

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MATTHEW M. LEWICKI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the members of the Michigan Department of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA to pay tribute to Matthew M. Lewicki, World War II veteran, for his service in the United States Army's 45th Infantry 179th Infantry Division from May 1, 1943 to November 5, 1945. On Saturday, October 16, 2004 the Polish Legion along with family and friends will gather to present Mr. Lewicki with medals he earned during his military career.

On May 1, 1943 Mr. Lewicki entered into the U.S. Army during World War II. He was assigned to the 45th Infantry 179th Infantry Division as a Private Infantry Auto Rifleman. He was wounded at Anzio Beach, Italy. Dunlop Acting Adjutant General sent notification to Mr. Lewicki's family on April 11, 1944 stating that he had been captured by the Germans and was a Prisoner of War. He had been missing in action since February 18th. The Germans sent him to a warehouse in Italy for three weeks, after which he was transferred to a prison camp in Germany where he was assigned to work on a farm. His Prisoner of War number was Stalag 7-B, #11689. Mr. Lewicki spent a total of 14 months in captivity. Corporal Lewicki was honorably discharged on November 5, 1945. Mr. Lewicki, after his discharge from the service, returned to his employment at General Motors Buick Motor Division. He retired in 1980 after 44 years of employment.

Matthew M. Lewicki was born on June 13, 1915 in Troy, New York. The Lewickis relocated to Flint, Michigan in 1917 when Matthew was 2 years old. Mr. Lewicki met his lovely wife, Albina Piotrowski, in 1940 and they were married on May 3, 1941. To this blessed union were born two sons, Matthew and David. Mrs. Lewicki passed away on March 6, 1992 at the age of 70. Matthew Lewicki is a lifelong charter member of Dom Polski and the Sea League. In his spare time Mr. Lewicki enjoys bowling and fishing.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I consider it my duty and my privilege to protect and defend human dignity and the quality of life for our citizens. I am extremely grateful to have a person like Matthew M. Lewicki who shares these beliefs, and has made it his life's work to see this task achieved. I honor Mr. Lewicki for his commendable service to our Nation and its mission of spreading peace. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating Mr. Lewicki, and wishing him the best in future endeavors.

THE DISABLED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES PROTECTION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce the Disabled Federal Employees Protection Act.

The Disabled Federal Employees Protection Act (DFEPA) simply states that in cases where federal jobs are contracted out, a Federal employee should not lose his or her job if that employee is an individual with a significant physical or developmental disability and had been hired under a program designed for individuals with such disabilities.

The DFEPA was drafted to respond to a particular situation that occurred at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Last fall I visited the Hospital, which has developed an innovative and successful program hiring developmentally disabled individuals from our local community to work in its kitchen and cafeteria. Many of these individuals have worked there for more than 20 years. They are hard-working, reliable, and beloved by the naval officers and staff. I was shocked to learn that the Administration had selected these positions to be subject to competitive sourcing. In other words, these hard-working disabled employees, who had been hired under a federal program designed specifically to hire the severely disabled, would be forced to compete for their own jobs against people who were not disabled, leaving them on the verge of losing their jobs. I wrote the President about this injustice and am pleased that as a result of our timely intervention, plans to compete these jobs have been withdrawn and these individuals have been able to keep their jobs and the sense of dignity that comes with them.

But it is unconscionable that other severely disabled Federal workers might have to suffer through the same thing. The DFEPA will protect Federal employees with severe disabilities from losing their Federal jobs as a result of contracting out. The bill does allow for jobs to continue to be contracted out to organizations like NISH (formerly known as the National Institute for the Severely Handicapped) and the National Industries for the Blind covered under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (JWOD). JWOD established specific programs to hire the severely disabled; it is not the intention of the DFEPA to interfere with JWOD.

The DFEPA is supported by many organizations, including ANCOR (The American Network of Community Options and Resources), The Public Policy Collaboration of United Cerebral Palsy and the Arc of the United States. The DFEPA also has the support of the Professional Services Council, one of the principal organizations representing government contractors, because they agree that supporting employment opportunities for the disabled is important.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that everyone in this body wants to protect employment opportunities for the severely disabled. I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor the Disabled Federal Employees Protection Act.

I am submitting for the RECORD an article that was published by The Washington Post on October 14, 2003 that describes the situation involving the scullery workers at the National Naval Medical Center.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 4, 2004]

IN BETHESDA, HIRING POLICY, "COMPETITIVE SOURCING" CLASH

NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER CONSIDERS REPLACING DISABLED WORKERS

(By Christopher Lee)

President Bush's efforts to make government run more like a business collided this month with the reality that, in many ways, government is not a business.

For the past 2 years, the Navy, as part of the Bush administration's initiative, has been studying whether a private contractor should take over the custodial and food services provided by 21 Federal employees at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda.

It is just one small example of Bush's "competitive sourcing" initiative, which requires hundreds of thousands of civil servants across the government to prove they can do their work better and more cheaply than a private contractor, or risk seeing the work outsourced.

But in one important way the 21 workers in the hospital scullery are different: All are mentally retarded, beneficiaries of Federal policies that promote the employment of people with disabilities.

To their supporters, the administration's requirement that they compete for their jobs misses the point that government employment has always been about more than the bottom line. Through various policies and laws, Federal agencies for decades have gone out of their way to hire members of certain populations, from veterans to disabled people to welfare mothers and students.

"There are different goals of the Federal government, and one of those goals is to get different people into real jobs," said Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), who met last month with the scullery workers at the hospital, which is in his district. "And this [policy] will undercut that goal."

Bush has strongly defended "competitive sourcing," calling it one of his most important management initiatives. He says forcing government workers to compete with private contractors for their jobs promotes government efficiency and saves taxpayer dollars—even if the jobs stay in-house. An Oct. 3 report by the Office of Management and Budget said Federal agencies have identified 434,820 jobs that are ripe for such competition, of which 103,412 are being evaluated for possible contracting out.

"We are confident that the savings and service benefits expected from this effort will soon follow," Clay Johnson III, OMB's deputy director for management, said that day.

That provides scant comfort to employees such as Deborah Shapiro, 30, who has worked at the hospital scullery for 10 years and worries what will happen if she loses her job.

"I like working here," Shapiro said the other day while taking a break from the first

• 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.

half of her 8-hour shift. "I work on the belt. I help push carts upstairs sometimes. I wash plates, pick silverware—I do everything."

Shapiro landed the job after interning at the hospital while a student at Rock Terrace School, a public campus in Rockville that serves 112 special-needs children in grades 6 through 12. "I live in a group home and I have to pay the rent there," said Shapiro, her dark curls tucked neatly under a hairnet. "And I have to work, or else they'll ask me to leave. I don't want to leave my friends. I don't want to leave my house. It's too nice."

The work isn't easy. The employees, clad in blue uniforms and white plastic aprons, remove trash and utensils from used trays as they navigate across a water-slicked red tile floor. Many wear earplugs to block out the drone of the industrial dishwasher that cleans the dishes and trays that pass through it on a conveyer belt before the workers retrieve and stack them in neat piles. Shifts begin at 5:30 a.m. and finish as late as 7 p.m.

James Eastridge, 38, another former Rock Terrace student, has worked in the kitchen for 22 years. That is long enough for him to earn several promotions and enough money to buy a house in Hagerstown, where he lives with his parents.

"I started out when I was 16 years old and just kept on working; the years just flew by," he said. "I hope we get to keep the jobs. When I was in school, I was pretty wild. They got me in the job . . . and I've been doing good ever since I've been here."

Randy Severt, a teacher at Rock Terrace, said more than 300 students have interned or worked at the hospital since the school formed a partnership with the institution in 1979. The Navy got reliable, long-serving employees for hard-to-fill positions. The students, who earn between \$9.42 and \$12.80 an hour, were given an opportunity to work, learn about money management and become more self-sufficient.

Providing such opportunities is a long-standing goal of the Federal government. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 banned discrimination against disabled people in Federal hiring and required agencies to develop affirmative action plans to hire more people with disabilities.

Most of the scullery workers joined the hospital under a Federal hiring authority that allows agencies to take on people with mental retardation as provisional employees, then convert them to permanent status after 2 years of satisfactory service. The government employed 1,734 mentally retarded workers in 2000, about one-tenth of 1 percent of the 1.8 million-strong Federal civilian workforce, according to the Office of Personnel Management. (Overall, more than 120,000 disabled people worked for the government that year, more than 7 percent of the Federal workforce.)

If the hospital scullery work goes to a private contractor, it will mean a big adjustment for a group of workers who, due to circumstances and disability, do not cope well with change, Severt said.

"They have problems finding jobs on their own. They don't advocate well for themselves and they don't have a lot of skills," Severt said. "Some of them can speak well. Some of them have very good social skills. But they are retarded, and they need help every step of the way. They just don't adapt."

Hospital officials say the quality of the work isn't at issue. "They're very loyal employees," said Cmdr. Martie Slaughter, the hospital's nutrition manager. "I've only been here for 2 years and they are like my family."

In similar competitions across the government, the in-house bid has triumphed more

than half the time, according to the OMB. Even in the cases where the private sector has won, the employees often have gone to work for the contractor. But the scullery employees are at a decided disadvantage.

"If you are special needs, you have a great need for greater supervision," Slaughter said. "And we all know that supervision costs money."

Jerry Leener, whose son Mike, 27, has worked at the hospital for 8 years, said that even a White House focused on the bottom line should realize there is little to be gained by contracting out the work. Displaced employees would turn to government entitlement programs, including Federal disability payments, Medicaid and food stamps.

"If our kids lose their jobs, the Federal government is still going to have to compensate them," Leener said. "Either way, it's going to be coming out of Federal funds. So we haven't had a cost saving as it relates to these kids. What's more, we've displaced them from their passion. They love working here. They love being a part of this."

Military officials have been sympathetic but unmoved. Slaughter said that early on in the process she asked about getting a waiver for the workers, but none was forthcoming. Over the last year, parents of some workers have written to Navy officials and members of Congress seeking help, but with no concrete results.

As recently as 2 weeks ago, Navy officials said they were still studying the situation. Parents of the workers grew nervous as a December deadline loomed for the hospital to submit its bid to keep the scullery jobs in-house. They were told that a decision on whether a contractor would take over could come as soon as March.

Then on Oct. 2, 10 days after Van Hollen's visit to the scullery and after inquiries by the Washington Post, Navy officials passed the word internally that they had been directed to temporarily stop working on the job competition. "The study has not been cancelled, but postponed until further notice," an internal e-mail said.

Parents said they were given a vague explanation that the job competition had gone on longer than current law permits. A provision in the recently passed 2004 Defense Appropriations bill blocks new funding for single-function job competitions that have exceeded 24 months, and multifunction competitions that have exceeded 30 months. Navy officials at the hospital did not respond to two requests for more information about the decision.

"I have a suspicion that they were starting to feel political pressure and decided to put it on hold, and that maybe this thing would blow over," said Leener, who added that he remains uncertain about whether his son's job is safe. "We took it as a big victory, believe me, but it's a temporary one."

Trent Duffy, an OMB spokesman, said agencies may cancel job competitions that jeopardize protected workers, such as veterans or disabled people. "It is permissible for agencies to make that determination and cancel a competition because these protected populations, these certain people, could potentially lose their livelihoods," Duffy said. "They absolutely have that discretion under the law." Van Hollen, who wrote a letter to Bush urging him to halt the study, said he viewed the Navy's decision as little more than political expediency. He still believes competitive sourcing is "a one-size-fits-all contracting-out policy that does not take into account other important goals of the federal government," he said.

"I still think it's an example of their policy run amok," Van Hollen said. "There's no doubt what happened here. You want to applaud the Navy for reversing its decision, but

you can't have a member of Congress or a member of the press visit every site where you've got . . . contracting out going on with model programs."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of Tuesday, October 5 and on Wednesday, October 6, I was not present for business on the floor of the House due to personal business and was thereby absent for votes on rollcall Nos. 494 through 501. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 494; "yea" on rollcall No. 495; "yea" on rollcall No. 496; "yea" on rollcall No. 497; "yea" on rollcall No. 498; "no" on rollcall No. 499; "no" on rollcall No. 500; and "yea" on rollcall No. 501.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARTS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, throughout the country there has been a rebirth of the arts, and the importance of the arts to economic development and revitalization in our communities deserves to be recognized. Cultural facilities and events enhance property values, tax resources and overall profitability for our cities and towns. In doing so, the arts have become a direct contributor to reviving many of our urban and rural areas. From major metropolitan areas to small towns, the arts have proven to be sound economic investments. I value the contributions made by the arts and believe that Congress has a responsibility to support the arts and all cultural activities.

Nationally, the arts have had a profound effect on community development but more specifically, have assisted in the economic growth in my home state of North Carolina. I am pleased to present an article by Mr. Lawrence J. Wheeler, Director of the North Carolina Museum of Art, that brings attention to the development and economic effect that the arts have had in North Carolina. In his editorial entitled "For Development, Draw on N.C.'s Arts," which appeared in the News & Observer earlier this year, Mr. Wheeler provides insight into the positive influence that the arts have had upon communities in North Carolina. Mr. Wheeler rightfully calls on the arts to be used as full partners in future economic planning, and I believe that Congress and state governments should heed this advice.

[Editorial—Opinion—the News & Observer, April 27, 2004]

FOR DEVELOPMENT, DRAW ON N.C.'S ARTS

Twenty years ago, the idea of using art as a tool for community development would have been dismissed as a meddlesome intrusion by self-interested arts advocates. But as more and more jobs are being outsourced and downtown areas are becoming ghost towns,

economic developers are viewing vibrant urban centers as critical to attracting workers, placing the arts at the center of the debate on community development.

Art has become a focal point for community leaders, economic development specialists and the citizens themselves. They look to the arts for inspiration, aesthetics and design, leadership and creativity, which can reshape our communities and make them vital, livable and relevant in the face of the economic changes of our time.

Richard Florida, author of the highly touted community development treatise, "The Rise of the Creative Class," says that if the goal is to attract a creative class of entrepreneurs and workers, then cities must provide, in addition to a tolerant social environment, diverse social and cultural enhancements, like great parks, art, music and lively community main streets. Art and design vitality are emphasized as a key factor that has enabled economic progress.

For decades, coalitions of arts organizations have undertaken economic impact studies to demonstrate their collective financial contribution to local, regional, and state economies, receiving scant attention from policymakers and political leaders. A recent study conducted by Americans for the Arts found the arts industry generates \$134 billion in economic activity every year. A new report by Arts North Carolina shows that the state's arts industry produces nearly \$1 billion in financial impact.

Clearly it is time to take a closer look at the measurable financial value of the arts.

The use of architecture in recent art museum design illustrates the impact of the arts on tourism and community image. Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum of Art in Bilbao, Spain, Santiago Calatrava's soaring structure for the Milwaukee Museum of Art, and the newly celebrated Fort Worth Museum of Modern Art by Tadao Ando have brought not only extraordinary international attention, but also tourist dollars to these cities.

Here in North Carolina, we are developing cultural landmarks as well, such as Wilmington's new Cameron Art Museum, designed by the renowned architect Charles Gwathmey. The success of this project has considerably boosted the cultural and civic energy of the city.

The Research Triangle region has invested more than \$250 million in its arts and museums infrastructure in recent years, with plans to invest nearly \$150 million more in cultural facilities in Durham, Chapel Hill and Raleigh. The N.C. Museum of Art in Raleigh has commissioned New York-based architect Thomas Phifer to create plans for its expansion.

Several other communities, including Charlotte, Asheville and the Piedmont Triad, are planning major investments in cultural facilities and the arts programs to attract jobs, visitors and dollars. Cities, large and small, are recognizing that cultural investments make economic sense.

As the arts take center stage in economic growth, metropolitan regions have the opportunity to put their cultural strengths to work. Many regions are investing in industry clusters—concentrations of businesses that are linked to each other through their suppliers and producers. There are abundant examples of real success stories when the cultural resources of a region become full partners in shaping economic development strategies. Asheville is developing a prosperous industry cluster around its regional crafts heritage. Handmade in America leads a coalition of regional organizations that promote the making and sale of crafts, as well as tourism to artisans' studios, related museums, historic inns and sites and the region's magnificent natural resources.

North Carolina has a rich history of providing cultural opportunities to its people. The first state-supported symphony orchestra, the first state-funded art collection and the first cabinet-level Department of Cultural Resources were all created here, along with an extraordinary network of 93 community-based arts councils throughout the State. These are superb sources to identify leaders who can be invaluable in shaping the conversations and agendas for economic development in our communities.

Our State's struggle with economic change will require a rearranging of investment priorities and significant private and public support. Only when the arts are used as full partners in planning will North Carolina see sustainable economies, lively communities and an enriched quality of life for everyone.

CONGRESSMAN JACK FIELDS POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to voice my support for H.R. 4232, the Congressman Jack Fields Post Office Redesignation Act. This legislation would rename the United States Postal Service facility at 4025 Feather Lakes Way in Kingwood, Texas as the "Congressman Jack Fields Post Office."

I have nothing but respect and admiration for my former colleague, Congressman Jack Fields. Jack represented the 8th Congressional District of Texas in the House of Representatives from 1981 to 1997. He served on the House Committee on Commerce, and became the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance in 1995. As Subcommittee Chairman, Jack led the effort in the House to enact the first comprehensive reform of the Communications Act of 1934, which became the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This bill was signed into law by President Clinton in February of that year.

As the Ranking Minority Member on the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, a position he held from 1981 to 1995, Jack was actively involved in the legislation related to oil spill liability that passed after the grounding of the Exxon Valdez in Alaska. He was also an advocate on issues as diverse as safety in the cruise ship industry, endangered species and wetlands, fisheries and wildlife refuges, promotion of American ports, shipbuilding, and the Coast Guard.

I am proud to support this salute to my friend, former Representative Jack Fields. This is truly a fitting tribute to a remarkable man, and I congratulate him on this honor.

COMMEMORATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. CREIGHTON J. HALE

HON. TOM OSBORNE

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Creighton J. Hale who made many important contributions to sports safety in

baseball and softball, as well as improving the safety of law enforcement and military personnel. Dr. Hale was born in 1924 in Hardy, Nebraska. He grew up in Nebraska and graduated from Hardy Public Schools in 1942. He then continued on to attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for one year, and then Doane College in the V-12 officers training program for the United States Navy.

Following active duty during World War II, he earned his bachelor's degree from Colgate University at Hamilton, New York in 1948, his master's from Springfield College in 1949, and his doctorate from New York University in 1951.

Dr. Creighton J. Hale, as an exercise physiologist, first conducted a scientific study of professional baseball players while an associate professor at Springfield College from 1951-1955. Dr. Hale developed an electronic testing device to measure the reaction times of major league baseball players. Along with this research, Dr. Hale found that children had less time to react to a pitch than major league players. With the conclusion of his findings, the Little League pitching mound was moved back from 44 feet to 46 feet, thus resulting in fewer batters being injured.

One of the next inventions that Dr. Hale worked on was the double-earflap batter's helmet, now made of a variety of lightweight plastics. The original helmet was made of fiberglass and could not withstand the impact of a pitched ball. In addition, the design did not protect the temple area. Little League made use of the new helmets mandatory in 1961. Dr. Hale was also an integral part of developing the aluminum bat and the one-piece catcher's mask attached to a helmet.

Outside of sports, Dr. Hale assisted in the development of the infantry pack in 1954 for use by the United States Army. In 1976, he became chairman of a group of scientist with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. During this time, his research aided the development of a lightweight bullet-resistant vest used by the military and law enforcement personnel. In addition, Dr. Hale co-designed a one-piece helmet made of Kevlar that offered more protection than the Army's previous steel helmet. All United States military personnel now use this type of helmet.

Dr. Hale also made invaluable contributions as president for Little League Baseball from 1973-1994. As well as serving as president, he served as Chief Executive Officer of the Board from 1983-1996. Under his leadership, the number of leagues enrolled increased from 10,006 to 21,711 and the number of participants increased from 370,000 to 3,123,205. At the turn of the 21st century, Little League Baseball and Softball had become the world's largest youth sports program, serving boys and girls ages 5 to 18.

Dr. Creighton J. Hale has made many valuable contributions to Little League Baseball and Softball in the way of innovations and moral support. He understood the mission set by founder Carl E. Stotz that Little League was about the development of good citizens rather than good athletes through "coaches teaching kids respect and discipline and sportsmanship and the desire to excel." I commend Dr. Hale for all that he has done to improve the lives of young people, servicemen and women, and law enforcement personnel.

IN TRIBUTE TO CHARLES R.
ADAMS, JR.

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who for half a century has served the people of my State and District in the noble calling of the law. On October 11, 2004, my good friend Charles R. Adams, Jr. will mark his golden anniversary as an active member of the Georgia Bar.

Charlie Adams was born in Fitzgerald, GA, in 1932, the descendent of several prominent families in Middle Georgia. In 1946, Charlie, 13 at the time, served as a page in the Eighty-Seventh Congress.

Valedictorian of the Fitzgerald High School Class of '49, Charlie continued his distinguished academic and leadership record at the University of Georgia, achieving membership in the Phi Beta Kappa honorary fraternity, in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and served as President of UGA's Interfraternity Council. While at UGA, Charlie met and married the lovely Margaret Leah Twitty of Camilla, Ga. She and Charlie had two children, Charles R. Adams III and Mary Elisabeth Adams (Mrs. Howard) Johnson. Charles lost Leah to cancer in 1983. His son is following in his father's footsteps; it was my privilege to teach Charles Adams III at Mercer Law School.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Adams was admitted to the UGA School of Law in 1953 and successfully took the bar exam in the summer of 1954. He was formally admitted as a member of the Georgia bar on Oct. 11, 1954, in the Superior Court of Ben Hill County, Georgia, Hon. O. Wendell Horne, Jr., presiding. In 1955, Charlie was awarded the LL.B. degree from Georgia Law School. He was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served as an attorney in the Judge Advocate General's Office, including a brief tour of duty in the Pentagon. After his military service, Charlie served for two years as a staff attorney to the Hon. Jule W. Felton, Sr., Chief Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals. He entered private practice with the Atlanta firm of Crenshaw, Hansell, Ware, Brandon & Dorsey.

In 1962, Charlie heeded the call to return to his roots in middle Georgia and relocated his family to Fort Valley. When his district's Congressional seat came open in 1964, Charlie made a laudable bid to win the Democratic primary. He has been a life long member of the Democratic Party and has served as a member and officer of the Peach County Democratic Executive Committee since 1966.

Mr. Speaker, in this day when so many view the legal profession with cynical suspicion, Charlie Adams manifests the most noble ideals of his, and my, profession. He has always been available for public service. For many years, he took more than his share of indigent criminal defense and other pro bono publico cases. He represented the City of Fort Valley for 29 years, the Fort Valley Utility Commission for 35 years, as well as Peach County, the Peach County Board of Education, and many other local government entities. In the 1970's, he was also attorney on a statewide basis for the Georgia Electric Cities Association. Charlie has been active in his community in other ways, including the Boy

Scouts, the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, and the Methodist Church. For 50 years, he has lived out the finest aspects of a true professional. I am proud to claim Charles R. Adams, Jr., as a constituent and friend, and I hope that everyone will join me in wishing him many more happy and productive years to come.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN
ROBERT C. WILKENS

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize and honor the service and career of Captain Robert C. Wilkens as he retires after 32 years of distinguished service in support of our Nation. Throughout his career, Captain Wilkens has epitomized the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment, and has displayed exceptional leadership and dedication to his country and commands.

Captain Wilkens earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1974. He then embarked on a remarkable journey in the Navy's Medical Service Corps, beginning as a staff pharmacist at the Naval Hospital, Charleston, South Carolina.

Captain Wilkens' next tour of duty was right here in the U. S. Capitol, where he served as the Director of Pharmacy in the Office of the Attending Physician to Congress from 1981 to 1985. He then entered advanced training as a Pharmacy resident at the Navy's Flagship hospital, the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, in 1986.

Captain Wilkens continued with his stellar career as the Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator and Director of Inpatient Services at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia. Upon completion of that assignment in 1990, he became a Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond.

Captain Wilkens then served as the Chairman of the Pharmacy Department at Naval Medical Center, San Diego, California from 1992-1999. By special request, he next served as the Specialty Leader and Consultant to the Navy Surgeon General for Pharmacy Policy at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, DC. Upon completion of that exceptional tour in 2001, Captain Wilkens returned to San Diego, and served once again as Chairman of the Pharmacy Department at the Naval Medical Center. He was home.

Captain Wilkens completes his distinguished and honorable career leaving a lasting impression of inspired leadership, mastery of science in pharmacy and policy, and all-encompassing support for the Navy's medical readiness programs and quality of life.

I am pleased to recognize and thank Bob Wilkens for his long and dedicated service to this country and join with his friends and colleagues in wishing him "Fair Winds and Following Seas" as he and his wife, Linda, leave the Navy after 32 years of remarkable contributions and service.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. LOWELL E. ENSLEN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. Lowell E. Enslin. I can truly say that Lowell is a dedicated, distinguished and committed citizen. I have known him since 1973, and besides the practice of law he has been one of the most caring people involved in his community. Lowell has practiced law in Hammond and has served the community for over 50 years, including dedicated service to many charitable and civic organizations. His career as a lawyer has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people. For many years Lowell has helped with the induction of new citizens in cooperation with the Federal District Court of Hammond, Indiana on the Fourth of July. Mayor Thomas McDermott showed his appreciation and gratitude for the lifetime of service of Colonel Lowell E. Enslin by proclaiming July 4, 2004 as Colonel Lowell E. Enslin Day.

Lowell E. Enslin was born in Gary, Indiana in 1927. He attended Hobart public schools and Valparaiso University. Lowell was admitted to the American Bar Association in 1952. He was National President of Sigma Delta Kappa from 1963-1964, Town Attorney of Dyer, Indiana from 1957-1960, 1962, and 1964-1972 and of Cedar Lake, Indiana, from 1976-1980. Lowell has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. Before and during his service to the Hammond Community, Lowell served America honorably as a soldier and an officer in the United States Marine Corps, rising to the rank of Colonel. He is a member of Enslin, Enslin & Matthews Law Firm, which was established in 1960. Enslin, Enslin, & Matthews Law Firm provides general civil, criminal and appellate practice in all State and Federal courts, family/domestic relations, probate and estate planning, insurance, real estate and labor relations law.

Not only has Lowell Enslin had many accomplishments throughout his career as a lawyer, he has also actively contributed to his community through participation in various programs designed at improving opportunities for the people of Northwest Indiana. Lowell was President of Members Hammond from 1965-1966 and is currently affiliated with Lake County, Indiana State, and American Bar Associations, the American Judicature Society, the Indiana Trial Lawyers Association, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and the Fellow Indiana Bar Foundation. Along with his many other accomplishments, Lowell has received numerous certificates and awards.

Lowell has demonstrated his faithfulness by his extraordinary service to Enslin, Enslin, & Matthews and his community through his hard work and self-sacrifice. Although Lowell has served on numerous committees and has dedicated his time to Enslin, Enslin, & Matthews, he has never neglected to provide support and love to his family.

Mr. Speaker, Lowell E. Enslin has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of Northwest Indiana throughout his years of

service. I am proud to commend him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

HONORING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Neighborhood Watch Program of Fairfax County, Virginia.

In the 25 years since its inception, the Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch Program has achieved great success, with over 900 community programs established since its inception. As former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I can personally attest to the program's accomplishment.

The Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch boasts countless volunteers who have selflessly committed themselves to informing local police of suspicious activities. While it is financially and logistically impossible to place a police officer on every street corner, the neighborhood watch has provided Fairfax County with an effective alternative. Neighborhood watch volunteers have become the eyes and ears of local police, deterring crime and saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

Those who take the time to cast a watchful eye on their surroundings ensure a safer, friendlier place to live. Through committed neighborhood watches, these participants have proven that community involvement can make a difference.

Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch participants have bridged culture and language gaps in the name of collective security. By recognizing shared community values, Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch has facilitated improved understanding and relations between individuals from a variety of backgrounds. One of the greatest assets of neighborhood watch is its ability to bring neighbors together.

One of the most active branches of the Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch is the Camelot Neighborhood Watch Program, which is the oldest continuously active neighborhood watch in the United States. This highly accomplished program serves as an impressive model for other organizations across the county and nation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch Program for 25 years of dedicated service to its community. Programs like neighborhood watch are vital in our efforts to combat crime. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the Fairfax County Neighborhood Watch's past accomplishments and in wishing the program continued success in the many years to come.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4850,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4850, the District of Columbia

Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005, which continues to open the door of educational opportunity for the students in our nation's capital. This measure fully funds the DC School Choice Incentive Act which is fundamentally about providing new options and new hope for students and families trapped in a school system that is struggling to survive.

Since the DC School Choice Incentive Program was enacted in January 2004, the Department of Education conducted a grant competition for the administration of the program and has awarded the Washington Scholarship Fund (WSF) the opportunity to run the groundbreaking new endeavor.

And WSF is off to a strong start. More than 2,680 students applied for scholarships for the 2004–2005 school year, and over 1,840 of those students met the eligibility requirements and completed their applications. In the middle of June, a lottery was held and scholarships were awarded to 1,360 students. Of the eligible public school students, only 194 public school students did not receive scholarships because of the limitation on available space in grades 6–12.

Currently there are 53 District of Columbia private, religious and independent schools participating in the program in the 2004–2005 school year. I am pleased that many of the scholarship students have chosen to attend schools in the Center City Consortium—a group of 13 inner city DC Catholic elementary schools within the Archdiocese of Washington located in the most financially challenged neighborhoods in the District. These schools work to ensure that Catholic education continues to be available to all city families, and have enthusiastically begun to educate over 500 scholarship students.

The WSF is continuing its efforts aggressively to make sure families are aware of the scholarships available for the coming school year. With more time to prepare for this fall, the program expects more schools to participate in 2005–2006, more seats to be available, and more parents to apply.

The strength of this program is that it will not only benefit individual students and their families, but the entire education system in the District of Columbia. Everyone agrees that the public school system will remain the primary source of education for a majority of these students. We cannot, and will not, support a proposal that would harm these schools.

My colleague from New Jersey, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, has provided tremendous leadership in ensuring that the bill before us continues to provide new money and new options that offers the neediest students opportunities they never had before, and more importantly, provides both increased competition and an infusion of funding that will help revitalize an entire system and help it to better serve each and every student.

The bill continues to appropriate substantial new funding—and let's be clear, this is still new money; we're not draining a single dollar from the public school system in the District. The funding is the full appropriation for the DC school improvement program—giving \$13 million for public school improvements, \$13 million for charter schools and \$14 million for opportunity scholarships to promote academic achievement and school choice.

This measure allows us the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students and families in the District of Columbia. I'm proud

of the measure before us and grateful for the work of Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN in ensuring the full appropriation. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in support of students and families and the entire educational system in the District of Columbia.

PRAISING A. JAY CRISTOL'S BOOK
"THE LIBERTY INCIDENT"

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Judge A. Jay Cristol of the Southern District of Florida on the completion of his invaluable research on the USS *Liberty* incident. Judge Cristol's doctoral dissertation details the tragedy that befell the U.S. Navy ship USS *Liberty* in 1967 when Israeli aircraft fired upon the ship, killing 34 sailors and wounding 171 others.

Judge Cristol's dogmatic search persuaded the National Security Agency to release classified transcripts proving that Israel's attack on the USS *Liberty* was an accident. Judge Cristol's research shows the Israeli forces attacked the American USS *Liberty* ship because they believed it was an Egyptian ship firing upon their coastline.

Through his diligent work and dedication, Judge A. Jay Cristol has assisted in strengthening the relationship between the United States and Israel and resolving unanswered questions about this unfortunate tragedy. I applaud his efforts, and commend him for this important work.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in applauding Florida's Judge A. Jay Cristol on this important achievement.

HOUSE CALLS

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the poetic talents of one of my constituents—Mrs. Bertie Battle Wilde of Canton, North Carolina. Mrs. Wilde has lived 96 years with deep and tremendous faith. Her belief certainly is evident in her art and I am pleased to share one of her poems, titled House Calls, with my colleagues.

HOUSE CALLS

Jesus makes house calls 24 hours each day
All you have to do is bow your head and pray.

Remember, we are not promised tomorrow,
only today.

He's standing at your heart's door knocking,
Will you let Him in?

He will dissolve your troubles,
And take away your sins.

If you have problems, give Jesus a call.

The number is H-E-A-V-E-N.

He'll show you what to do,
Because He loves you.

He'll talk to you anytime,
Because He's always on the line,
And it won't cost you a dime.

He don't want your money,
But His love to you He will impart.

He cares for you my child.
 All He wants is your heart.
 Please give your heart to Jesus without
 delay.
 You will be glad you did,
 On that final judgment day.
 Your name will be written in the Lamb's
 Book of Life.
 No more heartaches, no more dark nights.
 Our heavenly Father will be your shining
 light.
 Yes, Jesus makes house calls, night and day.
 All you have to do is bow your head and
 pray.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Taiwan's National Day, which will be celebrated on October 10, 2004. People in the United States and around the world have always marveled at the modern miracle that is Taiwan and the enormous political and economic successes that it has achieved. As we approach Taiwan's National Day, it only seems appropriate that we congratulate our Taiwanese friends on their many successes.

In just 50 years, Taiwan has transformed from a poor authoritarian dictatorship into a vibrant modern democracy. Last March, Mr. Chen Shui-bian was re-elected the eleventh president of the Republic of China. This was the third democratically-held election for the people of Taiwan. A firm believer in the free enterprise system and the importance of democratic governance, President Chen's leadership has enabled his people to enjoy one of the highest standards of living in Asia, with only 1 percent of its population remaining below the poverty line in 2000. Taiwan has also continued to make steady progress at expanding democracy in this republic: it currently has more than 95 political parties and a Constitution that guarantees its citizens full political rights, including the freedom of speech and the freedom of assembly.

Taiwan is a strong ally of the United States. It has unequivocally supported the U.S.-led war against global terrorism and the U.S. war in Iraq. And we, in turn, have given Taiwan our pledge that Taiwanese way of life should not be threatened by any outside forces. This strong mutual relationship is manifested in many ways. Taiwan is our eighth largest trading partner. The Taiwanese people continue to demand a variety of U.S. exports and consistently choose the United States as their number one travel destination. In fact, every year thousands of Taiwanese people come to my own state, New Jersey, for vacations as well as for business purposes. I am confident that the strong relationship between the United States and Taiwan will continue to grow stronger in the years ahead.

On the occasion of Taiwan's forthcoming National Day, I wish to recognize Taiwan's many economic and political achievements and express my congratulations to President Chen Shui-bian and to the Taiwanese Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. David Lee.

LETTER REGARDING CONFERENCE REPORT TO H.R. 4520

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert in the RECORD, the following letter concerning the Conference Report to H.R. 4520, the "American Jobs Creation Act of 2004."

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,
Washington, DC, October 7, 2004.

Mr. GEORGE K. YIN,
*Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. YIN: Enclosed are the combined comments of the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department on the new deduction relating to income attributable to domestic production activities contained in the Conference Committee Report on the "American Jobs Creation Act", that you identified for complexity analysis in your letter of October 6, 2004.

Our comments are based on the description of the provision provided in your letter, and the statutory language and description of this provision in the Chairman's Mark for the Conference Committee on H.R. 4520, dated October 4, 2004, as posted on the House Ways and Means Committee web site. Due to the short turnaround time, our comments are provisional and subject to change upon a more complete and in-depth analysis of the provision.

Overall, the conference report provides new tools that will assist the IRS in administering the tax laws. However, thus far in the appropriations process, I would note that Congress has not taken favorable action with regard to the request for incremental enforcement resources for the IRS in the President's FY 05 budget request. As noted in the attached analysis, IRS will face additional challenges and resource requirements in administering the proposed domestic production activities credit.

Sincerely,

MARK W. EVERSON,
Commissioner.

Enclosure.

COMPLEXITY ANALYSIS OF PROVISION FROM
H.R. 4520, AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT OF
2004

DEDUCTION RELATING TO INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE
TO DOMESTIC PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

Provision

The provision provides a deduction from taxable income (or, in the case of an individual, adjusted gross income) that is equal to a portion of the taxpayer's qualified production activities income. For taxable years beginning after 2009, the deduction is equal to nine percent of the lesser of (i) the qualified production activities income of the taxpayer for the taxable year, or (ii) taxable income (determined without regard to this section) for the taxable year. For taxable years beginning in 2005 and 2006, the deduction is three percent of income and, for taxable years beginning in 2007, 2008 and 2009, the deduction is six percent of income. However, the deduction for a taxable year is limited to 50 percent of the W-2 wages paid by the taxpayer during the calendar year that ends in such taxable year.

For purposes of determining the deduction, qualified production activities income is equal to domestic production gross receipts, reduced by the sum of (a) cost of goods sold allocable to such receipts, (b) other deductions, expenses, or losses, directly allocable

to such receipts, and (c) a ratable portion of deductions, expenses, and losses not directly allocable to such receipts or another class of income.

The provision is effective for taxable years beginning after 2004.

IRS and Treasury comments
Administration, Compliance and
Controversy

The new deduction for domestic production activities will require the promulgation of extensive, detailed new guidance, particularly in the form of regulations. We anticipate that guidance will be required to address:

1. Which activities constitute production activities;
2. The statutory exceptions to the definition of production activity;
3. The allocation of revenues between production and non-production activities;
4. The allocation of deductions between production and non-production activities;
5. The application of the provision when related and unrelated taxpayers perform parts of the production activity; and
6. Numerous other issues.

We expect that such guidance will be difficult to craft. By distinguishing "production" from other activities, the provision places considerable tension on defining terms and designing anti-abuse rules.

Many businesses, particularly small businesses, will find it difficult to understand and comply with these complex new rules, which will affect not only the computation of a taxpayer's regular tax liability but also its alternative minimum tax liability. It will be difficult, if not impossible, for the IRS to craft simplified provisions tailored to small businesses or other taxpayers.

Taxpayers will be required to devote substantial additional resources to meeting their tax responsibilities, including not only employees and outside tax advisers, but also recordkeeping and systems modification resources. The resulting costs will reduce significantly the benefits of the proposal. Some small businesses may find that the additional costs outweigh the benefits, particularly during the initial phase-in period.

It will be necessary to devote significant audit resources to administering the new deduction. This will be due not only to the novelty of the rule but also to the benefits that are provided to "production activities" over other aspects of a taxpayer's business. Taxpayers naturally will classify everything possible as production activities. Audits, particularly those involving integrated businesses, will have to focus on classification and the allocation of income and costs. Significant additional IRS resources will be needed to administer the provision to avoid diverting resources from other compliance issues (such as tax shelters).

Finally, for all of the reasons discussed above, we anticipate a significant increase in controversies between taxpayers and the IRS. This will increase the number of IRS appeals cases and litigated tax cases.

Tax Forms and Publications

The computation of the deduction relating to income attributable to domestic production activities would be figured on a new form for 2005 of at least 10 lines. The instructions for the new form would likely be at least 3 pages.

Two additional lines would have to be added to each 2005 form or schedule on which the deduction from the new form could be claimed. The deduction would be claimed on the following forms and schedules, among others.

1. Schedule C (Form 1040) (sole proprietors);

2. Schedule F (Form 1040) (farm businesses);
3. Form 1041 (estates and trusts);
4. Form 1065 (partnerships);
5. Form 1065-B (electing large partnerships);
6. Form 1120 (corporations);
7. Form 1120-A (short tax return for corporations);
8. Form 1120S (S corporations); and
9. Other Form 1120 series returns.

2005 Forms 4626, 6251, and Schedule I of Form 1041 would have to be revised to add a new line to reflect the difference between the regular tax deduction and alternative minimum tax deduction.

The instructions for all affected forms and schedules listed above would have to be revised to reflect the new deduction.

The tax forms and publications for 2007 and 2010 would have to be updated to reflect the increasing percentage of qualified production activities income taken into account beginning in those years.

Programming changes would be required to reflect the new 10 line form, the two additional lines on the above forms and schedules, and the changing percentages. Currently, the IRS tax computation programs are updated annually to incorporate mandated inflation adjustments. Any programming changes necessitated by the provision would be included during that process.

The following 2005 publications, among others, would have to be revised to cover the new deduction, adding 3 to 6 pages to each.

1. Publication 225 (farmers);
2. Publication 334 (small business tax guide);
3. Publication 541 (corporations);
4. Publication 542 (partnerships); and
5. Publication 535 (business expenses).

Training materials and the Internal Revenue Manual would have to be revised to reflect the new deduction.

MERRICK LITTLE LEAGUE
BASEBALL

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Merrick Little League Baseball Team as our New York State Champions. These athletes should be very proud of this enormous accomplishment. I know I share in the pride of their parents, coaches and residents of Merrick.

In fact, I would like to recognize and honor the following players who will certainly be ranked the best in the New York State Little League: Louis Eiler, John Eyerman, Chad Fuschillo, Zachary Goldstein, Frankie Leavey, Jordan Leopold, Alex Ras, Robert Rosen, Brandon Serota, Noah Shulman, and Thomas Viverto.

In addition, I want to extend special recognition to the Merrick Little League Coaches Robert Ras and Michael Serota, as well as Manager Jason Shulman.

On behalf of myself and the United States House of Representatives I congratulate the Merrick Little League Baseball Team on this wonderful achievement.

