.R. 4281.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 3722, the "Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004," because it would establish an unfunded mandate on an already overburdened and under-funded medical care system. Hospital workers would be required to gather several pieces of information from their patients to prove their citizenship, including their fingerprints. This information would then be shared with the Department of Homeland Security, which would be required to monitor the information with a currently non-existent tracking system. This bill aims to create a costly burden on an already stressed medical system.

H.R. 3722 also poses a serious public health threat. The bill would create fear and confusion amongst both documented and undocumented immigrant families, discouraging them from seeking urgent medical care, possibly resulting in severe complications, the spread of infectious diseases and epidemics, and even death. I stand firmly opposed to this troubling legislation which poses a serious risk to public health and creates unnecessary monetary burdens upon hospitals and taxpayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall votes No. 177, No. 178 and No. 179. If present I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 169, 170, 171, 172, 173,

174, 175, and 176. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 170, 174, 175, and 176. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 169, 171, 172, and 173.

HONORING THOMAS J. McMAHON

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas J. McMahon of Williamsville, New York, for his fifty years of active service as a volunteer firefighter.

For the past fifty-plus years, Thomas McMahon served the Williamsville community as a volunteer firefighter in the Hutchinson Hose Company of the Williamsville Fire Department.

Tom graduated from Bennett High school in 1939, and went on to complete a two-year course at the Chown School of Business. He was drafted into military service in 1942, and served our country as an Army Air Corps aircraft photographer. After the war, Tom and his wife Mary returned to the Buffalo area, settling in Williamsville in 1952. Shortly thereafter, in 1953, he joined the volunteer fire service, and still serves today.

Anytime a citizen volunteers his or her time for the betterment of the community, it is commendable. For one man to have given fifty years to volunteer firefighting is nothing short of remarkable. His commitment to his fellow citizens and dedication to his community truly exemplify the ideals of public service. Through his dedication, Tom has made a considerable and lasting contribution to our community, and for that he deserves our deepest gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in honoring Mr. Thomas J. McMahon of Williamsville, New York, and thank him for his fifty years of active service as a volunteer firefighter.

HONORING NEVADA'S 2004 MOTHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Susan Wallace Leavitt, who has been awarded the 2004 Nevada Mother of the Year Award. The Mother of the Year Award honors women who are committed to strengthening the moral and spiritual foundations of the family and home.

As a mother of four, Mrs. Leavitt has demonstrated the great responsibility of motherhood and dedication to living and teaching her children outstanding qualities, such as love, understanding, courage, service, and compassion. As a recipient of this award, Mrs. Leavitt will help deliver this message about motherhood to community organizations in Southern Nevada. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors and congratulate her on this well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF WEBSTER

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the selection of the town of Webster as Sports Illustrated 50th Anniversary Sportstown for the state of New York. Jim Donahue, president of the National Recreation and Parks Association and David S. Morris, publisher of Sports Illustrated, presented the award to the Webster Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with Webster Community Partnership on May 15, 2004.

Criteria for the selection was based upon the implementation of philosophy, policy/procedures, education and training strategies, youth development strategies, community commitment to parks and recreation resources, innovations for community development, and scope of the programming.

The Town of Webster shows a unique ability in combining resources with the Central School District and Youth Sports council to facilitate sports programs for the benefit of the entire community. Mr. Speaker, I commend the Town of Webster for its hard work, dedication to community development and thank all volunteers and officials who make the program a success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House the American Lung Association on this, its 100th anniversary.

Since 1904, the American Lung Association has been leading the fight against lung disease in all its forms. Although it began as a network of community-based organizations dedicated to eradicating tuberculosis, over the past 100 years the Association has dramatically expanded its research, education and advocacy programs to address the growing problem of chronic lung disease. With nearly 200 offices across the nation, the Association has grown to become one of America's most prominent health-related organizations.

Today, more than 35 million Americans are living with chronic lung disease. Every year, close to 344,000 Americans die of lung disease, making it the nation's number three killer. These are some frightening statistics, but without the American Lung Association, one can only imagine just how high these numbers could soar.

Mr. Speaker, I feel honored and privileged to be able to thank the American Lung Association for all its hard work and determination in fighting lung disease. There's no question, this remarkable organization is living out its mission of "improving life, one breath at a time." One hundred years is an incredible accomplishment, and on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, and a grateful nation, I say congratulations.

CONGRATULATING THE VIRGINIA DINER ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Virginia Diner in Wakefield, Virginia, on the marking of their 75th Anniversary. Located in southeastern Sussex County, the Virginia Diner represents the best of homestyle cooking the Commonwealth of Virginia has to offer.

Over the past 75 years, few have been able to travel through Wakefield, down U.S. Route 460, without stopping to sample the southern cuisine this Virginia landmark has to offer.

In 1929, Mrs. D'Earcy Davis started serving hungry customers her now famous hot biscuits in a refurbished Sussex, Surry and Southampton Railroad car. With a bit of southern charm, some hard work and a loyal following, the Virginia Diner started to make its mark on Virginia. Since 1929, the Virginia Diner has continued to prosper and has grown with the times while never forgetting its rich history.

Today, the Virginia Diner is a culturally and culinary landmark. Wakefield is not only home to some of America's finest peanuts but it is also the address of home-style cooking.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Virginia Diner and the Galloway family on this special occasion and I hope you will join me in wishing them well on the next 75 years.

STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN PHILIP C. STITTLEBURG, REMARKS ON THE CIGARETTE FIRE SAFETY ACT OF 2004

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following statement for the RECORD:

On behalf of the National Volunteer Fire Council and the more than 800,000 members of America's volunteer fire and emergency services, I would like to thank Representative Ed Markey (MA) and Peter King (NY) for their steadfast leadership and long-time commitment to the implementation of fire safety standards for cigarettes.

H.R. 4155 is bipartisan legislation which will set a reasonable ignition standard for cigarettes and help to prevent an estimated 800 deaths, 2,200 injuries and nearly \$560 million dollars in damages caused by cigarette ignited fires every year. Cigarettes are the leading cause of fatal fires and children and firefighters themselves are at extremely high risk for burn and fire injuries from these fires. That is why this issue resonates so strongly for us and continues to be a priority of our organization.

As everyone is aware, both New York State and Canada have passed cigarette fire safety standards that are due to go into effect this summer. This legislation will require that the CPSC adopt the New York cigarette fire safety standard as the national standard.

On April 30, a 69-year-old Portland, Oregon woman died after a cigarette she was smoking in bed ignited a fire. On April 28, a 64-

year-old Pensacola, Florida woman was killed in a house fire that was started by a lit cigarette. On April 27, a Kingsbury, New York man died in a fire at his home when he fell asleep while smoking. We need to pass this legislation immediately to put an end to the seemingly endless list of tragedies caused by cigarette-related fires.

I would like to again thank Representatives Markey and King and the bipartisan group of Members of Congress who are cosponsors of this bill for their leadership on this lifesaving piece of legislation. The volunteer fire service in America stands behind you and we stand ready to assist you in any way possible to pass the Cigarette Fire Safety Act. Thank you.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARMED
FORCES DAY, MAY 15, 2004

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, news articles record that the first Armed Forces Day in 1950 was celebrated by parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows. Here in Washington, DC, 10,000 troops of all branches of the military, cadets, and veterans marched past the President and his party.

In Berlin, more than a thousand U.S. soldiers paraded for the German citizens at Tempelhof Airfield.

In New York City, an estimated 33,000 participants initiated Armed Forces Day "under an air cover of 250 military planes of all types." In harbors across the country, famed mothballed "battlewagons" of World War II such as the Missouri, the New Jersey, the North Carolina, and the Iowa, were opened for the public.

All across our land, the American people joined together to honor the Armed Forces.

I hope that today all Americans will show the same respect and honor to the men and women that are serving and have served this nation in our military. As President Dwight D. Eisenhower said in 1953, "It is fitting and proper that we devote one day each year to paying special tribute to those whose constancy and courage constitute one of the bulwarks guarding the freedom of this nation and the peace of the free world."

So let us honor the soldier, the sailor, the Airman, and the Marine who has put his or her life on the line to preserve freedom. It is their valor that gives renewed hope to Americans, the world and especially the citizens of Afghanistan and Iraq, that by perseverance and faith the ideals of freedom and justice will prevail.

Their efforts will once again allow the world to believe that a life without terrorism is possible. Their actions will once again allow the world to understand our resolve to fight for freedom and peace.

For more than 225 years, the men and women of America's Armed Forces have answered a nation's call to duty. As a Congress we affirm our resolve that the Armed Forces of the United States of America will remain the best in the world. The only place for America is first place.

God Bless our Troops.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, during an absence yesterday, I regrettably missed rollcall votes 177–179. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 177: "Yea," rollcall No. 178: "Yea," and rollcall No. 179: "Yea".

HONORING DOROTHY MARIE
KORZYM

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dorothy Marie Korzym upon her retirement after 25 years of teaching the children of our community.

After receiving her masters degree from the University of Michigan in 1984, Ms. Korzym taught at various schools, including Our Lady Gate of Heaven in Detroit, St. Fabian in Farmington Hills, and Marygrove College.

In 1995, Ms. Korzym began teaching at St. Edith in Livonia. There is no doubt, her wisdom and guidance were a great asset to our community. Although she will be sorely missed at the school, she will continue to have a presence at St. Edith as she has been a member of the parish for the past 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Dorothy Marie Korzym, upon her retirement after 25 years of teaching, for her fine service to our community and our country.

CO-SPONSORSHIP OF H.R. 4061

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regards to H.R. 4061, the Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Act of 2004, which passed the House International Relations Committee by unanimous consent on March 31.

On May 5 the International Relations Committee filed House Report 108–479.

Because House rules prohibit the addition of cosponsors to a bill once the committee report has been filed, I am not able to formally add three Members of Congress as cosponsors of this legislation.