SIMMONS AMENDMENT TO H.R.
4548

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on June 23, 2004 during the debate of the Simmons amendment to H.R. 4548, the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2005, I was misquoted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. My statement should have read:

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Simmons amendment. Unlike some other amendments in this bill that are offered for partisan advantage, this amendment is offered by a former CIA officer with detailed knowledge of how the U.S. intelligence community works. To my knowledge, there are only three current Members of Congress who worked with the CIA: our chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss), the author of this amendment; the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. Simmons); and me, who was detailed to the CIA from navy intelligence.

This amendment seeks to change our intelligence culture to become more effective in the age of the Internet. Today, every two-bit terror organization in the world has a Web site broadcasting information on its activities. Internet news, political parties, and foreign government sites all offer new material to our intelligence community.

For years in the cold war, our enemies collected open-source data on us, but we were forced to collect secret data on them. That is now changing. There is a wealth of open-source data on our adversaries. Every analyst in the community should be encouraged to use as much current and accurate open-source data as possible; and I applaud the gentleman, who knows the CIA so well, for offering this amendment to keep our culture up to date with the current technology.

THANK YOU, STAFF SERGEANT
CHRISTOPHER B. WILSON

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and the citizens of the Seventh District of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I would like to personally thank Staff Sergeant Christopher B. Wilson for his honorable service to the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

I celebrate his return from service abroad, and this country will forever be grateful for his leadership, unwavering dedication to the mission, and the bravery he demonstrated each day in the face of danger. Staff Sergeant Wilson, a proud member of the Virginia National Guard's 229th Military Police Company, returned home to his family and friends in April of 2004. He served two tours of duty defending our homeland and liberating the people of Iraq. He defended our nation's capital during Operation Noble Eagle. Again he answered our nation's call-to-arms, spending 14 months in the Middle East during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We will never forget his service as he has set an enduring example for all Americans. His service is a perfect model for all men and

women in uniform who wage the daily war on terror. His family and community, the American Military, and the United States of America should be proud of his service.

His actions are consistent with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America. Staff Sergeant Christopher B. Wilson, I again thank you for your selfless service and welcome you home.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, community health centers (CHCs) are at the forefront of the noble endeavor to provide quality health care to our nation's most underserved communities. Nearly 900 CHCs throughout the country treat more than 12 million patients who are typically low-income, uninsured, and disproportionately affected by chronic diseases such as diabetes. Ninety percent of patients live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, and nearly half (5 million) lack health insurance. CHC patients are predominantly women, who require gynecologic and obstetric care, as well as pediatric care for their children. CHC patients are also ethnically and linguistically diverse—with nearly one-third whose native tongue is not English.

Not only are many CHCs the sole source of health care in the underserved communities where they operate, but they are also the sole providers of other crucial services such as dental care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, and assistance to domestic violence victims. In my state, Arizona, CHCs service about 350,000 people in 85 neighborhoods—from densely populated urban centers to far-flung rural towns and tribal communities deep in desert locales, miles away from the nearest community. Last year, nearly 1.5 million visits were made to Arizona's CHCs.

Clearly, health centers save our health care system an untold amount of money by treating patients who, due to lack of access and finances, would otherwise end up in the emergency room needing intensive and expensive treatment. Yet, CHCs struggle to generate adequate revenues to maintain their operations. They do not pocket any of the savings they bring to the system, which are instead transferred by hospitals and private physicians. And while the latter can absorb losses from treating uninsured patients due to their high percentage of privately insured patients, CHCs receive the majority of their reimbursement from Medicaid, which accounts for 36% of all their revenues. Federal grants make up the second largest source of funding, at 22%. By contrast, only six percent of CHC revenues come from reimbursements of private insurers.

This year, the House allotted \$1.84 billion to the federal CHC direct grant program in the FY 2005 Labor, HHS and Education appropriations bill. Although this is a welcome increase from the federal government's funding of \$1.57 billion for FY 2004, I am disappointed that the Health Community Access Program was eliminated. Without Medicaid, however,

CHCs would collapse. Many are already suffering from inadequate or irregular Medicaid funding, as states slash their budget expenditures and seek cost-saving Medicaid waivers that, for instance, allow them to cap the number of enrollees. To empower CHCs to function at their full potential, we must ensure that the Medicaid program is secure and well-funded. The federal government has a moral obligation to support the life-saving work of community health centers.

ON THE PASSING OF RUNNING
LEGEND, JOHNNY KELLY

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, there are few athletes whose names evoke instant recognition and respect with their sport. Johnny Kelly was such a man. Dubbed the "Runner of the Century," he was a three time Olympic athlete, he ran the Boston Marathon 58 times (winning it twice) and was a frequent participant in the Cape Cod Marathon and Falmouth Road Race. A 1999 inductee in the Running Hall of Fame, Kelly carried the Olympic torch and served as a goodwill ambassador for the sport he so loved. He ran with greats like Jesse Owens and Stylianos Kyriakides.

Johnny Kelly was one of the Commonwealth's favorite sons—and in his time, a living legend.

His passing at the age of 97, means that for generations of Bay Staters a familiar figure will not be at this year's Boston Marathon serving as Grand Marshal. But his inspiring story will live on. On the course, at the base of the third hill in Newton, a statue depicts a 27-year-old Kelley winning in 1935 and clasping hands with an older Kelley finishing in 1991 at 83. A fitting tribute to a man that reminded us all that the spirit of competition isn't just for the young, but the young at heart.

I commend to my colleagues the following Cape Cod Times commentary on the passing of this truly great American.

[From the Cape Code Times]

TWO-TIME BOSTON MARATHON CHAMP JOHNNY
KELLEY DEAD AT 97

(By Bill Higgins)

Johnny Kelley, one of the most celebrated and decorated distance runners ever, and a name synonymous with the rich history of the Boston Marathon, died Wednesday night. He was 97.

Kelley won Boston twice and was woven into the fabric of the event by running the race 61 times, finishing the 26.2 miles from Hopkinton to Boston 58 times.

Kelley last ran Boston in 1992 at the age of 84 and then presided over the race as its grand marshal. His impact on the marathon was such that there is a statue of him on the course with two Kelleys depicted, one young, one old, running hand-in-hand across the finish line.

Kelley died only hours after leaving his home in East Dennis and moving to the Windsor Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in South Yarmouth.

Kelley was a member of three Halls of Fame and a member of three U.S. Olympic teams. He was inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1980, the first marathoner so honored. The selection com-

mittee waived the requirement stipulating that an athlete be retired for at least five years because, they reasoned, Kelley would never retire from running.

Runner's World magazine named Kelley its "Runner of the Century" for his contributions to the sport.

"Johnny was an icon for all of running, not only the Boston Marathon," said Guy L. Morse III of Centerville, executive director of the Boston Athletic Association, the race's organizer. "He preached his gospel of health and fitness and was an inspiration to everyone. 'Young at Heart'; wasn't just his favorite song or the title of his book. It was the way he lived."

Born Sept. 6, 1907, John Adelbert Kelley was the oldest of five boys and five girls growing up in Medford. He ran track first at Medford High School, and later at Arlington High School after the family moved to the nearby town.

Kelley ran his first Boston in 1928 and, ironically, dropped out. He failed to finish again in 1932, but he finally got the hang of the marathon. He won his first Boston in 1935 and won again in 1945.

He also finished second seven times and one of Boston's famous landmarks, "Heartbreak Hill," was named for Kelley. In 1936 Kelley, thinking that race leader Ellison "Tarzan" Brown had exhausted himself by the last of a series of hills in Newton around 20 miles, patted Brown on the back while taking the lead. Incensed by this gesture, Brown soon regained the lead and went on to win. Kelley, heartbroken, faded to fifth.

Kelley finished 18th in the marathon at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. He made the Olympic team again in 1940, but the games were canceled because of World War II. In the 1948 London Olympics, he finished 21st at age 40.

In 1942, Kelley's wife of three years, Mary, died of cancer and he was soon drafted into the U.S. Army. Private John Kelley came up from Alabama's Fort McClellan for the 1943 Boston Marathon, where his time of 2:30:00, his fastest ever at Boston, left him second again.

Another second place followed in 1944. But in 1945, a decade after his first win in Boston, Kelley won again at 37 in 2:30:40.

In 1993, the statue "Young at Heart" was dedicated in honor of Kelley at the base of Heartbreak Hill. The statue depicts a 27-year-old Kelley winning in 1935 and clasping hands with an older Kelley finishing in 1991 at 83.

"I've had all kinds of citations and awards, but this is just unbelievable," Kelley said at the dedication.

"I've had a love affair with the marathon all my life," said Kelley, "and now, I guess, this means I'll always be a part of it."

Each Memorial Day weekend, races are held in Kelley's honor in Hyannis, with proceeds benefiting Cape Cod Hospital, his favorite charity.

Bill Rodgers, a four-time Boston Marathon champion, always called Kelley one of the greatest athletes of the 20th century.

"When you think about it, who has done as much as John?" Rodgers said. "Some people say Jesse Owens or Jim Thorpe were the greatest ever, but for me, it's Johnny Kelley. Everyone makes lists for the best this, the greatest that. Johnny's on mine. He's my hero."

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORT AND
EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of this legislation honoring Special Olympics. I thank my good friend the Majority Whip for introducing this legislation. For over thirty years Special Olympics has played an important role in the lives of some very special individuals with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics offer a platform of personal improvement while also fostering a spirit of camaraderie in competition.

Competition and sports teach us very important lessons about dedication, determination, responsibility, pride and team work or self-sufficiency, as the case may be. I believe that many of my colleagues in this body learned formative lessons through athletic competition, and I believe that—as the Special Olympics philosophy also articulates—lessons learned in sport and competition shape productive citizens.

In recognizing Special Olympics, I believe that we must also recognize the Shriver family for their role in envisioning the games and allowing them to become what they are today. According to the Special Olympics Web site, the Games have grown from the original 35 participants at Camp Shriver in Rockville, Maryland into a 1.4 million athlete, multi-national movement.

The bill we are considering today is entitled the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act. The title is fitting because of the bill's four purposes: providing support to Special Olympics to increase athlete participation and public awareness, dispelling negative stereotypes about people with intellectual disabilities, building athlete and family involvement through sport, and promoting the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities.

As a long time supporter of Special Olympics, I am honored to be a cosponsor of this legislation. I am also pleased that Ames, Iowa will be a direct beneficiary of this bill. The inaugural Special Olympics U.S. National Games will be held in my district in Ames, Iowa. This tremendous event will take place from July 3–9, 2006 and is expected to bring 4,000 athletes from all fifty states, over 1,000 coaches, and 9,000 family members and friends to the Ames area. Volunteers are expected to number nearly 10,000.

I believe that this forward looking bill is very worthy of our support and I would ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Special Olympics.

THETA TAU PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERING FRATERNITY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity was founded at the University of Minnesota in 1904 and

is the largest, as well as the oldest, professional engineering fraternity. Theta Tau's purpose is to develop and maintain a high standard of professional interest among its members, and to unite them in a strong fraternal fellowship. Over the past one hundred years, Theta Tau has initiated 30,000 members into a lifetime of brotherhood and 83 have been inducted into the Theta Tau Alumni Hall of Fame for contributions to the Fraternity, and their profession.

I am honored to be one of the brothers of Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity. This year we are celebrating our Fraternity's Centennial Anniversary. I would like to congratulate all my brothers of the Theta Tau fraternity, and the fraternity itself for being truly, the Nation's oldest, and still foremost Fraternity for Engineers.

WTO PROCEEDINGS REGARDING
AIRBUS SUBSIDIES

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Ambassador Zoellick and President Bush for their decisive steps to bring about an end to the European Union's longstanding practice of directly subsidizing their only large civil aircraft company. By artificially propping up Airbus for decades, the EU has distorted the international market and undercut the competitiveness of U.S. businesses and workers. Today's announcement that the U.S. will begin World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement proceedings in this matter demonstrates this Administration's commitment to creating a competitive worldwide market for globally engaged companies.

Since 1992, the large commercial aircraft industry has been governed by the U.S.-EU Agreement on Large Civil Aircraft. This agreement was intended to cap and gradually reduce direct government subsidies in the industry, particularly by restricting the amount of launch aid. However, subsidization of Airbus by EU member countries continues to increase. To date, not one Airbus model has been developed without significant government aid. The \$15 billion in launch aid alone has in effect taken \$35 billion off Airbus's balance sheet.

The start of WTO proceedings in this case follows a months-long effort by Ambassador Zoellick to bring the EU to the negotiating table. The Bush Administration has made it clear that only an agreement that leads to an end of all subsidies will be acceptable, and I fully support the President in this objective.

Restoring full, free and fair competition to the international civil aircraft industry will benefit consumers, businesses, workers and investors on both sides of the Atlantic. I look forward to continuing to work with Ambassador Zoellick in advancing our open trade agenda.

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of the City of Fairfax, Virginia.

Two centuries ago, the Town of Providence, a small community built around the Fairfax County Courthouse, was chartered by an act of the General Assembly. This steadily growing center of business and government was renamed Fairfax in 1874. During the Civil War, Providence was home to Company D, 17th Virginia Infantry, the "Fairfax Rifles" who fought in a skirmish on the courthouse lawn, and witnessed Confederate President Jefferson Davis meeting with his generals at the Willcox Tavern.

In 1892, the Town of Fairfax was incorporated. At the beginning of World War II, the Town of Fairfax had a volunteer fire department, central water and sewer systems, a town library and a high school. In 1961, Fairfax was incorporated as an independent city.

Since its humble beginnings as the Town of Providence, the City of Fairfax has blossomed. It is now a vibrant city that has played an important role in Virginia's history.

The City of Fairfax is the home of world-class educational facilities, thriving businesses, and is a diverse and prosperous community. It is one of the economic and intellectual epicenters of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In 2005, the City of Fairfax will host a year-long celebration with special events to honor this bicentennial anniversary.

This milestone appropriately coincides with the Old Town Fairfax redevelopment project, which began this past July. The improvements made during this project will transform Fairfax into a city for the 21st century and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate the citizens of the City of Fairfax on the occasion of their bicentennial anniversary. I call upon my colleagues to join me in celebrating the history of this great city, and in wishing for its continued prosperity.

HONORING JOSEPH A. POWER, JR.

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Joseph A. Power, Jr. of Chicago on being honored by The Illinois Bar Foundation with their 2004 Distinguished Award for Excellence.

The Illinois Bar Foundation was established over fifty years ago with the mission "to serve the people of Illinois by contributing to programs dedicated to the improvement of the administration of justice and to sustain and further enhance the ideals of the legal profession." A founding partner in the law firm of Power Rogers & Smith, Mr. Power is a highly committed and respected trial attorney, who embodies this mission, and is a worthy recipient of this award.

Throughout his career Mr. Power has consistently prided himself in his representation of the 'underdog' who has suffered catastrophic personal injury or loss. He has taken on and won such important cases as representing the family of the victims of an accident caused by an unqualified truck driver.

Mr. Power's prestige within the law community was acknowledged in 1999 when he was named one of the best plaintiff's lawyers in the United States, and one of the top four in Illinois. Mr. Power was later invited to join the Inner Circle of Advocates, an organization that limits its membership to the top hundred plaintiff's trial lawyers in the United States.

Mr. Power's past recognition serves as testimony to his significance within both the Chicago and national law communities. In 2001, he was honored both as, "Board Member of the Year," by the Little City Foundation and as "Protector of the Working Man," by the Illinois State Crime Commission. He was appointed by Senator Joseph Biden as a legal adviser to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, and was later appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to its Rules Committee in 1995, serving as Chair Person from 1996 to 2001.

A native Chicagoan, Mr. Power's importance to Chicago extends beyond the legal community. He has been recognized as Citizen of the Year by the City Club of Chicago, awarded the "Medal of Excellence" by the Loyola University of Chicago Law School, and awarded with the "Medal of Merit" by the Illinois State Bar Association.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the people of Chicago in commending Joseph A. Power, Jr. on his continual strive for excellence within the field of law and congratulate him on this well deserved recognition.

NATIONAL ALL SCHEDULES PRESCRIPTION ELECTRONIC REPORTING ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong concerns about the lack of adequate patient privacy protections in H.R. 3015, the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act of 2004.

H.R. 3015 is intended to support states' efforts to prevent the abuse of certain controlled substances through the provision of federal grants to the states for the purpose of establishing and implementing controlled substance monitoring programs. States would use the grants to develop and maintain an electronic database containing information about the type of medication prescribed, quantity dispensed, number of refills, and similar product information. The database also would collect personal information about each patient receiving prescriptions of the covered controlled substances, such as the patient's name, address and telephone number.

The abuse of controlled substances such as oxycontin and amphetamines is a serious problem that plagues many Americans. In response to the seriousness of the problem of prescription drug abuse, more than 20 states, including Massachusetts, have taken steps to

prevent such abuse through the establishment of reporting requirements on pharmacists and the creation of drug monitoring databases similar to those contemplated by H.R. 3015. In Massachusetts, for example, pharmacies are required to report the prescriptions they fill for substances in Schedules I and II to the state's department of Public Health.

The problem is that H.R. 3015 does not provide the safeguards that are required to shield patients—the vast majority of whom will be law-abiding citizens receiving medications as part of a legitimate plan of care—from unauthorized disclosure of their personal medical information. Instead, the legislation provides the states broad leeway to establish databases of patients' private medical records with little guidance on the privacy protections that must be in place in order to qualify for the grants.

For example, H.R. 3015 does not require states to limit access to the database information to a finite and identifiable number of individuals. Instead, the bill permits disclosure of individually-identifiable patient information in the database to a wide range of professionals in addition to practitioners and law enforcement personnel, including any local, state or federal "narcotics control, licensure, disciplinary or program authority" who can make specific certifications as to the need for access to the information. Any "agent of another state" with a monitoring program approved by the bill also could gain access to patient records in the database, provided that the purpose of the access is for "implementing the state's controlled substance monitoring program." Such easy access puts the privacy of potentially hundreds of thousands of law-abiding citizens at risk of unauthorized disclosure.

Additional privacy protections that are missing from H.R. 3015 include: a requirement that states receiving grants under the terms of the bill periodically purge the database of information about any particular prescription after a limited amount of time; unambiguous language stipulating that the bill does not override established standards of medical ethics relating to privacy; establishment of specific penalties for unauthorized access and redisclosure; and a provision making clear that the term "minimum necessary" as it relates to the limitation of information to the "minimum necessary" needed to comply with a request for patient data be interpreted as defined under the Amended Privacy Rule.

While I strongly support efforts to prevent the abuse of controlled substances, H.R. 3015 does not contain sufficient guidance to the states on the level of privacy protections that they must provide in the creation and maintenance of the databases authorized under the legislation. The potential for the invasion of patient privacy resulting from such databases is not merely theoretical. The New York Times reported on October 1, 2004 that confidential records of nearly 4,000 abused and foster children in Central Florida were available to the public on the Internet for at least four months because of a security breach in a child welfare computer system. The records included the children's names, photographs, Social Security numbers, case histories and locations of the foster homes they were in, and were accessible on a Web site of a private children's agency under contract with the Department of Children and Families. I am including a copy of this article for inclusion in the Record.

Now that H.R. 3015 has been approved by the House, I urge the Senate to strengthen the privacy provisions in the legislation so that the important goal of preventing prescription drug abuse can be advanced without sacrificing the privacy of law-abiding patients.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 1, 2004]

CONFIDENTIALITY FOR FOSTER CHILDREN IS
BROKEN

(By Terry Aguayo)

MIAMI, Sept. 30.—Confidential records of nearly 4,000 abused and foster children in Central Florida were available to the public on the Internet for at least four months because of a security breach in a child welfare computer system, the Department of Children and Families said on Thursday.

The records included the children's names, photographs, Social Security numbers, case histories and locations of the foster homes they were in, and were accessible on the Web site of Kids Central, a private children's agency under contract with the Department of Children and Families, the state's child welfare agency.

In April or May, Kids Central began using a computer system designed to let private caseworkers review state child welfare records through the Internet, said to Janice Johnson, chief executive of Kids Central in Ocala. Although a user name and a password were needed to reach the records, some passwords and user names became available online in unrestricted files created when caseworkers sought technical help with the system.

"Confidentiality is critical," said Don Thomas, district administrator for the Department of Children and Families in Central Florida. "If these kids are in the child welfare system to begin with, they have a far from ideal life, and if their personal information is available to those who don't have to know, it violates their privacy."

Department administrators ordered the Web site shut down on Wednesday after a reporter for The Miami Herald, which first reported the problem, informed them of the flaw. It was back up Thursday morning after the security issues were resolved, Mr. Thomas said.

Mr. Thomas said he knew of no one, other than the reporter, who gained access to the records because of the flaw.

"A child's case record is a child's life. It should be treated as sacred," said Richard Wexler, executive director of the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform and a strong critic of the department. "Given the kind of information, I think there is a clear danger, particularly since the locations of these children were made available to anyone."

The Department of Children and Families has been afflicted by numerous problems that surfaced after it lost track of a 4-year-old foster child, Rilya Wilson, and did not notice she was missing until 15 months later, in April 2002. She remains unaccounted for. Jerry Regier, the department's secretary, resigned in August as a result of accusations that he and two top aides took favors from contractors.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN ON
THEIR NATIONAL DAY OCTOBER
10TH

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of Taiwan's inde-

pendence, a day more commonly referred to as Double 10 Day as it falls on October 10. Double 10 Day is a joyous and important day for the Taiwanese people, and I am proud to join the people of Taiwan and President Chen Shui-bian in commemorating the Chinese people's struggle for independence.

Double 10 Day offers those of us in Congress an opportunity to recognize Taiwan's friendship and unwavering alliance with the United States. This strong alliance is predicated in part on shared values. In fact, Taiwan has nurtured a stable democracy and vibrant economy that encourages the entrepreneurial spirit.

Through its trading relationships, Taiwan has become an economic engine in East Asia and reliable trading partner for the United States. Taiwan is our nation's 8th largest trading partner, underscoring the economic ties so critical to our two nations. In 2003 alone, two-way trade between the United States and Taiwan totaled \$49 billion, and for the past 25 years the living standards have steadily risen for the people of Taiwan.

Taiwan's strong relationship with the United States will continue to flourish and grow in the years ahead. In the meantime, I wish to welcome Taiwan ambassador Dr. David Lee to Washington. Dr. Lee has recently replaced former ambassador C.J. Chen, who was an excellent statesman and will be missed by his friends here in Washington, DC. I am confident that Dr. Lee will represent Taiwan well and I look forward to working with him and his very able staff.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to the people of Taiwan on the occasion of their National Day this October 10.

MARGARET A. PERRY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize an outstanding community leader, Margaret A. Perry of Mt. Morris, Michigan. Margaret Perry will be retiring from her post as Mt. Morris Charter Township Trustee after 16 years of commendable service and dedication. The township along with family and friends will honor Ms. Perry during a "Sweet 16 Retirement" celebration on October 23, 2004 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in Flint, Michigan.

Margaret Perry was born in Athens, Georgia. She has been a resident of Genesee County for 50 years and a Mt. Morris Township resident for 40 years. Margaret has been a champion for the community. She began her career in politics in 1988 when she became the 1st African American elected to a township position in Genesee County. She has held the post of Mt. Morris Township Trustee from 1988 to the present. She is a member of the Planning Commission, and Michigan Township Association. She is a member of the Heart of Senior Citizens Services Board. Margaret has been the forerunner in organizing voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives in Genesee County. She is an active member of the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI). She served as the Michigan Chapter APRI Vice-

President from 1987–2003, Greater Flint Chapter APRI Director of Operations 1986–2002, and Greater Flint Chapter APRI Financial Secretary 1986–2002. As a loyal member of the Democratic Party, Margaret has held many leadership positions. She was 1st Vice Chairperson of the Genesee County Democratic Party from 1986–1992, and elected a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1988. She has also served as the field organizer for the Democratic Coordinated Campaign in 1990 and holds a Michigan Democratic Party Certificate on Campaign Organizing. She also held the positions of 7th Congressional District Democratic Black Caucus Fundraising Chairperson and Correspondence Secretary from 1984–1990.

Margaret has dedicated her life to making Mt. Morris Township and Genesee County a better place to live, work and visit. She is retired from her position with Hurley Medical Center as a Laboratory Technical Aide with 25 years of notable service. Aside from being an outstanding leader, Margaret is also devoted to her children and grandchildren, and she credits the love and support of her family for her success.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in paying tribute to an outstanding community activist, Margaret A. Perry, for her past and current service and contributions to Genesee County and Mt. Morris Township. I wish her the best in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN H. WATSON, INDUCTEE TO ALABAMA BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to shine the spotlight on an exemplary Alabamian and resident of the Second Congressional District, Mr. John H. Watson of Dothan, who is being inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame October 7th.

John Watson is well known in the Wiregrass of Southeast Alabama where his name is synonymous with hard work and business success. His life reads like a classic American success story. He started early his tradition of entrepreneurship by delivering ice and performing carpentry while still in grade school in the 1950's.

John was the first person in his family to attend college. He turned down a scholarship at the University of Alabama in order to avail himself of the superior engineering program at rival Auburn University. He graduated in 1960 with a degree in engineering, putting it to work almost immediately for Uncle Sam as a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He proudly served as a second lieutenant in 1961 and 1962 during the Berlin Crisis.

John returned to Dothan and civilian life with his wife, Gail, to set up their home. John quickly made a name for himself as self-starter by joining the staff of Smith's Incorporated of Dothan—the largest mechanical contracting firm in the area. As an engineer, John did what he always did by putting 200 percent into his work. Within four years, he became presi-

dent of the company at the age of 28. Soon after, he and two fellow employees bought the company.

This success would crown many people's business careers, but not John's. He was just getting started. First, he continued to build and expand Smith's, Inc. to weather future market trends. He then labored to help build a number of other substantial firms including Engineered Systems, Inc., Higgins Electric, Inc., Aladan, Inc., USA Yeast, Inc., South Alabama Brick Company; Southeastern Commercial Financial, LLC, and Twitchell, Inc. He also serves on the board of directors of Regional Financial Corporation.

John's ability to lead is not limited to the business area as he was called to serve as a past member and Chairman of the Alabama Ethics Commission in addition to his many Southeast Alabama volunteer efforts.

I congratulate John in his induction and wish him the very best as he continues to create jobs, serve our community, and inspire future business leaders.

HONORING GLORIA VOUTOS, TEXAS 2005 ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow Lone Star State colleagues in congratulating Gloria Voutos of the Richardson Independent School District's (RISD) Spring Valley Elementary School. I am proud to represent Spring Valley Elementary School in the 32nd Congressional District of Texas.

Gloria Voutos was just recently named the Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2005 by the Texas Education Agency. This award is a high distinction for Gloria, as more than 228,000 teachers in Texas are eligible to be chosen for this honor.

Gloria is a proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and after serving her country in uniform, she decided to further serve her local community by becoming a teacher. She completed her teacher preparation program at Southern Methodist University that I am also proud to represent. She has pursued a career of being a bilingual instructional specialist, and constantly wins high praise from her colleagues and students.

This is the second consecutive year that the RISD has produced a teacher that has been named a finalist for this year, and I am very delighted that this year Richardson was able to be the home for the winner. I wish Gloria all the best for her continued teaching excellence with the children of the Richardson ISD.

LAMENTING THE LOSS OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER SCOTT ZELLEM

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lament the loss of a great American hero and

Naval Officer, Lieutenant Commander Scott Zellem. The people of Indiana County and this country lost a dedicated and faithful sailor when a naval training mission turned tragic on August 10th. Scott was laid to rest at Arlington Cemetery on September 7, 2004 with full military honors and after living a life of distinguished service to this great nation.

Founded upon the ideals of liberty and democracy, America is a country unlike any other. As Americans, we cherish freedom and strive for progress with every opportunity. Our men and women of the United States Military are dedicated to this cause and are respected and honored for their service.

Our troops stand resolved to protect our families and our children from danger and attack. To these American military heroes, it is understood that we must do everything possible to win the war against terrorism and keep Americans safe at home.

Scott Zellem was one of the men to which we owe our safety and freedom. His life is one that will be remembered with great admiration and respect. Tonight, October 8, 2004, Scott's high school graduating class of 1987 will join with family, friends, and the community of Indiana County to pay tribute and thank Scott Zellem for his service. Scott answered the call to duty, and for his service, we are a grateful nation. His sacrifice, and the sacrifice of thousands who have fallen before him, will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO BOB WOLFE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career has come to an end. Mr. Bob Wolfe, of Sedalia, Missouri, has retired from his position as president of the Sedalia office of Septagon Construction Company.

Mr. Wolfe was born on August 12, 1943, in Cleveland, Ohio. After graduating from Charles F. Brush High School, he attended Iowa State University on a full football scholarship. He graduated in 1965 with a degree in Business Administration.

In 1975, Mr. Wolfe began working at a company called Temple Callison, and in 1977, Mr. Wolfe and his business associate, Tom Davis, bought Temple Callison. At the time, the Temple Callison Company generated 3 million dollars in revenue. In 1982, Mr. Davis and Mr. Wolfe turned the Callison Company into the Septagon Construction Company. The company currently has 5 locations in two states and generates over 100 million dollars. Mr. Wolfe believes in strong principles and values that have helped his business continue to be successful for so many years. He believed that the company had to be a part of the community, and the company needed to be a family of customers and employees for the company to survive and flourish. Mr. Wolfe was president of the entire Septagon Construction Company until 1998, at which time he became president of the company's Sedalia Office.

In addition to his accomplished business career, Mr. Wolfe has been very involved in his community. He has served as a board member, campaign chairman and president of the

Sedalia Pettis County United Way. Also, he was a board member, officer and founder of the Ditzfeld Foundation for recovering alcoholics. He has been a member and chairman of the Central Missouri State University College of Business and Economics Advisory Board and has served as a member of the Iowa State University College of Business Advisory Board. He is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and he has been president of the congregation for three terms.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Mr. Bob Wolfe for his outstanding career and dedication to his community and in wishing him all the best as he enters the next stage of his life with his wife Claudia and his children, Erika and Aaron.

COMPREHENSIVE PEACE IN SUDAN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5061 and urge all members to vote for this important legislation.

I would like to thank Representative TOM TANCREDO for introducing this important legislation. I would also like to thank Chairman HYDE and Congressman LANTOS and their staffs for moving this legislation swiftly through committee.

This legislation could not be more timely. Stories and pictures of horrific abuse and suffering in the Darfur region of Sudan are now on our nightly news. Newspapers are running daily stories. I visited Sudan in July and witnessed with my own eyes the horrific conditions.

The world has now awakened to this nightmare and we must do everything in our power to try to stop it.

We must not forget that the conflict in Darfur has been occurring for the last year and a half but that there also has been an ongoing war for the last 20 years between the Government of Sudan and the mostly Christian South.

Millions of lives have been lost. Millions more are shattered and scarred forever.

Sudan has suffered from war crimes and unspeakable human rights abuses. One country, one group of people, should not have to endure so much suffering.

Sudan is not alone. Africa has seen enormous suffering this past decade from the butchery that took place in Sierra Leone to the genocide in Rwanda. We must learn from the past, learn from the mistakes of our own inaction, and mobilize to try to save lives.

Some 50,000 people are already dead in Darfur and more than a million more are at risk. The world must act now.

The United States took a bold move under the leadership of Secretary of State Powell by calling what is occurring in Sudan what it is—a genocide. Unfortunately the international community has been slow to respond.

H.R. 5061 is based on the fact that genocide is now occurring in Darfur and that the Government of Sudan is complicit in this genocide. Significant pressure must be placed on the Government of Sudan to both end the

genocide and finalize a comprehensive peace agreement with the South.

Only then will the innocent civilians, who have suffered for so long, be able to begin rebuilding their lives.

This bill immediately imposes sanctions on the Government of Sudan. I think this is sound policy. We are dealing with a government that is committing genocide against its own people, therefore we need to use every possible tool to apply pressure so that it will stop.

H.R. 5061 also outlines multilateral actions to press U.N. countries to apply additional pressure on Sudan, and most importantly provides much-needed humanitarian aid to Darfur and humanitarian and development aid to alleviate suffering in the South.

We are beyond the point of merely warning the Government of Sudan with punitive measures. We must now take action.

The world is watching and rogue regimes in other nations who have the ability to do this to their own people are watching how we respond. Our response to genocide must be firm.

The world will look back on Darfur in 10 years and know that the United States stood firm and the United States stood with the people of Darfur.

I call on every member of Congress to vote in favor of this important legislation. We must send a strong message to the Government of Sudan that the United States will not sit by while they commit genocide.

HONORING ALL THOSE SERVING NORTHWEST FLORIDA IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE IVAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the organizations, businesses, and people who helped the residents of Northwest Florida get back on their feet during Hurricane Ivan's aftermath.

The panhandle of Florida was dealt a difficult hand, as Ivan left no life untouched. Undoubtedly once again, Northwest Floridians have proven their strength during times of devastating destruction and loss.

Returning to our homes to assess the damage, we were reassured that we were not alone and help was on the way. Gulf Power, Escambia River Electric Cooperative, local radio stations and newspapers, the Red Cross, FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Small Business Administration assisted almost everyone in the community in a variety of ways; from supplying ice, water, and food, to emotional support, the spread of information and monetary funds in the effort to help rebuild. Thanks to these folks, I'm happy to report that the lights are coming back on, bridges are mended, roofs are tarped, businesses are reopening, and naval aviators are training.

As for the Panhandle's future, it's not the character of Northwest Floridians to give up hope. Our communities will continue to unite together, and rebuild our homes and businesses better and stronger. Our military infrastructure will rebuild and Pensacola will re-

main the Cradle of Naval Aviation. There is no other place in the world like the panhandle of Florida and the residents there recognize that there is no better place to rebuild their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere thanks to all those, near and far, who have given comfort and have helped the residents of Florida's panhandle rebuild their lives.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEXAS INSTRUMENTS WORKING MOTHER MAGAZINE'S TOP PLACES TO WORK

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, congratulations are in order for Texas Instruments. For the Ninth Year in a Row—Working Mother magazine has named Texas Instruments a best place to work.

It's an honor to represent the numerous employees at Texas Instruments who helped make this achievement possible.

Some would consider Texas Instruments a trailblazer in the workplace when it comes to family issues. That's because they are.

In the early 1990's, a small team of employees concerned about work and family issues created the Texas Instruments Work/Life Strategy; an endeavor that has helped shape the company's culture through changing times with outstanding results.

TI champions talented and ambitious women throughout the organization. TI has a number of very active Women's Initiatives that offer a range of speakers and programs to help women achieve their full potential in their careers at TI. Since 1989 representation of women in management job grades has increased over 450 percent.

New mothers receive eight weeks of paid maternity leave at TI, and they have a built-in support network when they return to the job. TI employees can find help and advice with work and personal issues through the LifeWorks resource and referral service. And a Corporate Concierge service can help with everything from party planning, to locating hard-to-find gifts.

TI employees receive discounts at child care centers and have access to back-up care and care for sick children.

TI offers a flexible work environment allowing employees the opportunity to effectively manage their work/life challenges.

Is it any wonder that Texas Instruments is recognized globally as a great place to work—by employees and third parties alike? Congratulations, and I salute all the people at TI who helped make this accomplishment a reality.

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR A TAX CREDIT TO AN INDIVIDUAL PUR- CHASING A GUN SAFE

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to provide for an income tax

credit relating to the purchase of a gun safe. Experts agree that firearms should be stored unloaded and locked up, with ammunition stored separately. This bill, if enacted, would help protect our children and others due to accidents, suicides, and other acts, all connected with unguarded guns.

The non-refundable credit would amount to 25 percent of the total costs of purchasing, shipping, and installing a gun safe in a taxpayer's residence. The maximum credit would be limited to 25 percent of the total costs up to \$1,000, or a total credit of \$250.

Over 22 million children in the U.S. live in homes with at least one firearm. A study by the prestigious Rand Corporation found that fewer than 50 percent of American families with firearms stored their firearms safely—unloaded, locked and away from the ammunition. Storing firearms unloaded in a well constructed gun safe with a keyed combination or electronic lock is the most secure method for preventing unauthorized access by children, adolescents and criminals to firearms in a home.

The FBI estimates there are more than 341,000 incidents of firearm theft from private citizens annually. Nearly one-third of these firearms will be used in the commission of another crime. Increasing the use of gun safes with keyed, combination or electronic locks would decrease the number of firearms stolen from homes and used by criminals to intimidate, harm and kill their victims.

There is nothing mandatory about this legislation. The decision to purchase a gun safe remains a personal decision as does a person's decision to take advantage of the tax credit. The legislation is designed to encourage a voluntary act and does not in any way intrude into the American home. I ask your support for this legislation, which would help protect families, especially the children, from untimely deaths due to unguarded guns.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA RESIDENTS TO BRING PEACE AND SECURITY TO OUR NATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a group of local elected officials and constituents from my Congressional district to weigh in on our Nation's budgetary priorities. These individuals are all involved in local government and community organizations. They are appealing to President Bush to ensure a viable response to the Iraq conflict and that the Nation's domestic priorities are not shortchanged in the process. They come together to oppose the nation's use of unilateral and preemptive military activity and seek to promote a more peaceable foreign policy. I am also submitting a letter that was sent to President Bush and all Washington area Members of Congress showing their concern on this important issue. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in supporting their commitment to our country and concern for the pressing social needs in communities.

STATEMENT BY WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA ELECTED LOCAL LEADERS TO BE FORWARDED TO PRESIDENT BUSH AND WASHINGTON AREA MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

We are concerned for the effects of the United States' involvement in Iraq on the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. So far, Congress has appropriated more than \$160 billion for the Iraq conflict. These enormous appropriations are causing the Federal deficit to reach dangerous levels. They also will cause reductions in important Federal programs that address transportation, infrastructure, and pressing social needs within the United States. This is happening at a time when serious budget problems are being experienced by every state in the union, including those in the Washington D.C. area.

Local governments already are feeling the effects of Federal and state deficits and cuts to non-defense programs. Local officials are being put in the difficult position of having to either cut needed services to residents or pass the expenses for such services to local taxpayers. Moreover, many analysts believe that the United States' foreign policy actions are strengthening and emboldening terrorist groups, which puts the United States and all of its people—particularly those in the National Capital area—at increased risk. We want to do our part to fight terrorism, but the U.S. must embrace a thoughtful and realistic approach which can garner international support.

We honor and respect the sacrifices, the professionalism, and the courage of our military personnel serving in the Persian Gulf, and are especially mindful of those from the metropolitan Washington area who have been put into conditions of extreme hardship in that area. We hope and pray that they may return safely home.

For all of these reasons, we ask that you move immediately to promote a viable resolution to the Iraq conflict. We further request that you forbid and refrain from funding further unilateral and preemptive military activity, including military strikes on any nation that is not directly threatening the United States.

Your attention to this important matter is greatly appreciated.

MR. JAMES ADGATE HONORED AS OHIO'S OUTSTANDING OLDER WORKER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James R. "Dick" Adgate of Warren, Ohio for receiving Ohio's Outstanding Older Worker Award.

Mr. Adgate was born in 1921. He started working in the 1930's during the Depression at his father's greenhouse where he grew cut flowers and sold them to retail florists in the city. He liked the business but wanted to be on the retail side, so his father built a small shop, Elm Road Florist, in front of the greenhouse. From these beginnings, Mr. Adgate's business grew until he owned and operated, with the help of his wife Betty, a chain of stores throughout the area. He retired in the early 1990's. Soon after he retired, increased competition and changes in the client base made it difficult for the floral shop to compete. Mr. Adgate came out of retirement and took over the business again, working to make it more efficient. He continues to look for new ways to stay competitive.

Mr. Adgate is a veteran of the Coast Guard as well as a member of the Rotary Club, Old Erie Lodge No. 3F and Howland Community Church where he serves as trustee. He also volunteers for Mobile Meals, plays tennis every week, swims and square dances.

Mr. Adgate was honored by the Prime Time Awards Program, a year-long initiative to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of working seniors. The program's goal is to break down the barriers to hiring, training and retaining older workers. Nominations for Outstanding Older Worker are received from across the country and a panel of volunteers in each state selects the most distinguished honoree.

Mr. Speaker, once again I wish to extend my congratulations to Mr. Adgate. I believe that he is an inspiration for all of us and it is with great pride that I honor him for being named Ohio's Outstanding Older Worker.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides critical support to distressed communities. Assistance for the productive reuse of abandoned industrial facilities and the redevelopment of brownfields is encouraged by the EDA Reauthorization Act and I agree with this worthy goal.

To the limited extent EDA is involved in funding assessment or cleanup of brownfields sites, the intent of the EDA bill is that grant funds shall only be provided consistent with the "Polluter Pays" principle. When federal funds are provided for assessment or cleanup, it is important to ensure that the costs not be shifted from the polluter to the taxpayer. This principle applies broadly whether the projects are addressed under CERCLA, in the Leaking Underground Storage Tank program under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, or under other environmental laws. For example, in a statement to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on April 28, 2004, David Sampson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, told the Committee that "EDA is not seeking to in any way relieve a responsible party from liability under CERCLA nor to provide funds to a party to undertake clean-ups required under CERCLA, since to do so would undercut the 'Polluter Pays' principle on which CERCLA was founded."

I intend to follow up on the progress of the EDA brownfields program, and to see that taxpayer funds do not bail out responsible parties. On October 5, 2004, I sent a letter to EDA with the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, Representative SOLIS, requesting detailed information on the brownfields cleanup program. A successful brownfields program assists in the redevelopment of abandoned sites with limited contamination. This goal must be achieved without sacrificing environmental protection and without shifting the burden of the cleanup to taxpayers when the polluters can be held accountable.