I ask that the RECORD show that Mr. CALVERT of California, Mr. BACHUS of Alabama, and Mr. GERLACH of Pennsylvania are in support of my bill and should be considered by this body as cosponsors of a of H.R. 4061.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I hosted an important conference on retirement security

issues last night in Hibbing, MN, as part of my Hometown Values Forum series, and I missed several votes last night and this morning.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 177, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 178; I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 179; I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 180; I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 181; and I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 182.

IN MEMORY OF MR. PATRICK
MICHAEL MCGRADY, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Patrick Michael McGrady. Mr. McGrady was a great American who devoted his life to helping people with cancer, including a great number of people from New Jersey's Sixth Congressional District.

Born in 1932 in a rural village in Washington's Olympic Peninsula, Mr. McGrady attended Yale University on a scholarship, excelling in German, Russian, and Yiddish. After graduating from Yale in 1954, Mr. McGrady served a stint at the Chicago-Sun Times, and subsequently moved on to write for the Associated Press and United Press International. He later served as bureau chief in Moscow for Newsweek magazine before becoming an author of books about health and medicine.

Mr. McGrady later became founder and director of CANHELP, an information service for cancer patients operating out of Port Ludlow, WA. He subsequently devoted 20 years of his life to this organization that provided a lifeline for people caught in what he deemed "The Cancer Patient's Quandary."

According to Mr. McGrady, many cancer patients find themselves in a quandary because, "You don't know how long you'll live, you don't know what it is like to die and you haven't the vaguest notion of where to turn for a cure." Things can rapidly become tragic, he noted, "because the patient has so little time to make a series of decisions, all of which simply have to be correct. Just one misstep can spell a premature and ugly death."

Mr. McGrady came to understand this quandary too well when his father, a science editor of the American Cancer Society, suffered an "ugly death" from colon cancer in 1979. Appalled by the needless pain and misery that his father endured, Mr. McGrady remarked, "This treatment, these manners, this attitude, are not exceptional, they are commonplace. I know this from the atrocities cancer patients tell me everyday. It is the rule in a society where the practice of medicine has become a commodity like pork bellies and soy beans and where human beings are viewed as pigeons to be plucked."

Determined not to let another cancer patient endure such maltreatment, Mr. McGrady spent his time as director of CANHELP, focusing on helping patients navigate the cancer care maze and understand its complexities. Unfortunately, Mr. McGrady passed away on December 12, 2003, ending a long life devoted to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, as the 6-month anniversary of Mr. McGrady's death approaches, I wanted to

share his story with my colleagues, and pay tribute to this remarkable man. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the distinguished Mr. Patrick Michael McGrady, Jr., and all of his remarkable contributions.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today the House considered H.R. 3722, the Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments. As you know, I voted against this bill.

Frankly, at a time when tuberculosis is on the rise in America, when STDs and AIDS continue to plague our population, and when biological health threats are no longer strictly the realm of science fiction. I am embarrassed that we had to debate legislation to erect barriers to health care rather than debating ways to encourage early intervention whenever someone falls ill.

Communicable diseases still do exist, even in a techno-world like ours. And they are very real threats to public health and safety. Just one "Typhoid Mary" can cause health emergencies of epidemic proportions.

Intrusive identification programs like the one proposed in H.R. 3722 create a near police-state environment in the emergency room. Suddenly the fear of not having one's proper documentation becomes more important than the prospect of getting treatment. Not getting treatment leads to risks for all of us and believe me, disease does not respect green cards. This bill is mean-spirited in its targeting of hard-working, albeit undocumented persons, but it is reckless in its exposing the greater community to potential health threats.

The better answer to this problem is to enforce the current immigration laws, which do not allow for the hiring of undocumented workers, to provide the necessary resources to protect the border from illegal crossings, and above all, to work with our international neighbors to build a world economy that encourages citizens to remain in their homeland and build their lives there.

IN HONOR OF MS. DEBRA BROWN STEINBERG

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Debra Brown Steinberg on the occasion of her 50th birthday. Ms. Steinberg, a Lead Attorney for 9/11 families and victims, gave of herself for 2½ years to help those in need. She worked tirelessly to ensure that 9/11 victims and their families received good legal advice and representation, and provided compassion and human understanding.

Ms. Steinberg is a partner at the New York offices of Cadwalader, Wickersham and Taft located near the site of the World Trade Center. After the attacks, while many New Yorkers

became extensions of their television sets and wrote checks to charities, Ms. Steinberg quickly understood how she could best help those whose lives were devastated by this horrific attack. It was clear to her that there would be a need for pro bono legal assistance, especially for the survivors and families of low-income workers whose problems would include immigration, housing, finance, language, education and job training.

The challenges to these families, many of whom were neither citizens nor legal aliens, were overwhelming. Ms. Steinberg responded by organizing and training lawyers and law students, working with nonprofit organizations and unions to learn the challenges and suggest solutions, meeting with elected officials and government agencies to explore ways to overcome bureaucratic obstacles. Moreover, she shared her knowledge and motivated others to volunteer their time and expertise.

Ms. Steinberg has earned the respect, admiration and affection of colleagues, friends and those she shepherded through these most difficult times. Her efforts have inspired those around her and enabled the partners and families of those killed on September 11 to begin to plan for their futures.

All of us in New York, as well as all Americans, have a special place in our hearts for people whose selfless acts make this a better world. Debra Steinberg is one of those very special people and I am proud to know her.

For her commitment to her community, her State, and this Country, it is my privilege to wish Ms. Steinberg a very happy 50th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, 2004, I missed rollcall vote No. 177. Rollcall vote No. 177 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 420, a resolution applauding the men and women who keep America moving and recognizing National Transportation Week.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 177.

GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, WESTERN SUDAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because as we speak genocide is occurring in Darfur. The international community, particularly the United States, has yet to learn from the Rwandan tragedy; ironically, we commemorate its 10th anniversary this year.

Like Rwanda, the warning signs in Darfur were obvious but we did nothing—and now the international community is watching, once again, with indifference as millions of Black Africans are wiped out of western Sudan. The Bush administration has raised concerns, and the U.N. has denounced the "ethnic cleans-

ing" executed by the Sudanese government's militias, but this is beyond ethnic cleansing, this is systematic and calculated genocide.

Prevent Genocide International defines genocide as the "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, and the five punishable forms of the crime of genocide include: genocide; conspiracy; incitement; attempt; and complicity. All of the five punishable forms of genocide are occurring in Darfur. Hundreds of thousands are fleeing Darfur; fearing that they will become yet another statistic in Khartoum's plan to rape, torture and ultimately wipe out all Blacks in the southwestern region of Sudan.

The number of refugees and internally displaced persons on the Chadian border continues to rise. In just the last 12 months, the National Islamic Front government of Sudan and its allied militia, the Janjaweed, displaced more than 1 million people, forced over 110,000 people into Chad, and killed more than 10,000 innocent civilians.

As in other conflicts designed deliberately to humiliate and eliminate people because of their identity, we have seen women and girls targeted for rape in Darfur. Government troops and their allied militia have raped, tortured, maimed and burned entire villages in a deliberate and systematic manner to cleanse the area of all Blacks, regardless of religion. USAID estimates that at least 3.5 million people will die if no one in the international community stops this massacre and delivers emergency humanitarian assistance before the rainy season begins in June.

As was the case in 1994 in Rwanda when our government and the international community refused to use the word genocide—we are once again witness to the same duplicity and lies about the tragedy in Darfur. The people who are speaking out loudest regarding the tragedies in Darfur are the humanitarian organizations, who to this day, are still limited by the Khartoum government in their quest to save lives. Humanitarian NGOs have complained of Khartoum's delaying tactics—stalling on visa applications, and denying travel and work permits, preventing NGOs from getting to camps for the internally displaced.

Mr. Speaker, how can we allow this travesty to continue and not be outraged? The government of Sudan is not our partner in peace. We must stop pushing a false "Sudan peace process" and really deal with this genocide.

I call on the Bush administration to call this attack on the people of Darfur what it is: genocide. I ask that the United Nation's meet and commission an emergency humanitarian and peacekeeping mission for the people of Darfur. And lastly, I call on our global community—particularly the leaders of the African Union—use their regional leadership to save the lives of millions in Darfur. Without our express concern and emergency assistance the killing will continue.

In the words of Gandhi, "Destruction is not the law of humans. . . . Every murder or other injury, no matter for what cause, committed or inflicted on another is a crime against humanity." We must stop the genocide in Darfur now because every death, every rape, every displaced person reflects our disregard for their justice and their right to life.

HONORING GERALDINE CATHERINE MURPHY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Geraldine Catherine Murphy upon her retirement after 40 years of teaching the children of our community.

After graduating from Marygrove College in 1964, Ms. Murphy taught the students of SS. Peter and Paul School in Detroit until 1998. During this time, she served on many educational committees, including the committee which wrote the Language Arts/English curriculum for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

In 1998, Ms. Murphy came to the educational community at St. Edith in Livonia. There is no doubt, her wisdom and guidance were a great asset to our community. The impact she had upon St. Edith will be felt for many years to come, as she will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Geraldine Catherine Murphy, upon her retirement after 40 years of teaching, for her fine service to our community and our country.

HONORING MARK EARL OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mark Earl of Spring Hill, Florida.

Mr. Earl will be recognized this evening at the Hope Awards Benefit for his work on finding missing children. He will receive the Charles B. Wang International Children's Award, given annually by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

In 1994, Mark's concern and vision prompted him to establish a Missing Children's Board in the Walmart store where he worked. Two years later, Walmart expanded on his initiative and installed Missing Children's Boards nation-wide. He was promoted to District Loss Prevention Supervisor, and his efforts have resulted in the recovery of over 100 children.

On behalf of these children, their families, and my entire constituency, I would like to formally praise Mark Earl on the floor of this House. His initiative and dedication to his community are to be commended. I am proud to call him my constituent and eager to honor him in person this evening.

VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS: A TRIBUTE TO ARBOR DAY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Village of Western Springs, a township located in the Third Congressional District of Illinois. The Village of Western

Springs officially proclaimed April 30, 2004 as Arbor Day, a special day to set aside for the planting of trees.