START MAKING A READER TODAY
(SMART) READING PROGRAM

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, as Congress looks for innovative solutions to educate our Nation's children—our next generation of leaders—I'd like to call attention to a nonprofit reading program called SMART: Start Making A Reader Today. SMART is making a measurable difference for Oregon children who are falling behind. It has tremendous potential as a model for the Nation.

SMART's mission is to hook children on reading at an early age. By connecting children with community volunteers for weekly one-on-one reading sessions—and giving each student free books to take home and keep—SMART cultivates a supportive environment where reading skills build quickly and confidence grows just as fast.

Perhaps most importantly, SMART delivers proven results. Independent research shows that children who participate in SMART develop key reading skills faster than their peers, and maintain these gains after leaving the program. In fact, fifth graders who have been in SMART are 60 percent more likely than their peers to reach the state benchmark in reading.

SMART began 12 years ago in eight schools and has since grown to serve more than 11,000 children annually in 31 of Oregon's 36 counties. About 9,000 adults each year volunteer with SMART in more than 260 public elementary schools.

SMART's unique track record of mobilizing whole communities to invest in their local schools has been pivotal to the program's ongoing success. By engaging so many people to make community literacy a priority, SMART is helping to create an educated workforce for the next generation. It is helping Oregon build a solid economic future.

Please join me in making SMART and other proven early reading programs a funding priority this year.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE OUTSTANDING TEACHING CAREER OF JULIAN SMITH

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a great North Carolinian and teacher in the Chatham County public schools, Mr. Julian Smith.

Mr. Smith received a B.S. degree in Agriculture Education from the University of North Carolina in 1965. In July of 1965 he began teaching in the Chatham County Schools where he remains to this day. He augmented his education with a Masters degree in Agriculture Education from North Carolina State University in 1971. This is truly a man who gathers knowledge in order to impart more to his students.

Mr. Smith has taught and continues to teach horticulture and floriculture to Chatham county

students. He is well-liked, admired and respected by the students, parents and faculty of Chatham Central High School and throughout the county's schools because he has tremendous knowledge about his field of teaching. He began winning first place awards for Horticulture and Floriculture in 1975 and is still winning. I will submit his list of awards so that Congress can see his many, many awards!

In addition, Mr. Smith has been recognized county-wide by Chatham County public schools as their Teacher of the Year for the school years, 1980–1981, 1981–1982 and 1986–1987. He has been named Chatham County Central High School Teacher of the Year for the school years 1980–1981, 1981–1982, 1986–1987 and 1993–1994. In 1995 he was one of only 6 teachers to be recognized as a National Regional Teacher of the Year.

His principal at Bear Creek Central High School had this high praise for him, "Mr. Smith is one of the educators that will come along once in a lifetime. He is a mentor, and an innovator. He is humble, yet driven to succeed. His students will fondly remember the impact that he made for several years after they leave Chatham Central High School. They will realize that they weren't simply taught the subjects of horticulture and floriculture; they were trained for the real world application of both."

Mr. Speaker, North Carolina is truly blessed to have the abilities and talents of a teacher like Julian Smith teaching and shaping its young minds. I am pleased that Chatham County recognizes the talents of this wonderful teacher, and I am pleased to be able to recognize him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

JULIAN SMITH RESUMÉ

HONORS

1997 North Carolina State Outstanding Alumni from Agriculture Education
1995 National Regional Agriculture Teacher of the Year (Six in the U.S.)
1980–1981; 1981–1982; 1986–1987 Chatham County Teacher of the Year
1980–1981; 1981–1982; 1986–1987; 1993–1994 Chatham Central High School Teacher of the Year
Tarheel of the Week—Raleigh News & Observer—January, 2000

NORTH CAROLINA STATE FFA TITLES

1965 First Place Tool Identification
1966 First Place Tool Identification
1970 North Carolina State FFA Officer
1971 First Place Parliamentary Procedure
1974 First Place Horticulture
1977 First Place Horticulture
1978 First Place Horticulture
1979 First Place Floriculture & Nursery/Landscape
1980 First Place Nursery/Landscape
1981 First Place Floriculture
1982 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1983 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1984 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1985 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1986 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1987 First Place in Prepared Public Speaking
1988 First Place Nursery/Landscape
1989 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1990 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1991 Second Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1992 First Place Floriculture and First Place Tool Identification

1993 First Place Nursery/Landscape, First Place Tool Identification, First Place in Creed
1994 First Place Floriculture
1995 First Place Floriculture
1996 First Place Floriculture, First Place Nursery/Landscape, First Place Forestry
1997 First Place Floriculture, First Place Nursery/Landscape, First Place Extemporaneous Public Speaking, First Place Tool Identification, Seventh Place Forestry and North Carolina State FFA Officer
1998 First Place Floriculture
1999 First Place Nursery
2000 First Place Tool Identification
2001 First Place Floriculture
2002 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
2003 First Place Floriculture
2004 First Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape

NATIONAL FFA TITLES:

1974 Tenth Place Horticulture
1977 Fifth Place Horticulture
1978 First Place Horticulture
1979 Ninth Place Floriculture and Nursery/Landscape
1980 Third Place Nursery/Landscape
1981 Second Place Floriculture
1982 Third Place Floriculture and Third Place Nursery/Landscape
1983 Ninth Place Floriculture and Fifth Place Nursery/Landscape
1984 First Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1985 First Place Floriculture—students also placed First, Second and Third individually—and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1986 First Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1987 Second Place Prepared Public Speaking
1988 Second Place Nursery/Landscape
1989 Second Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape
1990 Fifth Place Floriculture and Third Place Nursery/Landscape
1992 First Place Floriculture
1993 First Place Nursery/Landscape
1994 Fifth Place Floriculture
1995 First Place Floriculture
1996 First Place Floriculture and Second Place Nursery/Landscape and Eighth Place Forestry
1997 Second Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape (students also placed First, Second and Third individually)
1998 First Place Floriculture (high individual)
1999 First Place Nursery/Landscape
2001 Second Place Floriculture
2002 Fourth Place Floriculture and First Place Nursery/Landscape (top two individuals)
2003 Second Place Floriculture Team
2004 Yet to be determined

THE "UNITED STATES BOXING
COMMISSION ACT"**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to help protect professional boxers throughout our country. I am introducing the "United States Boxing Commission Act" to create a Federal entity responsible for coordinating, implementing, and enforcing uniform standards for the sport of boxing. Currently, the states and tribal organizations regulate professional boxing. Although they have taken great effort to require minimum standards for the sport, uniform enforcement has been a problem.

Congress has enacted legislation to address the sport of boxing twice in the past decade. In 1996, we enacted the Professional Boxing Safety Act. In 2000, we again addressed boxing reform and passed the Muhammad Ali Act. The idea of a Federal Boxing Commission was raised in previous Congresses and it was deemed unnecessary at that time. However, after carefully reviewing the effectiveness of the laws we passed, I am convinced it is now time for a Federal Commission for professional boxing. Despite our previous efforts, enforcement of the law remains an issue and the sport continues to face problems that cannot be addressed by the states. In fact, at a hearing I held in my subcommittee, a current state boxing commissioner testified that the states need the Federal government to be directly involved.

I do not think lightly of creating a new Federal commission. I would typically be reluctant to introduce such a bill because I believe strongly in states' rights, and most of them do an excellent job in regulating boxing. However, the history and nature of the sport provide overwhelming evidence that it only takes one state to lower its standards—usually in the name of money—and undermine the integrity of the sport. More importantly, the safety of a boxer is supposed to be paramount and protected by the state authority. When a state lowers its standards or fails to follow the law, it jeopardizes every boxer's safety.

This legislation is intended to implement changes that are within the Energy and Commerce Committee's jurisdiction and is therefore narrower than what is required to fully address the issues boxers face. It creates the United States Boxing Commission which will have the power and authority to set minimum standards for the states to follow. It will not replace the state regulation, but will work with the states to develop appropriate minimum standards and to ensure their rules and standards are enforced.

As I indicated, I support additional reforms that are necessary to fully address the problems of the sport and protect boxers. While it is my preference to do more, because those reforms are not within the Committee's jurisdiction, I am committed to work with my House colleagues and the Senate to address those concerns and ensure they become Federal law as well.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MACOMB
COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate an excellent educational institution in Michigan, Macomb Community College, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. "Community" is central to the vision of Macomb Community College (MCC), and over its fifty years of service I am confident it has touched nearly every home in Macomb County in one way or another.

MCC was founded as part of a K-14 system and was known as "South Macomb Community." Approximately 84 students attended classes, \$2.00 per credit hour, in seventeen basic course areas at night in space borrowed at Lincoln High School. Today its reach extends to six campus sites and outreach centers and it enjoys an annual enrollment of 44,000 students with 1100 courses offered in the day, night, and online.

Every decade has seen expansion and distinction at MCC. In the 1960s their service area was expanded to include the entire county, and its two main campuses, South and Central, became realities so it could serve both, urban and rural areas.

Enrollment continued to climb in the 1970s and, at one point in the 1980s, MCC was the third largest college in the state behind the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. They also added a world-class facility, the Macomb Center for Performing Arts, which now holds nearly 700 events annually, enjoyed by some 260,000 individuals. It was also in the 1980s that a third campus site was added to house police and fire academies, workforce development and training, and continuing education programs.

In the 1990s, the College partnered with nine universities and upper division public and private colleges to launch the University Center where approximately 2500 students could pursue bachelors and masters degrees closer to home. Also in this decade, its fourth campus, the Emergency Services Training Center was constructed as a state-of-the-art training facility for police, fire, first responder, emergency medical and municipal services.

In 2002, MCC partnered with the State of Michigan on the site of the former Army Tank Plant, after the property was transferred from military to public use, to build its most recent addition, "The Michigan Technical Education Center" (M-TEC) to house the College's comprehensive Workforce Development Institute.

Mr. Speaker, one might say that fifty years ago South Community College planted seeds in borrowed space. Today, those seeds have sprouted throughout the entire County. The residents of Macomb County have indeed been fortunate to have such a progressive institution committed to the educational needs of everyone in the area. The College has been forward-thinking in their approach to the needs of the County and they have been committed to the vision of a "better future for those growing up in the community as well as the community itself."

It has been my pleasure to work closely with MCC in so many important areas, like school-

work and re-training programs, and to spend time with the students there. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all those who have helped build this remarkable institution, and to extend our best wishes for their important endeavors in the future.

SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS
LEGAL PROTECTIONS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for acting to protect the benefits of a vulnerable class of America's brave veterans.

Over 100,000 of America's military veterans or their dependents are not able to manage their own finances because of physical or mental disabilities. In these cases, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) appoints a family member, a guardian, or another person to act as a "fiduciary" to protect and manage their monetary payments and VA benefits.

Caring for a dependent veteran involves using the payments the VA sends each month to pay utility bills, buy food, and to meet the other needs on behalf of the veteran. It is a tremendous responsibility.

Last year, during an oversight hearing into the VA's fiduciary program, I learned that some of these veterans are not always cared for by the appointed fiduciary.

In fact, the Inspector General has found cases in which a fiduciary has withheld payments completely for several years—defrauding the veteran out of several thousand dollars.

In my District Office in San Diego, my staff has tried to assist veterans who lost out on their payments only to learn that under current law, the VA does not have the authority to replace the benefits when misuse has occurred.

Because it was our veterans suffering from the lack of oversight, I introduced the Veterans Fiduciary Act of 2004 or H.R. 4023 to provide veterans with protections similar to those recently enacted to protect Social Security beneficiaries. Surely our Nation's veterans also deserve the same protections as Social Security beneficiaries.

H.R. 4032 gives veterans new avenues to recoup their losses if they fall victim to fraud. In addition, the VA will conduct more thorough background checks and will have new authority to take action against fiduciaries who are not fulfilling their obligations.

I am pleased provisions of H.R. 4032 have been included in the Servicemembers Legal Protection Act of 2004 or H.R. 4568. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation today.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION
AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I know some wanted to pick a fight here today, trying to get

us to talk about homosexuality and all those kinds of things. We did not talk about them because that is not what this is about. What this is about is marriage and the definition of marriage. Marriage is the most enduring institution in human history—the unique, spiritual bond between one man and one woman. Marriage is a man and woman that can create children. It is the architecture of family and the most successful arrangement ever conceived for the protection and raising of children.

A man provides something that a woman cannot provide, just as a woman provides something that a man cannot provide. Women can be great mothers, but they cannot be fathers. Men can be great fathers, but they cannot be mothers. The reason that one man and one woman are necessary to rear children is so that the children can receive the benefits that a man can give them and that a woman can give them. Boys and girls need men and women, moms and dads bringing into their homes every day the complementary and unique characteristics of their genders.

Marriage is the basic unit of society, the very DNA of civilization, and if that civilization is to endure, marriage must be protected. Societies transmit their values through marriages and the families they create. A man and a woman come together in marriage to create children and rear them and hand down their values to them. Families come together to create communities. And these communities come together to create our nation. The preservation of our values as a nation starts with one man and one woman having children.

If you destroy marriage and people do not get married, several things happen.

First of all, you destroy the responsibility that comes with creating children. If you destroy marriage, men are let off the hook. Men can have the sex without consequences, without commitment, without the responsibility of raising the children. That has happened in our society and societies in Europe and other places. On the other hand, if a man has a commitment to a woman, the mother of his child, then he realizes the responsibility of trying to raise that child. So when you ask the question, what is the harm in destroying marriage, the answer is the harm done to children. Children born out of wedlock are more likely to suffer from a variety of social ills, from dependence on drugs to dropping out of school.

The recent history of our inner cities shows what can happen when fathers don't marry the mothers of their children. We have seen fathers just having many children by many mothers, and leaving these children to mothers and grandmothers and aunts to raise. And then we see the deterioration of their lives because they are raising themselves because their mothers and aunts and grandmothers have to work in order to raise them to pay for the family. These kids, who are often essentially raising themselves, grow up without the values that would be handed down to them if they lived in a stable family of father, mother, and children.

Gang violence can be traced to the pressures that have been put upon marriage and the family. Kids need a mother and father and stable family life, and when they lack these, they look for their identity elsewhere. Gangs can become the substitute for families.

Of course there are great parents raising great children in arrangements outside of marriage. There are wonderful children being

raised by gay people. There are wonderful children being raised by single moms. But these arrangements are not the ideal. The ideal remains marriage between one man and one woman.

To those who say that whatever trouble that ideal is in is due in large part to heterosexuals, I wholeheartedly agree. The last four decades, on the whole, have not been good for marriage in America. Take no-fault divorce. Divorce is a pressure against marriage. No-fault divorce undermines marriage.

But I would submit that the rise of no-fault divorce, welfare policies that reward abandonment, the breakdown of the family, and every other challenge to marriage are not reasons to abandon that ideal, but reasons to hold up that ideal higher than ever.

For as much as we may suggest that marriage needs us, in fact we need it!

Society needs children to be raised by their biological, married parents.

This isn't radical or even conservative: it's common sense, affirmed by a vast majority of our countrymen, who support the protection of marriage because they know from their own experiences that without this enduring and beautiful institution, they themselves would be lost.

That is why the cultivation of the ideal family of mother, father, and children—an ideal established by nature, sustained by human experience, and supported by decades of social science—remains a compelling government and societal interest.

Despite the challenges of recent decades, marriage remains absolutely fundamental to our society—too fundamental to allow a few judges to impose a radical redefinition of it over the will of the American people.

But that is exactly what is happening.

So when the Massachusetts Supreme Court redefines marriage out of thin air, we get a little concerned, because we have seen it before.

And we have seen what happens when we don't stand up to activist judges. We did not stand up on the question of abortion, and there have been 45 million children killed, unborn children killed, because we did not stand up to activist judges using the courts to legislate.

Every leader of the groups that are opposing this legislation to protect marriage has announced to the world that they are going to take this to the U.S. Supreme Court. They are already doing it. There are 11 court cases right now. Nebraska has been overturned, Washington state, Massachusetts. There is a huge, huge effort in every state in this union, even though 44 states in this union have laws protecting the definition of marriage.

The opponents of this amendment to protect marriage are after those state constitutions, and when they get at those, or using the full faith and credit clause, they can go to the federal courts, and then it begins. Then the Defense of Marriage Act comes down. Then the United States Supreme Court, who has already signaled that they are going to, through *Lawrence v. Texas*, redefine marriage in this country, will amend the Constitution and redefine marriage.

We have been left no recourse. Judicial activism does not understand the word "restraint," nor does it respect the consensus opinion of the American people. The courts

have forced on us this question of the future of marriage, and this amendment is our only hope of preserving it.

We are starting the effort today. Yes, it may not pass today. I wish it would, but it may not pass today. But this is only the beginning, because this nation will protect marriage. This nation knows the consequences of destroying the definition of marriage as one man and one woman. If we lose today, we will come back. We will take it from here, and we will be back. And we will be back. And we will be back. We will never give up. We will protect marriage in this country.

THE "FAIR ACCESS TO CLINICAL TRIALS (FACT) ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fair Access to Clinical Trials (FACT) Act. This bill is designed to ensure that the public has complete and accurate information about the drugs and devices they use.

Recent revelations in the press and in the oversight hearings conducted by the Energy and Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee have raised serious concerns that some companies in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries have failed to properly disclose important information from the public about the safety of certain drugs or medical devices. For example, there is now evidence that several pediatric anti-depressant trials that produced important new adverse information about the safety of certain drugs were not released to the public. The public is now demanding to know why these trials never saw the light of day. Although much attention has focused on disclosure problems involving the effects of certain anti-depressants on young people, the problem of selective disclosure and publication is not limited to a specific type of drug or scenario—the same concerns exist whether we are talking about drugs to treat depression, heart disease or arthritis, or even a medical device that would be implanted into the human body.

I am sure that some clinical trials do not become part of the medical literature for innocent reasons. But we cannot ignore the possibility that some studies were and continue to be intentionally buried by companies who are worried about the impact of a negative trial on their bottom line. Regardless of the motivation, however, the fact remains that we don't know what trials are currently being conducted, so it is impossible to determine whether the companies and researchers are actually telling us the whole truth about their drugs and devices or whether they are painting a distorted picture of their products by picking and choosing which trials they want to reveal.

This creates two huge problems.

The first is that in order for doctors to make good medical decisions and provide their patients with the best possible care, they need to have access to complete and sound scientific data.

The second is that when people enroll in clinical trials they give up a certain control of

their own personal medical decisions, willingly taking experimental drugs and subjecting themselves to potential harm in the belief that their participation in the studies will add to the advancement of medical knowledge and potentially unlock the secrets of disease. But if a researcher or a company that sponsors a trial does not publicize the results, the knowledge gained from putting those participants at risk remains forever buried in some researcher's computer. That information will not be available to doctors, or to other medical researchers, who could use it.

In order to ensure that clinicians have all the information they need in order to make sound medical decisions, uphold the ethical responsibility to patients and protect public health, I am proud to join with the gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN, to introduce the Fair Access to Clinical Trials (The FACT Act) a bill to create a mandatory, public, federal registry of all clinical trials.

The FACT act will require researchers to register their clinical trials in a federal registry before starting them and report the results of those trials at the conclusion. The federal database will include both federal-funded and privately-funded clinical trials so that clinicians, patients and researchers will be able to know the universe of clinical trials on a particular drug and have access to the results of those trials. Our bill also establishes strong enforcement mechanisms, including monetary penalties of up to \$10,000 per day for manufacturers who refuse to comply.

The registry established under the bill is intended to meet all of the minimum criteria for a trial registry set out by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, and will satisfy the American Medical Association's call for the results of all clinical trials to be publicly available to doctors and patients. Our legislation has been endorsed by the New England Journal of Medicine and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

The FACT act will ensure that patients have the tools they need to make informed decisions, maintain the integrity of the medical community, and protect the health of their patients and our families.

I look forward to working with everyone concerned about this important issue so that we end up with a system that preserves a robust system of research and ensures robust system of disclosure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation and missed the following votes. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 487; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 488; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 489; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 490; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 491; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 492; "no" on rollcall vote No. 493; "no" on rollcall vote No. 494; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 495; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 496; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 497; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 498; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 499; "no" on rollcall vote No. 500; and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 501.

HONORING DEAN PHYLLIS
O'CALLAGHAN AND GEORGE-
TOWN UNIVERSITY'S LIBERAL
STUDIES

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I commend the Liberal Studies Degree Program at Georgetown University, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary. For three decades, this unique and wonderful program has served the Washington DC area by offering bachelors and masters degrees in interdisciplinary liberal arts.

And I am further pleased to commend the person who has headed and guided this unique program for the past 25 years, Associate Dean Phyllis O'Callaghan, a constituent from Chevy Chase, Maryland. As the cochair of the 30th Anniversary Celebration, Chester Gillis, Chairman of the Theology Department and Core Faculty Advisor for Religious Studies in the Liberal Studies Program, stated at the ceremony, the "heart and soul of this enterprise—someone who embodies Liberal Studies at Georgetown and commands national recognition and respect" is Associate Dean Phyllis O'Callaghan. In recognition for her work with this program and for all her accomplishments, Dr. O'Callaghan was awarded the "President's Medal," which is the highest award that Georgetown University can present.

The Liberal Studies Program at Georgetown is truly unique, outstanding and very special. The program was designed to offer most courses in the evenings and on Saturdays, in order to best accommodate the schedules of those who wish to participate in academia while still pursuing professional careers. The majority of students in the Liberal Studies program are "working students," and the program reflects the intellectual curiosity, breadth of interest, and professional experience of these students whose lives and occupations most graduate programs do not address.

The students come from all walks of life. Some are recent college graduates who wish to continue their education by working for a Master's degree. Others work for the government—on the Hill or in the Executive branch. Some are foreign born and are currently working at various embassies or international organizations. This diversity enhances class discussions and enriches the entire program. The professors represent the best Georgetown has to offer. Many teach full-time, but a number also have non-academic careers, which enable them to bring fresh experiences into the classrooms.

Fourteen curricular fields provide concentrations in broad areas of special interest. Instead of focusing on academic disciplines, the courses are designed to reflect the questions and interests these adult students carry in their lives and their occupations. The courses and instructors enable the students to read and reflect on great issues that have concerned, thrilled and disturbed major thinkers and movements in the past and in the present. At the core of these courses are the values humans cherish, debate and that are replete in the liberal arts. The Liberal Studies Program graduate and undergraduate degrees are aca-

demically structured, intellectually demanding, and personally enriching carrying into the 21st century the Georgetown-Jesuit tradition of educating the whole person.

Dr. O'Callaghan received her Ph.D. in History from Saint Louis University and then was a Professor, and then Department Chair, at Saint Mary's Notre Dame, where she also was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award. She is active in the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs and a Member of its Board of Directors. Dr. O'Callaghan helped the program to receive an \$85,000 Grant from NEH; and a \$1,200,000 Grant for the James Madison Foundation. The author of several articles and editor of two books; *A Clashing of Symbols: Method and Meaning in Liberal Studies and Values in Conflict: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, she also served at one time as a Chief legislative assistant and speechwriter in Congress.

I congratulate Dean Phyllis O'Callaghan and the Liberal Studies Program and wish them success in the years ahead.

COMPREHENSIVE PEACE IN SUDAN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, since February 2003, over 50,000 deaths have occurred during the conflict in Darfur. The execution of civilians, mass rapes, and the raiding and burning of villages which characterize this conflict have resulted in massive displacement to areas that cannot provide vital sustenance. Of the 1.65 million people that have been displaced, over 200,000 have fled to neighboring Chad with projections that more lives may now be jeopardized by hunger, disease and inadequate shelter than by bullets and clubs.

The President, Secretary of State and Congress, all have formally declared that the tragedy underway in Darfur is genocide. Such deeds can't be considered in the abstract or simply ignored; nor can the legal responsibilities of the U.S. be ducked. Under the Genocide Convention of 1951, to which the U.S. is a party, we have a legal as well as a moral obligation to act.

In contemplating actions, we would be wise to review our failed policies in the 1990s in East Africa. In Somalia, the initial decision to use U.S. armed forces to intervene for humanitarian purposes began as a justifiable, perhaps even noble, exercise of American power. But the chaos associated with an on-going civil war frustrated our ability to provide sustainable support, causing us to choose sides in a conflict for which we had inadequate intelligence and no clear tactical plan. The trauma of becoming engaged in a civil war not of our choosing or clear understanding led to a decision to disengage and a subsequent reluctance to re-engage in East Africa when a neighboring country, Rwanda, became gripped several years later by genocidal forces. Lack of strategic clarity embarrassed Washington in the first instance. Lack of confidence hamstrung decision-makers in the second. Consequently, the world witnessed avoidable tragedies: the massacres of hundreds of thousands of innocents.

The challenge today in Sudan is to accept an obligation to act on the diplomatic and humanitarian front without becoming militarily engaged. The killing and displacement must be stopped, but little could be more counter-productive than a perceived U.S. military intervention against a third Muslim nation at this time.

In this year's presidential race there is a profound debate about whether a U.N. mandate is necessary before America can act militarily. Both major party candidates have properly noted that the U.S. reserves the right to act alone. While each gives different emphasis to the wisdom of receiving international sanction, each also recognizes the preferability, although not necessity, of obtaining international support. What hasn't been discussed is the question of whether the U.S. reserves the right not to engage militarily even if there is a U.N. mandate to act. The answer is clearly yes. We reserve the right not to use force, just as we reserve the right to defend ourselves.

Sudan is a case in point. The U.S. is attempting to nudge the Security Council in a more attentive way, but our emphasis is properly on pressing for African Union rather than U.S. force deployment, with the understanding that we may have to give material and logistic support to African soldiers. Such an approach was well envisioned by the founders of the U.N. Indeed, with the principal exception of the Korean war, the Big Five of the Security Council have traditionally provided the funding for peacekeeping forces, while the troops themselves have generally been drawn from smaller or non-aligned countries, such as Canada, Nigeria and India.

In this context, an operation to bring peace to Darfur should involve many countries and, as the Special Representative to the Secretary General for Sudan Jan Pronk said, be "broad, big, and quick." U.S. focus should be on:

1. Humanitarian assistance. Some aid is already en route, purchased with money diverted from Iraq. More is required. The need is dire and urgent. People of Darfur lack adequate shelter, potable water and health care facilities. They do not expect to see a usable harvest until January 2006.

2. Regional Organizations. To carry out its mission, the African Union needs a broad mandate for at least 3,500 armed and unarmed troops and authority to use force if necessary. As it is, the AU, currently has a limited mandate for a 305-person armed force serving to protect 100 or so unarmed monitors of the April 8th cease fire between the Sudan Liberation Army, the Justice and Equity Movement and government forces.

3. Negotiations. These must be pursued on two fronts. One, to settle the 21-year-old conflict between the North (the government) and the South of Sudan; the other, to bring peace to Darfur. The two situations are interrelated and neither can be credibly brought to a close without the other. An agreement between the North and the South hopefully can provide a framework for a settlement between the rebels and the Sudanese government in Darfur, but progress on the first front should not be a condition to seek progress on the second.

4. Leverage. The U.S. and the U.N. are preparing a list of sanctions to induce the Sudanese government to comply. In the bill before us, H.R. 5061, the President is empowered to freeze Sudanese assets, restrict travel and impose other sanctions. It is a mistake, however, to put the heat solely on the Sudanese

government. Pressure must also be applied on the rebels to stop ambushing humanitarian aid convoys.

A strong international approach to Darfur has the prospect of stabilizing a dire situation and serving as a reminder to all governments that sovereignty is not a shield behind which genocidalists can hide. Combating genocide is a world responsibility. With humanitarian aid, support for the AU, a double-pronged negotiating strategy and a carrot-and-stick approach, the prospect that Sudan can move toward greater peace and security for its citizens is promising. But a timely commitment of the international community is key. It has yet to be established.

This resolution is modest but important step in the right direction. I urge its passage.

THE UNITED STATES SHOULD IMPROVE AIRPORT PERIMETER SECURITY

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, anxieties about airport security have increased. Most visible improvements and modifications—such as passenger screening—have already been done. Less visible improvements, particularly in terms of protecting airport perimeters against unauthorized entry, are lagging.

A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that airport perimeter security has not appreciably improved in the past three years, despite persistent expressions of concern by Congress. The funds provided for these purposes have not been delivered to airports where they are needed.

This report's title tells the whole story: "Aviation Security: Further Steps Needed to Strengthen the Security of Commercial Airport Perimeters and Access Controls." In it, the GAO notes that "through funding of a limited number security enhancements, TSA [the Transportation Security Agency] has helped to improve perimeter and access control security at some airports. However, at the time of our review, TSA had not yet developed a plan to prioritize expenditures to ensure that funds provided have the greatest impact in improving the security of the commercial airport system."

The safety and security of our airports and air passengers are contingent on the priorities established by the TSA and other government agencies.

Congress recognizes this, and in response to the terrorist attacks on our country, it established the Federal Airport Security Capital Fund to finance improvements at U.S. airports. This fund provides \$250,000,000 a year to be parcelled out according to a legally-mandated formula by the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Borders and Transportation at the Department of Homeland Security. Despite this fund's existence, much remains to be done.

In a "report card" published by the Airline Pilots Association, airport perimeter security in the United States was given an overall grade of "D." Based on the judgment of those who

have reason to know the situation best, a grade like this is shameful and unacceptable.

Several key airports have been identified as having particular needs for expeditious improvements. These include the four airports administered by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (Islip, JFK, LaGuardia, Newark); Chicago O'Hare; BWI; the airports in Allentown, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Birmingham International Airport in Alabama.

In recent months, it has been my privilege to consult with several private-sector experts on airport perimeter security. Dr. Walter Estulin, Philip Allen, and David Brownstein of the New York-based high-technology company, L-3 Communications, have taken time to explain to me how off-the-shelf technology can be used to protect our airports from intruders and infiltrators who can undermine the integrity of our air transportation system. Scientists and engineers from L-3 Communications have examined the problems faced by airports (and, by extension, seaports and inland harbors) and have developed technology that can go a long way toward meeting the security needs of transportation infrastructure. One issue of particular concern is the proliferation of MANPADS—"Man-Portable Air Defense Systems"—or, in a nutshell, shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles. In a GAO report published in May 2004, we learn that "MANPADS pose a threat to commercial aircraft for several reasons. First, MANPADS are widely available. . . . The U.S. government estimates that a few thousand MANPADS are outside government controls. . . . Second, the characteristics of MANPADS—their lethality, portability, ease of use and concealment, and relatively low cost (from less than \$1,000 to \$100,000 each)—make them attractive to terrorists for acquisition and use against commercial aircraft. Third, MANPADS have been successfully used to attack and bring down aircraft." So far, luckily, none of these weapons have been used successfully within the United States. Still, in the "report card" from the Airline Pilots Association, defense against anti-aircraft missiles was given a grade of "F." This is certainly a cause for concern.

There are two actions we can take to address these matters. First, Congress should direct the Secretary of Transportation to better prioritize grants made under his authority under the Federal Airport Security Capital Fund.

Second, we should pass legislation now under consideration, introduced by Senators JAY ROCKEFELLER (D-West Virginia), JOHN MCCAIN (R-Arizona), and ERNEST HOLLINGS (D-South Carolina), called the "Aviation Security Advancement Act" (S. 2393). If passed, this bill would authorize \$100,000,000 for the Department of Homeland Security "for airport perimeter security technology, fencing, security contracts, vehicle tagging, and other perimeter security related operations, facilities, and equipment." This sum should be doubled. Surely \$200,000,000 is a small price to pay to assure the safety and security of the millions of Americans who travel by air each year.

EMBRACE DRUG REIMPORTATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I ask a very serious question. Why is it, the Cheney-Bush bunch allow us to import foreign made flu vaccines, but won't allow Americans to shop for American made cheaper drugs across our borders?

We all know the importance of getting our flu vaccines every year. The Washington Post reports that last year's flu season was the worst flu season we've had in 4 years, and the flu killed 142 people. As all Americans are aware, there is another flu vaccine crisis in our country.

America's supply of the flu vaccine has practically been cut in half, because the world's second-leading supplier, The Chiron Corp. based in Britain, was shut down because of contamination reported in its batches of the vaccine.

48 million vaccines were due to be shipped before this shutdown. I repeat, 48 million doses of this vaccine were to be imported into this country, to help combat a life-threatening illness.

Mr. Speaker, I speak to address a glaring policy inconsistency on the part of the Cheney-Bush administration.

Why is it, that a long-standing health policy, that is wildly effective and successful, be permitted with respect to one killer, but denied to every other disease?

142 people died from the flu last year, and it causes outrage and action. 250,000 people die from heart attacks before they even get to the hospital each year, and it's accepted as just another statistic.

How many of these 250,000 could have been saved, if only they'd had medicine to lower their cholesterol?

How many of these 250,000 could have been saved, if only they'd been able to afford their medicine?

According to a recent press release from the University of Michigan Health System, nearly half of patients who have a prescription for any of the cholesterol-fighting drugs called statins fail to fill their prescription every time—or stop filling it altogether! The University goes on to say that the higher the prescription cost, the lower the number of prescriptions filled.

Let's ignore, for a moment, that Europe has been importing drugs safely and effectively for over 20 years.

Let us also ignore that countries like Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France also have higher life expectancies and lower child mortality rates than the United States does.

But let us not ignore a new FDA proposal. A proposal that would require customs agents to return all drugs sent from foreign addresses back to their senders.

William Hubbard, a senior associate commissioner at the FDA, told Congress on June 7th, "We need to make a blanket assessment that these drugs are not safe for American consumers and they should be turned back."

Unless, of course, it's the flu vaccine.

And then it's OK if they come from the United Kingdom, as in the case of the Chiron Corp. Or if it comes from the world's largest

supplier of the flu vaccine, the French company, Aventis Pasteur.

Yes, there are criticisms about the safety of imported drugs. One might be able to look to this most recent flu vaccine scare and say that this is a perfect example of why we don't import drugs. The safety of the supply could be compromised.

I would say that this is a perfect example of why we should import from countries like Canada or the United Kingdom. They have safeguards in place, just as we do, that protect the integrity of the prescription drug supply.

On August 12th, the acting FDA commissioner Lester Crawford expressed his concern that al-Qaida may attack the supply of drugs coming into this country.

I will tell you that I am JUST AS CONCERNED about the 28 percent of older adults with diabetes who, as reported in the February 2004 issue of Diabetes Care, are going without food or other essentials to pay for their insulin.

Why, in the richest nation on Earth, with this so-called comprehensive new Medicare program, are people going without food to afford their drugs?

Why is the Administration so opposed to a program that would help so many?

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge not only the duly elected Representatives of the citizens in these United States, but also the President to do what is in the best interests of these citizens.

I urge both Congress and the President to embrace prescription drug re-importation and reject the influence of the pharmaceutical companies.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, all Americans know that gun control continues to be a serious subject of debate, right here in the District of Columbia, in the State of Georgia, which I represent, and across this nation. It's an issue of personal safety and of constitutional rights embedded in the fabric of our Nation.

I agree with those who want to restrict criminal access to guns. However, this must be done without compromising the constitutional rights of our law-abiding citizens.

I strongly support the right of law-abiding adults to purchase and own firearms for the protection of their homes and families, collecting, target shooting, and hunting. That's why I have and will continue to oppose any proposal that threatens this basic Second Amendment right.

I realize the concerns of some Americans who, in the wake of school shootings and other heinous illegal acts, call for stricter gun control measures. I understand those concerns. That's why I fully support measures that call for tougher sentences for the illegal use of firearms, to get offenders off the streets and out of our communities. I support stiff sentences of juveniles who use firearms illegally, and I support increasing the maximum penalty

for adults who illegally provide those juveniles with firearms. That's how we must keep our schools and communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, tougher gun laws should not infringe on the rights of law-abiding citizens, and Congress has both the authority and the responsibility to ensure that they do not. So, the question before us today is not whether Congress can repeal the District of Columbia's handgun and self-defense bans, it is whether Congress should do so. The U.S. Constitution, the constitutions of 44 States, Federal law, the laws of all 50 States, the vast majority of Georgians and of Americans recognize the right for law abiding citizens to use firearms for protection, and for other legal purposes. Only the District of Columbia prohibits a person from having a firearm assembled and loaded at home, for the purpose of self-defense. I believe that that's wrong. We should pass this bill and allow D.C. residents to protect themselves from crime.

UNIVERSAL NATIONAL SERVICE
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a very important subject for the young people of my district and America, the draft. This week, the Congress considered H.R. 163, Universal National Service Act of 2003, which would require every U.S. citizen, and every other person residing in the United States, between the ages of 18 and 26 to perform a two-year period of national service, unless exempted.

Let me make clear, I do not support reinstatement of an active military draft system. Also it is very unlikely there will be a draft in the foreseeable future.

The legal authority for drafting men into the U.S. armed forces expired in 1973. However, the U.S. Selective Service System has been registering 18–25 year-olds on a stand-by basis. These young men could be called for service should an active draft ever be reinstated. Currently, women are not required to register with the U.S. Selective Service.

Young people, as well as their parents, across my district have heard about a draft bill, and these constituents are asking questions about the draft bill and want to find out its status. Congressman RANGEL and U.S. Senator FRITZ HOLLINGS from South Carolina introduced this legislation to reinstate an active draft and extend service requirements to women. I cannot speak for them about their motives behind this legislation, but they certainly do make a fundamental point: if we go to war, all Americans should share in the cost and sacrifice of that war. The authors point out that without a universal draft, this burden falls disproportionately on the shoulders of the poor, the disadvantaged, and minorities, as was the case during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 163 raises important questions about the current composition of U.S. armed forces. For example, Representative RANGEL argues that among 535 Members of Congress, only four have sons or daughters who presently serve in the military.

Yet we have not had a national debate on the draft and we certainly did not have that debate this week. H.R. 163 was not marked up or voted on by any committee here in the House. This bill was added to the suspension calendar of the House reserved for non-controversial items. And yet it is quite controversial.

Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq—combined with other worldwide deployments in Afghanistan, Korea, and over 140 other countries—has put an enormous strain on our active duty and reserve soldiers. We have seen underpaid, ill-equipped, and overextended American troops fighting in Iraq. More than two-thirds of New Jersey's National Guard will be activated this year. There are hard questions that need to be answered about how we can continue this war, at this pace. We do need to review our commitments overseas and assess our ability to meet them. This bill shows that a National debate on these issues is greatly needed. This week, we did not have that debate. The House leaders simply tried to make a political point, but I hope that this has sown the seeds of the discussion. The nation's military leaders are nearly unanimous in saying that the military can meet its needs better without a draft. None of us here in the House today would be eligible under a potential draft. We are too old. And I would like to see this debate with the input of the young people who are affected by it. I feel strongly that we should all go back to our districts and continue this discussion—but with those who it will be affected by it.

I do not believe that an active military draft system is currently necessary or advisable. More important, the generals and admirals do not believe that a draft is necessary or advisable. I have co-sponsored legislation introduced by Representative ELLEN TAUSCHER to meet military manpower needs by temporarily increasing by 8 percent the end-strength numbers of our all-volunteer armed forces during the next five years and increasing enlistees' pay and benefits accordingly (H.R. 3696). This alternative approach would increase the volunteer numbers of active duty-soldiers gradually over the next five years, thus enabling members of the National Guard and Reserve to rotate out or transition voluntarily into active duty slots with better benefits and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from many moms and dads, and I have heard from many students from all across my district who are disturbed by the idea of renewing the draft and I agree with them. We do not need to return to the draft system.

MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS
WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, October 3–9 is Mental Illness Awareness Week. During any one-year period, up to 50 million Americans—more than 22 percent—suffer from a clearly diagnosable mental disorder involving a degree of incapacity that interferes with employment, attendance at school or daily life. Like so many disorders, mental illness does not discriminate and affects every age, ethnic, and socioeconomic group.

During this week, there will be a more visible push in the communities to get the information out about mental illness. There will be booths set up and mental health fairs across our country as a way to reach out to more people. I commend the efforts of organizations and individuals who not only during this week but throughout the year work to help others identify and treat their mental illness.

Unfortunately, their hard work is somewhat stifled when there is not equal health care for mental illness or every person needing psychiatric care does not have access to a psychiatrist of their choice. With one in four adults suffering from a mental illness or substance use disorder in any year, it is likely that every family will feel this impact. Yet, most health plans discriminate by providing less care for mental illness, and by requiring patients and their families to pay more out-of-pocket costs.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to correct this disparity. Our constituents should not be penalized because they have a mental illness compared to a physical illness. We should ensure that the mental health system provide a more individualized and holistic approach to care without shame or inequity in coverage. Mental illness is like most physical illnesses; the patient is in need of treatment, support and rehabilitation.

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
REUNION, YORK, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, on the weekend before Labor Day, some four hundred alumni of Jefferson High School gathered for their first reunion since Jefferson closed more than thirty years ago.

Jefferson got its start in a frame school house built for African-American students next to Wesley United Methodist Church on West Jefferson Street in York, South Carolina. From there, Jefferson graduated to a Rosenwald school and became the African-American public school in a racially segregated system. Although the system was called "separate but equal," Jefferson never had facilities or teaching materials equal to its counterparts, the white schools that I attended. Used books were passed on from white students, dated and worn. The school district built a new high school for white students in 1950, but left black students to make the best of their old one. The students, teachers, and administrators at Jefferson did just that. They made the most of their circumstances. The students who came back for this Reunion did not dwell on what they lacked at Jefferson High School. They saluted teachers who took a personal interest, believed in them, and encouraged them to excel. They recalled their formidable teams in football and basketball and the musical talent they produced. They recognized the values instilled in them for a lifetime.