This year, Western Springs was recognized and awarded the prestigious title of Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. It is certainly an occasion worthy of special recognition, as Western Springs has shown a commitment and dedication to Arbor Day by planting trees and caring for their woodlands.

Village President John Kravcik publicly declared April 30 as the official Arbor Day for the Village of Western Springs. I was privileged to take part in the Western Springs Arbor Day ceremony with the students of McClure Junior High School, Principal John Chick, Vice Principal Matt Castle and the citizens of Western Springs. We were honored with the presence of the Western Springs Garden Club, including Ann Gindorf and President Mary Kubalanza, Fred Rodriguez and Jack Lund of the Western Springs Memorial V.F.W. Post 10778, and Father Tom Bernas of St. Richard's Parish who offered the ceremony's prayer.

I would like to pay special tribute to the Arbor Day essay winners Jenni Breslin, Schuyler Hilton, and Nicky Galvez, who shared their literary works to commemorate this day. It is essential for children to learn the importance and value of trees to the environment and our community, in order to ensure future generations will enjoy greener, healthier, and more beautiful places. The students of McClure Junior High School displayed their commitment to protecting and promoting the community's natural beauty by planting a tree on school grounds during the ceremony.

In the 128 years since its founding, Arbor Day has become a holiday celebrated in cities across America and nations throughout the world. Arbor Day draws particular attention to the part trees play in our lives and in the significant ways they beautify and enrich our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the people of Western Springs are taking the time to celebrate Arbor Day. I wish them the best of success in their tree-planting efforts and I strongly hope that more Americans will follow their positive example.

SALUTE TO JOHN RYAN, SR.

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of my constituents from Cortland County, New York, John Ryan Sr., for 51 exceptional years of service to the Homer Fire Department. Mr. Ryan joined the Homer Fire Department in 1953, upon his return from service in the Korean War. His commitment to public service for his country and his community is unmatched.

His father was a volunteer firefighter and served as fire chief in the 1940's. Mr. Ryan also served as fire chief for four years beginning in 1970. He has presided over the Cortland County Fire Chiefs Association and the County Fire Advisory Board. The love of firefighting has been passed down to his children and grandchildren, as his son, John

Ryan Jr., serves as the current fire chief and his other sons, Steve and Mike, also serve as firefighters. His granddaughter was the fourth generation Ryan to belong to the fire department before she moved from the area.

It is this kind of dedication and commitment to community that makes John Ryan Sr. such a legacy in Homer, NY. Not only has he answered the call to community service, but he has also instilled that same spirit in his children and grandchildren. I thank Mr. Ryan for his years of service, and I know the town of Homer thanks him as well.

IN HONOR OF COACH RICK ORTEGA'S ELECTION INTO THE NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Rick Ortega of St. Mark's School of Texas. I am pleased to represent St. Mark's in Congress, and have been impressed with the quality of education produced by the school. My oldest son Bill currently attends St. Mark's, and one of the staffers in my Washington office is an alumnus of this college preparatory school.

Coach Ortega has been a valued member of the faculty since coming to St. Mark's in 1982. Now in his third decade of service to St. Mark's, Coach Ortega has been elected as a member of the Class of 2004 for the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma. I am very proud of Coach Ortega's election, and I know firsthand the quality of the wrestling program at St. Mark's. My son Bill is currently in the middle school wrestling program and the results of the wrestling program speak volumes to Coach Ortega's dedication to the young men that he educates.

Wrestling is one of the few sports that a small school such as St. Mark's can compete in against larger high schools in Texas that have thousands of students. From 1992 to 1994, St. Mark's "three-peated" as Texas High School Wrestling Champions. St. Mark's three straight championships could not have been possible without the leadership and dedication of Coach Ortega and the many wrestlers that he inspires on a daily basis.

During his time at St. Mark's and his prior stint as the Head Wrestling Coach at Burges High School in El Paso, Texas, Coach Ortega has amassed an impressive winning record. In his 32 years of coaching, he has an overall dual meet record of 532 wins compared with only 80 losses. He won seven Texas State Championships, and five Prep State Championships. This is in addition to being Texas State Runner-up six times. During his time at St. Mark's, Coach Ortega has won 18 Southwest Preparatory Championships in 22 seasons, a very impressive record in the conference. On the individual level, Rick Ortega has coached 59 state champion wrestlers, and 53 prep all-Americans.

Coach Ortega himself was a State Wrestling Champion in New Mexico in 1966. He has a natural love for wrestling and for those that pursue the sport. Coach Ortega inspires discipline on the mats, and an emphasis on nutritional wellness off of the mats. His personal

commitment to scholarship, sportsmanship, and excellence has served the school well throughout his career. I congratulate Coach Ortega on this important accomplishment, and I wish him all the best for continued success at St. Mark's.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brown versus Board of Education Supreme Court decision and to call on this administration and Congress to further renew the goals and visions laid out by this monumental case.

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court announced in Brown versus Board of Education that "in the field of education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place." In the half century that followed, this pivotal decision ushered in a new era, leading to the gradual elimination of State-sponsored racism. Specifically, it established the legal and moral framework for the civil and voting rights legislation of the 1960s that drastically expanded the Constitution's promise of "equal protection" to all spheres of public life.

However, few people today would claim that the promises of Brown have been fulfilled. There is no doubt that the disturbing phenomenon of "white flight" in the North and "segacademies" in the South following efforts at integration created new forms of segregation along economic, and all too often, racial lines. As a recent study by the Harvard Civil Rights Project indicates, 70 percent of African-American children today attend schools that are predominately African-American, roughly the same level as 40 years ago.

Throughout the country today and this week, many will gather to celebrate and commemorate the legacy of Brown. But it is also an occasion for observance. We cannot ignore how, across America today, Black and White students still go to separate schools in the same town, divided by neighborhoods and segregated by wealth. We cannot ignore the disparity in resources that continue to plague many of our school systems, especially those serving predominantly inner-city minority and impoverished children.

Today is an occasion to recommit ourselves to the vision of Brown, to redouble our efforts in working toward an America that treats everyone equally and empowers everyone economically. Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act to establish a framework for States and districts to address and eventually eliminate education failures. I once again issue a call to action. First this administration and this Congress must fully fund No Child Left Behind to demonstrate our commitment to educational equity. Second, we must increase funding for Pell grants so that low- and moderate-income students can have access to higher education. This 50th anniversary commemoration of Brown versus Board of Education, like the decision itself, calls for action, not just words. Justice deferred is justice denied.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN AND PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send my best wishes and warm congratulations to the people of Taiwan for having successfully concluded their most recent presidential election.

As the people of Taiwan prepare to inaugurate their incumbent President, Mr. Chen Shui-bian, I salute them and the democratic endeavor that we have recently witnessed.

In the last 4 years, under the leadership of President Chen Shui-bian, Taiwan has continued to prosper.

It has one of the strongest economies in the world and its people enjoy unprecedented prosperity. Taiwan has solid schools, a good transportation system, and sound medical care for its citizens. Furthermore, the people of Taiwan enjoy political freedoms, such as direct elections, a free press, and human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Taiwan have every right to be proud of their presidential election.

I look forward to working with Mr. Chen's new administrative team in the next 4 years and beyond. Taiwan and the United States are truly friends and this relationship is stronger now than at any other time.

Americans and the people of Taiwan are also allies in the war on terrorism. Moreover, we share an abiding concern about peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and Taiwan's participation in world organizations, such as the World Health Organization.

Congratulations again to the people of Taiwan and President Chen Shui-bian.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. ALICE NICKENS

HON. FRANK W. BALLANCE, JR.

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Alice Nickens, one of my most senior constituents on the occasion of the recent celebration of her 100th birthday. Mrs. Nickens has had the good fortune to witness all of the remarkable events and changes that shaped our country during the 20th century.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Nickens is a retired educator who taught at every school in Hertford County. She began by teaching history as a senior at Waters Normal Institute before beginning her formal career as an educator in 1922.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Nickens indicated that, "in those days", a person didn't have to go to college in order to teach. Mrs. Nickens was considered bright in her subjects and she acknowledges that she was fortunate to have gotten a teaching position. She earned an undergraduate degree from Hampton Institute in Virginia and a masters degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and she never looked for another job.

Mr. Speaker, for 95 long years, Mrs. Nickens has been a dedicated member of

Pleasant Plains Baptist Church. She taught Sunday school for 50 years, emphasizing the power of prayers and the providence of the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Nickens acknowledges the fact that she is very blessed to have lived such a long and productive life. She realizes that many people take their health for granted and neglect to go to the doctor for regular visits. She warns that some of the diseases with which we suffer today could be prevented if folks would simply commit to take care of themselves and make regular visits to the doctor whether in good or poor health.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Alice Nickens, an exemplary citizen as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING AWARENESS OF AUTISM (H. RES. 605)

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to rise in strong support and as a co-sponsor of H. Res. 605, recognizing the importance of increasing awareness of autism. Autism spectrum disorders and related developmental disabilities affect one in every 166 children—a dramatic increase from a decade ago when the prevalence was thought to be one in every 10,000. Prevalence is thought to be increasing by 10–17 percent annually, yet there remains little public awareness and understanding regarding these conditions.

Autism is a brain disorder, affecting a child's ability to communicate and interact socially. Parents of children with autism require a great deal of patience and support to properly care for these children. Congress must raise awareness of these conditions so that these parents receive the support of their communities and the expert assistance of trained medical professionals and teachers, regardless of income level.

It is not enough, however, to simply recognize the needs of people living with autism. As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to follow through on commitments we have already made to the parents and teachers of these children. The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act requires the Federal Government to allocate funding for 40 percent of the cost of educating children with disabilities. Since this law was passed in 1991, Congress has never appropriated sufficient resources to meet this requirement. States are left to cover the costs of funding-intensive programs, such as special education programs for children with autism. As a result of insufficient funding, special education programs are chronically plagued by insufficient staffing, resources and training.