When the alumni sat down for a banquet the last night of their reunion, the pride they felt at being "Jeffersonians" was easily felt and well-founded. Among the four hundred attending the dinner, there were graduates who had risen to the highest levels of the Civil Service and become department heads in

state government; Ph.D.'s in the sciences and liberal arts; college professors; school teachers, successful entrepreneurs, attorneys; and many more who had distinguished themselves. The banquet speaker, Roberta Wright, symbolized their success. She finished Jefferson and went on to become a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Fisk University and the University of Michigan School of Law. She made a stirring speech, challenging everyone to do more for the common good.

With the onset of integration in the early 1970s, Jefferson High School came to an end. But the three-day reunion made clear that Jefferson lives on in the lives it made better. Hundreds of the alumni attending attested to better, more productive lives because of what they learned at Jefferson under teachers who cared, encouraged, and challenged.

IN RECOGNITION OF ADMIRAL
THOMAS H. MOORER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on February 5 of this year, a legendary American naval hero passed away in Bethesda, Maryland. Admiral Thomas H. Moorer epitomized the finest qualities of dedication and national service. His distinguished naval career spanned 41 years, including service as a naval aviator, as one of the first pilots off the ground during the attack on Pearl Harbor, as a decorated hero of numerous combat missions in the Southwest Pacific and the Battle of Midway, as Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, as commander of NATO's U.S. Atlantic Command and the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, becoming the only officer in the Navy's history to command both our Atlantic and Pacific Fleets, as Chief of Naval Operations, as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as a tireless advocate for American veterans. Admiral Moorer was instrumental in establishing the United States Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue. In numerous appearances before Congressional Committees, Admiral Moorer provided valuable testimony on a variety of national security concerns.

Capping this extraordinary career, Admiral Moorer made his final appearance on Capitol Hill on October 22, 2003, as Chairman of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into the 1967 attack on the USS *Liberty*. It is a privilege for me to introduce the Findings of the Independent Commission of Inquiry Into the Israeli Attack on the USS *Liberty* into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FINDINGS OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE USS "LIBERTY," THE RECALL OF MILITARY RESCUE SUPPORT AIRCRAFT WHILE THE SHIP WAS UNDER ATTACK, AND THE SUBSEQUENT COVER-UP BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

We, the undersigned, having undertaken an independent investigation of Israel's attack on the USS *Liberty*, including eyewitness testimony from surviving crewmembers, a review of naval and other official records, an examination of official statements by the Israeli and American governments, a study of the conclusions of all previous official inquiries, and a consideration of important

new evidence and recent statements from individuals having direct knowledge of the attack or the cover up, hereby find the following:

1. That on June 8, 1967, after eight hours of aerial surveillance, Israel launched a two-hour air and naval attack against the USS *Liberty*, the world's most sophisticated intelligence ship, inflicting 34 dead and 172 wounded American servicemen (a casualty rate of seventy percent, in a crew of 294);

2. That the Israeli air attack lasted approximately 25 minutes, during which time unmarked Israeli aircraft dropped napalm canisters on the *Liberty's* bridge, and fired 30mm cannons and rockets into our ship, causing 821 holes, more than 100 of which were rocket-size; survivors estimate 30 or more sorties were flown over the ship by a minimum of 12 attacking Israeli planes which were jamming all five American emergency radio channels;

3. That the torpedo boat attack involved not only the firing of torpedoes, but the machine-gunning of the *Liberty's* firefighters and stretcher-bearers as they struggled to save their ship and crew; the Israeli torpedo boats later returned to machine-gun at close range three of the *Liberty's* life rafts that had been lowered into the water by survivors to rescue the most seriously wounded;

4. That there is compelling evidence that Israel's attack was a deliberate attempt to destroy an American ship and kill her entire crew; evidence of such intent is supported by statements from Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Undersecretary of State George Ball, former CIA director Richard Helms, former NSA directors Lieutenant General William Odom, USA (Ret.), Admiral Bobby Ray Inman, USN (Ret.), and Marshal Carter; former NSA deputy directors Oliver Kirby and Major General John Morrison, USAF (Ret.); and former Ambassador Dwight Porter, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon in 1967;

5. That in attacking the USS *Liberty*, Israel committed acts of murder against American servicemen and an act of war against the United States;

6. That fearing conflict with Israel, the White House deliberately prevented the U.S. Navy from coming to the defense of the *Liberty* by recalling Sixth Fleet military rescue support while the ship was under attack; evidence of the recall of rescue aircraft is supported by statements of Captain Joe Tully, Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier USS *Saratoga*, and Rear Admiral Lawrence Geis, the Sixth Fleet carrier division commander, at the time of the attack; never before in American naval history has a rescue mission been cancelled when an American ship was under attack;

7. That although the *Liberty* was saved from almost certain destruction through the heroic efforts of the ship's Captain, William L. McGonagle (MOH), and his brave crew, surviving crewmembers were later threatened with "court-martial, imprisonment or worse" if they exposed the truth; and were abandoned by their own government;

8. That due to the influence of Israel's powerful supporters in the United States, the White House deliberately covered up the facts of this attack from the American people;

9. That due to continuing pressure by the pro-Israel lobby in the United States, this attack remains the only serious naval incident that has never been thoroughly investigated by Congress; to this day, no surviving crewmember has been permitted to officially and publicly testify about the attack;

10. That there has been an official cover-up without precedent in American naval history; the existence of such a cover-up is now supported by statements of Rear Admiral

Merlin Staring, USN (Ret.), former Judge Advocate General of the Navy; and Captain Ward Boston, USN, (Ret.), the chief counsel to the Navy's 1967 Court of Inquiry of the *Liberty* attack;

11. That the truth about Israel's attack and subsequent White House cover-up continues to be officially concealed from the American people to the present day and is a national disgrace;

12. That a danger to our national security exists whenever our elected officials are willing to subordinate American interests to those of any foreign nation, and specifically are unwilling to challenge Israel's interests when they conflict with American interests; this policy, evidenced by the failure to defend the USS *Liberty* and the subsequent official cover-up of the Israeli attack, endangers the safety of Americans and the security of the United States.

Whereupon, we, the undersigned, in order to fulfill our duty to the brave crew of the USS *Liberty* and to all Americans who are asked to serve in our Armed Forces, hereby call upon the Department of the Navy, the Congress of the United States and the American people to immediately take the following actions:

First, That a new Court of Inquiry be convened by the Department of the Navy, operating with Congressional oversight, to take public testimony from surviving crewmembers; and to thoroughly investigate the circumstances of the attack on the USS *Liberty*, with full cooperation from the National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency and the military intelligence services, and to determine Israel's possible motive in launching said attack on a U.S. naval vessel;

Second, That every appropriate committee of the Congress of the United States investigate the actions of the White House and Defense Department that prevented the rescue of the USS *Liberty*, thereafter threatened her surviving officers and men if they exposed the truth, and covered up the true circumstances of the attack from the American people; and

Third, That the eighth day of June of every year be proclaimed to be hereafter known as USS *Liberty* Remembrance Day, in order to commemorate the *Liberty's* heroic crew; and to educate the American people of the danger to our national security inherent in any passionate attachment of our elected officials for any foreign nation.

AFFIDAVIT OF CAPTAIN WARD BOSTON, USN, JAG (RET.), SENIOR COUNSEL TO THE U.S. NAVY COURT OF INQUIRY

For more than 30 years, I have remained silent on the topic of the USS *Liberty*. I am a military man and when orders come in from the Secretary of Defense and President of the United States, I follow them.

However, recent attempts to rewrite history compel me to share the truth.

In June of 1967, while serving as a Captain in the Judge Advocates General Department of the Navy, I was assigned as senior legal counsel for the Navy's Court of Inquiry into the brutal attack on the USS *Liberty*, which had occurred on June 8th. The late Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, president of the Court, and I were given only one week to gather evidence for the Navy's official investigation into the attack. Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., then Commander-in-chief, Naval Forces Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR), at his headquarters in London, had charged Admiral Kidd (in a letter dated June 10, 1967) to "inquire into all the pertinent facts and circumstances leading to and connected with the armed attack: damage resulting therefrom; and deaths of and injuries to Naval personnel." Despite the short amount of time we were given, we

gathered a vast amount of evidence, including hours of heartbreaking testimony from the young survivors.

The evidence was clear. Both Admiral Kidd and I believed with certainty that this attack, which killed 34 American sailors and injured 172 others, was a deliberate effort to sink an American ship and murder its entire crew. I am certain that the Israeli pilots that undertook the attack, as well as their superiors who had ordered the attack, were aware that the ship was American.

I saw the flag, which had visibly identified the ship as American, riddled with bullet holes, and heard testimony that made it clear that the Israelis intended there be no survivors. Not only did the Israelis attack the ship with napalm, gunfire, and missiles, Israeli torpedo boats machine-gunned three lifeboats that had been launched in an attempt by the crew to save the most seriously wounded—a war crime.

I am outraged at the efforts of the apologists for Israel in this country to claim that this attack was a case of "mistaken identity." In particular, the recent publication of Jay Cristol's book, *The Liberty Incident*, twists the facts and misrepresents the views of those of us who investigated the attack. It is Cristol's insidious attempt to whitewash the facts that has pushed me to speak out.

I know from personal conversations I had with Admiral Kidd that President Lyndon Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara ordered him to conclude that the attack was a case of "mistaken identity" despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Contrary to the misinformation presented by Cristol and others, it is important for the American people to know that it is clear that Israel is responsible for deliberately attacking an American ship and murdering American sailors, whose bereaved shipmates have lived with this egregious conclusion for many years.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USS "LIBERTY"

1. What happened to the USS *Liberty*? The USS *Liberty* was a virtually unarmed American Navy ship that was attacked by Israeli planes and torpedo boats on June 8, 1967.

2. What were the American casualties? 34 American sailors were killed and 172 injured that day, a casualty rate of 70%. This is the highest casualty rate ever inflicted upon a U.S. naval vessel that remained afloat after an attack.

3. What was Israel's explanation for the attack? Israel claimed the attack was "a case of mistaken identity"; that they didn't know it was an American ship.

4. Why would we question that explanation more than 30 years later? The ship's survivors were afraid to speak out in the early years because of threats of "court martial, prison or worse" if they did not remain silent. However, as time passed, they have stepped forward to say the attack was deliberate.

Recently, high government and military officials have suggested that not only was the attack deliberate, but that the US government covered up the incident. Today, an Independent Commission of Inquiry has found that Israel committed "an act of war" against the United States (see Findings of Independent Commission).

In addition, the Navy's chief attorney to the original 1967 military Court of Inquiry has issued a statement that orders to cover up the incident were issued by President Lyndon Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara [see Statement of Captain Ward Boston, USN, JAG (Ret.)].

5. Did Israel have reason to believe the USS *Liberty* was an Egyptian ship? Israel says its pilots and torpedo boat commanders

confused the USS *Liberty* with the *El Quseir*, an Egyptian ship allegedly firing upon its forces in the Sinai. But there was no Egyptian naval bombardment that day; nor did the *El Quseir* (an unarmed 1920s-era horse carrier out of service in Alexandria) bear any resemblance to the *Liberty*.

6. Isn't it difficult to identify a ship if you're in an airplane? In 1967, the USS *Liberty* was the most sophisticated intelligence ship in the world, with dozens of large antennas, including a large moon-bounce "satellite-dish" mounted on a tall structure near the stern. It may have been one of the most easily identifiable ships of any navy in the world. With a displacement of 10,000 tons, it was four times the size of the antique Egyptian transport it is claimed to have resembled. Freshly painted, the *Liberty* carried large white identification numbers on its bow. Egyptian hull numbers are painted black.

7. Doesn't Israel say that the *Liberty* flew no flag? According to American survivors, a 5-by-8 feet American flag was hoisted early that morning and was flying all day until it was shot away by attacking aircraft. Within several minutes, it was replaced by the giant 7-by-13 feet holiday ensign, which flew for the duration of the attack.

8. Could Israel have thought the ship was in a war zone, acting suspiciously? According to surviving crewmembers, Israeli reconnaissance aircraft closely studied the *Liberty* over an eight-hour period prior to the attack, one flying within two hundred feet of the ship. At all times the *Liberty* was a clearly marked American ship in international waters, proceeding at a speed of only 5 knots.

9. What was the weather like the day of the attack? Weather reports confirm that it was a clear day with unlimited visibility. The Israeli reconnaissance planes could have seen the *Liberty's* crew sunbathing on the upper decks just before the attack. The flag was flying in a 12-knot breeze for most of the afternoon.

10. Doesn't Israel say they ended the attack the minute they saw someone hoist an American flag? The Israeli attack by combined air and naval forces spanned two hours—as long as the attack on Pearl Harbor. The air attack alone lasted approximately 25 minutes: consisting of more than 30 sorties by approximately 12 separate planes using napalm, cannon, and rockets which left 821 holes in the ship. Following the air attack, three Israeli motor torpedo boats torpedoed the ship, causing a 40' x 40' wide hole in her hull, and machine-gunning firefighters and stretcher-bearers attempting to save their ship and crew. More than 3,000 machine-gun bullet holes were later counted on the *Liberty's* hull. After the attack was thought to have ended, three life rafts were lowered into the water to rescue the most seriously wounded. The Israeli torpedo boats returned and machine-gunned these life rafts at close range. This was followed by the approach of two large Israeli Army assault helicopters filled with armed commandos carrying what appeared to be explosive satchels (they departed after hovering over the ship for several minutes, making no attempt to communicate).

11. Did the *Liberty* send out a distress signal when it was under attack? Throughout the air attack, the *Liberty's* radio operators found it difficult to transmit a distress signal because the attacking Israeli aircraft jammed all five of the *Liberty's* American, not Egyptian, emergency radio channels. However, a call for help did reach the U.S. Navy command in the Mediterranean.

12. What was the American response time? Although American carrier-based air support was only 40 minutes away, help did not reach the USS *Liberty* for seventeen hours. Navy

fighters were launched from the aircraft carriers *America* and *Saratoga* while the *Liberty* was under attack. However, they were quickly recalled by the White House. This is the only instance in American naval history where a rescue mission was cancelled when an American ship was under attack.

13. Why would Israel have deliberately attacked an American ship? Israel's motive for launching the attack has never been determined with certainty. This is why an impartial investigation is critical. One hypothesis is that Israel intended to sink the ship (with no survivors) and blame Egypt because this might have brought the United States into the 1967 war. Another hypothesis is that the *Liberty* was gathering intelligence about activities that Israel did not want revealed. Examples might include the massacre of Egyptian prisoners of war that was then occurring in the Sinai, as well as Israel's impending invasion of Syria.

14. Has the incident been investigated in the past? Some people say that there have been "thirteen official investigations" all concluding the attack was a case of mistaken identity. Several were conducted by Israel. Upon examination, however, every one is based upon the conclusions of the original 1967 U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry, which accepted the Israeli version, but which has been exposed and discredited by its chief attorney as a cover-up.

15. Did the surviving crewmembers testify in the other investigations? In not one of these "investigations" were any of the *Liberty's* surviving crewmembers permitted to publicly testify.

16. Why would the White House prevent the rescue of an American ship? This is, perhaps, the most disturbing question arising out of Israel's attack. It is why there needs to be a thorough investigation of the actions taken by the White House and the Secretary of Defense. Why did they order the recall of the planes that had been sent to rescue the *Liberty*? Why did they order that the survivors be silenced and the true facts be withheld from the American people?

17. What kind of investigation are you calling for? We are calling for a new Court of Inquiry by the Department of the Navy, with congressional oversight, to take public testimony from surviving crewmembers and otherwise thoroughly examine the circumstances of the attack.

18. Why are you calling for a naval—and not a congressional—investigation? We believe this would remove the inquiry from the political pressures traditionally exerted by special interest groups upon individual congressional offices. Fundraising and election pressures have prevented an honest investigation from being conducted for the past 36 years.

19. Why is this significant for the American people 36 years later? We have a duty to the crew of the USS *Liberty*, while the survivors are still alive to testify, and while the perpetrators can be brought to justice. Furthermore, any policies that paralyze our elected leadership to the extent they become unable or unwilling to protect Americans and American interests, endangers not only the safety of all Americans but also the national security of the United States.

20. Doesn't America have a special relationship with Israel? No nation or people should be above the law; nor should American interests be subordinated to the interests of any foreign nation. Those Israelis responsible for ordering the attack and the resulting murder of American sailors must be held accountable for their actions.

THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff—The distin-

guished naval career of Admiral Thomas H. Moorer spanned 41 years. Following his Graduation from the Naval Academy in 1933, he became a Navy pilot, a war hero, and a ship's captain. On December 7, 1941, as a naval aviator, Lieutenant Moorer was one of the first pilots off the ground following the attack on Pearl Harbor. A hero of the Battle of Midway, his numerous decorations for valor during WWII include the Silver Star and Purple Heart. In 1957, Moorer was promoted to the rank of Admiral. In 1965, he broke new ground, becoming the only American admiral to have ever commanded both our Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. He later served as Chief of Naval Operations, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The F-14 Tomcat, the Navy's main fighter for many years, was named for Admiral Moorer. Since his retirement in 1974, Admiral Moorer has served on the boards of many American corporations, and is a tireless advocate for American veterans. Working with Admiral Arleigh Burke (CNO), Admiral Moorer was instrumental in establishing the United States Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. He is currently Chairman of the Liberty Alliance, an organization dedicated to obtaining an honest investigation of Israel's attack on the USS *Liberty* and the official cover-up that followed.

General of Marines Raymond G. Davis (MOH), former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps—General Davis, one of America's most decorated heroes, passed away on September 3, 2003. As a combat veteran of three wars and a dedicated member of the Marine Corps for 34 years, General Davis received the Congressional Medal of Honor—the nation's highest award for valor—as well as the Navy Cross, two Distinguished Service Medals, two Silver Stars, two Legion of Merit awards, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. General Davis was renowned for his exploits in the Pacific during WWII, as a battalion and regimental commander during the Korean War, and as Commanding General of the 3rd Marine Division in Viet Nam. Attaining four-star rank in 1971, Davis served as Assistant Commandant of the Corps before retiring in 1972. A strong proponent of veterans' issues, General Davis served as chairman of the advisory board to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., dedicated in 1995. Prior to his death, General Davis served as Vice Chairman of the Liberty Alliance and was a principal member of the Commission of Inquiry into the cover-up of the attack on the USS *Liberty*.

Rear Admiral Merlin Staring, former Judge Advocate General of the Navy—Merlin Staring's distinguished naval career, which spanned nearly 25 years, began as an ensign in December 1941. Among his numerous decorations, Admiral Staring was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal. In June of 1967, Staring served as Staff Legal Officer to Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., the Commander-in-chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR) in London, which encompassed the Mediterranean, and was assigned to review the record of the Navy Court of Inquiry's investigation into the Israeli attack on the USS *Liberty*. Admiral Staring later served as the Navy's legal advisor to Secretaries of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius and John H. Chafee. Attaining the rank of Rear Admiral in 1972, he was appointed Judge Advocate General of the Navy—the Navy's chief attorney—a position he held through 1975. Currently, Admiral Staring is Treasurer and a director of the Liberty Alliance.

Ambassador James Akins, former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia—James Akins served his country for 25 years as a distinguished member of the diplomatic corps. From 1963–1965, he served as an attache at

the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, and later as the U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia during the Nixon administration. An internationally respected expert on the Middle East and energy issues, Ambassador Akins has been an active and outspoken proponent for a just resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He is a respected and highly sought speaker and analyst on the Middle East peace process as well as Arab politics in general. Author *Jeans-Jacques Servan Schreiber* called Ambassador Akins "the westerner who knows the most about the Middle East and has the closest relationship of trust with its leaders." Ambassador Akins is a director of the Liberty Alliance.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MANCEL
PAGE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mancel Page, a dedicated watchmaker from Grand Junction, Colorado. Mancel is retiring at the age of 81 after 40 years in the jewelry business, and I want to take this opportunity to recognize his many years of service to his community before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Mancel came by the jewelry business naturally. His mother's uncle was a jeweler in Germany, and Mancel began taking apart and repairing clocks when he was ten years old. His store, Page Parsons Jewelers, located on the main street of downtown Grand Junction, was founded in 1895 and is one of the oldest businesses in the city. Mancel, grew up repairing clocks and loving sports. He played basketball for his school in Missouri and during the time he served in the military during World War II. Athletics are something outside of work that he still makes time to enjoy.

While in the military Mancel worked at a local jewelry store and then went on to college to study gemology before becoming a certified gemologist. Mancel and his wife Anna moved to Grand Junction in 1950 and bought the jewelry store in 1964. Through the decades Mancel has enjoyed great success. Mancel is also active in Grand Junction community organizations such as the Downtown Development Authority, and the downtown merchant's association that have been instrumental in revitalizing the downtown area to be more customer friendly.

Mr. Speaker, Mancel Page has dedicated 40 years to the jewelry business and his efforts in the Grand Junction community are highly commendable. I am honored to recognize his many years of service before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thank you for all your hard work Mancel, and I wish you, your wife Anna, and your daughter Peggy all the best in your future endeavors.

DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS IN
KAZAKHSTAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Republic of Kazakhstan on its con-

tinued—and steady—progress toward building a democracy. In particular, I note the recent parliamentary elections held in Kazakhstan on September 19. While the elections show that Kazakhstan has work to do in order to more fully meet international standards for democratic elections, they were a significant improvement over past elections.

Earlier this year, I was visited by members of the Kazakhstan Embassy. Among other information I learned that Kazakhstan gained its independence in 1991. It held its first multiparty election in 1994. In 1999, the republic conducted parliamentary elections that were widely criticized by the international community. Since that time, Kazakhstan passed a much-improved law on elections, held twelve televised debates, conducted effective voter education, permitted more than 1,000 election observers to monitor the elections, and registered 12 parties—including an opposition party that had been refused registration in prior elections. These are all positive steps forward for Kazakhstan—steps that were unthinkable in past elections. I thanked them for their visit—and assured them that as Chairman of the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee, I looked forward to working out mutual energy thrusts helpful to both Kazakhstan and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight to my colleagues an essay published by United Press International on September 25, 2004, and written by Gregory Fossedal, entitled "Outside View: Big progress in Kazakhstan." The essay provides a balanced assessment of the recent Kazakh election.

Unlike many of his colleagues, Mr. Fossedal examines the elections within the context of Kazakhstan's young history. He looks at how far Kazakhstan has come since its independence and how it compares with its neighbors. Moreover, the essay makes a compelling case that, considering Kazakhstan's geographic and demographic position, its steady progress is important to U.S. security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to read this essay and I would like to have the text of this essay placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

[From United Press International, Sept. 25, 2004]

OUTSIDE VIEW: BIG PROGRESS IN KAZAKHSTAN
(By Gregory Fossedal)

WASHINGTON, DC, Sept. 24 (UPI).—Kazakhstan held national elections on Sunday, prompting comments from a number of outside observers, and all the local opposition, that the vote was a step backwards for democracy. Was it that—or was it just not as much progress as democracy-lovers around the world, including me, might hope for?

To answer that question, we need to decide what Kazakhstan's admittedly sloppy democracy today is being compared to: the Kazakhstan of several years ago, other countries in the region 10 years ago, or Russia, China, Iraq or Florida?

By most of these standards, the country seems to have made mild but steady improvement. Progress, that is to say, motion towards a goal. Furthermore, considering Kazakhstan's geographic and demographic position, it's a steady improvement that's important to U.S. security and democracy in general.

Measuring a democracy's progress at the low end of development is a tricky matter, but Kazakhstan's recent vote appears to have at least two positive signposts.

First, the vote was held, and with numerous international observers. Some of these, especially as covered in the major press, had complaints about both voting mechanics and the social backdrop against which the vote took place—especially including reports of "intimidation" of some voters on Election Day, and the lack of a paper trail from voting machines used by about 20 percent of the voters.

In fact, to an extent, that's the point. Kazakhstan has now held a competitive election, with a largest number of international observers per capita compared to (say) recent votes in Venezuela, Indonesia or the Philippines. Critics can point out flaws, document the ruling party's heavy-handedness, and urge future improvements.

The most balanced report to emerge, by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, generated Western headlines saying the election "failed the democracy test" (The New York Times) and even was "fraudulent" (The Washington Times). But the report itself noted positive areas of "progress" as against previous Kazakh elections—the relevant unit of comparison.

Professor Frederick Starr of Johns Hopkins, who was in Kazakhstan as an observer, judged the voting to be fundamentally improved over recent Kazakh standards. "Overall . . . the election was "a step forward, not withstanding the imperfections," he said in a statement issued in Astana on Monday. Unfortunately, such views were not widely quoted in the international press.

Second, and more important, if the results hold up, at least one opposition party will be seated in the Kazakh Parliament. This is an important signpost in democratic development—as the evolution of Mexico, the Philippines, Pakistan, Turkey, and other countries shows. Looking back at countries that have completed a successful democratic transition, opposition seating is normally a key inflection point.

This doesn't mean that Kazakhstan will be a full democracy shortly, or even in five or 10 years; the government could always crack down and reverse direction. It is, however, forward motion.

In social terms, Kazakhstan also parallels some of the developments seen in Mexico or the Philippines in the 1980s. Income is surging, the economy has grown at an 8 percent to 12 percent pace each of the last five years. This, in turn, is generating a middle class with greater access to information, and insistence on freedom of expression.

Kazakhstan doesn't enjoy much of a domestic free press, for example. But foreign newspapers and magazines are available in most cities. Mobile telephone usage has more than tripled over five years. In 1997, there were as paltry 15,000 Internet users. This rose to more than 70,000 in 2000, more than 150,000 last year, and probably exceeds 200,000 today.

That's still small for an emerging middle-income country with 16 million people. But of course, every such user has family, friends, and business associates. In emerging democracies, as in Poland in the 1980s, information can spread quickly. As well, Kazakhstan now has a number of independent service providers less amenable to direct government control.

The government has tried to block access to critical news sources at home and abroad. Such efforts, however, are generally doomed to failure unless one goes all the way and imposes direct, government-controlled net access only—something the government has stepped back from doing.

Sergei Duvanov of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting outlined how Kazakhs were able to get around many of the blocks

in an interesting 2001 report. As well, President Nazarbaev, stung by international criticism of his efforts to regulate speech, has rescinded a number of the 1998–2000 decrees.

This is not to say that immutable economic or social forces will bring about a full Kazakh democracy no matter what the authorities do. Countries like China, for example, have much wider Internet access and a larger middle class—but still no elections, and no substantial opposition parties.

In Kazakhstan, however, the Internet and other information sources act in combination with independent parties, muddy elections—but elections nevertheless—and what should be a parliamentary opposition. And the government has moved gradually (tortuously gradually; perhaps) towards more freedom; not less, since the country achieved independence in 1991.

The election itself raised several problems. For example, a Monday item in *The New York Times*, “Intimidation Alleged in Vote in Kazakhstan,” starts with a quote harshly condemning the elections from Dos Kushyn, who is described as “the director of the Network of Independent Monitors,” which placed 2,000 observers around the country.

This caught the attention of at least one seasoned Kazakh observer who sent me a number of pre-election clips referring to approximately 1,000 accredited election observers in the country—total, from all outside groups. How could one fellow, running an organization never mentioned before, have 2,000 observers?

It turns out that Dos Kushyn is an opposition figure and whatever 2,000 “observers” he fielded, few were accredited. This doesn’t mean their opinions should be dismissed. But neither should his complaints be taken at face value, still less as coming from a wholly disinterested group.

Most Western press quoted only Kazakh officials defending the election or putting it in context. In other words, they presented criticism from independent sources, and praise only from the government, whose motives are likely to be questioned by any skeptical reader. What they didn’t do was refer to the numerous independent observers, some cited above, who said that on balance, the election didn’t meet Western standards—but was an improvement.

The government also used voting machines, which are, indeed, a problem—especially given that the computers Kazakhstan deployed, like some of those coming into use in a number of U.S. states, left no “paper trail.” This is not a best practice. One can sympathize, however, with the government’s decision to go with expensive, high-tech systems from the West, thinking this would buy some credibility.

The United States—which in contrast to Kazakhstan is allowing a total of 20 (that’s right, 20) independent observers for its 2004 vote—should be a little reticent about raising this complaint.

Still less should U.S. policy aim at punishing the country with economic aid restraints and sanctions, as some in Congress have proposed.

Unlike other countries in what one observer has called “the scud belt,” Kazakhstan doesn’t need piles of aid (Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq) to hold votes or stay on the democratic path. It hasn’t built or tried to build nuclear weapons (Pakistan, India, China). It seems, knock on wood, to be moving the right way—as opposed to Iran, Saudi Arabia, and others.

This is said not to criticize the other countries mentioned, but to point out that the Kazakhs are building democracy quietly and by tugging their own bootstraps, and without evident imperial ambitions or terrorist-nationalist resentments.

Kazakhstan is an important potential ally to the United States, Russia, and its neighbors in the “war on terror.” It’s also a potential bulwark for the faintly democratic tide among countries with large (about 45 percent) Muslim populations. There is a prospect of a ring of democracies on the borders of China and Iran, the better to raise the heat on those undemocratic states. And large Muslim-population states—Turkey, Indonesia, the Philippines, Mongolia, and potentially Iraq and Afghanistan—serve as examples and proof that Islam need not be anti-democratic.

Thus Kazakhstan is moving in a democratic direction—too slowly, but not going the wrong way. The right response for friends of democracy is to offer encouragement. If matters reverse, it’s time for some mild sticks. Working slowly by contrast, should bring soft applause and some small carrots.

HONORING CHIEF RICHARD
STEINEL, JR.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Richard Steinel, Jr., for more than 30 years of outstanding public service on the police force. He is being honored today, October 8, 2004, at a retirement party in Union City, New Jersey.

Chief Steinel began his career in 1974 as a patrolman in the Union City Police Department where he worked with the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Program. He later spent time working for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey before returning to Union City and advancing through the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and, in 1992, Captain of Police. After years of quality service as a Captain, he was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police, a position he held for the rest of his time on the force.

Earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his reputation for fairness, Chief Steinel was especially successful in matters concerning domestic violence enforcement and education. In addition to his police service, he was a guest lecturer at universities and was a member of the State Attorney General’s Criminal Justice Training Staff. An accomplished law enforcement officer, Chief Steinel was the first person from Union City to attend the FBI National Academy in 40 years.

Continuing a long-standing family tradition of police work, Chief Steinel joined his great-grandfather, grandfather, father (Captain Richard J. Steinel, Sr.), and uncle in their proud service to the community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Richard Steinel, Jr., for his years of dedicated public service. His strong leadership and commitment to improving law enforcement and safety has benefited the lives of the police force and the citizens of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN K. GOYA ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
AFTER 31 YEARS OF
SERVICE WITH THE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Stephen K. Goya for his 31 years of dedicated service with the California Department of Corrections, Parole and Community Services. Mr. Goya is an example of the hard work and a commitment to excellence shown by California’s Corrections Officers. He will be honored by the Department of Corrections on October 29, 2004 in the city of Brea, California.

Stephen K. Goya began his career as a Parole Agent I with the Department of Corrections, Parole and Community Services Division on October 10, 1977. Prior to that, he worked as a Probation Officer for the Orange County Probation Department. He was promoted to Parole Agent II/Supervisor in January 1983. He then further advanced his career with the Department of Corrections as a Parole Agent III Unit Supervisor in October 1985 and in 1987, he was promoted to Parole Administrator I. In December 1992, Mr. Goya was once again promoted to Parole Administrator II Level. In that classification, Mr. Goya functioned as the Operations Manager for the Parole Division in Sacramento as well as the Deputy Regional Administrator in Region IV Headquarters. Mr. Goya’s current classification is that of Regional Parole Administrator over Region IV. Mr. Goya was promoted to Regional Parole Administrator CEA III Level on January 20, 1998. Region IV is comprised of five different counties (Orange, San Diego, Imperial, San Bernardino, Riverside), 51 field units, 21 office locations and over 742 parole staff.

We rely upon our Corrections, Parole and Community Services Officers to keep our community safe and monitor those who are making their way back into society. Stephen K. Goya has worked tirelessly for over three decades to lead these Officers in their mission. His efforts have improved life in Southern California. Stephen K. Goya has earned my many thanks and I wish him great success in all his future endeavors.

SALUTING THE SAN FERNANDO
VALLEY SUN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the San Fernando Valley (SFV) Sun, an important local newspaper in my congressional district.

On October 25, 2004, the Sun will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The Press—precursor to the Sun—was the San Fernando Valley’s first newspaper and is the oldest continually published newspaper in the Valley. Throughout its history, the publishers have been committed to serving the local needs of its readers and advertisers.

Since 1904, the Sun changed names several times and altered its size and publishing schedule, but it has always been located in the City of San Fernando, the birthplace of the Valley. Also, it has always remained dedicated to informed, thoughtful and fair coverage of the issues most relevant to the lives of the residents of the northeast SFV. As the population of the San Fernando Valley grew—and more of its readers were Spanish-speaking, the newspaper began to publish a Spanish language insert, named El Sol.

During the last century, the Sun has been an integral part of the history of the San Fernando Valley. In 1911, it actively advocated for San Fernando city-hood. Irrespective of the various owners, the Sun has continued the high journalism standards and moral philosophy set forth by the original owner, Herbert W. Brooks. Since 2001, the new owners—Severyn and Martha Diaz Aszkenazy—have maintained these exemplary standards. They wisely brought in Diana Martinez (formally with KFWB and LA Media) to direct the editorial content. The staff won the “Best Investigative News” Award from New California Media in 2003 and recognition of its news service to the community from the University of Southern California in 2004.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me today in paying tribute to everyone associated with the San Fernando Sun on this important anniversary. We wish owners, management and staff of the newspaper 100 more years of success.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 23 million Taiwanese on their 93rd National “Double-Tenth” Day, which will take place on October 10, 2004.

On October 10, 1911, the Republican Revolution broke out and brought the end of China's Qing dynasty. Ninety-three years later Taiwan continues to prosper. It is the 15th largest economy in the world and has the 4th largest information hardware and semiconductor industries in the world.

This year Taiwan proudly rebounded from an election-eve shooting incident that resulted in a post-election dispute ongoing for several months. But, as the strong democracy it is, Taiwan resolved the situation in a peaceful manner and domestic stability remains.

Today I congratulate Taiwan and commend the Taiwanese for their commitment and dedication to the universal principles of human freedom and dignity.

HONORING MISTY DEMICHAEL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Misty DeMichael of Newark, Ohio and commemorate her assistance and outstanding

volunteer service through the Salvation Army. Ms. DeMichael was the recipient of the first-ever Salvation Army and Dallas Cowboys National Youth Service Award presented on September 21, 2004 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Additionally, for her benevolent services, Ms. DeMichael received a \$10,000 scholarship for her college education donated by Dallas Cowboys Owner and General Manager, Jerry Jones. The service provided by Ms. DeMichael over the past 6 years that she has been volunteering has been immeasurable.

I would like to share one example of Ms. DeMichael's hard work and dedication. In 2001 Ms. DeMichael created a computer database called “The Clearing House”. The Clearing House helps to keep track of assistance given to needy families in Licking County, Ohio during the holidays so that social service agencies may distribute their aid proportionately. Ms. DeMichael continues to serve the Licking County Salvation Army while attending nearby Otterbein College, and still dedicates extra hours during the holiday season.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Ms. DeMichael for her service through the Salvation Army. Hard work, dedication, and commitment like that exhibited by Ms. DeMichael continues to give me faith that our country's future is in good hands.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PONCE DE LEON DISCOVERY OF FLORIDA QUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish a commission to plan the quincentenary commemoration of the discovery and colonization of Florida.

In 2013, our Nation will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de Leon's landing on the east coast of Florida. As important an event as this is to America's history and heritage, I believe it is appropriate we commemorate this occasion. Such an event will serve to inform, educate, and remind the people of Florida, this Nation, and even the world of the importance and significance of Ponce de Leon's discovery and exploration.

Accordingly, the bill I introduce today establishes a commission composed of twelve members to plan, coordinate, and conduct the commemoration of the historic discovery of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, Florida's proud history begins with an explorer sailing through the Bahamas in 1513. As if touched by the hand of God, three ships commanded by Ponce de Leon were swept westward by winds and currents through the New Providence Channel and into the Florida Current. Historians believe Ponce de Leon landed at what is the present location of the city of St. Augustine.

Ponce de Leon's landing is significant to national and world history because it began what would become the establishment of the oldest permanent European settlement on the North American continent. St. Augustine was founded 42 years before the English colony at

Jamestown, Virginia, and 55 years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts.

As a child, I remember learning of Ponce de Leon's fascinating voyage and Florida explorations. To this day, this remarkable moment in history inspires children across our great Nation. Our young people continue to learn of Ponce de Leon's epic voyages and his quest for the ever-elusive Fountain of Youth.

Spanish heritage is still reflected in local architecture and historic resources and attractions in the center of the old part of the city. For instance, the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, constructed between 1672 and 1695, represents the oldest remaining European fortification in the continental United States. It is prominently located on the Matanzas River directly across the road from the Spanish Quarter of St. Augustine.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the consideration given to this legislation and this important part of the United States history. All Americans should enjoy the celebration of this historical moment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REBECCA FRANK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Rebecca Frank from Grand Junction, Colorado. Rebecca has dedicated her career to representing and informing the people of her county and the State of Colorado in her capacity with the Grand Junction Sentinel and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing her tremendous service and achievements before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Rebecca Frank served as the News Editor for the Grand Junction Sentinel where she has always performed her job with excellence and integrity, keeping the people of Grand Junction well informed of community, state, and world events. In 1985, she decided to expand her interests and left the paper to join the Colorado Division of Wildlife Commission in 1985. Currently she represents the Northwest District Colorado where she served as Chairwoman in 1987 and 1988. In addition to her duties, at the Division of Wildlife Commission, Rebecca has given several hours of her time to Grand Junction's business community. She has served as a member of the Mesa County Economic Development Council, the Grand Junction Planning Commission and both the Grand Junction and Mesa County Riverfront Commissions. She also served on the board of the Grand Junction United Way and currently volunteers with Catholic Charities.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Rebecca Frank for her exceptional service to the people of Grand Junction and Colorado. She has dedicated her life to bettering her community, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize her today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thanks for your service, Rebecca, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SHERMAN INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S READING RECOV-
ERY PROGRAM

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Sherman Independent School District's Reading Recovery program

In 2001, President George W. Bush signed a landmark law, the No Child Left Behind Act, which stresses academic achievement for all students and includes more accountability for student results. The Sherman Independent School District's Reading Recovery program meets and exceeds the standards and guidelines of that law. Reading Recovery is a highly effective, short-term intervention involving one-on-one tutoring for low-achieving first graders. Students receive a half-hour lesson each school day for 12 to 20 weeks with a specially trained Reading Recovery teacher. As soon as students demonstrate that they can read within the average range of their classmates, their lessons are discontinued.

Sherman's Reading Recovery program is a big success. At the Reading Recovery site located at Crutchfield Elementary School, students who completed the program passed the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test by a rate of 92 percent last year. The gains made by these students are truly impressive—they had higher text reading gains than their peers, had low levels of placement in special education classes, and had high levels of advancement to the next grade level.

Reading Recovery is precisely the kind of program our schools need to advance the goals of the No Child Left Behind law. Research issued by the U.S. Department of Education finds that students tutored according to the Reading Recovery model read more proficiently than 75 percent of their untutored peers. This program is a valuable part of a comprehensive literacy plan and supplements good classroom teaching.

On behalf of the students, teachers, and administrators of the Sherman Independent School District's Reading Recovery program, I want to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to commend their successful efforts to leave no child behind.

HONORING LIEUTENANT CHARLES
REINHARDT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Charles Reinhardt for his years of dedicated service and unwavering commitment to the police force and the people of Union City. He is being honored today, October 8, 2004, at a retirement party in Union City, New Jersey.

From an early age, Lieutenant Reinhardt took an interest in military and police work. At the age of 18, he became one of the youngest officers in the history of the Union City Police Department when he joined the force as a po-

lice special. Three years later, he was sworn in as an official police officer. As an officer, he worked in a variety of areas, including traffic, crime prevention, community policing, and patrol. His tireless work and solid leadership skills earned him the rank of Lieutenant, also serving for a short time as the unit's commander and as a supervisor. He became one of the first Hispanic police sergeants in Union City and was the first Puerto Rican Lieutenant on the force.

Known for his attendance of community events, Lieutenant Reinhardt made great efforts to reach out to the citizens of Union City, particularly the Hispanic community. His passion and hard work have been acknowledged by numerous groups, including the American Federation of Police, the American Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Hispanic Law Enforcement Officers Association of Hudson County, the Union City Police Department, and the American Police Hall of Fame.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lieutenant Charles Reinhardt for almost three decades of selfless service to Union City and its residents. The passion and commitment he demonstrated throughout his career and for his community made him an important member of the police force.

TRIBUTE TO WES KEUSDER ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE
BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIA-
TION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wes Keusder, who has been a dedicated, strong and effective voice for the principles and ideals of California's building community during his years as a member and leader of the Building Industry Association of Southern California (BIA/SC). Riverside County and all of southern California has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Wes is one of these individuals. On November 5, 2004, Wes will be honored by BIA at their 38th Annual Awards and Installation Dinner.

Wes Keusder is a third generation home builder in California and has worked for over twenty years to make homeownership a reality for thousands of California's families. Wes followed in the footsteps of his father, Walter Keusder Jr., and grandfather, Walter Keusder, by serving as President of BIA/SC as well as participating in the California Building Industry Association and the National Association of Home Builders. Wes has demonstrated exemplary leadership and service to the building industry by serving as the President of the BIA Riverside County Chapter in 2001 and 2002. Additionally, Wes served as a Director of the Building Industry Legal Defense Fund, whose mission is to defend the rights of home and property owners.

Homeownership is an American dream, and housing is a community asset which strengthens the fabric of neighborhoods. Wes has worked tirelessly to ensure that thousands of

Californians can make that dream a reality. His passion and service for homeownership has improved Riverside and all of Southern California. Wes Keusder has earned my many thanks and I wish him great success in all his future endeavors.

PENSION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2004

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Pension Fairness Act to bring some equity to bear between corporate executives and rank-and-file workers when those executives seek to dump underfunded workers' pension plans onto the Federal Government or cut older workers' pensions through an unfair cash balance plan conversion.

Far too often, we hear of cases where executives demand concessions from their workers when the business struggles and, at the same time, sweeten their own pension and deferred compensation deals. It's past time that executives understand that the pension promises made to their workers are sacred. It's past time that executives understand that a breach of those promises carries consequences. Employees cannot be asked to absorb the full brunt of bankruptcy by having their pension plans terminated and dropped on the Federal Government. Executives should share in that pain.

When companies terminate their underfunded pension plans, the federally established Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) takes over those liabilities. Today, the PBGC suffers from a \$10 billion deficit. Already in bankruptcy, United Airlines, which recently defied the law and stopped making legally-required contributions to its pension plans, would add \$6.4 billion to the PBGC's obligations if the company terminates its plans. United's workers and retirees would lose \$1.9 billion in earned pension benefits. US Airways has asked a bankruptcy court for permission to skip a \$110 million contribution to its pension plans, due last month. Plan terminations at these companies would pose serious threats not just to the retirement security of their employees but to the retirement security of other airlines' employees and to the ongoing solvency of the PBGC. When executives are faced with the choice between terminating or saving company pension plans they also should have a stake in that choice.

In recent years, we have seen companies break their pension promises by converting their traditional pension plans into cash balance plans. Many of these conversions do wonders for a company's books—to the great delight of executives and directors—but end up cutting older workers' pension benefits. Many of these conversions have given workers no choice between the cash balance and traditional pension plans. Just last year, a court found that the cash balance conversion at IBM, which all employees were forced to take, would result in a 47 percent reduction in older workers' pensions. The Government Accountability Office found similar losses of up to 50 percent of older workers' promised pensions.

Under the Pension Fairness Act, if a company terminates an underfunded workers' pension plan or converts a workers' pension plan into a cash balance plan that cuts older workers' benefits or takes away their choice to stay in their original plan, the company's executives and directors may not enhance their own deferred compensation deals for the next 5 years. If any new deals for executives or directors are cut the year prior to an underfunded plan termination or a conversion that hurts older workers, payments to executives or directors under those new deals are also suspended for 5 years. It's very simple: If the business or the pension plan is in such dire straits that a termination or conversion is necessary, then executives and directors should not be showering themselves with new and improved benefits.

This bill is about fairness and common sense. It places the retirement security of workers and executives on more equal footing. And it sends a rightly discouraging message to those executives who would seek to cut and run from their pension promises, leaving the federal government to pick up the tab.

IN HONOR OF DR. JAMES ZOGBY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. James Zogby, husband of Eileen Patricia McMahon, father of five children, and founder and president of the Arab American Institute (AAI). Under his leadership and vision, the Arab American Institute has advocated for the Arab community in a number of areas impacting public policy. Where the Arab American Institute has been instrumental in empowering Arab Americans through education, voter registration, and mobilization, James Zogby has led the way.

Dr. Zogby earned his doctorate from Temple University's Department of Religion after receiving his Bachelor of Arts from Le Moyne College. In 1976, Dr. Zogby was chosen as a Humanities Post-Doctorate Fellow at Princeton University and, on various occasions, has been awarded grants for research and writing by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Defense Education Act, and the Mellon Foundation. Dr. Zogby was a co-founder and chairman of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign in the late 1970's, and he later co-founded and served as the Executive Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. In 1982, he co-founded Save Lebanon, Inc., a non-profit, relief organization funding Lebanese social welfare projects and health care for Palestinian and Lebanese victims of war.

Following the 1993 signing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord in Washington, Dr. Zogby led Builders for Peace, a private sector committee promoting U.S. business investment in the West Bank and Gaza. Along with former U.S. Congressman Mel Levine, his colleague and co-president of Builders for Peace, Dr. Zogby led a U.S. delegation to the 1994 signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement in Cairo. After 1994, Dr. Zogby continued to work with U.S. agencies including AID, OPIC, USTDA, and Departments of State and Com-

merce to promote and support Palestinian economic development.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. James Zogby for numerous accomplishments and advocacy efforts for peace.

CELEBRATING THE GROUND-
BREAKING OF THE GREAT
LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the groundbreaking of the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. The Great Lakes National Cemetery will serve as Michigan's second national cemetery and serve the needs of the nearly 460,000 veterans living within 75 miles of Oakland County, Michigan.

In 1987, the Detroit region was one of ten areas identified by the Veterans Administration as having a large veteran population not served by either a national or state veterans cemetery within a reasonable distance. The new 544 acre Great Lakes National Cemetery will meet the needs of Michigan's finest men and women for the next fifty years.

Mr. Speaker, every American that wears the uniform deserves a final resting place that honors and remembers their service to America. However, the families of these veterans should not be required to travel great distances to pay their respect to their loved ones. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service the Great Lakes National Cemetery will bring to the Veterans and their families in Southeast Michigan.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICH
ENGLEHART

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Rich Englehart and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as Delta City Manager. He will always be remembered as a dedicated public servant and leader of his community. As Rich celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Delta and the State of Colorado.

For nearly twenty years Rich has played an important role in municipal government. As City Manager, Rich is responsible for implementing the policy and procedure that the City Council makes. He also advises the City Council on all matters relating to the planning, development and operating status of the city departments. His good nature and guidance have done much to help grow the city, and foster good working relationships between civic, business, and municipal leaders. An avid outdoorsman, Rich participates in a variety of sports, including playing baseball for the Mesa State Mavericks.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Rich Englehart has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts

to serving his county and the people of Colorado as City Manager for Delta. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service Rich, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING OLYMPIAD PAUL
FOERSTER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize Paul Foerster, resident of Rockwall, Texas and recipient of a gold medal in the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad in Athens, Greece.

On August 21, 2004, Paul Foerster, and his teammate, Kevin Burnham, won the men's team gold medal for the United States in the 2004 Olympic Regatta for sailing in the 470 Class.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 4th District of Texas, I would like to take this opportunity to commend and congratulate Paul for his outstanding performance and representation of the United States in the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad.

HONORING INSPECTOR CLAUDIO
GONZÁLEZ

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Inspector Claudio González for his remarkable work with the Union City police force throughout his 27-year career. He is being honored today, October 8, 2004, at a retirement party in Union City, New Jersey.

After emigrating from Cuba in 1962 and attending school in Jersey City, Inspector González began his career as a patrolman for the Union City Police Department. Since that time, he has held an extensive array of positions within the police force, including working as a member of the Office of Professional Standards and becoming the first Hispanic Lieutenant of Police, Captain of Police, Commander of the Investigations Division, and Inspector of Police, which made him the highest-ranking Hispanic officer in the State of New Jersey. Inspector González was known for being a fair, savvy, street-smart officer who accelerated in all of his assigned divisions, relying on his impressive martial arts training as well as quick thinking to handle difficult situations.

When he was not working to secure the safety of Union City, Inspector González developed and taught anti-drug programs at local schools. He received a proclamation from the New Jersey State Legislature for his efforts, which preceded the establishment of D.A.R.E. programs. Additionally, he has taught classes to narcotic agents and members of the Detectives' Bureau.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Inspector Claudio González for his

leadership and extensive work with the Union City Police Department. His courage, contributions to the force, and strong commitment are an inspiration to the community.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ATOMICS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor General Atomics, an organization that has been a catalyst for improving science and technology education for thousands of students year after year. General Atomics, located in San Diego, California, began in 1955 for the purpose of harnessing the power of nuclear technologies to benefit mankind. General Atomics' basic research into fission and fusion has matured into many technologies, making them one of the world's leading resources for high-technology systems development ranging from the nuclear fuel cycle to remotely operated surveillance aircraft, airborne sensors, and advanced electric, electronic, wireless, and laser technologies.

While General Atomics has been pushing the boundaries of technology for almost 50 years, they have also heavily supported educational programs in their own community and beyond. As part of their commitment to education, General Atomics provided technical and administrative guidance to the newly formed Science and Technology Education Partnership (STEP), which was created in my congressional district five years ago to inspire students to pursue an education in science and technology fields. Beyond their five years of participation in STEP, General Atomics has played an active role in bringing science and technology directly to Riverside County students and those from surrounding areas through their participation in each of the previous annual STEP Conferences that have been held in Riverside, California. They support the STEP Teacher Program by presenting tutorial workshops each year for elementary and middle school math and science teachers. In addition, they have become an integral and featured part of the STEP Student Program, which is attended by over 4,000 students plus more than 400 teachers and parents each year. Their exhibit booth in the "Discovery Zone" provides students with a hands-on introduction to plasma, electricity, thermal energy, and more. Technical personnel from General Atomics are on hand to explain to the students how the technologies work and how they are used in government and commercial applications. In the "Oh! Zone," students participate in an interactive Science Show with Rick Lee and Alex Nagy, two General Atomics scientists. The Science Show involves live demonstrations, often using student volunteers, of different technologies and scientific principles in order to show students that science can be interesting, useful, and fun.

General Atomics is a valued member of the technical community and a true partner in education. Their generous efforts have helped make science and technology interesting and accessible to thousands of students within the Inland Empire, throughout Southern California, and beyond.

ECONOMISTS ENDORSE INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$7.00

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, increasing the minimum wage is a vital issue for working families across the country. The minimum wage has not been increased in 7 years. The value of the last minimum wage increase has been fully eroded. Today, the minimum wage is worth less than it has been in 46 out of the previous 48 years. As a percentage of the hourly wage of non-supervisory employees, the minimum wage is at its lowest level in 55 years. This decline is causing serious hardships for low-income families.

To address this problem, I introduced H.R. 4256, the "Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2004," which increases the minimum in three steps from its current level of \$5.15 to \$7.00. Ninety-four of my colleagues have joined me in sponsoring this legislation. On Wednesday, more than 562 prominent economists—including 4 Nobel Prize winners in economics and 7 past presidents of the American Economic Association—are joining us in endorsing an increase in the Federal minimum wage to \$7.00.

In their endorsement, these economists say, "We believe that a modest increase in the minimum wage would improve the well-being of low-wage workers and would not have the adverse effects that critics have claimed."

They go on to state:

As economists who are concerned about the problems facing low-wage workers, we believe the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2004's proposed phased-in increase in the federal minimum wage to \$7.00 falls well within the range of options where the benefits to the labor market, workers, and the overall economy would be positive.

Below is a copy of the economists' statement. A complete list of the cosigners can be found on the Economic Policy Institute's WEB site at: <http://www.epinet.org/content.cfm/minwagestm2004>.

IT'S TIME FOR A RAISE—HUNDREDS OF ECONOMISTS SUPPORT A MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

The minimum wage has been an important part of our nation's economy for 65 years. It is based on the principle of valuing work by establishing an hourly wage floor beneath which employers cannot pay their workers. In so doing, the minimum wage helps to equalize the imbalance in bargaining power that low-wage workers face in the labor market. The minimum wage is also an important tool in fighting poverty.

The value of the 1997 increase in the federal minimum wage has been fully eroded. The real value of today's federal minimum wage is less than it has been in 46 out of the last 48 years. Moreover, the ratio of the minimum wage to the average hourly wage of non-supervisory workers is 33%, its lowest level in 55 years. This decline is causing hardship for low-wage workers and their families.

We believe that a modest increase in the minimum wage would improve the well-being of low-wage workers and would not have the adverse effects that critics have claimed. In particular, we share the view the Council of Economic Advisers expressed in the 1999 Economic Report of the President that "the weight of the evidence suggests

that modest increases in the minimum wage have had very little or no effect on employment." While controversy about the precise employment effects of the minimum wage continues, research has shown that most of the beneficiaries are adults, most are female, and the vast majority are members of low-income working families.

As economists who are concerned about the problems facing low-wage workers, we believe the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2004's proposed phased-in increase in the federal minimum wage to \$7.00 falls well within the range of options where the benefits to the labor market, workers, and the overall economy would be positive.

Twelve states and the District of Columbia have set their minimum wages above the federal level. Additional states, including Florida, Nevada, and New York, are considering similar measures. As with a federal increase, modest increases in state minimum wages in the range of \$1.00 to \$2.00 can significantly improve the lives of low-income workers and their families, without the adverse effects that critics have claimed.

IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month—a celebration of Americans of Hispanic heritage and their significant, collective and individual contributions to our community and to our nation.

Hosting one of the events this year is the Cleveland Public Library. The Cleveland Public Library and regional branches continue their commitment to promoting our diverse community, richly infused with Hispanic culture and language. As part of the Library's 2004 Strategic Plan, new and permanent resources of Spanish Language collections are now underway, along with the implementation of a Spanish language Web site.

Hispanic Heritage Month is reflective of the 500-year history of Hispanic culture and contributions to America. Hispanic Americans have contributed immeasurably to all areas of our culture—from medicine, law, and business, to education, music and the fine arts. Hispanic Americans in our community and in communities across the country are life-saving doctors and nurses, veterans, inspiring professors, dedicated teachers, committed elected officials, fair-minded judges, and hardworking factory employees. Americans of Hispanic heritage bring energy, innovation, and a real sense of social justice to America, while retaining the cultural traditions of their homeland for all citizens to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, and join me in expressing my gratitude for the outstanding contributions made by Hispanic Americans. Their journey to America, fraught with significant obstacles and strife, paved the way for a better life for their children and future generations, and signifies what it means to be an American. Within our diversity we find strength. Within our traditions we find unity. And because of their journey, and the journey of people from all points of the world, we are stronger as a community, more unified as a Nation, and better as people.

RECOGNIZING TRW AUTOMOTIVE
IN FOWLerville, MI, FOR
EARNING INDUSTRY WEEK'S TEN
BEST PLANTS AWARD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work ethic of some of Michigan's finest workers at the TRW Automotive plant in Fowlerville, Michigan. On September 15, 2004, TRW Automotive announced that its Kelsey-Hayes Company automotive braking facility in Fowlerville, Michigan, earned a place on Industry Week's prestigious list of "10 Best Plants" in North America for 2004.

Industry Week awards its 10 Best Plants award to facilities that have made credible changes in the way they run their operations, aligning production processes with customer needs and harnessing people's desire to make things better. The Fowlerville TRW is well deserving of this distinction, the plant boasts a 100% on-time delivery performance to 15 assembly locations, less than five days' on-hand inventory levels, and a defect rate of just three parts per million, down from 64 ppm in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the workers at TRW Automotive for their strong commitment to quality manufacturing. American automotive workers are the best trained, most highly skilled workers in the world. Industry Week's profile of these fine manufacturers is a testament to their aptitude and steadfast commitment to quality.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY
HARMON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gary Harmon from Grand Junction, Colorado. Gary is a journalist with the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, and has served the paper, city and state with distinction. I know Gary well, and he is a man of the utmost integrity. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his dedication and leadership before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Gary attended Casper College and California State University in Long Beach where he studied journalism. He went on to work at three different newspapers before moving to Grand Junction in 1987 to join the staff at the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. Gary is a hard-working journalist who won nationally prestigious John Hancock Award for Business and Financial Reporting in 1989 for an eight part series on workers' compensation. He has also won several news writing and column-writing awards from several Colorado and California press associations and the Colorado Associated Press Editors and Reporters. Gary is the father of two sons, whom he is actively involved in teaching to play basketball.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Gary Harmon for his exceptional service to the people of Grand Junction and Colorado. For

many years, his dedication to his community and journalistic integrity has made the Grand Junction Sentinel a thriving and influential news source. It is with great pleasure that I recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thanks for your service, Gary, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT CHEN
OF TAIWAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Taiwan's National Day on October 10, 2004, I wish to salute President Chen Shui-bian and the Taiwanese people for their many economic and political accomplishments.

Even though Taiwan is a small island nation with few natural resources, it has prospered. With one of the world's largest foreign exchange reserves, Taiwan's 23 million people enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. President Chen believes that every citizen of Taiwan ought to enjoy the right to work, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to an education, the right to medical care, the right to participate in elections, and the right to social security in the event of unemployment, illness and disability.

In his May 20 inaugural address to his people, President Chen expressed his hope that Taiwan-China ties could be strengthened and urged cooperation in building a dynamic "peace and stability framework" for cross-strait interaction. I hope that talks will resume toward that end.

Even though Taiwan and the United States do not have formal diplomatic ties, our two peoples are very close. In terms of trading relations with us, Taiwan is our eighth largest trading partner, thus providing many jobs for our manufacturers. In addition, more than 30,000 Taiwan students study at U.S. colleges and universities. The United States is the number one destination for most of Taiwan travelers. The U.S. and Taiwan share many values in common, such as attachment to freedom, democracy, and human rights.

As Taiwan celebrates National Day, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Taiwan's many accomplishments and offering our support to President Chen as he provides leadership, vision, and direction for Taiwan.

CONGRATULATING MAGEE RIETER
ON WINNING GENERAL MOTORS
AWARD FOR 12TH CONSECUTIVE
YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Magee Rieter Automotive Systems of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania for winning the "Supplier of the Year" award for quality and service for the 12th consecutive year from General Motors Corporation. I ask that my col-

leagues pay tribute to Magee Rieter, its President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Katerman and to all the employees for winning this international recognition.

Not only is this the 12th straight award for Magee Rieter and its employees, they now have the distinction of being the only company in all of North America to earn the honor for so many consecutive years. Each year, fewer than 100 companies out of 30,000 win this distinction. Additionally, only one other company in the world can match this incredible record of quality.

As Mr. Katerman puts it, Magee Rieter manufactures the highest quality fabricated floor carpet and acoustical systems. General Motors is their largest customer.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to represent a company that has been internationally recognized for its commitment to quality, service, technology and value. It is equally rewarding to represent employees who are acclaimed for their hard work and ingenuity.

HONORING PATRICA G. CLOTHIER'S
DEDICATION TO THE FEDERAL
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Patricia Clothier for more than twenty three years of dedicated service to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Patricia Clothier was sworn into the FBI on April 6, 1981. Since then, she has worked from the Phoenix, Charleston, South Carolina, and Los Angeles Divisions throughout her career with the Bureau in addition to traveling to several countries to conduct field work. Beginning as an agent working against organized crime, Clothier worked on anti-narcotic and anti-corruption cases, including specific cases against the Mexican Mafia and Hell's Angels. Becoming the first female bomb technician only seven years after she became an agent, Clothier was deployed to many sites to work on high-profile cases, including the terrorist bombings at the U.S. Embassies in Tanzania and Kenya and the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing.

Clothier traveled to Montana to collect information from the cabin for the case against Ted Kaczynski, known as the Unabomber. Ms. Clothier retired earlier this fall as a supervisor in charge of the Counter Terrorism Squad and the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Her fellow agents looked to her as a supervisor who brought an ultimate sense of loyalty to the FBI in addition to someone who always stood strong for her beliefs while also being there to coach newer agents. Clothier remained a field agent even as a veteran to the Bureau, which only bolstered her credibility among the law enforcement community and colleagues.

I ask all members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Patricia Clothier for her exemplary professional and public service career, and for her immense dedication to the community and the nation.

HONORING BELVA DAVIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legendary career and historic achievements of distinguished journalist Belva Davis. On October 12, 2004, Belva will be honored by the International Women's Media Foundation in Washington, D.C., where she will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Foundation's 2004 Courage in Journalism Awards.

Belva began her career in journalism as a freelance writer for Jet Magazine in the 1950s. She soon began working as a reporter for various African-American owned newspapers such as the Bay Area Independent and the San Francisco Sun-Reporter, where she worked as the women's editor. After moving on to broadcasting jobs at Bay Area radio stations such as KSAN and KDIA, her major career breakthrough took place in 1966, when she was hired as a news anchor for KPIX in San Francisco. This was an historic achievement not only because she was the first female African-American television reporter on the West Coast, but also because in that capacity, she hosted and helped to create All Together Now, one of the country's first primetime public affairs programs to focus on ethnic communities. She later moved on to work in public television for KQED, where she stayed from 1977 until 1981, during which time she hosted A Closer Look and Evening Edition. Belva then took a job with KRON, where she worked as an anchor and urban affairs specialist until becoming a KRON special projects reporter in 1999.

Throughout the three decades Belva has spent covering politics and community affairs in the Bay Area, she has received numerous awards for her outstanding contributions to the field of journalism. In addition to winning six regional Emmy Awards, she has received two honorary doctoral degrees, as well as the Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' highest lifetime achievement award, the Governor's Award, in 1996. Belva has also received lifetime achievement awards from the National Association of Black Journalists and the Peralta Community College District, as well as the Golden Gadget Award from the Media Alliance. In addition, her documentary, "Yankee Come Back," won a prestigious National Television Award, and she is currently one of only 500 journalists to be profiled in the national NEWSEUM. Furthermore, Belva is widely recognized not only as a labor activist and supporter of African-American culture and history, but has also played a pivotal role as a journalist in communicating information regarding Cuba's culture, politics, and relationship with the United States to the American public.

On this very special occasion, I would like to commend Belva's exceptional achievements not only in the field of journalism, but also for her tireless work as an advocate for social justice and public awareness regarding issues that, before her time, had long been ignored by most media outlets. Throughout her career, Belva has repeatedly demonstrated her unwavering commitment to the people of the Bay Area and the issues that are most important to

them. On behalf of the Ninth Congressional District, I salute and congratulate her not only for her courage as a journalist, but also for the invaluable contribution she has made to the Bay Area, the State of California, our entire country, and the world.

HONORING JENNIE CHIN HANSEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to salute Jennie Chin Hansen for her vision, leadership, and extraordinary service to San Francisco's seniors as she prepares to step down as Executive Director of On Lok Senior Health Services. She has had a magnificent career and will continue to make invaluable contributions to our City and our nation.

Jennie joined On Lok Senior Health Services as a research assistant in 1980. At that time, On Lok was a modest initiative in San Francisco's Chinatown that offered a day health program to 100 homebound seniors. Under her leadership, On Lok was transformed into a national model for an alternative to nursing homes for the growing population of frail and elderly Americans. On Lok has demonstrated how vital it is for the elderly to continue living independently in their homes, near their friends and families, and in their communities for as long as possible.

Jennie transformed On Lok into a non-profit family of organizations. On Lok now provides a spectrum of services including comprehensive medical care, prescription drug assistance, bilingual case management, home-cooked meals, and opportunities to socialize. On Lok provides transportation to seven neighborhood centers in San Francisco. In its 25 years, 20,000 seniors have benefited from their programs. Three million meals have been prepared and served. A quarter million classes on subjects including aerobics, dance, painting, and citizenship as well as group outings have met the physical and social needs of the elderly.

Jennie Chin Hansen led the effort to develop a national initiative called PACE, Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, for which On Lok served as the prototype. In 1997, President Bill Clinton signed legislation making Medicare and Medicaid money available for PACE Programs. They are now operating in 30 states nationwide.

A visionary and a fierce advocate, Jennie has greatly influenced how our nation has come to regard care for the elderly. She has shown us the richness of caring for our seniors.

We wish her well as she continues her work educating nurses at San Francisco State University, Canada College, and the UCSF Center for the Health Professions. The nursing field with its acute shortages is blessed to now have her focus, her talent, and her wisdom. Her magic will accompany her wherever she goes.

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISPANIC DIVISION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, October 12, 2004, marks the 65th anniversary of the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress. Since 1939, the Hispanic Division has been systematically collecting and acquiring Luso-Hispanic materials. Today, with more than 11 million items, it has one of the most extensive collections in the world on the history and culture of Latin America, Iberia, and the Caribbean.

Specialists in the Hispanic Reading Room help patrons from all over the United States, and indeed the world, find books and other materials from the Library's collections. The website (www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/) for the Hispanic Reading Room is tri-lingual, in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. This website is a wonderful resource for young students seeking to learn more about Hispanic culture, providing everything from manuscripts to films.

The Hispanic Division also compiles a number of widely used books and reference tools. The pioneering work, *Hispanic Americans in Congress, 1822-1995*, chronicles the distinguished personal histories of Hispanic members of Congress through the years. I am proud to have contributed to the book's compilation and publishing as the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus during the 103rd Congress.

The Hispanic Division has also taken a huge step towards cataloguing academic literature dealing with Latin American issues through the annual, annotated bibliography entitled the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, published by the University of Texas Press. All volumes of this publication are available online at Hispanic Reading Room website, and they receive more than 100,000 hits per month. In addition, the Division has been recording our great works of Hispanic literature for the Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape. More than 670 Latin American and Hispanic authors have been recorded so far, including Luis Rafael Sánchez, Rosario Ferré, René Marqués, Ana Castillo, and Rudolfo Anaya.

Numerous other projects also chronicle the history of Hispanics in America. A project initiated by Dr. James Billington, the Librarian of Congress, illustrates the presence of Spain in North America from the 1500s to 1821. This project, "The United States, Spain and the American Frontier: Historias Paralelas" is designed specifically for school children, college age students and scholars to help them better navigate the Hispanic Division's rare books, manuscripts and maps.

Mr. Speaker, the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress is a wonderful resource that answers Hispanic-Americans' questions about their personal histories and helps them find information about current issues facing Hispanic-Americans today. For students and academics, the Hispanic Division provides valuable insight into the creativity and values of Hispanics in Latin America, Iberia, and the Caribbean. The Hispanic Division serves as a bridge from the past to the present, helping

Hispanic-Americans to understand where they came from, and where they can expect to go in the years to come.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the good work that the Hispanic Division has done over the past 65 years, and in wishing them continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNITION OF GEORGE A.
HUSSEY, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an exemplary individual who has made a tremendous impact on his community and continues to work tirelessly towards various worthy causes. George A. Hussey, Jr., a native of Long Branch, New Jersey, began his career at Monmouth Medical Center and was eventually hired by the City of Long Branch. While employed at the Department of Public Works, George worked as the Anti-Litter Officer, and grant coordinator for the Clean Communities Program. His efforts and commitment earned him special recognition by the Department of Environmental Protection for having the best program in the state of New Jersey. Shortly after this distinction, Mr. Hussey's responsibilities were expanded to include Municipal Recycling Coordinator.

In addition to his work towards cleaner communities, Mr. Hussey routinely serves as a volunteer, lending his time putting up holiday lighting and coordinating beach clean-ups. For several years now, Mr. Hussey has been working in the Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement Department for the City of Long Branch, and at the age of 39, he became a volunteer firefighter, receiving the Raul Award for being Rookie of the Year. In 2003, he was the proud recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award from the VFW Post 2140 in Long Branch.

Joining the Long Branch Elks Lodge, No. 742, at the suggestion of co-worker and friend Jack Filter, who happened to be the Past Exalted Ruler for the chapter, Mr. Hussey carried on a family tradition, by becoming a 3rd generation Elk—following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. As an officer in the Elks, Inner Guard, Mr. Hussey became active in the Handicapped Children's Committee—just as his father had been. In this capacity, he successfully raised money for Camp Moore, a camp for handicapped children.

Over the years, Mr. Hussey has selflessly volunteered his time and talent to the community and the city of Long Branch. I congratulate him on assuming the highest office in the lodge, Exalted Ruler for the fraternal year 2003–2004. I have full confidence that he will excel in this capacity, and contribute significantly to all the wonderful efforts of the Lodge.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. JIM
RABY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Jim D. Raby who is celebrating his 70th birthday. Jim is a man who embodies the American principles of hard work, dedication to one's family, and service to one's country and I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation to recognize this wonderful man and his many accomplishments.

Jim was born on August 10, 1934 in the town of Jeff, Alabama. He grew up as a sharecropper in north Alabama, growing primarily cotton. He graduated from Monrovia High School in 1952 and briefly attended Andrew Jackson Business School in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1954, Jim joined the U.S. Navy and served his country honorably as a Seabee and as a Communications Technician.

Following his discharge from the service, Jim began work in Huntsville, Alabama for the Army Ballistics Missile Agency (ABMA) as an electronic technician. There he had the distinction of working with the former German Rocket Team, including Dr. Werner Von Braun, during the infancy of the U.S. Space Program. In 1960, ABMA was transformed into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Jim joined the new agency as a Charter Member. He worked on almost every phase of the Pegasus, Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and Skylab programs.

Jim's contributions included development of specifications and standards for electronic manufacturing, specifically soldering and crimp terminations as well as cable and harnesses. He installed many of these cables and harnesses in the original Mercury capsule. Jim then established schools for each of these subjects and performed lead activities in the fabrication of electronics for the Saturn and Apollo programs. Jim moved to various contractor facilities (as a NASA employee) throughout the United States to provide NASA guidance on manufacturing methods and techniques as well as providing Quality Assurance functions. He had the last word on flight readiness of electronic and electrical installations and in troubleshooting these systems when problems arose. The Moon landing during the summer of 1969 was the climax of this great era in Jim's life.

Jim left NASA in 1975 to work for the U.S. Navy at China Lake, California. While at China Lake, Jim developed the Soldering Standardization Program which standardized requirements DoD-wide and the Solder Training and Certification Program. He also started the Electronic Manufacturing and Production Facility (EMPF).

In 1984, Jim left the Navy to start Soldering Technology International, a family business in which he is still active. Soldering Technology International (STI) helps customers build more reliable electronic hardware. Under Jim's guidance, the company has twice been selected to INC Magazine's INC 500 list of fastest growing private companies. STI was also selected as Huntsville/Madison County's Small Business of the Year in the business services category for the year 2000. STI currently employs 45 peo-

ple and has customers in all 50 states as well as 40 countries around the world.

Of all Jim's achievements, he is most proud of his family—wife Ellen, son David, daughter-in-law Sheila, and beautiful granddaughter Ashley. He is also proud of the many friends and admirers that he has come to know over the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Jim D. Raby for his many accomplishments and his enduring impact on his country, community and family. Jim has been and continues to be an inspiring role model for all of us, and I wish him the best of wishes on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB
SILBERNAGEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bob Silbernagel from Grand Junction, Colorado. Bob is the Editorial Page Editor for the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, and has served the paper, city and state with distinction. I know Bob well, and he is a man of the utmost integrity. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his dedication and commitment to his community and the field of journalism before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Bob studied journalism at the University of Wisconsin, and went on to work for a number of weekly newspapers before moving on to the Glenwood Post Independent. In 1980, he joined the staff at the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. Bob has been closely involved in writing and publication of the Colorado Riverfront Commission's People, Parks and Trails: A guide and history for the Colorado Riverfront Trail in Mesa County.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Bob Silbernagel for his exceptional service to the people of Grand Junction and Colorado. For many years, his dedication to his community and journalistic integrity has made the Grand Junction Sentinel a thriving and influential news source. It is with great pleasure that I recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thanks for your service, Bob, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING RALPH MAYRELL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize Ralph Mayrell for his achievement at the 2003 Veterans Day Program in Wills Point, TX. Ralph's speech, Diversity in America, won the essay contest sponsored by local veterans at Wills Point High School.

Ralph Mayrell, a senior at Wills Point High School, is an active member of both his school and his community. He is a frequent participant in academic events, such as the University Interscholastic League, in which he often serves as both coach and competitor in

numerous events. He also competes in the National Forensics League and the North Texas Debate Association. Additionally, Ralph volunteers his time to the National Honor Society, an organization that stresses academic achievement and local community involvement, and extracurricular programs such as Science Geek Week, an academic summer camp for local youth.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend and congratulate Ralph for his achievement at the 2003 Veterans Day Program and for his continued academic and community involvement.

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY'S,
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
CHURCH IN MOCANAQUA ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to St. Mary's, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Mocanaqua, Pennsylvania.

The church building itself is a landmark in Northeastern Pennsylvania with a gleaming gold and white steeple, partially encircled by 85-year-old pine trees. Travelers see the gold cross and towering pine trees as they cross the Susquehanna River on Route 11. But more importantly, St. Mary's Parish has a rich history.

St. Mary's, also known as Our Lady of Perpetual Help, has roots that date back to the late 19th Century when 10 Polish and three Slovak mining families petitioned the local coal company for a place to worship.

The coal company gave them an old, abandoned schoolhouse, which became the public place of worship in Mocanaqua.

I would like to recognize the contributions of the 10 founders of St. Mary's Parish: John Bizup, Joseph Bolinski, Joseph Fraj, Charles Kadtko, Frank Kadtko, John Kadtko, John Kollar, John Kowalski, John Strzelczak and Joseph Wywiorski.

I would also like to call the attention of my colleagues to a parishioner named Mrs. Mary Kowalski Stapinski, the only immediate descendant of one of the Parish's founders. Mrs. Stapinski is 97 years old now and the oldest living member of the Parish.

Father J. Signorski celebrated the first Mass in the improvised chapel in 1885. Father Signorski traveled from Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Scranton to perform the Mass.

In 1887, Bishop William O'Hara ordered the parish to become a mission church of St. Stanislaus Parish in Nanticoke. Father Beneventus Gramlewicz ministered to the spiritual needs of the people of Mocanaqua, traveling from St. Stanislaus in Nanticoke each month.

In 1890, the Church was made a mission of St. Adalbert's in Glen Lyon, and its pastor, Monsignor Andrew Zychowicz, traveled to Mocanaqua once each month to celebrate Mass at St. Mary's. As the years went on, Monsignor Zychowicz and his parishioners saw the need for a larger place of worship be-

cause the number of families there had grown so rapidly.

Parishioners began a fundraising drive for a new church in 1897. They raised \$400, and it is believed that this was the start of the annual Church picnic, which has since become a popular and beloved tradition.

The parish sought to purchase land for their fundraiser. The coal company sold parishioners a piece of land for \$1 because it wanted to keep the cheap labor pool content. The men of the parish leveled the land, cleared boulders, and dug a well. The park was named Sobieski Park and was formally dedicated in 1933.

Several years ago, the Library of Congress asked Members of Congress to submit nominations for the Local Legacies Project of the American Folklife Center. The Library asked for documentation of at least one significant cultural event or tradition that is important to each district or state, and I was more than happy to nominate St. Mary's Annual Homecoming Picnic. St. Mary's annual picnic is a celebration of ethnic heritage and diversity in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Father Stanislaus Siedlicki of Glen Lyon succeeded Monsignor Zychowicz, who was made pastor of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church in Scranton. Construction of a new church building began in 1904. The church was located near Mocanaqua's current underpass and near the railroad.

In a tragic accident several years later, the church burned to the ground when a spark from a passing locomotive ignited the wooden structure on fire. However, the parishioners were not deterred. They again raised money for a new church, which was dedicated in 1914 at its present site, safely out of reach from the railroad.

The Rev. Andrew Smeltz took over ministering to St. Mary's, which was still a Mission Church, in 1908. In 1910, the members of the Mission felt that they deserved a full-time pastor. Bishop Michael Hoban appointed the parish's first resident pastor, the Rev. Felix Nowak, on Dec. 10, 1910.

During this time, coal miners were fighting for better wages. Many of them had left their wives and children in Europe while they came to America to earn the sufficient money to bring their families to Mocanaqua.

The miners threatened the West End Coal Company that they would quit and return to Europe if their wages were not raised. Not only were their wages raised, but they also successfully negotiated for the coal company to arrange passage for their families to come to America.

The provision of land for a cemetery was also provided in the negotiations. The first parishioner to be laid to rest in the cemetery was Basil Petrow, who lost his life at the age of 30 while working in the coal mines.

At this time I would like to pay tribute to 10 heroic servicemen from St. Mary's Parish who lost their lives during World War II and the Korean War: Michael Giunta, Edward Kadlubowski, Joseph Kalinowski, Edward Matak, Chester Okoneski, John Orzechowski, Vincent Yamilkoski, Michael Yaszczewski, John Zak, Stanley Zakrzewski.

By 1954—the year of the church's Golden Jubilee—the St. Mary's Parish had grown to include more than 400 families.

In 1976, to show their patriotism during our nation's bicentennial, the parishioners re-

moved the historic bronze church bell which had been cast in 1914 from the steeple and placed it on permanent display in the Church yard. A bronze plaque marks the site.

Pope John Paul II has given St. Mary's Parish a special Apostolic Blessing on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. The Library of Congress has also recognized the occasion with a congratulatory letter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in paying tribute to St. Mary's Parish in Mocanaqua. I am honored to represent a parish with such long-standing roots in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO ZONTA INTER-
NATIONAL, PASADENA CHAPTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zonta Club of Pasadena and the women who have shaped the club into the influential force that it is today in the greater Pasadena area.

Zonta International was established in 1919 in New York. Members were among the first generation of college-educated women, the first generation of North American women to vote, and a part of the growing legion of women entering the workforce. Currently, there are more than 33,000 members of Zonta Clubs in 67 countries. Their efforts are directed at increasing women's access to education and healthcare, preventing violence against women, and expanding economic self-sufficiency, as well as international service projects dedicated to world peace.

Founded in 1929, Zonta Club of Pasadena envisioned a strong network that would help women reach their rightful place in the professional world. Addressing the needs of women and children in our community, Zonta Club of Pasadena contributes volunteer time and financial support to Women at Work, Wellness Community-Foothills, Huntington Memorial Hospital, Young & Healthy, Union Station Foundation, Day One, the Pasadena Unified School District, and numerous other organizations.

In recognition of their seventy-fifth anniversary, Zonta Club of Pasadena will honor 20 women who have contributed significantly to the work of Zonta. These outstanding women are civic, educational, political and business leaders in the community, who have also provided strong leadership within the Zonta organization. The honorees are: Andrea Beal, Suzanne Burger, Beth Calleton, Priscilla Gamb, Shirley Gold, Lucy Guernsey, Ann Hight, Sue Miele, Regenia Moses, Katie Nack, Marilynn Penny, Betty-Jean Prosser, Anne Pursel, Pat Reynolds-Christianson, Lacreata Scott, Patricia Vick, Mildred Wardlow, Marge Wyatt, Harriet Zimney, and Carol Zoeller.

It is my distinct honor to ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Zonta Club of Pasadena's seventy-five years of service and support to women and children in the 29th Congressional District.

HONORING CHARLES EDWARD
JOHNSON, SR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of an extraordinary man, Charles "Chuck" Johnson of Oakland, California. Chuck was a prominent figure in the communications industry for over 40 years, and worked tirelessly in that capacity not only to promote equality and social justice, but to keep print and broadcast media affordable and accessible to all. Chuck passed away on July 27, 2004 after succumbing to cancer, and is survived by his son, Charles Johnson, Jr.

Chuck was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on October 21, 1938. After growing up in Missouri, he began his career in radio in 1956. He later joined the Air Force, and following his service time, returned to working full time in the entertainment industry, where he would become the first African American to reach several technological and professional milestones. In 1959, Chuck created the first Black teen dance show, and in the early 1960s, became the first African American not only to host a #1 nightly Top 40 radio show, but also to buy and sell FM radio stations. In 1966, he began producing the nationally syndicated SoulTime USA, and would move on to establish the first Black movie distribution company to promote major Black movies. In 1978, he would become the first African American to operate a 24-hour commercial lease access television station, the Soulbeat Television Network, airing music videos and community programming in Oakland. Soulbeat is presently celebrating 22 years of continuous programming, and has not only added live interactive talk shows to its programming lineup, but in 1998 became the first network ever to broadcast full-time live streaming television to the world over the internet.

In addition to the pioneering role Chuck played in the communications industry, he was an active member of the civil rights movement throughout his life. He not only served as the president of the local NAACP Chapter in Southern California in the 1960s, but as the West Coast Chapter President of the National Association of Television and Radio Announcers, was a leader in the movement to hire the first Black radio announcers in Los Angeles. Furthermore, his founding of Soulbeat in Oakland was historic not only because he was the first African American to establish such a station, but because Soulbeat was and continues to be a vehicle for the advancement of free speech and social equality.

On August 2, 2004, Chuck's friends and family gathered to honor his extraordinary life and the impact that his work had on the lives of those around him. Chuck was a truly unique individual not only because of the record of historic achievements that marked his career, but because of his commitment to using his voice to improve the lives of the people in his community and beyond. His legacy will continue far into the future, and his memory will be treasured by all who knew him. The Ninth Congressional District salutes Chuck Johnson for the contributions he made to Oakland, the East Bay, and our entire country.

HONORING LINDA WHITE-EPPS
FOR HER LIFETIME OF OUT-
STANDING SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and great admiration that I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman whose endless energy and dedication touched the lives of all who knew her and many who did not. It has been one year since Linda White-Epps was taken from her family, friends, and community after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer. A tireless advocate and inspiring soul, Linda's message of strength and support continues through the organization she founded, Sister's Journey.

After losing an aunt as well as another significant person in her life to cancer and being diagnosed with breast cancer herself, Linda made it her life's purpose to ensure that no woman be "alone" in the battle with breast cancer. Linda always held a strong belief in the importance of sharing her story with others—to hide it was to allow the disease to win. She began Sister's Journey, a support group for women of color surviving breast cancer. She went on to create an annual calendar with each month highlighting the story of a survivor. The calendar serves a tangible and visible source of encouragement—sending a message of hope to other woman striving for survivorship.