Congress must also provide resources to diagnose and treat children with autism before they reach school age, through training programs for medical professionals and initiatives designed to reach and treat autistic children during the crucial early stages of development. Medical professionals need to be educated so that they are aware of and recognize autism and its related disorders. Too often parents

are told not to worry if their child is slower than same age peers, especially if that child is a boy. Precious time is lost waiting for children to “grow out” of their symptoms when that time could be spent receiving early intervention services.

It is important to recognize scientifically valid methods that are effective in working with people with autism. At this time, there is no cure for autism. There are, however, many effective methodologies that can improve the lives of children with autism, and Congress has a responsibility to recognize and fund practitioners and trainers of these methodologies, while also educating parents on the limitations of current treatment so that they do not fall victim to unscrupulous individuals promising easy cures.

Teachers, therapists and doctors who treat children with autism are true American heroes and deserve the best training, support and recognition we can provide. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize some of the leading organizations in the fight for proper treatment, care and research, such as the Autism Society of America, Cure Autism Now, the National Alliance for Autism Research and Unlocking Autism.

I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for introducing this important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it. I also urge my colleagues to promote sufficient funding this year to address the critical needs this condition presents to people living with autism nationwide.

SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2004

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Special Exposure Cohort Fairness Act of 2004.

On October 30, 2000, the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) was enacted into law. The purpose of this law was to provide for timely, uniform, and adequate compensation of covered employees suffering from illnesses incurred as a result of their work at Department of Energy facilities. While this law's enactment was welcome and past due, serious flaws in the program have been apparent during the years since its passage, and delays in getting compensation to workers have been numerous.

The language in Subtitle B of the EEOICPA clearly states that where it is not feasible to estimate with sufficient accuracy the radiation dose of a class of workers, and if there is a reasonable likelihood that the radiation dose may have endangered the health of the members of the group, that class of workers may petition to be included in a Special Exposure Cohort. Special Exposure Cohort status provides an automatic presumption of causation for 22 radiation-related cancers. When the law was passed, Special Exposure Cohorts were designated by Congress at four facilities.

The men and women who were exposed to harmful doses of radiation while working at the Los Alamos National Laboratory have waited years for the Secretary of Health and Human

Services to issue a rule designating the process for classes of workers to petition to be in a Special Exposure Cohort. As a result of this unfair delay, workers have been unable to file petitions to become members of a Cohort. Four years after the bill was passed in Congress, a Special Exposure Cohort rule was finally issued last night. But workers cannot wait any longer for their compensation—it is simply unfair to ask them to do so. Moreover, a report issued on May 5, 2004 by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the CDC stated that some facilities are not consistently providing adequate responses to data requests for dose reconstruction. The report details the Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) lack of full compliance. Data issued in the report shows that of the 548 dose reconstruction cases pending with LANL on January 15 of this year, 499 had been pending for over 150 days.

The bill I am introducing today is a step in the right direction to help many of my constituents who have suffered because of their having worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory. I continue to hear from constituents who were exposed to harmful doses of radiation and who are wondering why they have had to wait years to receive their compensation. Workers cannot wait any longer for a flawed bureaucratic process to start working.

My bill allows energy employees who were employed for at least 250 days between 1945 and 2000 at the Los Alamos National Laboratory Area G, linear accelerator, or who were security guards or construction workers, to be considered as members of a Special Exposure Cohort. In addition, the bill will allow employees who worked anywhere at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and whose records have not been received by NIOSH from the Lab within 200 days of receipt, to qualify under the Special Cohort. It is worth noting that the enactment of the legislation would not preclude additional groups of workers in New Mexico from seeking to become part of the Special Exposure Cohort.

Subtitle B is unfortunately only one component of the original EEOICPA law that needs amending. There are many outstanding issues that I will continue to work on with my colleagues, including fixing physicians panels, speeding up dose reconstructions, and locating a willing payer for all meritorious claims. This bill represents just one step in the larger fight to ensure that energy workers get the compensation they deserve.

Since enactment of the EEOICPA in 2000, the New Mexico legislature has passed two House Joint Memorials calling for the creation of a Special Exposure Cohort for the facilities listed in this bill. Hearings have been conducted; reports have been issued. Meanwhile, many of the claimants in this program are so ill that they may never see the compensation check that they deserve—a small source of comfort for them and their families in return for the harmful exposures they suffered. It is time for action.

STATEMENT OF KATHY MARTINEZ, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES (NCD), ON INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS: THE PROPOSED UN CONVENTION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on March 30th, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held a groundbreaking Members' Briefing entitled, “International Disability Rights: The Proposed UN Convention.” This discussion of the global situation of people with disabilities was intended to help establish disability rights issues as an integral part of the general human rights discourse. The briefing brought together the human rights community and the disability rights community, and it raised awareness in Congress of the need to protect disability rights under international law to the same extent as other human rights through a binding UN convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

Our expert witnesses included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mark P. Lagon; the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations, Ambassador Luis Gallegos; the United Nations Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Johan Scholvinck; the distinguished former Attorney General of the United States, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and former Governor of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Dick Thornburgh; the President of the National Organization on Disability (NOD), Alan A. Reich; Kathy Martinez, a member of the National Council on Disabilities (NCD); and a representative of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USCID) and Executive Director of Mental Disability Rights International, Eric Rosenthal.

As I had announced earlier, I intend to place the important statements of our witnesses in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, so that all of my colleagues may profit from their expertise, and I ask that the statement of Cathy Martinez be placed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

“INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS: THE PROPOSED
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION,” MARCH 30, 2004,
WASHINGTON, DC

NCD is an independent federal agency whose members are appointed by the President to advise the President, the Administration and Congress on disability policy issues. NCD supports House Concurrent Resolution 169, which expresses the Sense of Congress that the U.S. should support a UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

As a group composed of some 600 million people worldwide, people with disabilities are a sizable global population. More compelling, however, than the sheer magnitude of this population, is the appalling history regarding the denial of even the most basic human rights of people with disabilities in both the developed and the developing countries. Even in the 21st century, the Department of State Country Reports has revealed that people in psychiatric facilities are restrained in cages and are subjected to serious human rights abuses. In the late 1990s, governments in many countries in Europe, Asia,

and North America acknowledged long histories of the sterilization of people with disabilities. Additionally, there is evidence of denial of the right to vote and conscious utilization of inaccessible polling places constituting an abrogation of the democratic rights of people with disabilities in all regions of the world. As more and more countries face aging societies the public dialogue is becoming more and more critical about whether people, as they age, will be allowed to stay in their community.

Within the last thirty years the United States Congress has led the way in adopting law after law which mandate a range of choices for American citizens with disabilities equivalent to that for American citizens without disabilities: education, transportation, employment, and communication. With the passage of the proposed MICASSA legislation, this range of choices would be extended to include the right of people with disabilities to choose where they receive personal assistance services and care. The UN Convention is one way for the US to share its technical expertise and legislative achievements, provide technical assistance and the exchange of knowledge, skills, and experience to help reduce the learning curve for countries that are ready to implement new solutions. Something I've observed through my years of experience in international development is how powerful it is when the disability leadership from other countries understands how people with disabilities in the US have been able to organize themselves into an influential constituency. Disability leaders from all over the world come to this country and marvel at things we now take for granted. For example, I hosted disability leaders from Russia a few years ago. They spent a lot of time taking pictures of each other in elevators, on ramps, on bus lifts, on the accessible Metro, reading Braille menus in restaurants, and using our telephone relay services. In other words, we have a lot to share.

NCD believes the people of the United States would be well served by being involved in the historic process of drafting a Convention, and by ensuring that this Convention benefits from the American experience in implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. U.S. disability legislation, with its core principles of choice, independence, and integration, is one of America's greatest democratic achievements. The U.S. must continue to show its leadership through its support of and involvement in the proposed Convention, in order to protect, preserve, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities everywhere. The passage of Resolution 169 will be an important step in helping to ensure that people with disabilities in other countries have the same opportunity to attain equality.

The U.S. cannot afford to ignore the burgeoning momentum for the development of an international disability Convention. The United States has plenty to gain by constructive participation in the effort to fully integrate disability fully into the international human rights agenda. United States interests abroad, such as our foreign assistance work, can only be bolstered by a UN Convention. The economic cost to society of excluding people with disabilities is enormous. No nation in the world will achieve its full potential for economic development while it leaves out people with disabilities.

US government support for a strong UN convention will be a validation of this country's commitment to include disability issues as a meaningful priority of US foreign policy.

Effective international collaboration in the drafting process will require consultation with and full participation by disability

leaders and their allies in the United States and abroad. By supporting a strong Resolution, by consulting with disability groups, and by the inclusion of people with disabilities in the drafting process, the US will establish its role as a leader in international disability rights consistent with its commitments to citizens with disabilities at home.

HONORING SENIOR CHIEF STORE-
KEEPER CORZETTA "COZY"
CALLOWAY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of myself, Congresswoman CAPITO and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 7th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the U.S. Coast Guard, we will honor Senior Chief Storekeeper Corzetta "Cozy" Calloway, who is currently assigned to the Coast Guard Recruiting Command (CGRC), Coast Guard Personnel Command in Arlington, Virginia. In her position as a supervisor and a Coast Guard recruiter, SCSK Calloway helps to manage the online recruiting program and provides guidance to prospective applicants via the Coast Guard website.

Senior Chief Calloway also acts as assistant to the chief of the Recruiting Command's leasing department for all Coast Guard recruiting offices. In this capacity, SCSK Calloway performs essential duties in selecting qualified individuals and subsequently in the development of Coast Guard servicemen and women. She has shown incredible commitment to enhancing the diversity of the Coast Guard workforce. SCSK Calloway distinguishes herself as a leader in both recruiting qualified individuals and applying her specialty in supply organization and logistics. Her impressive awards that she has received include the Coast Guard Achievement Medal for serving on the Women's Advisory Council, the Coast Guard Letter of Commendation for recruiting, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Senior Chief Calloway plans to retire soon from the Coast Guard with 30 years of service, and she will be remembered for her commitment to improving the Coast Guard and her dedication to service. She continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the Coast Guard, and it is an honor for each member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of SCSK Calloway and all women in the military.