I had many opportunities to work with Linda over the years and I was always in awe of her constant energy and unwavering commitment to her cause. She strongly believed in the need for awareness, education, and outreach to those diagnosed with breast cancer and their loved ones. Linda brought the battle to the community and to Washington. The American Cancer Society was just one of the many organizations for which Linda volunteered her time. In fact, she served as a lobbyist for the organization in Washington, highlighting the concerns of Connecticut and making sure legislators knew just how vital increased funding for research and education are—not only to those fighting breast cancer, but for those who had survived as well. Linda was also responsible for organizing the first Relay for Life event in Hamden, Connecticut—now an annual event that serves as one of the largest fundraisers for the American Cancer Society.

Linda's accomplishments and advocacy did not go unrecognized. Throughout her life she was honored with a myriad of awards and acknowledgments. Perhaps the most prestigious of these many accolades was when Linda was recognized with the "Points of Light Award" in 2002. Bestowed by the President of the United States, this special honor celebrates the success of volunteers and highlights the impact that individuals have on their communities. For Linda, this was a most fitting tribute. Her efforts have left an indelible mark on our community and one cannot say enough about the difference she has made in the lives of others.

This year marks the 6th Anniversary of the "Pink Tea", an annual "Celebration of Survivorship," where the Sister's Journey Calendar has traditionally been unveiled. This year's event will indeed be special as members remember Linda's efforts and honor her memory

by continuing her work. I am proud to join her mother, Phyllis White; her children, Dawn and George; her grandchildren, Dominique and Donovan; family, friends, and colleagues in honoring Linda White-Epps for her outstanding service and invaluable contributions to our community. Linda's legacy will continue to inspire and support those most in need.

HONORING JOHN BURTON

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, with great respect, admiration, and affection, I am honored to salute John Burton for 40 years of fighting for human rights and social justice for the American people. John has been my mentor, my ally, and my dear friend for many years and throughout my time in Congress. Although term limits have now led John to continue his fight in new arenas, his leadership as President pro tempore of the California State Senate will long be recognized as a powerful force in the fight against poverty and in the fight for fairness for all.

The Burton name has occupied a revered place in California politics for decades, and John has served with great integrity in the Congress and in the California State Legislature. The vast landscape of John Burton's leadership includes legislative successes to protect our workers, to provide health care to all, to ensure equal rights for minorities, to preserve our environment, and to improve education. That landscape has been shaped by his intellect, his conviction, his humor, his sensitivity, and his ability to capture hearts, even those of his opponents.

One of John's first acts upon returning to the state legislature was to introduce a bill outlawing poverty. This was typical Burton style—deep caring mixed with a brash reminder of our Nation's core value to care for those in greatest need. John displayed this fundamental commitment to justice recently when he spoke at a Building and Construction Trades Convention and stated, "It is up to you and me and others like us to make sure that when people are asking for a job, that job has decent wages, decent working conditions, and decent benefits and that workers get their fair share of the wealth of this Nation. It's the just thing to do, it's due you, and we're going to help you fight to get what is your due."

Sadly, John's political career has been marked by tragedy—the loss of his brother, Congressman Philip Burton, at the early age of 56 and the assassination of one of his dearest friends, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone at age 49. On the murder of Mayor Moscone, John wrote: "Those senseless events brought me face to face with grief, making me realize that friends are precious and life is all too short. We should remember to take time from our own activities to spend more time with those we care about, rather than so totally immerse ourselves in our jobs and businesses that we are always too busy to relate to people."

John's life has also been marked by great fulfillment—not only in his illustrious political career, but also in his family life. John's daughter, Kimiko Burton Cruz, is the light of

his life. They have traveled a wonderful journey together, and John is now the proud grandfather of Juanito and Mikala. Kimi, her husband Emilio, and their children are guiding forces for John, and will be a major part of John's future.

When you meet John Burton, you know you have met one of a kind. When you know John Burton, you have a friend. And, when you have John Burton as a friend, you know you have one of life's great treasures in hand.

John may have left the State Senate, but he will continue to be a fierce leader in our State, and in our Nation, on behalf of those who need him most.

Thank you, John, for your tireless efforts on behalf of so many in our country. May the wind be always at your back.

TRIBUTE TO URBAN HEALTH PLAN, INC. ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge one of the largest employers in my district, Urban Health Plan, Inc., as they celebrate their 30th anniversary. UHP has worked for three decades now to make health care more accessible to residents of the South Bronx.

Urban Health Plan began as the vision of Dr. Richard Izquierdo, who, as a private practitioner in the South Bronx, saw the lack of primary health services that the community provided to its residents. He decided to form a community health center, and in 1968, the San Juan Health Center was born.

Urban Health Plan was created out of the San Juan Health Center to offer expanded services and increase outreach into the local community. It has done just that, by providing affordable, reliable care to residents of the South Bronx. UHP offers significant primary and specialty care, in addition to numerous outreach and education programs. Because many area residents do not speak English as a first language, most of the staff is bi-lingual. Today, Urban Health Plan, Inc. has expanded to include three health centers, six local school locations, homeless shelters, and adult treatment programs under the leadership of President and CEO Paloma Hernandez.

Mr. Speaker, in an area where hospital services and preventative medicine are sorely needed, Urban Health Plan, Inc. fills an important need for residents of my district. They have helped thousands of Bronx residents address their health care needs without mortgaging their futures. I am glad to count organizations such as Urban Health Plan, Inc. as allies in the effort to improve the neighborhoods and communities of the Bronx, and I salute Urban Health Plan, Inc. for their dedication to the residents of the South Bronx.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Urban Health Plan, Inc. on their 30th anniversary, and on wishing them continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNITION OF DR. HERBERT POCH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment today and laud the accomplishments of Dr. Herbert Poch and congratulate him for being honored by the Dr. Stanley Nichols Pediatric Auxiliary at Monmouth Medical Center. Having served as the Associate Program Director of the Pediatric Residency Program at Monmouth Medical Center for 8 years, Dr. Poch has exhibited true dedication towards his work as well as improving the lives of his young patients.

A native of Elizabeth, NJ, Dr. Poch received his medical degree from Columbia University and upon completing his residency, he returned to Elizabeth and maintained a successful private practice for 36 years. While chairing the Department of Pediatrics at Elizabeth General, he led the department to merge with Newark Beth Israel Hospital's Pediatric Department to develop a joint residency program in pediatrics, which led to notable improvements of pediatric care in the area.

Prior to joining Monmouth Medical Center as a full time faculty member in 1992, Dr. Poch served as an assistant clinical professor of Pediatrics at Columbia. Having always been a devoted teacher, Dr. Poch continues to teach on a part-time basis at Monmouth Medical, even after his retirement in 1999. In addition, he retains his academic position of clinical associate professor of Pediatrics at Drexel University College of Medicine, in Philadelphia.

His love for teaching comes second only to his love for family, including his wife of 52 years, Leila, and their 3 children, Bruce, Andi and Lesley. This gifted and devoted family man, doctor and teacher is also the recipient of three Dean's Special Awards for Excellence in Clinical Teaching, as well as the recipient of the Drexel University College of Medicine Oksana Korzenlowski, M.D. patient award for setting an outstanding standard of skill and commitment in the clinical care of patients.

Once again, I congratulate Dr. Poch on all that he has accomplished, and all that he has contributed to his community and the field of medicine. He is truly deserving of the honor that has been bestowed upon him.

IN MEMORY OF MR. TRUMAN GLASSCO

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that we mourn the death of Mr. Truman Glassco, who recently passed away at the age of 73. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation to recognize this wonderful man.

Truman, a lifelong resident of Boaz, AL, in Marshall County, was born in 1931. Known by all as a wise, humble, loving, generous and prayerful man, his significant contributions to society fell primarily in three areas: Christian

Fellowship, Community Service, and Education.

Truman dedicated so much of his life to spreading the Gospel through his commitment to the Alabama State Gospel Singing Convention and the Bethany Baptist Church. He was an active member of the Alabama State Gospel Singing Convention for over 40 years, serving in various positions including President in 1972 and 1989 and subsequently serving on the Board of Trustees from 1992 until his death this year. Also, the congregation of his church benefited tremendously from his service as deacon for 45 years, a Sunday school teacher for 38 years, and as Choir Director for 17 years. As if this is not impressive enough, he also served as the President of the Alabama School of Gospel Music from its inception in 1986 until his death.

Mr. Glassco demonstrated outstanding leadership to the Boaz community as well. He held various offices in the Boaz Chamber of Commerce including President for 4 years and Secretary for 18 years. The Chamber further recognized his contributions to society when it selected Truman as their "Man of the Year" in 1987 and "Educator of the Year" in 1985. He was a long-time member of the Boaz Civitan Club, serving as President and holding various other offices. The Civitan Club recognized Truman's achievements by voting him "Man of the Year" in 1974.

After earning three masters degrees, Truman served 38 years in public education, 22 years as a principal and 8 years as Assistant Superintendent of Education. Snead College named him "Alumnus of the Year" in 2004, an honor which was accepted posthumously by his wife, Dr. Bobbie Glassco. Although he never had children of his own, he was lovingly called "Papa Truman" by hundreds of young people.

The town of Boaz, Alabama benefited tremendously from Truman's kindness and selfless service to his fellow citizens. I had the privilege of first meeting Truman Glassco and his wife Bobbie as a young boy at Antioch Baptist Church in Marion County Alabama at a convention singing. Many people can tell you that he was a "real Christian man who made a real Christian difference in an indifferent world." I could not agree more. My thoughts and prayers continue to go out to his wife Bobbie, along with his family and friends. Yes, Gospel Music lost a dear friend when it lost Truman Glassco.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KATHY GRISWOLD MCKEAN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to mourn the loss of Kathy Griswold McKean, the co-founder of Liberty Day, from my district. Kathy was recently killed in a car accident on her way to deliver a Liberty Day mailing. She and her husband Andy dedicated the past 10 years of their lives to bring the Constitution and the Bill of Rights into the hands and minds of students across the country, and I want to recognize their contributions before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Liberty Day started with Kathy and Andy in the Denver Lions Club almost a decade ago. It is a national organization honoring James Madison that prints millions of America's founding documents with the help of Denver's Herschfield Press and distributes them free of charge all across America. Kathy and Andy worked without pay, donating thousands of hours and resources to the project in the hopes that Americans will understand the basic freedoms we enjoy today. The Lions International, Rotary, Kiwanis, and Optimist clubs have all embraced the project, enabling their work to have worldwide distribution.

Mr. Speaker, Kathy Griswold McKean was a dedicated patriot that selflessly served her community and country, and I am honored to pay tribute to such a diligent community servant and preservationist of American history. Her contributions to our country will not be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this time of bereavement.

REMEMBERING AND RECOGNIZING
MRS. BONNIE L. GENTRY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to pay tribute to Bonnie L. Gentry, a dedicated educator and sister of Buck Crowley, my long-time friend and assistant in the district. Bonnie passed away on February 2, 2002, and in March of this year, the Mesquite Independent School District recognized her by naming its 30th elementary campus in her honor.

Born in Fate, TX, to R.L. and Mattie Crowell, Bonnie received her teaching certificate at the age of 14. For the next 54 years, she served as both teacher and principal for the Rockwall and Mesquite Independent School Districts. In 1959, she became Mesquite's first female principal when she was appointed to the position at Ben F. Tisinger Elementary. She held the position until her retirement in 1974.

In addition to her teaching career, Bonnie also served in such organizations as the Texas Retired Teachers Association, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Delta Kappa Gamma.

She is survived by her brothers Herman Crowell, R.S. "Bob" Crowell, and M.L. "Buck" Crowell; sisters Christine Davison and Leona Strain; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bonnie will long be remembered as a devoted and caring educator who touched the lives of many. On behalf of her family, friends, students, and the Mesquite Independent School District, I would like to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay my last respects to Mrs. Bonnie L. Gentry.

CONGRATULATING FRANK
MATTEI, HONORED BY THE
ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF LUZERNE COUNTY AS
2004 PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Frank Mattei as he is named Person of the Year by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County. It is an honor to join the members of this organization in paying tribute to his numerous achievements as he is honored at a dinner this Sunday.

A member of the Italian American Association for 10 years, Frank is also active in Rotary Club. As a member of the Rotary Club, Frank spent a great deal of time with the Rotary Exchange Students Program. Many students from many nations were greeted with the hospitality and warmth of the Mattei home.

Frank was born in Pergola, Italy, in 1932. He is the son of the late Marino and Celeste Mattei. He has been married to Anna Biscontinini for 46 years. Frank and Anna have two children, Maria and Frank Jr., and three grandchildren. Maria lives with her daughter, Violeta, in Plains. Frank Jr. and his wife Susan live in Malvern, PA, with their daughters Daniella and Julianna.

Frank came to America in 1947. He settled in the Hilddale section of Plains and graduated from Plains Memorial High School in 1952.

Frank served his country for 2 years in the U.S. Army, and 18 of the 24 months were served in the United States forces in Austria, USFA. After that, he spent many years in the retail shoe business as the owner of Penn-Lee Footwear for 22 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to represent a man who has served his country and who has been a leader in his community. I ask that my colleagues pay tribute to Frank Mattei as he receives this well deserved honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TEMPLE
CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Temple City Unified School District for 50 years of outstanding service to the community.

The Temple City Unified School District was established as a unified school district on July 1, 1954. At the time, the district had grades kindergarten through 11th. Elementary classes were held at Cloverly, Emperor, and Longden. Oak Avenue School, formerly part of Pasadena Unified School District, was a junior high school, and in 1954 it became Temple City High School. At the time, a total of 789 students were enrolled in grades 8 through 11. The first 12th grade class of 138 students graduated from the Oak Avenue campus in 1956. The first graduation from the new cam-

pus was in 1957. During that first year, the Temple City High School Associated Student Body established the green and gold colors and the "Ram" as the school mascot.

The Temple City Unified School District is located in the West San Gabriel Valley. The population of the district's service area is approximately 35,000. The service area includes within its boundaries most of the incorporated city of Temple City, as well as small portions of San Gabriel, Arcadia, and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Currently, the district maintains one comprehensive high school, TCHS, one alternative high school, Community Learning Center, one intermediate school, Oak Avenue, four elementary schools, Cloverly, Emperor, La Rosa, and Longden, and one adult school, Temple City Adult School.

A list of outstanding superintendents have served TCUSD. The first, Howard Beckner, retired in 1961. He was succeeded by Dr. Jack Rand and then Allen Rice. Superintendents Wesley Bosson and Clint Taylor followed. In 1999, Joan Hillard became the District's sixth Superintendent. It is clear that TCUSD has a history rich with spirit and values of progress, dedication, unity, and pride.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating the Temple City Unified School District for 50 years of outstanding educational service to the community, and for its immense commitment to the success of its students.

IN RECOGNITION OF HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.

In 2004, the influence of Latinos in the United States is evident now more than ever. This community has continued to be a strong thread in the fabric of our nation. Influential Latinos can be found contributing in many fields; they are doctors and lawyers, teachers and professors, police officers and fire fighters, scientists and engineers, mayors and of course, Members of Congress.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to highlight their service to our Congress. The first Latino members of this chamber were non-voting delegates, one from the Territory of Florida, Joseph Marion Hernandez in 1822, and the other Jose Manuel Gallegos from the Territory of New Mexico in 1853. The first voting member was Romualdo Pacheco, from the great state of California, elected in 1877. Since then, many Latino Members of Congress, in both chambers, have served our nation. These members hail from a diverse group of states and territories, including Arizona, Louisiana, Texas, Illinois, New York, Guam and Puerto Rico, to name a few. They have made significant contributions, like Senator Dennis Sanchez, from the state of New Mexico, who was the first to push for any kind of Civil Rights legislation in Congress. Most notable is the formation of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in 1976, founded by five Members of Congress, Reps. Edward Roybal (D-CA), Henry Gonzalez (D-TX), Herman

Badillo (D-NY), Eligio de la Garza (D-TX), and Baltasar Corrada del Rio (NP-PR). Since then, the CHC has grown exponentially. In the 108th Congress, we have seen a record high of 23 Hispanic Members of Congress, 7 of them women.

In my district, the 9th Congressional District of California, the contributions of Latino organizations is stronger than ever. For example, the Unity Council, under the remarkable leadership of Arabella Martinez, has spearheaded the construction of the Fruitvale Transit Village, which is a model for mass transit, affordable housing, and smart growth. The Unity Council also has programs for first-time home ownership, English classes, and subsidiaries that employ a couple of hundred people in the Fruitvale community. As Ms. Martinez retires this year, she hands over the reins of the Unity Council to Gilda Gonzales, a former member of the Oakland School Board, who has served as an aide to two Oakland mayors and to this Member, when I served in the California state legislature.

Another example is Anew America, an organization founded five years ago and led by Sylvia Rosales-Fike who has turned personal tragedy into triumph in the Bay Area. After having fled El Salvador after her husband was tortured and murdered, she helped to found Anew America. The non-profit organization takes "new Americans," newly-arrived immigrants from Asia, Africa, and Latin America and helps them establish their small businesses. The organization teaches the new Americans about asset management, finance, and community involvement.

And lastly La Clinica de la Raza, led by CEO Jane Garcia has programs focusing on prenatal care, family planning, parenting skills, and youth programs. They have school clinics in almost every Oakland school with satellite clinics across the Bay Area. They provide free and low-cost health care to thousands of people in the Bay Area. They are celebrating their recent move to their beautiful 40,000 square foot structure located in the Fruitvale Transit Village, which gives them ability to provide comprehensive primary care to all their patients.

Individuals in my district are the motivating force behind organizations such as these and promote civic engagement among Latinos in the 9th Congressional District. People like Tulio Serrano, who came to this country under asylum, after his family was killed in civil war in El Salvador, and had to leave his homeland after several death threats. Through the Central American Refugee Committee, a humanitarian effort, he organizes people to vote, and links people from Oakland Area to people in El Salvador in order to promote education and health. There are also women like Tina Flores, who heads the Southwest Voter Registration project in Oakland. She is helping engage our community in this nation's democratic process. Others, like Ignacio De La Fuente, President of Oakland City Council, serve in elected office. A candidate for mayor of Oakland in 2006, Council President De La Fuente has been instrumental in lowering gang violence, restoring economic development in Fruitvale, and in securing funding for job resource centers for day workers.

Latino members of the clergy are also helping in our community, including Father Antonio Valdivia, Pastor of St. Luis Bertrand Parish in Oakland. He is also a strong leader of Oak-

land Coalition of Congregations, Father Tony works to raise immigrant's awareness of community issues and encourages his parishioners to register and vote. Another leader is Father Marco Figueroa, Pastor of St. Elizabeth's Church, which puts on health education seminars, operates clinics and assists in the establishment of new organizations that are vital to the community.

As a Representative from California, I cannot fail to mention the over 12 million Latinos that make California the state with most Latinos in the nation. As many experts speak of the Latino population boom that this country will see in the future, California has been prospering from its growth in the Latino community for many years now. While Latinos grow in population in the United States, they continue to be left behind when it comes to education, health care, jobs, and immigration. We must make sure that we do not leave our new fellow Americans behind. We must ensure that as the Latino population in America grows, we expand their access to a good education, proper health care, and equal access to the workforce.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like my colleagues to remember the contributions of Latinos to this nation during Hispanic Heritage Month and throughout the year, especially as they consider legislation that affect this great, diverse community which continues to make America the best it can be.

HONORING JOSEPH NICOLA
DELAURO, FOUNDING DIRECTOR
EMERITUS OF THE SCHOOL OF
VISUAL ARTS OF THE UNIVER-
SITY OF WINDSOR

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to my uncle, Joseph Nicola DeLauro. He was recently honored by the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada, as they named him Founding Director Emeritus of the School of Visual Arts—the first such title the University has bestowed.

Born in New Haven, CT, Joe DeLauro attended Yale University where he received his Bachelors Degree and later gained his Masters at the University of Iowa. He is a sculptor perhaps best known for his work depicting archetypal figures from the far past and the Bible. Much of his work, including crucifixions, pietas, virgins, baptismal fonts, stone reliefs, and stained glass windows have been commissioned by churches, convents, schools, and other largely religious institutions. However, you can also find many pieces throughout the public spaces in his home of Canton, MI, and in private collections throughout the world.

Internationally recognized for his talent, he has been honored by organizations in the United States, England and Italy. Exhibitions of his work have been displayed in New York, Italy, and Canada. But perhaps his most important contribution has been through his work as a teacher. I have often spoke of the need of talented, creative educators ready to help young people learn and grow. This is espe-

cially true for the Fine Arts, where the talent of young artists must be nurtured and encouraged for them to realize their dreams.

A Professor of Art at both Marygrove College and the University of Detroit in Detroit, MI, as well, Joe DeLauro spent the majority of his career as an educator at the University of Windsor. He came to the University in 1960 where he began Windsor's Fine Arts Department. Through his efforts as head of the Department, he gained for the institution its right to grant a bachelor of fine arts degree—the first degree-granting privilege of its kind to be granted to an Ontario university. For this accomplishment, he was credited with the founding of Windsor's School of Visual Arts. In his 25-year-career with the University of Ontario, he helped to shepherd hundreds of students through the demanding maze of discipline, taste, and scholarship and on to their own careers. Mentor, friend, and educator—there is no better example of what a teacher should be.

To be bestowed with the title Founding Director Emeritus is a reflection of the respect, gratitude, and appreciation Joe DeLauro earned throughout his career at the University of Windsor. His extraordinary artistic and academic career has left an indelible mark on the University and his spirit will forever live on through the School of Visual Arts—a legacy that will touch and inspire thousands for generations to come. I am proud to stand today and join his wife, Dorothy; children, Kathleen, Gregory, and Bob; family, friends, and colleagues to extend my sincere congratulations to Joseph Nicola DeLauro on this very special occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF COORDINATED
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NET-
WORK

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, environmental contaminants have been linked to birth defects, developmental delays, and many chronic diseases including asthma, various forms of cancer, and neurological disorders like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and Multiple Sclerosis.

Research shows that women and children are at especially high risk for health problems related to environmental factors. Each year, 4 percent of all births—more than 150,000 babies—are born with significant birth defects. The number of children with asthma has doubled in the past 15 years to about 5 million. And more than 8,000 children are diagnosed with cancer every year.

We do not understand the long-term health effects of the vast majority of the approximately 80,000 chemicals have been released into the environment over the past 50 years and the more than 7 billion pounds of chemicals that are released each year by industrial facilities in the United States. While many chemicals do not cause damage, we need to know which ones do.

In my hometown of San Francisco, breast cancer rates are more than 12 percent higher than they were 15 years ago. These rates are significantly higher than the rest of the nation, and public health officials are searching for

answers. We must understand what could be causing such a dramatic rise, especially when three out of four women who are diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of cancer or other known risk factors. For these women, environmental factors may be the link to their cancer.

Improved infrastructure that enables local, state, and Federal public health agencies to monitor disease rates and environmental hazards is needed. However, there is no system in place that explores the relationship between disease and potentially associated environmental factors.

Today, I am joined by Representatives STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES and LOUISE SLAUGHTER, and Senators HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, HARRY REID, and LINCOLN CHAFEE, in introducing the Coordinated Environmental Health Network Act to respond to this urgent need by creating the infrastructure necessary to collect, analyze, and report data on the rate of disease and the presence of relevant environmental factors and exposures.

The Network would also coordinate national, state, and local efforts to bolster our public health system's capacity to investigate and respond aggressively to environmental exposures that threaten health. In addition, the Coordinated Environmental Health Network will alert health officials when there is a sudden increase in any disease or condition, including those associated with a biological or chemical attack.

Over the past 3 years, my colleagues and I have worked to secure more than \$73 million for pilot programs to begin developing the capacity for a Coordinated Environmental Health Network, with an additional \$28 million pending in the Fiscal Year 2005 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill. These pilot projects are giving the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency the information they need to put in place a comprehensive, coordinated network.

Once fully operational, the network will coordinate national, state, and local efforts to inform communities, public health officials, researchers, and policymakers of potential environmental health risks, and to integrate this information with other parts of the public health system.

This is really an issue of environmental justice. Minority and low-income communities are particularly vulnerable to environmental health hazards. The factories and dumping sites that emit pollutants are often located near communities with little political and economic power, and therefore less ability to protest. The result is an elevated risk of exposure to harmful substances.

Numerous public health and environmental organizations understand the need for an improved response to these threats, and the Coordinated Environmental Health Network Act is supported by the Trust for America's Health, American Public Health Association, Citizens for a Cleaner Environment, March of Dimes, American Lung Association, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, The Breast Cancer Fund, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and many others.

We must respond to these health threats in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. To take action to prevent disease we must understand its cause. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this vital legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 510, I was in my congressional district on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF DORA BELLE THOMAS STONE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dora Belle Thomas Stone of Lee County, Alabama, in anticipation of her 100th birthday on November 8, 2004.

Born in Chilton County, Alabama, on November 8, 1904, Mrs. Stone is the daughter of the late George W. and Phairby Adeline Headly Thomas. In 1918, Mrs. Stone moved to Phenix City, Alabama, where she married William Henry Stone on October 21, 1921. She is the mother of four children: William Earl Stone, Thomas Milton Stone, George Lamar Stone, and Barbara Anne Stone Ennis. She has eight grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Mrs. Stone is a retired music teacher who taught Sunday school for more than 60 years, and is a member of Smiths Station Baptist Church. She says she cherishes most her family, her church, and God's Word, and studies her Bible every day.

It's not often we have the opportunity to recognize the life and accomplishments of a citizen like Mrs. Stone, and I appreciate the House's attention on this important occasion.

COMMENDING THE CENTER FOR NATIONAL POLICY FOR FACILITATING A DIALOGUE BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE ARAB AND MUSLIM DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITIES

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Center for National Policy (CNP) for facilitating a dialogue between members of the Arab and Muslim diplomatic communities and legislators on the Hill.

On September 8th of this year, the Center for National Policy hosted a discussion between the Honorable JIM TURNER and members of the Arab and Muslim diplomatic communities as a way of re-framing the debate on the War on Terrorism. I applaud the CNP for their continued efforts to properly inform both the American public and their elected officials on the complex issues facing policymakers.

I would like to commend Representative TURNER and my former colleague Tim Roemer for their participation in this invaluable discussion and for their active interest in fostering a

better relationship with minority communities both domestically and abroad.

TO WIN THE WAR ON TERROR

A DISCUSSION WITH THE HONORABLE JIM TURNER AND MEMBERS OF THE ARAB AND MUSLIM DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITIES—MODERATED BY TIM ROEMER

About the Event

This event is part of a series of discussions being organized by the Center for National Policy to help reframe the debate on the War on Terrorism. CNP seeks to deepen both the public's and elected officials' understanding of the complex issues involved in the growth and spread of radical Islam, and to increase awareness of initiatives that promise to advance moderation and constructive reform.

To accomplish these goals, CNP organizes small group discussions that bring together prominent policy experts, elected officials, and public opinion specialists to explore new strategies to address both immediate and long-term threats. CNP drafts summaries of these conversations and makes them available to lawmakers on Capitol Hill and policymakers in the Executive Branch, as well as academics, journalists, and the public at large.

About CNP

The Center for National Policy (CNP) is a non-profit, non-partisan public policy organization located in Washington, DC. Founded in 1981, the Center's mission is to engage national leaders with new policy options and innovative programs designed to advance progressive ideas in the interest of all Americans.

The goal of the Center is to promote the transfer of ideas and information from experts to public officials, and therefore better serve American citizens and the public interest.

Working with a small core staff, CNP brings together policymakers and experts from a range of organizations, including other think tanks, business, labor and academia, to encourage new thinking, promote public awareness and catalyze action.

The Center uses public opinion research, as well as substantive and political analysis, to frame options and make recommendations. The Center's programs include active media outreach and extensive use of the web as well as more traditional methods of dissemination.

In October 2003, Timothy J. Roemer was named President of CNP. Formerly a seven-term member of Congress from Indiana, he most recently has served as a member of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. His predecessors as president include Madeleine K. Albright, prior to her service as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations; the late Kirk O'Donnell, who was chief counsel to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Thomas P. 'Tip' O'Neill, and Maureen S. Steinbruner, currently serving as CNP Vice President and Senior Policy Advisor.

Introduction

It has been clear for some time that winning the war on terror is not only a military and security challenge. With numerous al Qaeda leaders captured or killed, the threat is now more diffuse but just as deadly. Increasingly the question is, are we taking more terrorists out of the picture than are being created every day in the streets and madrassas all over the Arab and Muslim worlds?

The United States needs a strategy for winning the war that both deals with today's terrorists but also, most importantly, works to deter and suppress the growth and power of tomorrow's. U.S. Representative Jim Turner, Ranking Member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, put forward a

series of initiatives to accomplish this, in his report, "Winning the War on Terror." At the invitation of the Center for National Policy, he joined three ambassadors to the U.S. from Muslim nations, and representatives from two other Middle Eastern embassies and the European Commission, for a discussion of his initiatives and related issues.

After an introduction by Congressman Turner framing the questions, CNP President Tim Roemer moderated a discussion. The session was off the record, except for the comments cited here.

Supporting voices of moderation in the Middle East

Representative Turner stressed the fact that in fighting the war on terrorism the United States needs to look beyond targeting active terrorists and securing the homeland, to supporting voices of moderation in the Middle East as well as those advocating positive change. His report addresses the question of how to prevent the rise of future terrorists though a number of important initiatives.

These include:

- Building bridges to the Arab and Muslim world, which must involve not only diplomacy programs but also fully engaging in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

- Improving education for Arab children;

- Stimulating economic development;

- Stabilizing operations in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

- Promoting political reform in the Middle East and moving toward greater democracy.

Representative Turner pointed out, however, that if these types of initiatives are to be successful, it will require a tremendous political effort both at home and abroad. He noted that ten of the 9-11 Commission's 41 recommendations are geared toward preventing the rise of future terrorists—but these have received little public attention. Meanwhile, polling indicates that the U.S. image abroad—not only in the Middle East, but across the globe—has declined dramatically in the past two years. It is essential that Americans understand why this is so, and what needs to be done to change it.

The war on terror, Turner affirmed, is not a war on Islam. But the United States needs to find ways to communicate its intentions much more effectively. Finally, the United States must engage in a partnership with its allies in the Middle East and in Europe if any of the ideas he and others have put on the table are to be effective.

A Battle of ideas

Participants generally agreed with the spirit of Representative Turner's remarks, and that fighting the war on terror must involve a battle to win the minds of those in the Arab and Muslim worlds. In the short-term, we must confront the immediate, day-to-day threats from those who participate in acts of terrorism, rooting out known terrorist groups and their leadership, and preventing wherever possible the emergence of new groups of activists. This is primarily a security issue, which involves the U.S. engaging with security and intelligence services internationally. As one participant observed, it is important to understand that "threats don't stop at anyone's borders."

But the United States must also have the patience to confront what participants see as a significant generational challenge within the Islamic world. Fully eliminating the terrorist threat is a task that will take perhaps ten or twenty years. If the United States is to be effective over the long-term, it must have some patience, and focus on accurately defining terrorism—and identifying exactly who the enemy is—in the minds of both Americans and Middle Easterners.

Participants pointed out that the number of people in the Middle East—and Muslims

specifically—who actively support terrorism is in actuality very small—perhaps only a few thousand. But as recent polling shows, the numbers who are angry at the United States is much greater. The false assumption on the part of Americans that these two groups are one and the same needs to change if the U.S. image abroad is to change. The 9-11 report, for example, made it very clear that the problem of terrorism is not about faith, yet this issue has not been reflected in the current debate in the U.S. about the Commission report. It is important to distinguish between those who support terrorism and those who are angry at America because the solutions to dealing with both problems are very different.

As one participant observed, it is the people in the middle—in the Middle East as well as in the United States—who need to have their minds changed about the nature of the war on terrorism. The war on terror is not only America's problem. If the U.S. wants to find support for partnership with the Arab and Muslim world, it will have to begin by showing the benefits of such a partnership to the people in the middle-center on both sides of the relationship.

More forceful policy initiatives and efforts on the part of the U.S. will make an immediate impression. Participants agreed that a commitment by the United States to seriously engage with the Israeli-Arab conflict is absolutely necessary. An ambassador said that the shift of public opinion against the U.S. in Turkey is attributable to two factors: What is happening in Iraq; and what is not happening in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Another Ambassador said, "You have to seriously address the problem in Israeli-Palestinian conflict—not necessarily solve it."

In addition, actions to support economic development in the Middle East, such as providing economic assistance and scholarships, supporting WTO accession, and other steps to enhance job opportunities could show tangible benefits and demonstrate an American commitment to a broader, positive Middle East agenda. This should be the core of the argument to convince the U.S. Congress and American people that such proposals are part of the solution and that military action is not the only tool to use against the terrorist threat.

Homegrown reform

Participants echoed Representative Turner's argument that it is essential that the U.S. support moderate forces in the Arab world, to ensure that they prevail over extremists. As another participant pointed out, some of the extremists' arguments on important issues such as women's rights are very weak, and they have no agenda of their own. Tim Roemer noted the recent op-ed by President Musharraf of Pakistan calling for "enlightened moderation" makes exactly this case.

Responding to Turner's ideas for promoting political, economic, and educational reform in the Middle East, participants agreed that any of these proposals would be beneficial. But they urged that the U.S. not try to lump together the whole region but recognize that different approaches are needed for different countries. Participants emphasized the importance of homegrown reform. "It's very hard to address the problem [of terrorism] by lumping together the entire region and imposing reforms on them." It was also noted, for example, that a U.S.-Jordanian partnership to increase exports from Jordan to the U.S. has been highly successful, doubling household income in poorer areas of the country and creating over 22,000 job opportunities mostly in poverty areas, 85 percent of which have been for women. It was pointed out, however, that such a pro-

gram would not necessarily be right elsewhere. Regionally-generated initiatives, perhaps assisted by foreign aid, may meet with more success than unilateral efforts created thousands of miles away.

Several participants stressed that the U.S. must avoid the appearance of imposing its own reforms on other countries. They pointed out that media audiences in the Middle East closely watch the American political process. The recent Democratic and Republic National Conventions received far more airtime from television stations in the Middle East than in the United States. The point was made that extremists are watching, and they will certainly exploit the perception that "the Americans are telling us what to do" to oppose reform initiatives.

It was noted that the particularly sensitive issue of educational reform in Saudi Arabia, for example, was unable to find support in the Kingdom once the U.S. Congress vociferously supported it. "Secular" education in particular was characterized as a 'non-starter': the very word "secular" can be a form of insult in the Kingdom. Similarly, the word "democracy," per se, has some negative connotations in the Middle East—though this is not the case for many of its specific attributes, such as transparency, civic participation, free elections, and so on. One diplomat said, "This is a conflict within Islam. We must support reason and try to assure that this wins—not terrorism."

"America has become an excuse for our problems," as one participant noted. But this is a cultural reality that the U.S. must understand if it wants its reform efforts to be effective.

The European perspective

It was noted that European nations have been engaged with the Middle East for almost 50 years. More recently, the European Union has been working with the United States specifically on the problem of extremism in the Arab and Muslim world, both through direct E.U.-U.S. dialogue and on the G8 track. The European Union endorses the general argument that solutions must come from within the region, but with attention to regional differences. It is the EU point of view that there can be no "one size fits all" solution. It was suggested that Representative Turner's proposals largely fit into the European interpretation, with its emphasis on building bridges, fostering educational improvements and cultural exchange, but the point was made that regional cooperation is also necessary. Where the U.S. is still focused only on bilateral trade agreements in the Middle East, for example, the E.U. is trying to negotiate regional trade agreements. The E.U. also sees accession to the World Trade Organization by nations in the Middle East as important, and as in itself a way to promote reform.

On the whole, the European Union view is that it has been listened to by its U.S. counterparts, but there is still some frustration that long-time European efforts and investments of human and financial capital in the Middle East have not been recognized.

Although fresh ideas are appreciated, it is important to the E.U. that no initiatives are introduced into the region that will either distract from or complicate those programs already in place. Instead, new initiatives need to be streamlined and coordinated with existing projects. The Israeli-Arab peace process, for example, was described as at the heart of these efforts.

Speaking from a European perspective, it was observed that the U.S. should recognize that it has the power to put issues on the table—but a fine balance needs to be maintained between acting with haste and acting too slowly. "Like a bowl of soup," one participant observed, "if you eat it too fast, it

burns you; if you let it go cold, it's tasteless."

How and where to begin?

Some participants noted the need for the U.S. to be sensitive to the fact that countries have their own timetables for reform. Americans too often look for quick-fix solutions to problems, and think only in short-term, two-year cycles, whereas reformers in the Middle East are willing to work for generational change. Yet it was also noted that external prodding can sometimes be important and even vital for bringing much needed reform. Turkey, for example, has had to accelerate the process of reform in order to meet European Union requirements. One participant remarked, "Cultural and religious sensitivities should not be an excuse for not doing what needs to be done."

But where exactly should the longer-term battle against extremism begin? Participants presented differing views. Education was acknowledged to be clearly a key factor in winning the battle of ideas, and school systems may therefore be the most sensible point to start any initiative that aims to prevent the rise of future terrorists. One diplomat said, "You must support the voices of moderation and reason . . . they must prevail. When you introduce the sensitive issue of education reform, it must be seen as a national homegrown plan and not U.S.-inspired." But this is a long-term effort which will have results only over the longer term. The need for judicial reform was also cited as important to promoting confidence in the rule of law.

Most participants advised putting economic reform slightly ahead of political reform in the Middle East. The point was made that political reform can be achieved in part by motivating people to use the political options that they already have. Creating job opportunities, however, and providing people with immediate and tangible benefits, can foster participation by providing hope that reform is a better way to move forward than revenge. As one Senior Middle East diplomat put it, "Economic reform must come first because we need to give people hope that this way is the better way."

Separately, several participants said that it is essential for the U.S. to achieve progress in key policy areas, such as stabilizing Iraq and seriously engaging in the Israeli-Arab conflict, to improve its image abroad and communicate its message effectively.

Summary

The participants in the discussion fundamentally agreed that there is a need for more effective long-term strategies to counteract the challenge of extremist ideologies in the Arab and Muslim worlds. Some caution was expressed about new U.S. initiatives, especially if unilateral. Congressman Turner's multilateral and tailored approach was applauded as a place to begin dialogue over these issues. One Middle East Ambassador summarized the situation in the following way: "We all realize we have a problem. We all realize we want to solve it. We are on the same side."

Several participants called for additional discussions such as this one, to address these and other initiatives, as well as some key existing problems. It was agreed that such discussions are vitally needed to broaden understanding, improve communication and facilitate concrete programs of cooperation among the U.S., the EU, and various Middle Eastern countries.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JON ASPER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, to place your life in danger for the sake of others is an honorable and noble task, and that is exactly what firefighters do regularly. Chief Jon Asper of the Greater Eagle Fire Protection District is a local legend and hero whose main goal in life is to serve his community to the best of his abilities. Jon's efforts are certainly commendable and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the important role that he has played in protecting and serving the people of Colorado.

"Jon Jon", as he is affectionately known, has volunteered his time to the Eagle Volunteer Fire Department for nearly 20 years. He has held various positions with the department, including Public Relations Officer, Fire Prevention Officer, Second Lieutenant Training Officer, and Operations Captain, before becoming chief of the department. He has also spent a career in business as the owner of Winterhawk Establishment, and as a friendly bartender and bar manager for a number of local establishments.

Going above and beyond his duty as a firefighter is par for the course when it comes to Jon. He is constantly trying to make himself a better firefighter and stronger leader of his crew, taking numerous Continuing Education classes towards a degree in Fire Science Technology. He has also been an instrumental figure in the Eagle County Firefighter Academy and in providing a Drivers Education Class. Jon and his crew's hard work and training have paid off numerous times in battling forest fires, especially during the Ute Creek Fire in the Summer of 2002. In 2002, the Department received the Daily Point of Light Award, from the Points of Light Foundation which honors individuals and volunteer groups that have made a commitment to connect Americans through service to help meet critical needs in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, Jon Asper acts with great commitment and leadership in all that he does for his community as Chief of the Greater Eagle Fire Protection District. Jon never forgot that safety and protection came first and foremost for the people he served. It is my pleasure to recognize Jon before this body of Congress and this Nation. I would like to extend my appreciation to him for everything that he has done and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB"
HOBKIRK

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Tyler, TX, the late Bob Hobkirk, who passed away on July 29, 2004, at the age of 88.

Bob Hobkirk served in the U.S. Army for 4½ years during World War II as a drill sergeant and weapons instructor. He was employed by

Hormel Food Company for 43 years, until he retired in 1977.

Bob was one of the first presidents of Camp Fannin, a veteran's association, that was originally the site for training soldiers in World War II. Bob was a loving man who had a "heart of gold." He devoted his life to helping veterans of Camp Fannin and was commonly the "go-to" man when something needed to be resolved. His tireless spirit and heart-felt devotion were an inspiration to members of Camp Fannin and the community of Tyler.

Bob is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lois Gimble Hobkirk. Bob suffered a stroke 19 months prior to his death, and Lois never left his bedside during the duration of his illness. Their marriage was blessed with two daughters and a son. Jody Henning, Judy and her husband Olan Gotcher, and Robert "Bob" Jr. and his wife Pam survive their father. Bob is also survived by his granddaughter Tracy Henning, four sisters-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, on behalf of friends, fans, Camp Fannin, and the community of Tyler, I would like to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay our last respects and honor the life of this great Texan and veteran's advocate—Bob Hobkirk.

CONGRATULATING CALVARY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON
THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Calvary United Methodist Church in Berwick as its parishioners celebrate the joyful occasion of its 100th anniversary.

Calvary United Methodist arose because Christians living in the west end of Berwick had a need for a place to worship. The increase in population left the need for a second Church. Calvary United Methodist, located on the corner of Orange and Warren Streets in Berwick, became a parish on October 6, 1904.

Parishioners have chosen the motto for the 100th anniversary fittingly from the Bible: "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts," Psalms, 145:4.

Rev. Fred Fields is the pastor of Calvary United, and I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Fields today. The parishioners of this church should be proud of their long-standing tradition of faith.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF LARRY LEWIS WHO RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS OF DEDICATED AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Larry Lewis of the Alhambra Police Department. Chief Lewis is a 35-year veteran of California Law Enforcement having served in five municipal police agencies. Chief Lewis began his distinguished career as a police cadet in West Covina, CA.

As the police chief for Alhambra, Larry Lewis has been an exemplary leader in working with his department to strengthen its application of the community policing philosophy as well as the department's commitment to ethical and professional behavior. He has instituted effective review procedures of police use of force and vehicle pursuits and introduced less lethal weapons and in-vehicle camera systems into department operations. In 2003, as a result of Chief Lewis' efforts, the department replaced its aging information technology system resulting in a new records management and computer aided dispatch system, mobile data computers in police vehicles, and mapping system as well as improved crime analysis abilities.

An active member of the community, Larry Lewis has served on several professional boards as well as community service associations such as Rotary International and the YMCA. He has taught and lectured on topics of police use of force, sexual harassment prevention, supervision, executive leadership and community policing. In addition, Chief Lewis served as the 2002 president of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, representing 46 municipal law enforcement agencies in the county.

Chief Lewis received a bachelor of arts degree in political science and masters in public administration from California State University, Fullerton as well as a masters of science degree in management from Cal Poly University, Pomona. He is a graduate of the POST Command College, returning as a presenter during class orientations.

Known for his charisma and sense of humor, Chief Lewis is a popular master of ceremonies for various community and charity events.

Chief Lewis celebrates 32 years of marriage to his wife, Irene in 2004. They enjoy family outings with their son, Steve, and daughter-in-law, Penny.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Alhambra Police Chief Larry Lewis on an impressive and long spanning career in law enforcement.

HONORING ALLEN TEMPLE
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Allen Temple Baptist Church of Oakland, Cali-

fornia for 85 years of ministry and invaluable service to the community. Since its founding, Allen Temple has been a pillar of strength and leadership, and its tireless efforts have had a dramatic impact not only on the lives of its members, but on the entire Oakland and East Bay community.

Allen Temple Baptist Church began as 85th Avenue Baptist Church in 1919. The church was organized by the Reverend J.L. Allen, and was one of the first primarily African-American congregations in East Oakland. During the first several years following its establishment, 85th Avenue Baptist Church struggled to survive. However, the congregation gradually became stronger, and after moving to its current location on 85th Avenue, was renamed in 1927 in honor of its founder. In the years that followed, Allen Temple not only expanded its membership, but also began establishing the first of the many community service programs for which it is now known.

Allen Temple's current Pastor, a great and magnificent servant of God, Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., was installed as the church's leader in 1969, and brought with him the sense of energy and direction that would serve not only to rejuvenate the church's existing programs, but to initiate several new ones. The Pastoral Staff was organized, which not only increased the scope and effectiveness of the church's operations, but which today has grown to include over a dozen ministries. In the decades that followed, Allen Temple's presence within the community would become even stronger as it continued to establish initiatives such as the Allen Temple Baptist Church Federal Credit Union, the senior and disabled housing facilities at Allen Temple Arms I-III, the Radio Ministry, and the Allen Temple Hispanic Ministry. In addition, the church went onto establish the Allen Temple Community Outreach Center, the Allen Temple Family Life Center, the Leadership Institute, and Allen Temple Manor, a 24-unit building of affordable housing for persons who are disabled due to HIV/AIDS.

In recent years, Allen Temple's involvement has become increasingly vital in the support and guidance of individuals recently released from prison, and those who are HIV positive or living with AIDS. The Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. Training Academy provides job training to dozens of parolees each year. The Allen Temple AIDS Ministry works to provide spiritual support and essential medical and social services to those living with HIV and AIDS, and works with the Alameda County AIDS Interface to make these services more widely available.

On October 17, 2004, Allen Temple Baptist Church will celebrate its 85-year anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to honor this occasion by commending the church for the vital role it has played not only as a great religious institution, but for the indispensable social and human services and support it provides to the people of Oakland. By setting the standard of service and commitment for institutions of faith and community improvement throughout its 85 years of ministry, Allen Temple has contributed immeasurably to the Oakland community, our country, and the world. On behalf of the Ninth Congressional District, I salute and congratulate Allen Temple Baptist church on the occasion of its 85th anniversary.

HONORING KATHI McDONNELL-BISSELL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Town of Milford, CT lost one of its strongest advocates for seniors in Kathi McDonnell-Bissell when she lost her battle with kidney disease brought on by diabetes. This month, residents and city leaders gathered to honor Kathi's memory by dedicating the newest addition to the Milford Senior Center in her honor. I am proud to stand today to join them in paying tribute to Kathi whose tireless efforts made such a difference in the lives of so many.

Senior centers play a vital role in our communities and this is especially true of the Baldwin Senior Center. All too often, what are supposed to be one's "golden years" are filled with struggles. Health concerns, increasing health care costs, the loss of independence—these are just some of the challenges our seniors face. Perhaps even more devastating is the sense of loneliness that can come as one moves through their later years. Providing invaluable programs and services, senior centers make a real difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. That is why they are so important to our seniors and our communities. Kathi recognized this need and, under her leadership, what began as a small office in the basement the Mary Taylor United Methodist Church has grown into one of the most respected seniors centers in the State, boasting over 4,000 active members.

Kathi served as the Senior Center's Executive Director for over 30 years—even her declining health could not dissuade her from continuing efforts to improve the quality of life for Milford's seniors. I had the remarkable opportunity to work with Kathi on a variety of projects over the years and was constantly in awe of her endless energy, compassion, and drive. She was one of the most dedicated individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing, dedicating not only her career, but much of her own time to creating a Senior Center which was a resource for area seniors as well as a source of pride for the community. While it will be the last of such examples, the completion of the new ten thousand squarefoot, two-story addition to the Senior Center is a reflection of Kathi's dedication and commitment to providing for the ever-changing needs of her community's seniors.

For her outstanding an unparalleled service, I am proud to stand today to join her husband, Robert; her children, Suzanne, Amy, and Betsy; family, friends, colleagues, and community leaders in paying tribute to Kathi McDonnell-Bissell. Her lifetime of generosity has touched the lives of thousands and left an indelible mark on the Milford community. Kathi was an extraordinary woman whom I consider myself fortunate to have called my friend. Though she will be missed by many, I believe her legacy will continue to inspire all of those who knew her—serving as an example to us all of what a community advocate should be.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 511, I was in my congressional district on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF MONCRE
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the MonCre Telephone Cooperative in Ramer, Al.

MonCre began operations in 1954 to bring phone service to the unserved rural areas of Montgomery, Crenshaw and eventually Bulloch and Pike counties, and was the vision of the late founder and Montgomery Advertiser columnist Mildred Smith of Ramer.

Today, MonCre employs 24 highly trained technicians and staff, and serves approximately 3,500 households. Services offered 50 years later are far different from those of 1954 and now include a wide range of telephone, internet and DSL services.

It's not often we have the opportunity to recognize the achievements and contributions of a community institution like MonCre, and I appreciate the House's attention to the matter at this important occasion.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NA-
TIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARE-
NESS MONTH**HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans and their many family members who are currently affected by Spina Bifida. October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and I hope our colleagues will join this effort to raise awareness about this disease and recognize those Americans, including many of my constituents.

Spina Bifida is the Nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect occurring when a neural tube defect prevents the central nervous system from closing properly during the early stages of pregnancy. Each year more than 4,000 pregnancies are affected, and of these, 1,500 babies are born with the disease.

I was honored to be a part of the 16th Annual Roast for Spina Bifida on September 26th. During that dinner, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, Redskins owner Dan Snyder, and I roasted former CNN Anchor Bernard Shaw. I am pleased to report that even under fire, a now retired Shaw was as cool, calm, and collected as he had been during his time on CNN. He was truly a fantastic sport.

The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for over 30 years, work tirelessly to prevent and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect. There are approximately 60 chapters serving over 125 communities nationwide and I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and the Spina Bifida Association of Tennessee for all that they have done for the families in my state affected by this birth defect. I would especially like to thank Scott Price of Nashville, a Spina Bifida Association Foundation Board member for his great work.

In closing, I would like to thank the Spina Bifida Association of America for allowing me to be a part of their roast and wish them the best of luck in their endeavors throughout the year. I urge my colleagues here in the House to support the important efforts of the SBAA and to remember those affected by Spina Bifida, particularly during this month.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DORA
VALDEZ**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dora Valdez, a dedicated employee of Delta County, CO who was recently honored for 25 years of impeccable service with the County. Dora is a responsible employee who engenders the trust of everyone she encounters, and it is an honor to recognize her many years of service to her community before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Dora was born and raised in Delta and has been an active member of her community her entire life. She has worked with four county clerks and managed all areas within that domain including motor vehicles, recording, election, cashier, and birth and marriage license departments. Dora is bilingual and aides many members of the Spanish community by translating for other offices. Dora enjoys her work, and has helped to many citizens in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, Dora Valdez has spent 25 years serving her local government in Delta County. Her dedication to her community is highly commendable and I am honored to recognize her many years of service before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thank you for all your hard work, Dora, and I wish you, and your family all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING
EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GREATER
CIVIC AWARENESS AMONG PEOP-
LE OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the majority leader, Mr. DELAY, and Chairman BOB NEY for bringing this timely resolution, H. Res.

796, to the floor today. I also want to thank the cosponsors for their interest in this bipartisan bill.

H. Res. 796 recognizes and supports efforts to promote greater civic awareness among the people of the United States. The resolution recognizes those organizations and groups that actively promote voter registration and participation, as well as those communities and schools that have instituted civic awareness programs.

The resolution also encourages local communities and elected officials at all levels of government to promote greater civic awareness among the electorate and greater participation in the upcoming elections.

The Constitution of the United States establishes a representative form of government, and throughout our Nation's history, many groups of people have fought, protested, rallied, and died for the right to vote. The 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments to the Constitution represent some of those hard-won voting privileges.

The percentage of Americans registered to vote unfortunately has declined in the last 10 years. There is no better time to make citizens more aware of the importance of exercising their right—and their responsibility—to vote. Voting is fundamental to our representative form of government—and as Members of Congress we must support and promote civic awareness and participation.

Our democracy is a government of all the people, by all the people, and for all the people. All those eligible to vote have an equal voice in determining the future of our great Nation. H. Res. 796 promotes greater awareness of one of the greatest privileges we have as American citizens—the right to vote—and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in supporting this timely measure.

HONORING J.D. ROGERS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to Mr. J.D. Rogers, III, who on September 18, 2004 was honored during the UAW Local 599 Walter Reuther award ceremony in Flint, Michigan for his contributions as the longest-serving production committeeman in the history of the Local.

J.D. Rogers began his leadership career within UAW Local 599 in 1976 when he was elected as Alternative Committeeman. One month after assuming his post he was elected to fulfill the position of the recently resigned Committeeman. His superior leadership skills and support of the union membership granted him several unopposed elections to this post.

J.D. is committed to fulfilling Walter Reuther's mission of helping people, and ensuring human dignity and social justice for all. His hard work and dedication to the duties of his elected position is commendable. His deeds are self evident in the faith the members of 599 have bestowed upon him in allowing him to be re-elected. His service to the UAW extends many years and is highly regarded.

Mr. Speaker, many people have greatly benefited from the leadership and service of

Mr. J.D. Rogers. His commitment to the UAW membership is unwavering. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating him on obtaining his mark in history and in wishing him the very best in future endeavors.

COMMENDING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you as a citizen of a state that has been devastated by four major hurricanes in the past several weeks. For the first time in a century, four hurricanes, Charley, Ivan, Frances and Jeanne, hit Florida, within one month. My district, in particular has been forced to deal with the most horrendous effects of these vicious natural disasters. As the devastation from these Hurricanes struck my state, district, and constituents, the service and resolve of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) proved to be outstanding. On behalf of all my constituents, I would like to commend the dedicated service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees.

The citizens of Florida would not have been able to withstand the disastrous effects of these hurricanes if it were not for the fortitude and service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). They've never hesitated to fly into the eye of a hurricane to gather information about possible landfall, and NOAA was one of the primary agencies that my office dealt with in seeking information and expert advice to combat the dangerous situation my constituents were placed in because of these storms. When people needed to be warned of these storms, NOAA was there to respond. NOAA and its employees are a tremendous service to my office and constituents.

In this time of crisis, NOAA's National Hurricane Center provided 496 live television interviews and 567 telephone briefings to the media. The information contained in these briefings was relayed to millions of Floridians, allowing for the safe evacuation of more than 4 million Florida residents during Hurricane Frances alone. All together, more than 1,000 hurricane watches, warnings, and advisories were issued during Hurricanes Charley, Ivan, Frances and Jeanne. NOAA provided updated satellite images of all four Hurricanes every five minutes over the days leading to their landfall.

For more than 30 years, NOAA, has been working for America every day. Their knowledge, data gathering, and service have saved the lives of so many. From providing timely and precise weather, water and climate forecasts to monitoring the environment and making our nation more competitive through safe navigation and examining changes in the oceans, NOAA is on the front lines in the service of our great country.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the service of such a valued Federal institution such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SALUTING EDWARD KUSSMAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Edward Kussman, a civil rights activist and a good friend, who is being honored on October 15, 2004, by the Fair Housing Council of the San Fernando Valley. Mr. Kussman, who moved to Pacoima in 1956, is a remarkable man with many accomplishments and I have been greatly honored to work with him over the last 20 years on many important community issues.

For more than seven decades, Ed has unwaveringly fought to end racial and other forms of discrimination and to improve opportunities in education, housing and employment. He is a founding member of the Fair Housing Council of the San Fernando Valley and has been an active member for the past 45 years. He has also served seven consecutive terms as President of the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the NAACP, was President of the Pacoima Chamber of Commerce, served for 25 years as a board member of the San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, was the Past President of Northeast Valley Health Corporation, and is currently the Commissioner of the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging. His civic involvement is as impressive as it is extensive.

Ed began his fight against racial inequality in a time when African Americans were excluded from accessing many forms of employment and denied entry into public places. His fight for equal rights was instrumental in the state of California's passing the historic Rumford Act prohibiting discrimination in housing. His influence is far reaching and continues to play an essential role in the lives of community members. He is an influential member of my Senior Advisory Council and has been a trusted counselor to me on many important issues.

Born in New Orleans, Ed attended Straight University, Louisiana Frank Wiggins Trade Tech, and UCLA. He has taken an active part in his community and has earned many awards including Man of the Year Award from Beta Pi Sigma Zeta Chapter, the NAACP Freedom Award and Los Angeles's Urban League Award.

Edward Kussman is married and has four daughters.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Edward Kussman for his impressive career, dedication to the people of California and his many years of making a difference.

SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR HEALTH COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2004

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Safe Drinking Water for Healthy Communities Act of 2004. This legislation will

require the EPA to establish a national primary standard for drinking water for perchlorate—otherwise known as rocket fuel.

Perchlorate is a component of rocket fuel—used heavily by the military and its defense contractors. Perchlorate contamination in California is primarily the result of releases from 12 military and defense contractor sites. It disrupts the functioning of the thyroid, resulting in behavior changes and delayed development in children and thyroid tumors in adults. It removes valuable water supplies from service.

Today, communities across the country are finding perchlorate in their drinking water, groundwater, irrigation water, and soil. In mid 1997, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California discovered perchlorate in the lower Colorado River. It was traced to a Kerr McGee plant in Henderson Nevada. Releases to Lake Mead and the Lower Colorado River have impacted the drinking water supply of 15 to 20 million people in Arizona, southern California, southern Nevada, Tribal nations and Mexico. Today more than 120 wells in Los Angeles County have been found to be contaminated with varying levels of perchlorate.

In the district I represent the water providers are struggling to handle the plumes of perchlorate, the legacy of Aerojet. The City of Baldwin Park hosts the nation's first perchlorate treatment facility—a necessity in order to maintain the reliability and availability of safe drinking water. My community faces costs over the next 15 years of at least \$200 million as the result of perchlorate contamination. Yet there exists no enforceable public health standard to ensure our drinking water is safe.

This bill requires the EPA to establish a national primary drinking water standard. Without this, there is no requirement for water to have safe levels of perchlorate and water providers will continue to struggle with guaranteeing long term reliability of safe water sources. Inaction poses an unreasonable risk to both our valuable water supply and our health.

HONORING STEVE AND NANCY BUTCHER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Nancy Butcher who have been honored by the National Restaurant Association as 2004 Restaurant Neighbor Award Finalists. Mr. and Mrs. Butcher own the Nutcracker Family Restaurant in Pataskala, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Butcher led the community of Pataskala in commemorating Flag Day in 2004 and honoring U.S. troops abroad. They organized local businesses and citizens to sponsor flags and display them all over the town of Pataskala and it's main streets. They hosted a community dinner, two sold-out golf scrambles and a lunch for more than 120 participants to raise money for their organization, Flags Over Pataskala. The money they raised went to the Licking County Family YMCA and the Pataskala Parks and Recreation Department. Their efforts reinvigorated the patriotic holiday by selling 168 new flags and displaying 500 smaller flags throughout town.

The Butchers have a long history of service to their country: Mrs. Butcher served in the Air National Guard for 14 years, and Mr. Butcher spent 26 years in the U.S. Air Force. When asked why they use their restaurant to lead patriot efforts, Mr. Butcher said, "Its like anything else, it's just something you naturally know is right. There are a lot of organizations out there that need help."

Again, I commend Mr. and Mrs. Butcher for their efforts in Pataskala and congratulate them on being finalists for the Restaurant Neighbor Award.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520;
AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to an unfair tax increase contained in the conference report of H.R. 4520, the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004.

Overall I believe this bill is well crafted and contains a great number of provisions that will significantly benefit individuals, businesses and other job creators in this Nation. I commend the Ways and Means Committee and Chairman Bill Thomas for their hard work and determination on this complex and vital piece of legislation.

I must, however, express my strong opposition to an unfair tax increase for Florida's cigar manufacturers. A provision added in the final hours of the conference will force cigar makers to pay for a tobacco buyout that has nothing to do with the kind of tobacco used in cigars. This new provision—which was not included in either the House or Senate-passed versions of the American Jobs Creation Act—amounts to a \$282 million tax increase and Florida companies will pay more than 75 percent of this new tax.

Mr. Speaker, well over 95 percent of the tobacco grown in this country is produced under a federal price support program. Cigar manufacturers do not use the type of tobacco produced under this program. According to industry reports, 99.9 percent of all quota tobacco produced in the United States in 2002 was used by someone other than a cigar manufacturer. Yet under the American Jobs Creation Act, cigar makers are being forced to finance the phase-out of this government support program. Assessing cigar makers for the tobacco buyout fails any test of fairness. We should not increase taxes on an industry by imposing so-called "assessments" unless the new tax has something to do with the purpose of the new program.

To make matters worse, the cigar tax assessments appear to be imposed unfairly within the cigar industry. The Internal Revenue Code distinguishes between "small" cigars and "large" cigars. Unlike cigarettes, cigars come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and weights. The tax code recognizes these distinctions. A 10 cent cigar is not taxed the same as a \$15 premium cigar. Under the tax code, a premium "large" cigar might pay an excise tax amount that is 25 times greater

than a small cigar. Small cigars make up a small percentage of sales in the overall market, and about 2 percent of all excise taxes on cigars are collected from small cigars. Yet under the American Jobs Creation Act, small cigar manufacturers will pay about 35 percent of the new assessments, unless the Secretary of Agriculture—when writing the rules—recognizes this distinction between small and large cigars. Otherwise, small cigar manufacturers will be assessed at a level that is far out of proportion with both their current excise tax burden and their overall market share.

Mr. Speaker, this is supposed to be a jobs bill, but ironically, I believe it will eliminate tobacco jobs in my state. For the Florida cigar industry, this provision is a job killer. I would hope this issue could be revisited in the future and a correction be made to reverse this unfair tax increase.

I look forward to working with the Secretary of Agriculture to fix this issue and ensure the tax is assessed on those manufacturers actually utilizing program tobacco. Since there is no per unit assessment level for cigars set in the bill, I trust the Secretary Will recognize the inherent differences in small and large cigars and set the assessment based on the market share of the product.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN
CLEMENS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Carolyn Clemens, a dedicated employee of Delta County, Colorado who was recently honored for 25 years of impeccable service with the County. Carolyn is a responsible employee who engenders the trust of everyone she encounters, and I have the pleasure of recognizing her many years of service to her community before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Carolyn came to Delta with experience as a legal secretary and a background in accounting. She began her work with the county as an executive legal secretary to County Attorney and the County Commissioners where she obtained permits for all the counties gravel pits. Carolyn is currently an Administrative Assistant working directly with the County Administrator.

Mr. Speaker, Carolyn Clemens has spent 25 years serving her local government in Delta County. Her dedication to her community is highly commendable and I am honored to recognize her many years of service before this body of Congress and Nation. Thank you for all your hard work Carolyn, and I wish you, and your family all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN COBLE, OD

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize Dr. John Coble of Greenville,

Texas, recipient of the 2004 American Optometric Association's Optometrist of the Year award.

After serving his country in the United States Army and Texas Army National Guard, Dr. Coble graduated from the University of Houston College of Optometry and began his distinguished career as an optometrist. He currently practices optometry in Greenville where he also serves as clinical staff at Presbyterian Hospital and as a liaison to the Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee. He is also active in the North East Texas Optometric Society, the Texoma Optometry Society, and the Student Texas Optometric Society.

Dr. Coble frequently dedicates his time and skill to a number of civic and volunteer organizations. He is active in the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, the Greenville Rotary Club, and the United Way of Hunt County. Additionally, Dr. Coble is involved in mentoring local youth, performing vision screenings for the Dallas Headstart program, coaching YMCA baseball and basketball teams, and serving as Boy Scout Leader.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 4th District of Texas, I would like to congratulate and commend Dr. Coble for his recognition by the American Optometric Association and his continued involvement in the community.

HONORING MO FELLING

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to Mr. Mo Felling for attaining the honor of being the longest serving skilled trades committeeman in the history of UAW Local 599 in Flint, Michigan. On September 18, 2004, the UAW Local 599 members will honor Mr. Felling during their annual Walter Reuther award ceremony.

Mo Felling began his leadership career within UAW Local 599 in 1977 when he was elected to the post of Alternative Committeeman. In 1980 he was elected to the post of committeeman, a position he has held successfully to this date. His impeccable service and love for his fellow members is commendable. He is committed to upholding the mission set forth by Mr. Walter Reuther; which is to help people, and ensuring human dignity and social justice for all who are employed within the manufacturing automobile industry. I salute Mr. Felling for his great attention to detail and on a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, many people have greatly benefited from the leadership and service of Mr. Mo Felling. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating him on obtaining his mark in history and in wishing him the very best in future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN ON ITS
NATIONAL DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, October 10 marks the National Day of Taiwan,

and I rise today in support and to congratulate this beacon of democracy and freedom.

Taiwan has much to celebrate this National Day. It is a vibrant democracy where individual freedom is given the appreciation it certainly deserves. It is undeniable that Taiwan has moved rapidly toward full democracy. Elections for important posts in the government are held regularly, political parties have reached an established level of maturity, and people actively participate in the democratic process. Taiwanese citizens have a greater control over affairs of state than ever before.

There are so many throughout the international community who sincerely appreciate the political aspirations of Taiwan. Taiwan stands like an obelisk of democracy and hope in the South China Sea. Unfortunately, so many throughout the world have never fully benefited from all that Taiwan has to offer. For example, many of the medical advancements made by Taiwanese doctors and scientists have not been shared with the world because Taiwan lacks WHO membership. Taiwan enjoys one of the highest life expectancy rates in Asia, has relatively low infant and maternal mortality rates, and has eradicated major infectious diseases such as cholera, smallpox, and polio. Additionally, Taiwan's government was the first in the world to provide children with free hepatitis B vaccinations. The successes of Taiwan's medical experts must no longer remain locked in a chamber of politics, and access to these ideas must be extended to all countries.

The international community must recognize that each country in the world will benefit multi-fold from Taiwan's inclusion in the WHO, even if it is just as an observer. Until then, individuals in need of medical assistance throughout the world will not fully benefit from the wonderful advancements Taiwan has made in the field of medicine.

Mr. Speaker, health has no borders, and certainly neither does disease. Providing Taiwan with observer status in the WHO is long overdue. Taiwan is one of the most dramatic success stories of Asia. I join the people of Taiwan as they celebrate their National Day, and may America's support for the people of Taiwan be everlasting.

HONORING MICHAEL C. CUDAHY,
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF ARIZONA AND THIS GREAT NATION

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on behalf of a fellow Arizonan and former colleague, Michael C. Cudahy, in recognition of his dedicated service to the citizens of the State of Arizona and this great Nation. Mike grew up in Southern California and Arizona in a family that had deep roots in the cattle and meat packing industry.

After graduating from Middlebury College in Vermont and receiving his law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law, he served as a law clerk to two justices on the Arizona Supreme Court. Mike spent the majority of his professional career as an attorney

with the Arizona Attorney General's Office, where he progressed through the office ranks from trial attorney to Chief Counsel and Senior Prosecutor, Criminal Division, during his 26 years of service. Through the administrations of numerous Attorneys General, who differed in their management styles and who were often from different political parties, Mike's talents for administration and skills as a litigator were consistently recognized and highly valued.

He is held in high esteem by his colleagues, opponents, and judges for his trial skills, integrity, professionalism, and most of all, his sound judgment. Often he served as lead trial counsel in some of the most difficult and challenging cases facing the Attorney General's Office. A man of courage and conviction, Mike always adhered to the principles of fairness, justice, and the rule of law.

Mike has always taken great pride in mentoring new attorneys, inculcating them with a deep appreciation and respect for the duties and responsibilities of serving as a member of the legal profession, especially those engaging in public service who often bear being held to a higher standard. He often opined that being an attorney was a privilege. Mike exemplified the highest and most honorable attributes expected of an attorney, and those who came under his tutelage were fortunate indeed.

Despite dealing with the frailties of individuals who entered the criminal justice system, Mike has maintained an optimistic perspective about the human spirit and our society. He has always remained positive about the world we live in and about the future of our Nation.

In his personal life, his love and devotion to his family—wife Joanie, daughter Catherine, and son John—are the cornerstones of his life's journey. Despite some recent challenges to his health, which have caused an early retirement, Mike maintains his sense of humor and optimistic outlook.

Every now and again, a special individual intersects with our own life in a profound way, and through his daily example creates a positive beam for us to follow. Michael C. Cudahy is one of these special individuals, and it is for these reasons I want to honor my friend and former colleague today.

IN MEMORY OF ANDREW J.
"JACK" ANDERSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. Andrew J. "Jack" Anderson of Harrisonville, Missouri.

Jack was born in Harrisonville, Missouri on September 27, 1924, son of William Monroe and Prudilee (Mathews) Anderson. He graduated from Harrisonville High School in 1942 and went on to answer his call to duty. Jack served his country by enlisting in the Navy in October 1942. He received a commission as an officer and earned his wings as a Navy Fighter Pilot. After serving in World War II, Jack came home and continued his service in the Navy reserves until 1959, when he was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant.

On March 27, 1945, Jack was united in marriage to Dorothea Ann Gaston. Their mar-

riage, which lasted 54 years, was truly a story of love and admiration. Jack and his wife also were the proud parents of two sons, Andrew and Kevin.

After returning from World War II, Jack attended college, receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and his law degree from Cumberland University. In 1951, Jack was admitted to the Missouri Bar. He first began practicing law with his father in Harrisonville in 1951 at the law firm that is now Anderson and Milholland P.C. and continued to work there until his retirement in 2003. Also, Jack was elected to four terms as Cass County Prosecuting Attorney, serving in this position from 1954 to 1962. In 1976, he began serving as my campaign treasurer.

Jack also made significant contributions to the community. He served over 25 years on the Board of Directors of Allen Bank and Trust and over 25 years as Municipal Judge for the City of Harrisonville. Jack also was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Harrisonville.

Mr. Speaker, Jack was a valuable leader in his church and community who was respected by everyone who knew him. He was a dear friend of mine who had a deep faith. He will be missed by all. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family.

HONORING MARY MONINGER-ELIA
FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the West Haven Federation of Teachers and School Nurses in honoring a very special member of our community—Mary Moninger-Elia. Teacher, advocate, mentor, and friend, Mary has exemplified all that a community leader should be and through her efforts has made a difference in the lives of many.

Our teachers are a vital resource for all of our communities. By giving our children the tools and skills they will need—the foundation on which our young people will build their future success—the contributions teachers make to our children's lives is invaluable. I have often spoke of our nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our children learn and grow. Mary was just that kind of teacher.

Mary began her career at West Haven High School where she spent 25 years teaching Home Economics. During her tenure, one of her most interesting additions to the curriculum was the creation of a very successful preschool program. The program paired 3 and 4 year old children with the high school students and served as a tool to teach students how to interact with toddlers. With many students having aspirations of becoming teachers and parents, this innovative approach was a first step in preparing for what one can expect from such young children. After 25 years with high school students, Mary decided to move to a different age group. She moved to Bailey Middle School where she taught both Study Skills and Social Science until her retirement

just 2 years ago. Throughout her career, Mary touched the lives of thousands of students, helping them to realize their potential and make their dreams a reality.

In addition to her daily professional contributions, Mary has long been a staunch advocate for teachers and education. She has worked with legislators at every level of government to ensure that their concerns and needs were heard. She was elected to serve on the Connecticut AFL-CIO Executive Board and the Greater New Haven Labor Council. But perhaps where she had the greatest impact was through her 24 year tenure as the President of the West Haven Federation of Teachers and School Nurses—the longest consecutive term of any president of any American Federation of Teachers Local in Connecticut. Her diligence, commitment and dedication earned her a distinguished reputation throughout Connecticut. In fact just prior to her stepping down in June of this year, Mary was honored by the Connecticut branch of the American Federation of Teachers with the prestigious Unionist of the Year Award—the highest such honor bestowed by the organization.

We have certainly been fortunate to have an individual like Mary working so hard, not only on behalf of our students, but for our teachers and our education system as well. For her many contributions and outstanding service, I am proud to stand today to join the West Haven Federation of Teachers and School Nurses, family, friends, and colleagues in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mary Moninger-Elia for her lifetime of good work. Hers is a legacy that will continue to live on through the many lives she has touched.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. D. James Kennedy and his supporters for their support of the Marriage Protection Amendment.

Dr. Kennedy is a well-known Christian television and radio broadcaster whose programs reach some three million people, weekly. Dr. Kennedy is President of Coral Ridge Ministries, a Christian broadcasting organization, founder and president of Evangelism Explosion, a Christian lay-evangelism training program used in every nation, and Senior Minister of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale. Dr. Kennedy is a respected and articulate advocate of the return to Christian moral standards in public life.

Dr. Kennedy's Center for Reclaiming America has collected the names of more than 430,000 petition signers who believe marriage is the union of a man and a woman, and they are opposed to efforts to redefine it. These 430,000 citizens from across the nation have petitioned Congress to pass the Marriage Protection Amendment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WEST ELK MOUNTAIN RESCUE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the West Elk Mountain Rescue team, a dedicated group of people from my home district who risk their lives so that others might live. This 22 member rescue team is composed of dedicated men and women that volunteer using their own resources to equip themselves with the knowledge to find and rescue people in need. I want to take this opportunity to recognize their many years of service to their community before this body of Congress and this Nation.

The WEMR was created in 1996 and works under the authority of the Gunnison County Sheriff's office. The team consists of mainly men and women, but also includes a five-year old golden retriever/labrador mix rescue dog who aides local and national law enforcement agencies. The human members of the team come from Crawford, Hotchkiss, Paonia, Cedaredge, and Eckert to cover a search area encompassing both Delta and Gunnison counties. Team members are certified and trained in CPR/First Aid, emergency medical technicians, avalanche rescue, water rescue, technical rock climbing skills, and general rescue. The group acquires many of its members from people who were once in need of the team's services.

Mr. Speaker, West Elk Mountain Rescue is a dedicated group of people who avail themselves to the community everyday of the year to provide search and rescue expertise to those in dire need. These brave men and women risk danger to their own lives and take time away from their families to serve others. Their dedication to their community is highly commendable and I am honored to recognize their service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

LAKE FENTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to bring to your attention an event that took place in my district. On Saturday, August 21, 2004, the Lake Fenton Community School District gathered to mark the official ribbon cutting and formal dedication of their newly constructed Lake Fenton High School. The celebration concluded on Sunday, August 22, 2004 with a non-denominational service and community open house.

Lake Fenton High School was first dedicated on May 19, 1961. With increasing enrollment and changing educational needs, the Lake Fenton Board of Education and the Lake Fenton Schools Support Services/Facilities Committee implemented plans to build a new high school. Their hard work and dedication resulted in three elective bond activities, and the final product is the first newly built facility within the Lake Fenton School District, and the

only new high school constructed within Genesee County in over 30 years. This is indeed an accomplishment worth commending.

The new high school boasts state of the art technology, computer and science labs, a media center, auditorium, gymnasium, and an outdoor athletic facility. The labs will allow the school to fully support their new program entitled "Project Lead the Way". This program introduces students to the demanding field of Engineering and Digital Electronics. As stated by their principal, Julie Clontz, Lake Fenton High School is trying to in every way possible to adjust their curriculum to meet the needs of the students and help prepare them for life after high school. The completion of this beautiful new facility and the implementation of these exciting educational programs is without a doubt a step in the right direction. Superintendent Ralph Coaster has provided excellent leadership in this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I consider it both my duty and privilege to work to improve the quality of our public school system. I am glad that communities such as Lake Fenton share this sentiment. They continue to work diligently to ensure students have the tools necessary to compete and succeed. I ask my colleagues of the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating this fine community and its school district and in wishing them the very best in future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE RELIEF FOR LIFE-SAVING BLOOD DONORS ACT 2004

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Relief for Life-Saving Blood Donors Act, a bill to provide a tax deduction for the selfless act of donating blood.

Each year, more than 4.5 million Americans need a life-saving blood transfusion, and about 25 percent of all Americans will need a blood transfusion at least once in their life. This means that almost every American will come to know, through their own experience or through those of a friend or family member, the importance that the small act of blood donation can make. Indeed, a single blood donation can help as many as three people.

While 60 percent of Americans are eligible to give blood, only about 5 percent of that population, or about 8.8 million Americans, actually do. According to the American Association of Blood Banks, the average donor is a college-educated white male between the ages of 30 and 50, who is married and has an above average income. Nevertheless, blood donations are increasingly coming from women and minority groups, engendering greater participation at the community level by members who seek to develop a more solid sense of neighborhood unity.

America's blood supply is critical to our Nation's seniors. While those aged 69 years and older account for just 10 percent of the population, they require 50 percent of blood transfusions. This statistic will only increase with the aging of the Baby Boomer population, and the need for blood will be even greater.

While there is no current, nationwide shortage of blood, regional and local shortages do occur. It is not hard to imagine that a major national trauma, such as a terrorist attack, disease, or natural disaster, could strain the blood supply even further. Since blood cannot be manufactured, the system is reliant on people to donate their blood.

Mr. Speaker, donating blood is a small but entirely selfless act that does nothing but help those who need it most. Congress should support this endeavor, and encourage people to give blood as often as they can.

This legislation provides a \$50 tax deduction for individuals who donate blood, with a maximum deduction of \$150 a year. This maximum reflects the advice of blood bank centers and institutions that encourage people to give blood three times a year. This relief is a small reward for people who do give, and an encouragement for those who might need that extra little push to attend a blood drive.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and call on the House to bring it expeditiously to the floor.

HONORING DENNIS CONNER, A WORLD-RENOWNED SAILOR, ON HIS RESTORATION OF THE LEGENDARY YACHT "COTTON BLOSSOM II"

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound pleasure that I rise to commend to the Nation Dennis Conner, of America's Cup fame, an outstanding American yachtsman, competitor and sailing icon, in admiration and appreciation of his magnificent restoration of the historic wooden yacht *Cotton Blossom II*. Mr. Conner's expertise and dedication to preserving yachting history are to be commended. His extraordinary efforts are a testament to his uncompromising devotion to excellence and authenticity.

Thanks to Dennis Conner's vision and generosity, *Cotton Blossom II* is an elegantly restored masterpiece that honors our country's rich yachting heritage and the classic art of wooden boat building.

Cotton Blossom II was designed in 1924 by Johan Anker, the leading "Q" Boat designer of the time. She was built for Lawrence Percival of Boston at the Jensen Shipyard near Oslo, Norway. *Leonore*, as she was first named, was delivered to Marblehead in October 1925. She was later sold to Walter Wheeler and christened *Cotton Blossom II*. Wheeler campaigned her with great success out of Stamford, CT. Among her many racing victories were the Vineyard Race and the Astor Cup for the New York Yacht Club. She was named the NYYC Boat of the Year in 1939, and her half model is displayed in the Club's Model Room.

Twenty-three years later, this well-designed yacht continued to win major races under the stewardship of owners Ed and Gloria Turner of the San Diego Yacht Club. *Cotton Blossom II* successfully spanned the dramatic changes that had taken place in the sport since the 1920s as she became a familiar sight winning all the major races at the club, including the Lipton Trophy, and was named SDYC Boat of

the Year in 1963. Her half model is displayed in the club today.

As a young man and rising star in the sailing world, Dennis Conner sailed extensively on *Cotton Blossom II*. When he had the good fortune of acquiring *Cotton Blossom II*, Mr. Conner assembled a team of the finest craftsmen and shipbuilders to restore her with meticulous care to her original condition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the People's House join me in commending Dennis Conner and his talented team of skilled craftsmen for preserving U.S. maritime history with the restoration of the legendary wooden yacht *Cotton Blossom II*.

RECOGNIZING SENATOR HAROLD L. CASKEY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, a long and distinguished career in public service is coming to an end in the Show-Me State. Missouri State Senator Harold L. Caskey will retire at the end of the year. He has served the people of the 31st District since 1976.

He was born in Bates County. After graduating from Central Missouri State University with honors in 1960 with a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology, he attended University of Missouri-Columbia where he received a Juris Doctorate in 1963. He also was a member of the Order of the Coif.

From 1968 to 1972, Mr. Caskey served as the prosecuting attorney for Bates County. Then he was the Butler city prosecutor from 1973 to 1974. After serving in this position, he was an assistant professor in Business Law and Criminal Law at Northeast Missouri State University, now Truman State University, from 1975 to 1976.

Mr. Caskey was first elected to the Missouri Senate in 1976. During his accomplished tenure in the Missouri Senate, he served in many positions. He was the Senate Assistant Majority Floor Leader, Senate Majority Caucus Chair, Senate Majority Floor Leader, and Minority Caucus Chair.

Mr. Caskey awards and honors include the 2002 Access Award from the American Foundation for the Blind, the 1997 National Legislator of the Year from the National Industries of the Blind Workshop, the 1999 University of Missouri School of Law Alumnus of the Year and the National Freedom Righter from the National Rifle Association. Additionally, the Missouri Deputy Sheriffs' Association named an award for him—the Harold Caskey Freedom Award.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of this House will join me in thanking Mr. Caskey for his life of public service.

HONORING THE SAINT NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Reverend George Lardas, members of the congregation, and the Stratford, CT, community in extending my sincere congratulations to the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church as they celebrate its 75th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this community treasure and I am proud to help them celebrate this momentous occasion.

The St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church was founded in 1929 by Russian emigres who came to Stratford to work for Igor Sikorsky. The legendary Igor Sikorsky, the father of the modern helicopter, was a founding member of the church as well as one of its staunchest supporters throughout his life. With nearly all the members employees of Sikorsky's company, a Russian community quickly grew around the church. Soon, what began as a neighborhood church in a Lake Street home moved to its present location and today welcomes congregants from several surrounding communities as well. The striking golden cupolas of the church, a unique characteristic of the building, along with the warm and welcoming arms of the congregation have made St. Nicholas a lasting landmark in Stratford.

Our churches play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. By strengthening our bonds of faith, St. Nicholas gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values. The members of St. Nicholas' have also given much to the town of Stratford. Throughout the years, as their membership grew so did their commitment to the enrichment of our community.

It is with great pride and my heart-felt congratulations that I rise today to join with the congregation and the Stratford community in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church—a true community treasure.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to submit into the RECORD additional material regarding the debate about whether marriage is in decline in the Netherlands. Some members suggest that the Stanley Kurtz material is not relevant or is not accurate. I submit into the RECORD the following article written by Mr. Kurtz that addresses his critics on this point.

DUTCH DEBATE

There's a new development in the story of Europe's marriage meltdown. Recently, a

group of five scholars in the Netherlands issued a letter addressed to "parliaments of the world debating the issue of same-sex marriage." The Netherlands was the first country to adopt full-fledged same-sex marriage, and this letter is the first serious indication of Dutch concern about the consequences of that decision. So it's worth quoting the letter at some length. After citing a raft of statistics documenting the decline of Dutch marriage, here is some of what these scholars had to say: . . .there is as yet no definitive scientific evidence to suggest the long campaign for the legalization of same-sex marriage contributed to these harmful trends. However, there are good reasons to believe the decline in Dutch marriage may be connected to the successful public campaign for the opening of marriage to same-sex couples in the Netherlands. After all, supporters of same-sex marriage argued forcefully in favor of the (legal and social) separation of marriage from parenting. In parliament, advocates and opponents alike agreed that same-sex marriage would pave the way to greater acceptance of alternative forms of cohabitation.