IN HONOR OF DR. CAROLYN G.
BUKHAIR'S RETIREMENT FROM
THE RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Carolyn G. Bukhair, Ed.D., in honor of her retirement from the Richardson Independent School District. Dr. Bukhair is leaving her post as the Superintendent after serving 36 years as an educator and 28 years with Richardson I.S.D.

Not only admired by her own district, she commands the respect of her peers throughout the state. In 1999 she was distinguished as the Texas Association of School Librarians' Administrator of the Year. She also was the Region 10 Superintendent of the Year for 1999, and was one of five finalists for the State Superintendent of the Year award in both 1999 and 2003.

Dr. Bukhair has left her impression on the school district that she has so ably served. In recognition for her continued efforts, the RISD Board of Trustees voted to name the district's newest elementary school as 'Carolyn G. Bukhair Elementary'. Dr. Bukhair presided over many years of improvement and progress for the district. Under her leadership, the district maintained a 22:1 student/teacher ratio in grades k-4 for six consecutive years. It is so critical to provide in-depth and personal attention to our younger students, and by maintaining small class sizes; the Richardson I.S.D. has been able to better accomplish that mission. Small class sizes alone will not increase the education for students, however, when coupled with accountability in the classroom, our children greatly benefit. Dr. Bukhair instituted a strong accountability model based on continuous improvement of student performance and achievement.

I have had the honor and privilege of working with Dr. Bukhair over the last several years, and I will greatly miss her at the helm of Richardson I.S.D. I wish her, and her family, all the very best as she retires from Richardson I.S.D.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed three votes in the House of Representatives on May 17, 2004 due to my attendance at events marking the 50th anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. Had I been in attendance I would have made the following votes:

Vote on Passage of H. Con. Res. 420—Recognizing National Transportation Week. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Vote on Passage of H. Con. Res. 423—Authorizing Capitol Grounds for the Dedication of WWII Memorial. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Vote on Passage of H. Con. Res. 403—Condemning the Sudan for civilian attacks in

the Darfur region. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING JACQUELINE Z. DAVIS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a champion of the arts, Jacqueline Z. Davis, who will receive the insignia of Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from Jean-René Gehan, Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy, in a ceremony this evening at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, where she has served with distinction as Executive Director for the past four years. Ms. Davis' vision for the performing arts has made a global impact. The Chevalier recognizes her outstanding career and her contribution to the culture of our two great nations.

The Chevalier is a distinguished honor reserved for a select few deemed by the French Minister of Culture and Communication to have made groundbreaking contributions to the arts in France and throughout the world. For nearly 25 years, Ms. Davis has been a devoted advocate of the performing arts and a leader in her field. As Executive Director of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, she has launched compelling exhibitions and performances representing cultures around the world and has been instrumental in the renovation of the Library's new building at Lincoln Center, a project that included the creation of a grand, light filled reading room, several loft exhibition galleries and state of the art audiovisual stations that have revolutionized the educational experience.

Ms. Davis has a profound understanding of the history, art and culture of France influenced by her numerous visits and her time spent there as a student at L' Institut Catholique in Paris, where she received a Certificats Des Etudes De La Langue Francaise. Her passion for the arts is visible in the many performances and exhibits produced under her leadership, earning her the respect of her colleagues by her unwavering dedication to preservation of the performing arts. Upon Ms. Davis' appointment to the position of Executive Director of the Performing Arts Library, Library President Paul LeClerc noted "After an exhaustive national search, I am delighted that . . . Jacqueline Davis will head one of the New York Public Library's greatest collections. She has had a brilliant career to date in performing arts administration, and she will be a superb addition to the Library's leadership." Tonight the world of arts and letters will acknowledge her contributions to the arts and to the Library as she is awarded The Chevalier.

Prior to her appointment at the Library of the Performing Arts, Jacqueline served as Executive Director of the Lied Center at the University of Kansas, one of the leading university arts presenters in the nation. In 1994, she received the Governor's Arts Award for "outstanding contribution to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in

Kansas." Ms. Davis has served on the boards of Chamber Music America, Dance USA and the American Arts Alliance, as President of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters and been a frequent panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts International. She was named one of 11 Outstanding Presenters in the United States through a study commissioned by Pew Charitable Trusts. She currently serves on the American Theatre Wing's Tony Awards Nominating Committee.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Jacqueline Davis, recipient of the 2004 Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. Her lifelong passion for the arts (des arts) and letters (et des lettres) has made an impact on her family, her friends, and all those whose lives she has touched and those whose future will be enhanced by her lifelong commitment to furthering artistic excellence recognized by the Chevalier. Merci beaucoup, Jacqueline.

HONORING MASTER CHIEF KELLY
D. WILLIAMS OF THE U.S. NAVY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, Congresswoman CAPITO and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 7th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our Nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize 5 outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the U.S. Navy, we will honor Master Chief Kelly D. Williams. A native of Texas, Master Chief Williams has an Associate in Arts with Honors degree from City Colleges of Chicago. She began her career in the Navy in Meridian, Mississippi, where she attend Storekeeper Class "A" School. She successfully completed Instructor Training, Storekeeper Independent Duty Afloat and Command Career Counselor training in 1991, and also graduated from training in Shipboard Uniform Automated Data Processing Systems.

Serving the U.S. Navy at a variety of stations and duties, Master Chief Williams should be especially recognized for her commitment during her time assigned to the staff of the Commander, Naval Surface Group Mediterranean, in Naples, Italy. Her diligence and dedication as Assistant Replenishment Officer earned her the Navy Achievement Medal for her direct contribution to assuring Sixth Fleet combat effectiveness and readiness during Operations Noble Anvil/Allied Force. She is currently assigned as the Assistant Head to the Navy Uniform Board and has been a vital contributor to the Navy's first-ever Navy Uniform Task Force.

Among her many achievements, Master Chief Williams has been awarded the Meri-

torious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4 awards), Navy Achievement Medal (3 awards) and various service and campaign awards. Master Chief Kelly D. Williams continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the Navy, and it is an honor for each member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Master Chief Williams and all women in the military.

THEY SAVED CIVILIZATION—A
TRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS OF
WORLD WAR II

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, today we pay tribute to the men who made up the greatest fighting force ever assembled. Their cause was just, and they carried the banner of freedom against the most fearsome and vicious enemy the world has ever seen. All the while, the courage of these American heroes never failed.

They were soldiers, sailors, marines—others served with great distinction in the Air Force, the Coast Guard and the Merchant Marine. We owe them all a great debt. Over 400,000 Americans died during the conflict. Today, roughly 4,300,000 veterans are still with us.

To understand the importance of what these men did, one must realize the magnitude of what they were up against. In the space of a few years, a great evil had swept across much of the world. It was the hand of several governments—all dictatorships—who had formed a bloodthirsty pact to swallow their neighbors whole.

The aggressors struck quickly and with ferocity impossible to resist. Many strong nations fell under their control.

The occupation was focused, deadly and vicious, and executed millions of the conquered peoples. One of the aggressor states in particular had developed an ideology so disturbed it led them to murder millions more of their own citizens, including many loyal ones. So perverse were the nature and scope of the deeds committed by Germany that, decades later, the mere name of its ruling political party is a curse word for the most vile—the Nazi party.

Meanwhile, Japan captured the Chinese city of Nanking in December, 1937, and the four months that followed have become known as the Rape of Nanking. It is estimated that the occupiers executed between 250,000 and 300,000 of the city's inhabitants, merely the most outrageous of a series of atrocities committed in the Pacific Theater.

Who could stand against these savage marauders? Who could stop them, as they savaged their way across the continents?

The answer came on December 7th, 1941. Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, killing 2,409 Americans. The devastating attack, which nearly crippled the battlefleet and destroyed equipment and facilities, shocked the nation.

Americans, still groggy from the Great Depression, were jolted awake by the empires expanding across the oceans both to our east and west, and by the grim realization that it

was going to take America to do something about it.

We were fortunate to have strong leaders: President Franklin Roosevelt knew that a full-scale mobilization was needed, and that it was going to take the entire country pitching in to properly prepare our military for war. Army Chief of Staff George Marshall revamped the military and crafted overall strategy.

One who was watching the American reaction and knew what it meant was British Prime Minister Winston Churchill: "To have the United States at our side was to me the greatest joy. Now at this very moment I knew the United States was in the war, up to the neck and in to the death. So we had won after all . . . Hitler's fate was sealed. Mussolini's fate was sealed. As for the Japanese, they would be ground to powder."

Thousands upon thousands of Americans answered the call to arms, flooding into enlistment centers. They knew the danger; news reports out of Europe and Asia made the mounting death tolls clear. Japan's assault on Pearl Harbor was of a piece with its strategy to dominate the Pacific, capturing nearly every outpost of significance. As they became entrenched, dislodging them would only be more difficult and cost even more lives.

American courage and commitment would prove superior to the great evil it confronted. Our sailors, marines and soldiers battled every step of the way, first at the Battle of Midway on June 6th, 1942, and then through the long slog of the Guadalcanal campaign (August 1942–February 1943).

Meanwhile, the American fighting men joined the European front, and our allies from Britain, Poland and many other nations. First in North Africa the German armies were confronted under Operation Torch in November 1942, which culminated in the defeat of Germany's greatest general, Erwin Rommel, by early 1943.

The war then moved to Sicily, then Italy—at each step our men giving better than they got. The Battle of Monte Cassino during the first half of 1944 led to the liberation of Rome.

The greatest single act of courage came on D-Day, the largest one-day offensive in history, on June 6th, 1944. Over 10,000 allies were killed that day in breaching Fortress Europe, and another 200,000 would die over the next two months during the Battle of Normandy. American fighting men, in concert with men from Britain and many other nations, stormed the beaches of northern France. They charged through a hail of machine-gun fire to gain the foothold they would use to liberate all of Europe.

The last major German offensive was the Battle of the Bulge, December 1944–January 1945, trying one last time to keep the war outside of Germany. American supply lines had been stretched since D-Day, and the 101st Airborne Division found themselves surrounded at Bastogne. A hundred miles from their nearest fellow units, the situation was grim, and the German commander demanded they surrender. The American attitude, here and throughout the war, was summed up by the response: "Nuts."

While many persevered in the belief that liberty would prevail, educated opinion was cynical. Many believed that the captured lands could never be freed, even assuming that the aggressors could be forced into a stalemate. What force could possibly stop them?

It was up to the American GIs to dispel the doubts and charge into the fire. Every step of the way they knew that many of them would never be coming home again. But they knew the importance of their task—as Dwight Eisenhower said: "History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid." Our fighting men were neither.

Today, at long last, we unveil the monument to those who saved civilization in World War II. We thank them for their sacrifice and pray that no struggle so titanic ever again need take place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, regretfully, my plane was unavoidably delayed yesterday and I was unable to record my vote in the House of Representatives. Had I been here, I would have voted "yea" on rollcalls 177, 178, and 179.

MAINE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues an essay titled "My Commitment to America's Future," by Joseph B. Faucher of Augusta, Maine. Mr. Faucher is a winner of the 2004 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary hold a Voice of Democracy audio essay competition for high school students. This year's theme was "My Commitment to America's Future." I congratulate all of this year's 59 Voice of Democracy Scholarship winners.

It is vitally important that we encourage our young people in their understanding of and commitment to civic virtue. The life and health of our democracy are dependent on citizen engagement. Democracy must be constantly re-created. In Mr. Faucher's words, a commitment to America is "a commitment to protect the freedoms, liberties, and rights that this country was founded on . . . to make this country an even better place for the next generation . . . to put time, effort, and thought into being American." The rest of his essay speaks for itself.

"MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE"

(By Joseph Faucher)

I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. . . . By the time I was four, I could recite the Pledge of Allegiance verbatim. I would stand straight, place my hand over my heart, and say those words without much thought. Pledging allegiance to one's country should never be taken lightly.

It was not until I was in the fifth grade and learning about American history that I began to understand and appreciate the Pledge of Allegiance. And, I can honestly say, each year my depth of understanding for

those words increases as does my commitment to this great country.

"I pledge allegiance," what does it truly mean? To me, it is promising my commitment to America. A commitment to protect the freedoms, liberties, and rights that his country was founded upon. A commitment to make this country an even better place for the next generation. A commitment to put time, effort, and thought into being an American!

The founding fathers provided America with a very solid foundation, the Constitution, the living, written backbone of our country. Imagine, in less than 100 working days, in a document of just 4543 words, fifty-five men with many conflicting and diverse ideas drafted a constitution that has served this country for over 216 years. In all that time, in spite of all the advances in science and technology, changes in culture and society, and influences from other countries and peoples, there have only been 17 revisions in the form of amendments.

It is important to note that people in the 18th century were not all that different than people in the 21st century. There have always been differences in philosophy, political ideology, and priorities. But in spite of these differences, the founding fathers were able to produce a document that has survived the test of time and has influenced all countries that have developed constitutions since then.

We should not let our differences in political ideologies impact negatively on America. Differences can spawn creativity. Differences should not divide a country but make it stronger. America, not a person, not a group, not a people, but a united nation. A united nation as a whole has one mind set and one set of goals. We should not let our differences affect our allegiance. My commitment to America will not waver regardless of whether I agree or disagree with a particular person or group whether it be my neighbor, the mayor of my city, the governor of my state, my Representatives in the House and Senate, or even the President.

After September 11th, American flags were flown everywhere in our country. They were on houses, cars, pins, and other items. Where are all those flags now? My commitment to America cannot come just at times of great tragedy and trauma. It is not enough to remember that I am an American when tragedy strikes. Our commitment must be consistent, every day, every minute, every second. It simply does not take long to do something to remind myself, and others that we are Americans, and that everyone has the responsibility to make a tangible, visible commitment to America.

Commitment is not just enjoying all of the freedoms, rights, and liberties America has to offer. Commitment is not just taking a stand when I think one of my freedoms or rights has been violated. My commitment to America must include getting involved; to be active in civic organizations, to communicate and give input to my representatives, to voice my opinion without putting anyone else's down, from the time of my 18th birthday onward to vote in every election no matter how small, and to take the time to truly understand the issues, to encourage others to become involved, and to cherish and never take for granted all that America provides.

As part of my commitment to America, I will not take for granted what it means to pledge allegiance to the flag. I will take my commitment seriously and work toward fulfilling it every day for the rest of my life. I will stand straight, place my hand over my heart, and say the words with great pride, strength, and meaning; I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and what it stands for and what it means to me.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR
BARBARA J. TITUS FROM THE
U.S. MARINES

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, Congresswoman CAPITO and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 7th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the U.S. Marine Corps, we will honor Sergeant Major Barbara J. Titus, who enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves on March 3, 1978, and graduated from the Women Recruit Training Command, Company "L" at Parris Island, South Carolina. She has distinguished herself through her commitment and dedication to the Marine Corps. Sergeant Titus reported on active duty to the Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron 90, Marine Air Traffic Support Group (MATSG) 90, Naval Air Station (NAS), in Millington, Tennessee. She successfully attended the Aviation Electronics and Air Traffic Control Maintenance Schools, where she dedicated her training to becoming an Air Traffic Control Navigational Aids Repairman.

Among other achievements, Sergeant Titus has distinguished herself by her commitment to enhancing her education and training. She graduated from Drill Instructor School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), Parris Island, South Carolina, where she quickly excelled from Drill Instructor to Senior Drill Instructor and ultimately Chief Drill Instructor. She returned to Millington, Tennessee in August of 1991 as an instructor at the Air Traffic Control Maintenance School, where she clearly demonstrated her leadership skills.

Having served the U.S. Marine Corps in various capacities here in the U.S. as well as abroad in countries like Japan, Sergeant Major Barbara J. Titus continues to dedicate herself to the Marine Corps and to protecting our nation. She is an invaluable leader in the Marine Corps, and it is an honor for each member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Sergeant Titus and all women in the military.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SAFE FOR
AMERICA ACT H.R. 775

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 775, the Security and Fair-

ness Enhancement for America Act of 2003, or SAFE for America Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important piece of legislation, which eliminates the visa lottery program from the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Family connections play an overwhelming role in current immigration law. As a result of most immigrants coming from a few areas of the world, Congress established the visa lottery in the Immigration Act of 1990 to diversify the immigration pool. Approximately 50,000 foreign nationals per year are randomly selected and awarded visas to come and live permanently in the United States under this visa lottery program.

Immigrant visas are typically issued to individuals who already have some existing connection with a family member lawfully residing in the United States or with a U.S. employer. Millions of people apply for these visas through the lottery program, and the program requirements do nothing to ensure that the applicants have the skills they will need to participate in our modern economy. The recipients of these visas are selected based on luck, not by merit or existing ties with the U.S.

This visa program is also problematic because it is unfair to those immigrants who have patiently waited and complied with our immigration laws. Most family-sponsored immigrants currently wait years to obtain a visa, yet the visa lottery program allows 50,000 random immigrants to pass ahead of these family-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait.

Finally, and what is perhaps most troubling are the numerous cases reported by the State Department that show that lottery winners often file fraudulent visa information. Because the lottery accepts visa applications from a variety of individuals and only requires credentials after selection, there is often a rush to find false documents once the winners are notified. False documentation is bad enough when applicants lie about education or work experience. With the amount of terrorist threats against our country, these immigration loopholes can create devastating consequences.

Mr. Speaker, in this atmosphere of ambiguity, it would be wise to closely examine the flow of legal immigration into the United States in order to implement more comprehensive screening and naturalization measures.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 428

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced a Concurrent Resolution that calls on Congress to clarify our national security spending priorities and regain a sense of fiscal responsibility. Specifically, my resolution recommends that Congress not provide funds for fiscal year 2005 for the deployment of ground-based, strategic, mid-course, ballistic missile defense system components that have not met operational testing requirements and, instead, provide needed funding for programs designed to keep America's ports secure from terrorist attacks.

The Defense Authorization bill as reported by the House Armed Services Committee au-

thorizes increased funding for ballistic missile defense and the deployment of ground-based interceptors without additional testing. I think this is a mistake from both a budgeting and a national security standpoint.

Let me be clear that I am a strong supporter of missile defense. As a member of the Armed Services Committee from 1992-98, I urged increases in BMD R&D accounts. I support the Patriot Missile Defense System. I am a principal supporter of the Arrow Anti-Missile system, the first Member of Congress to have seen it deployed at Palmercham AFB in Israel, and a strong proponent of the Third Arrow battery.

However, I do not support rushing to deploy a new U.S. system that has neither received adequate testing, nor been proven effective.

In August of 2003, the General Accounting Office issued a report stating that only two out of the ten critical technologies needed for the successful implementation of a ground-based missile defense system, or GMD, have been proven reliable. That report also indicated the administration's intent to deploy ground-based interceptors before all the critical technology has matured.

Before we deploy such a system, we should be absolutely sure that it is effective and sustainable. The expected five-year cost of the ballistic missile defense system is \$53 billion. In this budget environment, the last thing we need is a \$53 billion weapons program that plays no substantial role in our protection.

The resolution I introduced yesterday would authorize funding for ballistic missile defense programs for fiscal year 2005 at fiscal year 2004 levels, and require the administration to determine that all technologies are operational before moving to deploy ground-based interceptors. My resolution also calls on Congress to bolster homeland security by agreeing that we should authorize at least \$500,000,000 for port security programs for fiscal year 2005.

From a national security standpoint, we have higher priorities than deploying an untested missile defense system. America's seaports remain vulnerable to terrorist attack and infiltration. Cargo containers are susceptible to being used to smuggle terrorists or dangerous materials into the United States, or as a delivery vehicle for a weapon of mass destruction.

The Intelligence Community has warned that the United States is more likely to be attacked with a weapon of mass destruction delivered by ship, truck, or airplane than by a ballistic missile.

I am not alone in my assessment of the GMD program and the importance of port security. In March of this year, 49 retired generals and admirals—including Ret. Adm. William J. Crowe—sent a letter to President Bush asking that he postpone operational deployment of an untested GMD system, and transfer the associated funds to securing our nation's ports and borders from terrorist attack.

I support strong, sensible and effective homeland security. Any strong national security strategy must include both effective ballistic missile defense and strong port security measures. I am also an advocate of fiscal responsibility. This resolution calls on Congress to take a step toward fiscal responsibility while providing much-needed funding for port security programs, and still allowing for the development of an effective ground-based missile defense system.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 428, and ask unanimous

consent to attach the letter I referred to in my remarks.

WAGING PEACE.ORG,
March 26, 2004.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House, Pennsylvania Avenue, Wash-
ington, DC.

49 GENERALS AND ADMIRALS CALL FOR
MISSILE DEFENSE POSTPONEMENT

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: In December 2002, you ordered the deployment of a ground-based strategic mid-course ballistic missile defense (GMD) capability, now scheduled to become operational before the end of September 2004. You explained that its purpose is to defend our nation against rogue states that may attack us with a single or a limited number of ballistic missiles armed with weapons of mass destruction.

To meet this deployment deadline, the Pentagon has waived the operational testing requirements that are essential to determining whether or not this highly complex system of systems is effective and suitable. The Defense Department's Director of Operational Test and Evaluation stated on March 11, 2004, that operational testing is not in the plan "for the foreseeable future." Moreover, the General Accounting Office pointed out in a recent report that only two of 10 critical technologies of the GMD system components have been verified as workable by adequate developmental testing.

Another important consideration is balancing the high costs of missile defense with funding allocated to other national security programs. Since President Reagan's strategic defense initiative speech in March 1983, a conservative estimate of about \$130 billion, not adjusted upward for inflation, has been spent on missile defense, much of it on GMD. Your Fiscal Year 2005 budget for missile defense is \$10.2 billion, with \$3.7 billion allocated to GMD. Some \$53 billion is programmed for missile defense over the next five years, with much more to follow. Deploying a highly complex weapons system prior to testing it adequately can increase costs significantly.

U.S. technology, already deployed, can pinpoint the source of a ballistic missile launch. It is, therefore, highly unlikely that any state would dare to attack the U.S. or allow a terrorist to do so from its territory with a missile armed with a weapon of mass destruction, thereby risking annihilation from a devastating U.S. retaliatory strike.

As you have said, Mr. President, our high-priority is to prevent terrorists from acquiring and employing weapons of mass destruction. We agree. We therefore recommend, as the militarily responsible course of action, that you postpone operational deployment of the expensive and untested GMD system and transfer the associated funding to accelerated programs to secure the multitude of facilities containing nuclear weapons and materials and to protect our ports and borders against terrorists who may attempt to smuggle weapons of mass destruction into the United States.

Signed:

Admiral William J. Crowe (USN, ret.), General Alfred G. Hansen (USAF, ret.), General Joseph P. Hoar (USMC, ret.).

Lt. General Henry E. Emerson (USA, ret.), Lt. General Robert G. Gard, Jr. (USA, ret.), Vice Admiral Carl T. Hanson (USN, ret.), Lt. General James F. Hollingsworth (USA, ret.), Lt. General Arlen D. Jameson (USAF, ret.), Lt. General Robert E. Kelley (USAF, ret.), Lt. General John A. Kjellstrom (USA, ret.), Lt. General Dennis P. McAuliffe (USA, ret.), Lt. General Charles P. Otstott (USA, ret.), Lt. General Thomas M. Rienzi (USA, ret.), Vice Admiral John J. Shanahan (USN, ret.), Lt. General Dewitt C. Smith, Jr. (USA, ret.),

Lt. General Horace G. Taylor (USA, ret.), Lt. General James M. Thompson (USA, ret.), Lt. General Alexander M. Weyand (USA, ret.).

Major General Robert H. Appleby (AUS, ret.), Major General James G. Boatner (USA, ret.), Major General Jack O. Bradshaw (USA, ret.), Major General Morris J. Brady (USA, ret.), Major General Williams F. Burns (USA, ret.), Rear Admiral William D. Center (USN, ret.), Major General Albert B. Crawford (USA, ret.), Major General Maurice O. Edmonds (USA, ret.), Rear Admiral Robert C. Elliott, (USN, ret.), Major General John C. Faith (USA, ret.), Rear Admiral Robert H. Gormley (USN, ret.), Major General Richard B. Griffiths (USA, ret.), Rear Admiral Charles D. Grojean (USN, ret.), Major General Raymond E. Haddock (USA, ret.), Major General Jack R. Holbein, Jr. (USAF, ret.), Major General Stanley H. Hyman (USA, ret.), Major General Wayne P. Jackson (USA, ret.), Major General Frederick H. Lawson (AUS, ret.), Major General Vincent P. Luchsinger, Jr. (USAF, ret.), Major General James J. LeClair (AUS, ret.), Major General William F. Willoughby (USAF, ret.).

Brig. General George C. Cannon, Jr. (USAF, ret.), Brig. General John J. Costa (USA, ret.), Brig. General Alvin E. Cowan (USA, ret.), Brig. General Lee Denson (USAF, ret.), Brig. General Evelyn P. Foote (USA, ret.), Brig. General Leslie R. Forney, Jr. (USA, ret.), Brig. General John H. Grubbs (USA, ret.), Brig. General James E. Hastings (USA, ret.), Brig. General John H. Johns (USA, ret.), Brig. General Maurice D. Roush (USA, ret.).

VA HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, without our veterans, there would be no America. As we remember those who sacrificed their lives for our Nation, let us remember that daily we reap the benefits of the bravery of America's veterans.

However, despite these sacrifices, our veterans continue to fight against this Administration for the benefits that they were initially promised every day. At the same time, we have continuously seen the VA budget slashed, giving fewer and fewer veterans the ability to receive the much needed assistance they were once guaranteed.

At the very least, our veterans, the brave men and women who put the life of their country before their own, should have access to health care facilities that meet their needs. However, we are now seeing critical hospitals closed, and often times they are the only option that our veterans have, especially in rural areas such as my district in Southern West Virginia. The Beckley VAMC in my district was fortunately spared from closing, however, others were not so lucky, and if current trends continue, it will only be time until the real possibility of closing looms near again.

Instead of closing these much needed facilities and cutting benefits once promised to our veterans, we should be modernizing hospitals, expanding benefits currently offered to our service men and women, and continuing to ensure that we show these brave Americans our gratitude for their service every single day. Our Nation needs to move further in a direction that allows us to reward our veterans for

their sacrifices they have made, wherever and whenever they made it.

Our veterans and soldiers today remain foremost in the thoughts and minds of Americans, and along with our devoted attention given to those who wear America's uniform. If we continue to create more and more veterans everyday, especially through recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, then this government needs to be prepared to follow through on the promise that their government will be there to take care of them. Each life is invaluable; let's ensure that we demonstrate our support and appreciation for what our veterans have done for America.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR DEBRA L. STRICKLAND
FROM THE U.S. ARMY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, Congresswoman Capito and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 7th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one elected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the U.S. Army, we will honor Command Sergeant Major Debra L. Strickland, who first entered the Army in 1973 from Coral Gables, Florida. Command Sergeant Major Strickland has served the Army at a variety of duty stations and capacities. Among other accomplishments, she distinguished herself early in her career by becoming the first female reserve advisor for the Readiness Group in the Fort Sill, Oklahoma, readiness region and assumed responsibilities over a three state area. She also utilized her experience working at the USAREUR Headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, and in the office of Leadership to effectively manage the USAREUR Sergeant Morales Program. CSM Strickland has also been a strong MACOM proponent for uniform regulation. One of her many achievements includes an assignment at the Pentagon from 1988-1989, where she was one of few enlisted proponent action officers for an army publication, AR 670-1, the Army Uniform Regulation.

CSM Strickland has successfully completed Sergeants Major Academy and the Command Sergeants Major course. She is Drill Sergeant qualified, a member of the USAREUR Sergeant Morales Club, and is completing a degree in management. She is also the recipient of The Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (First Oak Leaf), Meritorious Service Medal (6th Oak Leaf) and Humanitarian Service Medal.

Command Sergeant Major Debra L. Strickland continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the U.S. Army, and it is an honor for each member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of CSM Strickland and all women in the military.

DISAPPOINTED BY DECISION TO
CLOSE INPATIENT CARE AT VA
HOSPITAL IN SAGINAW

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment in the Secretary of Veteran Affairs decision to eliminate the inpatient care services at the Aleda E. Lutz Veterans Medical Center in Saginaw, Michigan. This decision will have a devastating impact on the quality and accessibility of medical care for over 60,000 veterans in Mid-Michigan.

In Michigan, 130,000 veterans rely on the services and benefits of the Veteran Affairs' health care system. Every one of those veterans, regardless of location, deserves immediate and convenient access to the best medical care services available. Removing the inpatient beds at the Lutz Medical Center will hinder the delivery and accessibility of medical care to veterans in our area.

We can not allow the Bush Administration to turn its back on our veterans and disrupt access to health services that they are entitled to receive. None of our nation's 26 million veterans should ever be denied or stripped of essential medical services. It is unconscionable and unacceptable that our local veterans will be forced to travel more than two hours to the nearest Veteran Medical Center for inpatient care.

I urge my colleagues to fight against the Secretary of Veteran Affairs' decision to realign or eliminate medical care services from VA hospitals across this country. We owe it to our veterans to fight this decision to show our gratitude for their service and sacrifice to our country. We must continue to work together to make sure that America's heroes receive the best medical care available.

HONORING THE AMERICAN LUNG
ASSOCIATION CELEBRATING ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the American Lung Association on its 100th anniversary. The American people have no better ally in the fight against lung disease, and I am proud to join with the American Lung Association as it commemorates this special occasion.

In 1904, a dedicated group of physicians, nurses and volunteers came together and founded the American Lung Association in order to fight for the eradication of tuberculosis. Over the years, the Lung Association

has expanded its research, education and advocacy program to address chronic lung disease.

Programs like Open Airways For Schools, which is an elementary-school education program that teaches children with asthma how to manage their disease, is just one example of the many ways the American Lung Association has improved the lives of individuals afflicted with lung disease.

The Lung Association has also been a strong advocate for pollution control and environmental health. Air pollution can be particularly harmful to individuals who suffer from lung disease, and the Lung Association's annual State of the Air report is nationally recognized for providing an indepth study of air quality across the country.

The people of the American Lung Association deserve to be recognized for their invaluable public service. I wish them all the best as they celebrate their first 100 years.

MILLER MOTION TO INSTRUCT
CONFEREES ON FY04 LABOR-HHS
BILL, H.R. 2660

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I support the Miller motion to instruct conferees because it ensures that those making as little as \$23,660 a year are able to retain the overtime privileges they currently receive.

Mr. Speaker, I was a human resources professional for ten years in a manufacturing company, and then for ten more years, I had my own company, advising high tech companies on their personnel policies and practices . . . including wage and salary structures. I know a thing or two about work structures.

Under the new overtime rules a "team leader" would be ineligible for overtime. I'm going to tell you what a team leader is: first of all, a team leader is not a professional that has a whole group of professional people working as a team negotiating for some grand project in some community. That team leader is a professional period, not a person paid on an hourly rate or a salaried nonexempt person.

In reality a team leader is a senior employee who has the background and the experience to earn the top of their pay rate. And because they've been around, because they know something, they've been asked to show more junior workers how to do the work, and to give them confidence and to give them guidance.

But they're doing the work right alongside of the worker they are mentoring. Today this person earns the top of their pay grade plus overtime. Under the new rules, without that overtime, that "Team Leader" is probably going to earn less than the person that they're working and guiding. The person the "Team Leader" guides will still qualify for overtime for the same hours worked.

So what are we talking about here? We're talking about people at the top of their pay grade getting less because they happen to have institutional knowledge, even though they are doing the same job. And I just don't see how anybody here in this chamber believes that any new rules that impact workers like these are good for most Americans.

These rules help big business plain and simple, such as the newspaper publishers who were standing up and cheering Secretary Chao when she announced how these rules would allow them to stop paying overtime to journalists. They knew they were going to save money, lots of money.

Well, a rule that works for a handful of business owners and against most of the workers can't be the rule that works for the people of this country.

That's why I urge my colleagues to support the Miller motion to instruct conferees and prevent our hard working Americans from losing the overtime they have come to depend on.

HONORING THE VISITING NURSE
ASSOCIATION OF SOMERSET
HILLS, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills, Somerset County, New Jersey in my Congressional District. The Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills is celebrating one hundred years of providing excellence in community health care.

Despite its humble beginnings, the Association's history is a proud one. The Visiting Nurse Association began as the vision of Miss Lillian Nichols, a parish nurse connected to St. Bernard's Episcopal Church who attended to the ailing and meager in 1903. In 1904, a group was fashioned and be accountable for her assistance to the people of Somerset Hills consisting of the towns of Basking Ridge, Bernardsville, Chester Borough, Gladstone, and Mendham Borough, to name a few. And so began the Visiting Nurse Association, one of the original 100 groups in the United States. Soon, as more and more of her thankful patients availed themselves of its services, it became clear that the Association was desperately needed in this fast-growing area in Northern New Jersey.

The founding committee was incorporated in 1906 as the Visiting Nurse Association and transferred into a habitat built by the friends of the Association on Olcott Avenue in Bernardsville. In 1910 the VNA started educational programs on sanitation and preventative health procedures that carry on in the present day. In 1933 the Great Depression forced the VNA to increase its efforts at social work. They provided milk, cod liver oil and coal to reduce poverty and malnutrition, and 708 patients visited that year, an increase of six-fold in one year!

By 1937 the new VNA Constitution and bylaws increased the number of Board of Trustees members to 40. In 1970 the 'Year of Vaccination for the VNA' nurses attempted to eliminate Rubella, or German measles, through the vaccination of 4,435 children. Soon after, diabetes screening by the VNA started. And in 1984, the treatment of the incurably sick at home, was started by the VNA and their Hospice Program flourished. Five years later, the Somerset Hills Adult Day Care Center opened, a VNA affiliate that offers a social day care program to the elderly and disabled.

Today, with the same careful attention and dedicated service Lillian Nichols provided a century ago, the nurses of the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills are helping to heal the sick, the injured, the elderly and the needy of Somerset County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the House of Representatives join with me in congratulating the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills, and all of the association's outstanding staff, employees and volunteers, upon celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT MARGARET C. BURGESS FROM THE U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, Congresswoman CAPITO and that entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 7th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our Nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize 5 outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the U.S. Air Force, we will honor Chief Master Sergeant Margaret C. Burgess, who is currently serving as the Superintendent, Intelligence, 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. Sergeant Burgess has served the Air Force at a variety of duty stations and capacities. She distinguished herself early in her career by meritorious service during her first assignment as Target Intelligence Specialist at the Royal Air Force Bentwaters, England, where she made outstanding contributions to the wing's combat mission folder program, significantly contributing to the wing's combat readiness. Her thorough understanding of United States Air Forces in Europe and North Atlantic Treaty Organization war plans, and her in-depth knowledge of A-10 combat deployment, made her a key member of the intelligence team during exercises and evaluations.

Sergeant Burgess has repeatedly demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership and devotion to the U.S. Air Force. Of note, Sergeant Burgess engineered the intelligence repatriation process of returned isolated personnel to Ahmed Al Jaber Airbase, Kuwait, and operated successfully during the repatriation of an F-14 aircrew that had ejected over southern Iraq. She demonstrated superb organizational skills by developing comprehensive, all-source ground order battle files of Iraq that were later adopted as the standard by other theater intelligence assets, which resulted in the successful completion of 5 combat rescues, 4 combat recoveries and more than 16

combat support sorties. Among her many achievements, Sergeant Burgess was also awarded the Bronze Star for her work during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chief Master Sergeant Margaret C. Burgess continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the Air Force, and it is an honor for each member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Sergeant Burgess and all women in the military.

COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is an enormously important day in the lives of African Americans and in the history of this country.

Brown vs. Board of Education, almost without question, is the most important Supreme Court case of the twentieth century. With Brown, the Court threw out decades of doctrine and centuries of racist practice in this country in their conclusion that "Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." By making this just assertion, they forced this nation to begin to live up to its own promises and its own ideals. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Brown represented a "joyous daybreak to end the long night of enforced segregation."

Brown was a transforming moment in the life of this country. Sadly, it was not immediately transformative, nor is the metamorphosis complete, even today. It took years—even decades in many cities and states—for the mandate of the Court to be carried out. In many places, it was met with fervent political opposition and violent resistance.

In Virginia, for instance, the Governor closed the public school system rather than allow it to be integrated. And in 1957, National Guard troops had to be sent in to guard school children in Little Rock, Arkansas when they tried to begin their studies at Central High School.

In the years after Brown, many, heroic people risked and sometimes lost their lives in the fight to desegregate schools, universities, stores and lunch counters, the workplace. And they risked their well-being in the fight to ensure that they enjoyed that fundamental American right of being able to vote.

But in the end, the forces of racism did not prevail because of the Thurgood Marshalls of the world, the Medger Evers, the Rosa Parks, the Fannie Lou Hamers, the Martin Luther King Jrs, and the Malcolm X's. They ensured that this nation would live up to its own promises, the guarantees that were laid out in Brown.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, for instance, came about because brave men and women demanded it through bus boycotts and sit-ins and marches on Washington and a thousand other battles.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 came about because people like Fannie Lou Hamer dared to fight to register to vote, dared to form the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, dared to take on the Democratic Party and the establishment, and dared to win.

The Civil Rights Act of 1968, which established the principles of fair access to housing, came about because African Americans demanded the full rights of citizenship and because they knew that housing is a human right. Unfortunately, there are some people in Washington today who still need to recognize that fact.

Thanks to their efforts, Brown became the reality of the nation, not just the law of the land.

Today, on this 50th anniversary, Brown is still the law of the land, but it is no longer a national reality. Legal walls of segregation have been replaced in many areas by de facto separation by neighborhood and community. Our schools are becoming less integrated by the year, and in too many cases, integration has vanished entirely from some schools.

Across the country, efforts have been made—some of which have been successful, unfortunately—to undo the affirmative action programs, whose goal has been to create the fully diverse and integrated justice that the Supreme Court envisioned.

In my home state of California, an African American, Ward Connerly, led the Proposition 209 initiative in 1996, which eliminated affirmative action programs for women and people of color run by state or local governments in the areas of public employment, contracting, and education.

As chair of the California Black Legislature at the time, I fought against it, as did many, many Californians of all races.

In what was a giant setback for Brown and racial equality, Proposition 209 passed, and in one fell swoop, it wiped out a very significant program that was intended to level an extremely uneven playing field. The results have been devastating. African American and Latino enrollments at far too many of our state's universities are in serious decline.

As a recent story in the San Francisco Chronicle indicated, African American admissions at UC—Berkeley, which is in my district, are down 29 percent this year. In this year's freshman class, fewer than two and a half percent of the students accepted were African American. Two and a half percent. And compounding this serious injustice, Governor Schwarzenegger is cutting the budget for the outreach efforts of our universities.

These numbers are an embarrassment. They are an embarrassment for our students, ourselves, and for the promise of Brown. These shameful statistics have profound economic, political, and cultural meaning.

Do these bleak numbers that I have cited mean that Brown v Board of Education failed? No, but it means that our revolution is not over yet. It means that our revolution is still incomplete.

On this 50th anniversary of this enormous Supreme Court victory, we must rededicate ourselves to carry out that opinion whose words rang out clear as a bell when Earl Warren, the former California governor and Oakland resident, read them, "Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

We can not—we will not—let the victories that were won so hard 50 years ago by Thurgood Marshall, Linda Brown, and so many others be reversed.

Tonight we celebrate that moment, and we rededicate ourselves to ensuring that justice thrives in this country.