In our judgment, it is difficult to imagine that a lengthy, highly visible, and ultimately successful campaign to persuade Dutch citizens that marriage is not connected to parenthood and that marriage and cohabitation are equally valid 'lifestyle choices' has not had serious social consequences . . .

There are undoubtedly other factors that have contributed to the decline of the institution of marriage in our country. Further scientific research is needed to establish the relative importance of all these factors. At the same time, we wish to note that enough evidence of marital decline already exists to raise serious concerns about the wisdom of the efforts to deconstruct marriage in its traditional form."

You can read an interview with two of the letter's signers here, and a front-page news story about the letter in the Dutch paper, *Reformatorisch Dagblad*, here.

UNDENIABLE DECLINE

During last week's Federal Marriage Amendment debate, many senators referred to the Dutch scholars' statement, and to marital decline in Scandinavia and the Netherlands. Of course, you probably haven't heard about that, because, for the most part, the American press has refused to report the story.

Even so, gay-marriage advocates are worried. M. V. Lee Badgett, research director for the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies, has issued a new critique of my work on Scandinavia and the Netherlands. In "Unhealthy Half-Truths," I refuted Badgett's first attack. Now she's back. Badgett's critique of my work is long on statistical tricks and short on engagement with my actual argument.

The bottom line is that neither Badgett nor anyone else has been able to get around the fact that marriage in both Scandinavia and the Netherlands is in deep decline. In Scandinavia, that decline began before same-sex registered partnerships were established, but has continued apace ever since. In the Netherlands, marital decline accelerated dramatically, in tandem with the growing campaign for gay marriage.

The strategies for evading these hard truths don't work. Gay-marriage advocates regularly cite steady or improving rates of marriage and divorce in Scandinavian countries to prove that all is well. I've shown repeatedly that these numbers are misleading. Scandinavian marriage numbers are inflated by remarriages among the large number of divorced, for example. Scandinavian divorce

numbers omit legally unrecorded breakups among the ever-increasing number of cohabiting parents. Total family dissolution rates in Scandinavia are actually up. I've made these points before, but Badgett and others just keep citing the misleading numbers.

European demographers know perfectly well that marriage in Scandinavia is in deep trouble. British demographer David Coleman and senior Dutch demographer Joop Garssen have written that "marriage is becoming a minority status" in Scandinavia. In Denmark, a slight majority of all children are still born within marriage. Yet citing the 60 percent out-of-wedlock birthrate for first-born children, Danish demographers Wehner, Kambskard, and Abrahamson argue that marriage has ceased to be the normative setting for Danish family life.

ALL ABOUT THE FAMILY

Badgett uses several tricks to dodge the problem of out-of-wedlock birthrates in excess of 50 percent. Most cohabiting parents eventually marry, Badgett emphasizes. Because of that, if you look at the number of Norwegian children who are actually living with their own married parents, it is 61 percent. Well, that is certainly more than half, but a number that low hardly means that Norwegian marriage is strong. And as I showed in "Unhealthy Half-Truths," in Norway's progay-marriage north, the numbers of Norwegian children actually living with their own married parents is now almost certainly at or below 50 percent.

Of course, the fact that "most" cohabiting parents in Scandinavia eventually marry slides over the core point. A great many parental cohabiters break up before they ever decide to marry—and they do so at rates two to three times higher than married parents. So many cohabiting parents break up before they ever decide to marry that demographer Mai Heide Ottosen has said, "to be a child of young [Danish] parents nowadays has become a risky affair."

Badgett cites a study showing that American children spend even less time in total with their own married parents than Norwegians. But that study's Norwegian data comes from the 1980s. Since then, America's family disruptions have leveled off while Norway's have worsened. In any case, staging a family-stability contest between America and Scandinavia misses the point. American families are unstable because of our high divorce rates and sky-high rates of underclass single parenting. The fact that our family system has weakened is precisely the problem. America's already significant family vulnerabilities would be pushed beyond the breaking point if Scandinavian-style parental cohabitation spread here. Today, more than ten percent of American children are born to cohabiting parents. And studies show that cohabiting parents in America break up at a much higher rate than they already do in Scandinavia. So a spike in Scandinavian-style parental cohabitation in America would deal a major new blow to our already vulnerable family system.

Badgett ignores my points about the differences between Norway's socially liberal north and it's more conservative and religious south. The parts of Norway where same-sex unions are most accepted have by far the highest out-of-wedlock birthrates. That helps make my causal point. It also helps explain why Norway's out-of-wedlock birthrate is rising more slowly now—something Badgett makes much of. Rising Norwegian out-of-wedlock births have hit a wall of resistance in the recalcitrant, religious south.

In any case, at very high levels, the out-of-wedlock birthrate has to rise more slowly.

That's because super-high out-of-wedlock birthrates signal a radical shift in the way parents think about marriage. In the early stages of Scandinavian-style cohabitation, parents think of first, and even second born children as tests of a relationship that might someday eventuate in marriage. But as parental cohabitation grows in popularity parents have two or more children without getting married at all. So out-of-wedlock birthrates rise more slowly as they move beyond the 40- and 50-percent marks because they are pushing through the final and toughest pockets of cultural support for marriage. That's why the slow but steady increase in Norway's already high out-of-wedlock birthrates is so frightening. It shows that even the resistant and conservative south is beginning to accept parental cohabitation, while the liberal north is beginning to abandon the idea of marriage altogether.

Okay, says Badgett, let's provisionally grant Kurtz's distinction between high and low-out-wedlock birthrate countries. Even given that, says Badgett, out-of-wedlock births have been "soaring" in some traditionally low out-of-wedlock birthrate nations (Ireland, Luxembourg, Hungary, Lithuania, and several other eastern European countries). And none of them but the Netherlands has gay marriage. So how could gay marriage be the cause of higher out of wedlock birthrates in the Netherlands when comparable countries that don't have gay marriage have similar rises?

Gay marriage is not the only cause of rising out-of-wedlock birthrates. I never said it was and it doesn't take a demographer to realize that lots of factors contribute to husbandless women having babies. In fact the out-of-wedlock birthrates that are rising so rapidly in the countries Badgett cites are rising for a distinct and clear reason. These nations are economically and culturally modernizing. For good or ill, they are increasingly adopting postmodern sexual mores, yet provide only limited access to contraception and/or abortion. That juxtaposition of divergent and even contradictory family and sexual systems creates problems. In Ireland, for example, sexual mores are loosening. Yet the Irish still tightly restrict contraception and abortion. That combination has pushed out-of-wedlock birthrates way up.

Something similar is happening in Lithuania, and in other eastern European countries. In a recent study of contraceptive availability in Europe, Erik Klijzing found that contraceptives were far less available in Lithuania and Bulgaria than in other European countries. Some eastern European nations have as little access to contraception as third-world countries. Curiously, of all the countries Klijzing studied, only in Lithuania do educated people have even less access to contraceptives than uneducated people. That fits the model of a culturally modernizing population with loosening sexual mores, but poor access to contraception. The result is soaring out of wedlock birthrates. (Some will use this to argue for more contraception. Others will argue for abstinence education and a renewal of tradition. My point here is simply that, either way, changes in sexual practices and attitudes have consequences.)

Badgett does list a country that doesn't have limited contraception: Luxembourg. But while Luxembourg's out-of-wedlock birthrate is rising, it's moving up only about half as fast as rates in Ireland, Lithuania, and the Netherlands.

Hungary is the only country that Badgett lists besides the Netherlands that has widely available birth control but a rapidly rising rate of out-of-wedlock births. This does seem to be related to greater cultural individualism. But another factor is the economic

stress that has hit eastern Europe as a whole since the collapse of Communism. Under Communism, governments allotted good apartments to married couples. In the post-Communist era that incentive to marriage has disappeared. Large apartments are now too expensive for many couples to afford in stressed economic times. What used to be an incentive to marriage has turned into a disincentive. Yet nothing of this sort is happening in Holland.

THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR

So the real question raised by Badgett's comparison is why Holland should be virtually the only traditionally low out-of-wedlock birthrate country in which couples have easy access to birth control where out-of-wedlock birthrates are now "soaring"? I'm grateful to Badgett for (inadvertently) drawing this additional factor to my attention. Rather than weakening my point, it greatly strengthens it. It is clearer than ever that something very unusual is happening in the Netherlands. Demographically, we have a kind of Dutch exceptionalism—and the key difference is that the Dutch added gay marriage to their precarious balance between socially liberal attitudes and traditional family practices. Gay marriage—not restricted contraception or the collapse of Communism—upset that balance, with the result that the out-of-wedlock birthrate began to zoom.

The decline of marriage in the Netherlands in tandem with the growing success of the Dutch movement for gay marriage is the clearest example of gay marriage's impact on marital decline. Badgett does her best to evade the problem by claiming that the increase in non-marital births began before Dutch registered partnerships took effect in early 1998. That is a weak argument, since an increase of two-percentage points in the out-of-wedlock birthrate for seven consecutive years is rare. It was anything but inevitable that a two-percent increase in non-marital births in 1997 would be followed by six consecutive increases at the same level. In any case, the final vote to establish registered partnerships took place in 1997.

But the deeper point is that the meaning of traditional marriage was transformed every bit as much by the decade-long national movement for gay marriage in Holland as by eventual legal success. That's why the impact of gay marriage on declining Dutch marriage rates and rising out-of-wedlock birthrates begins well before the actual legal changes were instituted. The recent statement by five Dutch scholars takes exactly that position.

Badgett has no trouble accepting the idea that gay marriage might be an effect of an increasing cultural separation between marriage and parenthood. But how could gay marriage be a product of this cultural trend without also locking in and reinforcing that same cultural stance? I've offered abundant cultural evidence that the message conveyed by gay marriage does in fact reinforce acceptance of parental cohabitation.

The Dutch scholars are right. Many factors are in play in European marital decline, and more research is needed to separate out the relative importance of the various factors. But continued marital decline in Scandinavia and the Netherlands has already provided us with enough evidence to call the wisdom of same-sex marriage into serious doubt.

CHARLOTTE SPARROW CHIAVETTA
MAKES HER MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Bryan and Rebekah Sparrow Chiavetta on the birth of their first child, Charlotte Sparrow Chiavetta. Charlotte was born on Thursday, October 7, 2004, and weighed 6 pounds and 13 ounces. Faye joins me in wishing John and Rebekah great happiness during this very special time in their lives.

As a father, I know the joy, pride, and excitement that parents experience upon the entrance of their child into the world. Representing hope, goodness, and innocence, a newborn allows those around her to see the world through her eyes... as a new, fresh place with unending possibilities for the future. Through a child, one is able to recognize and appreciate the full potential of the human race. I know the Chiavettas look forward to the changes and challenges that their new daughter will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch her grow.

I welcome young Charlotte into the world and wish John and Rebekah all the best as they raise her.

COCA-COLA RECOGNITION

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the classic beverage producer, Coca-Cola Company. Coca-Cola has been involved in its community and our Nation since the founding of the company. Through involvement in programs such as "Reading is Fundamental" and the U Promise Program, they have continually served the public. This history of public service was recently recognized when the Coca-Cola Company was awarded the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, USHCC, Corporation of the Year Award at the 25th Annual National Convention and Business Expo in Austin, TX.

As the company's promise states, "The Coca-Cola Company exists to benefit and refresh everyone it touches." Such a recognition of the Coca-Cola Company by USHCC only reinforces the commitment Coca-Cola has made to make their promise come true.

The Coca-Cola Company strives to reach out to the Hispanic community through a variety of programs. These programs primarily focus on education, which Coca-Cola believes is a "powerful force in improving the quality of life and creating opportunity for people and their families around the world." Of close to 30 programs, three—the Art of Harmony, the Coca-Cola First Generation Scholarship Program, and the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program—stand out in exemplifying the company's determination and willingness to "benefit and refresh." Through programs such as these, Coca-Cola has encouraged students who may not have a family history of going to college, or the financial stability to succeed

once they get there, the means and motivation to excel.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the Coca-Cola Company as the recipient of the USHCC Corporation of the Year Award and bring to light their outstanding efforts within the Hispanic community.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520,
AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strident opposition to the conference report on H.R. 4520, the so-called "Jobs Creation Act." This bill does nothing to create jobs at home, and actually provides incentives for corporations to move jobs offshore. The conference report is a \$140 billion solution to a \$57 billion problem, and how the Republicans intend to pay for this solution is both a sham and a disgrace.

Repealing the extraterritorial income, ETI, regime is absolutely necessary to avoid retaliatory duties imposed by the European Union. This tax scheme was found to be illegal by the World Trade Organization because it unfairly advantaged U.S. corporations in the international arena. Given that judgment, my preferred approach was to simply repeal the tax and save \$57 billion for America's taxpayers.

That's what should have happened. But, even if one felt that the corporations shouldn't be penalized for the WTO ruling, keeping them whole after the ETI repeal would cost \$57 billion. Unfortunately my colleagues have decided to go much further. They are replacing that illegal regime with \$140 billion in unnecessary corporate tax cuts and extraneous provisions that have no business in this bill.

This bill isn't only loaded with expensive, unnecessary tax breaks, it then goes so far as to induce U.S. companies to move even more jobs overseas through its bizarre tax incentive structure. During this jobless economic recovery, we cannot afford to give corporations even more incentive to ship jobs offshore. But, I guess this is consistent with the Bush administration and Republican belief that outsourcing jobs is good for America. I disagree.

This bill also gives U.S. companies a tax break on the profits they have previously made by shipping jobs offshore. In fact, corporations are temporarily allowed to repatriate foreign profits at a rate of 5.25 percent. Why would we ever give companies a tax holiday so they can line the pockets of executives and investors? That doesn't create jobs, it just breeds more corporate greed.

The Republicans will claim that this bill is fiscally responsible because it is paid for. In reality the \$80 billion in closed loopholes and other revenue raisers are just a pipe dream. Two of the biggest revenue raisers in the bill make it much harder for individuals to take the charitable deduction for donating property to non-profit organizations. I thought this was a corporate tax bill. I guess the Republicans think it is OK to raise taxes on charitable individuals so that billion-dollar corporations can

have a little more money for their multimillion dollar executive salaries.

The most egregious portion of this legislation is a \$10.1 billion buyout for the tobacco industry, most of which would line the pockets of large tobacco manufacturers like Phillip Morris. The tobacco buyout is nothing more than an election year bribe to enlist southern Democrats' votes on a bill they would otherwise be unlikely to support. Instead of using this opportunity to include the Senate provision to allow the FDA to regulate tobacco, Republicans have decided to give a huge windfall to the tobacco industry, while doing nothing to reduce tobacco production and improve public health. That is just plain wrong.

Finally, the Republicans have once again thwarted the democratic process by bringing a partisan 650 page bill with 617 pages of explanation up for a vote only hours after it was released. Are the Republicans afraid of what we might find if they actually gave us time to read and study the bill? I guess they just don't want to give us the time to make the public aware of the special interest giveaways loaded in their bill—covering everything from tackle boxes to sonar device industries.

This so-called American Jobs Creation Act does not create jobs. Instead, it creates new incentives for U.S. corporations to send jobs overseas. The conference report is a \$140 billion solution to a \$57 billion problem. Regardless of what my Republican colleagues say today, it will never be fully paid for. The extraneous provisions in this bill are mere gifts to big corporate donors and bribes to buy enough Democratic votes to pass the bill. This bill a disgrace to the American people and our tax code. Republicans should be hanging their heads in shame—but Republicans have no shame, as this bill clearly shows. I strongly urge all my colleagues to vote against the conference report for H.R. 4520.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of October 4, I was delayed and missed rollcall votes 487, 488, 489. I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall votes 487, 488, 489. It was my intention to vote: "yea" on rollcall 487; "yea" on rollcall 488; and "yea" on rollcall 489.

HONORING OWENSBORO SOUTHERN LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Owensboro Southern Little League Baseball Team for their remarkable season and recent participation in the Little League Championship Tournament in Williamsport, PA. Owensboro Southern came within one strike from advancing to the Little League World Series, finishing with an impres-

sive semi-final victory. They demonstrated great sportsmanship before a national audience, representing competitive values that make Kentucky proud.

The hours of extra practice under the leadership of Coach Vic Evans, brought this impressive distinction to the State of Kentucky and city of Owensboro. I want my colleagues in the House of Representatives to know of the pride that I have in representing these athletes and their families.

I would like to commend the Owensboro Southern for their magnificent season—an effort that epitomized team work, sportsmanship, and persistence. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these young athletes for their achievement and wish them continued success in seasons to come.

ON THE OCCASION OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of China (Taiwan) will be celebrating its National Day this October 10. I join my colleagues in wishing our friends in the Republic of China (Taiwan) a very happy National Day. Taiwan is an ally of the United States and maintains strong relations with the United States.

I hope that our friendship with Taiwan will continue to grow in the months and years ahead. I also hope that Taiwan will be able to return to a number of important international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization in the very near future. Taiwan is too important a country to be ignored by the international community.

I also wish to take this opportunity to welcome Taiwan's new ambassador, Dr. David Lee, to Washington. He will do an excellent job representing his government and his people.

CONGRATULATIONS TO INTER- NATIONAL TRUCK AND ENGINE: PROVIDING TRUCKS TO HELP SE- CURE A FREE IRAQ

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, congratulations are in order for International Truck and Engine of Garland, TX. Our forces in Iraq will soon be using 270 of International Truck and Engine's tanker trucks.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the numerous employees at International Truck and Engine who helped build these trucks that will soon be helping our troops.

In Iraq, these trucks will be outfitted to transport water across the country, providing a valuable resource for not only our troops on the ground, but for the Iraqi people. With the addition of these 270 trucks to our forces, Iraq's infrastructure will be stronger and more efficient.

In addition to the tanker trucks, ITE unveiled its new monster pickup, the CXT, last month at its factory in Garland. The CXT is the world's largest production pickup, weighing a whopping 14,500 pounds and being able to tow 20 tons. The CXT definitely brings new meaning to the phrase "everything is bigger in Texas."

Many would say that International Truck and Engine is raising the bar among vehicle manufacturers. That's because they are.

ITE provides a great service to the people of this country and to the people of Iraq. Congratulations again, and thank you, to International Truck and Engine and the people of Garland, TX.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Taiwan on its forthcoming National Day, October 10, 2004.

In recent years, Taiwan has impressed the world with its economic and political accomplishments. It is the world's 17th largest economy, with the world's 15th largest trade volume. Clearly, in this time of global economic interdependence, Taiwan has much to offer the world.

I commend President Chen Shui-bain of Taiwan on his efforts to seek greater recognition for his country in the world. President Chen has also committed Taiwan's resources to combating global terrorism and Taiwan is a valued partner of the United States in this effort.

Congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their National Day.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY JACKSON

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry Jackson, my friend and fellow paratrooper in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, who passed away last month due to cancer at the young age of 66. Henry was the consummate soldier and retired from the United States Army after achieving the rank of E-7. Even after retirement, he continued to serve his country, working as a civilian security officer on the Naval base near his home in New Orleans.

He was immensely proud of his family and had five sons who followed his footsteps by serving in the military. Henry died with dignity in the Veterans Hospital on July 6, 2004. He leaves behind a beautiful family as well as his legacy that will help keep our country strong.

TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY TOOL AND
DIE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to commend Sidney Tool and Die on its 50th anniversary. Under the ownership of Sergeant and Bensman families, Sidney Tool and Die has been a distinguished corporate citizen in the Sidney community since 1954. It has demonstrated its commitment to its customers by developing state-of-the-art tooling and assembly equipment and speciality machines for rubber and plastic product manufacturers. It takes exceptional leadership to maintain a business that prides itself on high quality products, hardworking employees and superior customer service.

Sidney Tool and Die has also given so much back to the community whose name it bears. Its owner, employees, retirees, and their families can be rightfully proud of this anniversary. Ohio is rightfully proud of its industrial base, and businesses like Sidney Tool and Die help to keep this tradition strong.

HONORING COLONEL MATTHEW
DAPSON, USMC

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has served his country proudly for over 26 years. Colonel Matthew Dapson, United States Marine Corps, is a native of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and a 1978 graduate of Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

After graduating from Rider with a Bachelor's degree in finance, Colonel Dapson chose to serve his country as one of the few and the proud, a United States Marine. He enrolled in Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant on the 203rd birthday of the Marine Corps, November 10th, 1978.

Upon completion of the Basic School at Quantico, Colonel Dapson was ordered to Pensacola, Florida for pilot training. He excelled at Pensacola, reached his goal of becoming a Naval Aviator, and was given the opportunity to fly the CH-46 helicopter. Colonel Dapson's reputation as a pilot, and as a Marine were such that he was subsequently invited to serve as an aviation instructor.

Throughout his career, he emphasized the importance of attention to detail in all endeavors. It is no small feat that Colonel Dapson flew for over 18 years without a mishap, amassing over 3,000 hours of flight time. This is even more impressive when one considers the age of the CH-46 aircraft. This is a testimony to Colonel Dapson and to those many fine Marines who put in the long hours to ensure his helicopter brought him and his crew home safely.

Having established himself as one who demonstrated extraordinary diligence, Colonel Dapson was assigned to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon for three years. While there, he was

given responsibility for several key strategic and doctrinal documents. He helped write the initial national military strategy on counter-proliferation in 1994, and wrote the capstone joint doctrine for services and combatant commanders on troop welfare issues and casualty reporting in 1997.

Colonel Dapson was not to be kept long out of the cockpit. Once again, in 1998, his reputation resulted in his selection for one of the most competitive billets in the Marine Corps, command of an operational squadron. Colonel Dapson commanded HMM-268, a CH-46 squadron based at Camp Pendleton, California. His record was again one of meticulous attention to detail, combined with compassionate concern for the Marines who served under him; exactly the right mix for the inherently dangerous business of flying military aircraft.

For the last three years, Colonel Dapson has been instrumental in enhancing communication and understanding between the Marine Corps and the Congress. As the Marine Corps Liaison to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, he has worked tirelessly alongside the Professional Staff of both Committees to ensure they had the best possible information on which to base resource allocation and legislative recommendations. From coordinating visits to the Hill by Marine Corps subject matter experts, to traveling the globe with Members and Staff, Colonel Dapson always put in whatever extra effort was necessary to make things go smoothly, and to gain access to crucial pieces of information.

Twenty-six years is a long time to serve, and to put others first. Colonel Dapson is to be commended for the legacy he has left behind, and all those whose lives he has enriched along the way. I hope all Members, especially those who serve on the Armed Services Committees, will join me in saying, "Thanks, Matt," and in wishing this fine American fighting man much success in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE REPUBLIC
OF CHINA ON TAIWAN ON ITS
NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan on the occasion of its forthcoming National Day. This day commemorates the Wuchang Uprising on October 10, 1911, which led to the downfall of the Qing dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912. The day is celebrated in Taiwan with parades, festivities, and fireworks displays throughout the island.

Over the past 93 years, Taiwan has increasingly become more democratic. Its 2004 presidential election is a testament to this fact. More than 80 percent of eligible Taiwan voters turned out to participate in a free and fair selection of the next Taiwanese President. This commitment to democracy is consistent with the deeply-held values of the American people.

The alliance between the people of Taiwan and the United States is of great importance.

Taiwan is one of our largest trading partners and is a valued ally and friend. I wish the Taiwanese people well as they celebrate their National Day, and I am hopeful that the U.S.-Taiwanese relationship will continue to develop well into the future. Taiwan is truly a success story for democracy in Asia and around the world.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF MR. LORON HODGE

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Loron Hodge, the Executive Director of the Kern County Farm Bureau. Mr. Hodge will be retiring this fall after 25 years of advocating on behalf of the agricultural community in Kern County.

Loron Hodge was born in Arkansas in 1939, where he lived until his father accepted a job as a foreman on a ranch in Tulare County, California. It was here that Mr. Hodge first learned about farming by working on a family farm with his brother. After working in the Central Valley's agricultural economy, Mr. Hodge worked in sales in Porterville, California until 1970. In 1970, Mr. Hodge moved from Porterville to accept a job as the Assistant Manager at the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Hodge was promoted to Manager of the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1979, Mr. Hodge became the Executive Director of the Kern County Farm Bureau. Since that time, his hard work and dedication have made him a valuable advocate for farmers and ranchers in Kern County, California. In his 25 years as Executive Director, Mr. Hodge made many contributions that improved the Farm Bureau's operations and expanded its activities. Mr. Hodge played a vital role in the acquisition of the former Chamber of Commerce building, which is now the current home of the Kern County Farm Bureau. In addition to helping to improve the infrastructure of the Farm Bureau, Mr. Hodge helped to expand the Farm Bureau's agricultural education programs, including Farm Day in the City and the Teacher's Ag Seminar, which educates students and teachers throughout Kern County and America about the importance of the agriculture industry. As a result of his hard work, the Farm Bureau's membership reached an all-time high in 2001.

In addition to his role on the Kern County Farm Bureau, Mr. Hodge is a manager of the Water Association of Kern County and member of the Kern Taxpayers Association, the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District and the Committee of Industries. In the past, Mr. Hodge has served on the boards of the Kern Historical Society, Project Clean Air and is former secretary of the Coalition to Protect Private Property Rights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Loron Hodge for his dedicated service to the San Joaquin Valley and wishing him well upon his retirement from the Kern County Farm Bureau.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520,
AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to reiterate my position regarding charitable donations of automobiles. I believe that the language of the conference report will have serious ramifications, burdening charitable organizations and precluding taxpayers from donating their used automobiles to said organizations. The Conference Committee chose to adopt the Senate proposal, which requires donors to wait until the vehicle is sold and then deduct only the amount of the sale. This is burdensome not only to the donor but also to the charity.

Prior to enactment of this legislation, those who donate their cars can deduct amounts based on fair market value. An appraisal is needed only for cars valued above \$5,000. I believe that this is the most judicious manner of treating vehicle donations and it is my contention that by altering this provision, Congress will be placing unreasonable new burdens on taxpayers, discouraging charitable donations, and hindering charitable organizations from providing much-needed benefits to their recipients.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word. I rise in opposition to the amendment proposed by the gentleman from New Jersey.

The substitute offered by the gentleman from New Jersey lacks or waters down many of the important provisions recommended by the 9/11 Commission and included in H.R. 10 in its current form.

Border security is essential to national security. The 9/11 Commission recognized this truth. H.R. 10, in its current form, does justice to the 9/11 recommendations by proposing reasonable, meaningful immigration reforms to shore up border and travel security. These provisions would speed up implementation of our entry and exit tracking system and increase the number of border patrol officers. Another provision would help "push out the border" by expanding the program for pre-screening passengers before they can embark to the United States to additional countries.

The 9/11 Commission also stressed the importance of secure identity. The 9/11 Commission makes clear that without the regulation of

identification documents, those who wish to harm us can use false identities to evade detection or use false identities to enter secure spaces, such as airplanes or nuclear facilities. H.R. 10 would regulate which forms of identification can be accepted as proof of identity by Federal officials—a reform I have long fought for—so that non-secure foreign IDs cannot be utilized by terrorists or violent criminals wishing to evade the law or enter secure spaces undetected. Importantly, it would also set standards for states to ensure state driver's licenses and state identification cards are secure.

I take particular pride of authorship in the provisions that would set immigrant identification standards, expand pre-inspection efforts at foreign airports, reform the designation process for foreign terrorist organizations, increase penalties for identification fraud and for false claims of citizenship, and support creation of a unified system for transliteration of names into the roman alphabet. I am pleased that these initiatives have become part of this landmark legislation.

Each of the Title III, "Border Security and Terrorist Travel," provisions are essential to the national security and should be retained in their current form. Therefore, I urge a "no" vote on the Menendez substitute amendment.

WATER SUPPLY, RELIABILITY,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2828, the Water Supply Reliability and Environmental Improvement Act, also known as CALFED.

I am a proud co-sponsor of this legislation.

After 10 years of hard work and endless negotiations, we present the final CALFED product to Congress.

The California delegation has proven our commitment to the people of California that they are ensured a reliable water supply.

I want to congratulate Senator FEINSTEIN and Chairman POMBO for completing a top priority for California. Their hard work is much appreciated.

I would also like to thank Chairman KEN CALVERT and Ranking Member GRACE NAPOLITANO of the Water & Power Subcommittee for their hard work on CALFED as well.

CALFED is the link needed to ensure the quantity and quality of water in California.

And it is crucial to the future of my home state of California.

Without out clean water, or enough water, there can be no development of jobs or housing.

And without clean water, my children and grandchildren, or any child, cannot enjoy normal, healthy lives.

I sincerely believe CALFED will become a blueprint for water plans in other areas of the country.

CALFED increases the amount of water conservation, recycling and desalination projects. This will help ease the burden that perchlorate has placed on our water supplies.

Perchlorate groundwater contamination, combined with drought or other conditions, highlights the need for these water conservation projects.

The combination of perchlorate and drought caused my hometown, Rialto, California, to declare 2 water emergencies in one year.

With 15 wells in 3 towns in my district being shut down because of perchlorate, serving clean water has become difficult.

CALFED also provides the means to respond to rapid population growth.

With a growing population, there is a growing need for more water delivery and storage.

California has a population of 36 million, and expects to increase to 50 million in the year 2020.

We know we cannot rely solely on the Colorado River anymore for water use—we have no choice.

We know we cannot wait until California reaches a water crisis to pass CALFED legislation.

H.R. 2828 is a must for California.

I urge my colleagues to support CALFED and allow California the clean and reliable water sources it needs.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520,
AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4520, the American Jobs Creation Act.

I believe that this bill does some good things. It repeals the Extraterritorial Income (ETI) program that was causing significant sanctions to be placed on a wide range of U.S. products and was hurting our world-wide trade efforts.

In addition, I strongly support the ethanol provisions that were included in the bill. This bill extends the ethanol tax credit, which is vitally important to our Illinois farmers, through 2010. It creates a \$1/gallon tax credit for agribiodiesel and a 50¢ tax-credit for biodiesel through 2006, and it ensures that the credits for ethanol do not impact the Highway Trust Fund.

However, I cannot support this bill because I believe it will provide more incentives to multi-national companies to ship jobs overseas, rather than keep them here, where American workers need them most. This bill includes 24 provisions that encourage shipping jobs overseas and provides \$36 billion in additional tax benefits for offshore operations of U.S. corporations.

I also am concerned that this bill did not include language that would make tobacco products subject to FDA regulations, a concept that had strong bipartisan support, while including some special interest tax-breaks that are not germane to this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting no on this legislation in order to send it back to the Conference Committee to address the critical problem of outsourcing American jobs.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE
OF TAIWAN ON THEIR NATIONAL
DAY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan will be celebrating its National Day on October 10, 2004. On this happy occasion, I join my constituents in wishing Taiwan the best in its endeavors.

This past September I had the opportunity to meet with Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian in Seattle. He was returning to Taiwan from a trip to Central America. I was impressed by his sincerity in seeking an early dialogue with China and maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Mr. Speaker, peace in the Taiwan Strait is vital to the political development and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

In past years, Taiwan and the United States have been friends and allies. In times of turmoil, both have come to each other's aid. I appreciate Taiwan's efforts and actions to protect U.S. citizens in Taiwan after 9/11 and Taiwan's cooperation with U.S. intelligence agencies in combating global terrorist activities. I am also aware of Taiwan's support for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan. Taiwan is our friend and deserves our support.

The future of Taiwan-U.S. relations is brighter than ever. With the appointment of Dr. David Lee as Taiwan's chief representative in the United States, I look forward to working closely with Dr. Lee on issues of mutual importance.

Congratulations to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan on their National Day.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520,
THE AMERICAN JOBS CREATION
ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great disappointment that I rise in opposition to this Conference Report. I opposed the House version of this bill in June and hoped that what would come out of the Conference Committee would be an improvement. Instead, what we see before us is much worse.

I wish I could support this legislation because it does contain some worthwhile reforms that will benefit the economy and eliminate harmful tariffs. Some of the provisions included in this legislation would greatly benefit businesses within my district. I strongly support the inclusion of incentives for corporations to repatriate their overseas profits which would stimulate the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in our domestic economy and, in fact, worked hard to get this provision in the bill. I cannot support a \$140 billion grab-bag of special interest handouts to solve a \$4 billion problem.

We had a simple job to do: to repeal the current export subsidy that led the World

Trade Organization (WTO) to authorize tariffs against American goods. Rather than using this bill to bring the United States back into compliance with the WTO, it's become a Christmas tree for pet projects all over the country. Included in this legislation are handouts for tobacco growers, tackle box manufacturers, bow and arrow manufacturers, importers of ceiling fans, and even NASCAR race tracks.

What's worse is that this legislation does nothing to protect jobs here at home. Instead, it encourages them to be out-sourced. Despite the fact that we've lost 1.7 million jobs since this Administration took office, the Conference Report includes 24 separate provisions that actually encourage shipping more of our jobs overseas at a cost of \$42 billion. The Senate-passed version of this bill included a provision that would have closed offshore tax shelters established for the sole purpose of avoiding U.S. taxes. This Conference Report re-opens them, leaving the American taxpayer to foot the bill.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose this legislation. It is not the right prescription for what ails us.

CONGRATULATING TOBY GASS

HON. C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the academic achievement and great promise of graduate student Toby Gass, who is studying Forest Resources at the University of Idaho.

Toby is being honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as recipient of a prestigious Science To Achieve Results, or STAR fellowship, through the EPA's Greater Research Opportunities program.

She is only the second Idaho student ever to win such an award, and the first since 1999. Only 22 graduate students nationwide are receiving STAR-GRO fellowships for 2004, and I am extremely proud that one of them is from Idaho's 1st District.

The EPA's STAR graduate fellowship program is the only federal program exclusively for students pursuing advanced degrees in environmental sciences. It is highly competitive, with only 7 percent of applicants being awarded fellowships.

Toby and the other STAR fellowship recipients clearly are the best and brightest of America's future environmental scientists. These brilliant men and women will lead the way to unimaginable advances in more efficiently managing our natural resources and protecting human health and safety.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Toby Gass and all the STAR-GRO fellowship winners for their achievement, and thank them for their groundbreaking work, from which we all will benefit.

CRS SPECIALIST PAUL S.
RUNDQUIST HONORED BY THE
POLISH PARLIAMENT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to the invaluable service and support we receive every day from the knowledge, experience, and hard work of the Congressional Research Service—CRS. This dedicated team of policy analysts, administrators, and support staff provides us with information services and policy analysis that is accurate, timely, and impeccably balanced and nonpartisan.

The Congress, and this people's House, are not the only beneficiaries of CRS's expertise. At times over the years, we have authorized CRS to provide temporary support for the parliaments of several nations as they worked to join the ranks of the world's democracies. In the 1960s and 70s, Congress authorized exchange programs between CRS and the Japanese and German national legislatures that helped them establish professional parliamentary research departments that are the envy of their neighbors. More recently, in the early 1990s, as the dawn of freedom broke over the nations of Eastern Europe, the Speaker's Task Force on Parliamentary Reform in Eastern Europe provided invaluable expertise and perspective to the newly emerging free parliaments of these nations.

Mr. Speaker, the seed was sown, and today we see the inspiring results, as Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, and other countries have joined the family of democratic nations. CRS provided vital assistance in this effort, and today, I am pleased to note that one of our own, CRS Specialist Paul S. Rundquist, has been honored by the Republic of Poland for his work with the Sejm ("SAYM"), the Polish Parliament: he has been awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

Mr. Speaker, when I was first appointed to the position of Ranking Minority Member of the House Administration Committee by Democratic Leader Pelosi, I called CRS for information about internal House operations and organization. Dr. Rundquist was the first person to respond, and he demonstrated why CRS is held in such high regard—he was prompt, thorough, and professional. Later, when I needed information on congressional continuity, Dr. Rundquist was again there with the needed research and information. I'm certainly glad Dr. Rundquist has remained a Congressional asset all these years, and I hope he stays on for many years to come.

Dr. Rundquist is a son of Illinois; born in Chicago, he holds a Bachelor's degree from Loyola University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Appointed to the staff of CRS in 1974, he is a nationally renowned expert on legislative procedure, the structure, organization, and functions of the United States Congress, and congressional history. One of several CRS analysts assigned to assist the Speaker's Task Force from 1990 to 1994, Dr. Rundquist has continued to provide invaluable assistance to the members and staff of the Polish Parliament, while maintaining the full schedule of his duties at CRS.

He gave generously of his knowledge and perspective, providing information and analysis to the Sejm as it developed the institutions, policies, and procedures so necessary to a vital, democratic national legislature. During several missions to Poland, he advised on the establishment of parliamentary rules and procedures, committee structure and function, and support services to members, committees, and party organizations.

In 1996, Dr. Rundquist was appointed a Fulbright Professor of Politics at Warsaw University, and also served as a visiting professor at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. During the following two years, he lectured widely and continued to provide support and analysis for the Polish Parliament and its members, providing informal assistance to the Sejm as it drafted a new constitution, and even advice on the official translation of the new constitution into English.

His service to the United States Congress has continued uninterrupted throughout this period. His recent projects and publications have included authoritative studies on guaranteeing the continuity of Congress, especially the House of Representatives, in the event of terrorist attacks, and ground-breaking analysis of the Senate power sharing agreement of 2001–2002.

Accompanied by his wife, Ellen, and CRS colleagues and friends of many years, Dr. Rundquist was awarded the Order of Merit at a ceremony held at the Polish Embassy on September 29. I extend my sincere congratulations to this dedicated servant of Congress and the American people for his many distinguished accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF GILDA'S CLUB OF
NEW YORK CITY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gilda's Club of New York City, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. In 1995, Gilda's Club opened its doors in honor of the late Gilda Radner. While most well-known for her work as a comedienne, Radner's legacy carries on in the Club because of her wish that people living with cancer, as she did so bravely, would find a community with which to talk and seek comfort while fighting the disease. A festive gala, "Celebrating Gilda," will be held on November 4th to mark the success and progress of Gilda's Club over the past ten years.

Gilda's Club, a non-profit organization with both of its branches located in my Congressional district, was founded upon the premise that "when cancer happens, it happens to the entire family," a message so eloquently conveyed by Radner herself. Gilda's Club is premised on the belief that while doctors can treat the physical effects of cancer, the emotional effects of the disease must also be treated. The Club provides a comprehensive emotional and social support community for anyone whose life has been touched by cancer in any way, free of charge. Its Basic III Plus membership provides programs ranging from Support and Networking Groups, to education in Lectures and Workshops, to a playful

yet supportive atmosphere for children in Noogieland, all designed to channel strength, hope and solidarity to all participants.

The current membership of the Club is 3,615, and the Club has now passed the milestone of 100,000 member visits. An organization with a resolute mission, a compassionate heart, and an intrinsic sense of humor, Gilda's Club is a valued asset to the New York community. Testimonials, such as that of one member who said that "this club has shined light and hope into some of the darkest corners of my life," coupled with the growing membership numbers are a clear indication of the Club's magnificent achievements. I am delighted to wish Gilda's Club a joyous and memorable 10th anniversary celebration, and to convey my sincere wishes for a thriving and prosperous second decade.

CONGRATULATING DR. LINDA
BUCK

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we marvel at the wonders the Hubble Space Telescope has brought us. We gaze in amazement at the images beamed back from a rover on Mars. As astonishing and inspiring as these discoveries are, sometimes you don't have to go very far for a major discovery.

In fact, sometimes the wonder is as close as the nose on your face. We learned that earlier this week with the announcement that Dr. Linda Buck from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center had won a Nobel Prize in Medicine. Dr. Buck and Dr. Richard Axel of Columbia University will share a Nobel for their pioneering research on the sense of smell.

The more we learn about the human body, the more amazing we know the human body is.

On behalf of the people in the 7th Congressional District, I want to congratulate Dr. Buck.

This is the third time that the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center has been home to a Nobel laureate. That is an extraordinary achievement in and of itself.

This is a proud moment for Seattle, Fred Hutch and our distinguished research scientist.

Thank you Dr. Buck for an individual achievement that we can all share.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL SPINA
BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans—and their family members—who are currently affected by Spina Bifida—the nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect. The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for over 30 years,

works every day to prevent and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect.

The SBAA was founded in 1973 to address the needs of the individuals and families affected by this disease and is currently the only national organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. As part of its service through almost 60 chapters in more than 125 communities across the country, the SBAA puts expecting parents in touch with families who have a child with Spina Bifida. These families answer questions and concerns and help guide expecting parents. The SBAA then works to provide lifelong support and assistance for affected children and their families.

Together the SBAA and the West Michigan Spina Bifida Association, the Spina Bifida Association of Southeastern Michigan, the Spina Bifida Association of Upper Michigan, and the Southwest Michigan Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association work tirelessly to help families meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their child. I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and these local Spina Bifida organizations in Michigan for all that they have done for the families affected by this birth defect, especially those living in my state.

Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of pregnancy. Over 1,500 babies are born with Spina Bifida each year. There are three different forms of Spina Bifida with the most severe being Myelomeningocele Spina Bifida, which causes nerve damage and severe disabilities. This severe form of Spina Bifida is diagnosed in 96 percent of children born with this condition. Between 70 to 90 percent of the children born with Spina Bifida are at risk of mental retardation when spinal fluid collects around the brain.

The exact cause of Spina Bifida is not known, but researchers have concluded that women of childbearing age who take daily folic acid supplements reduce their chances of having a Spina Bifida pregnancy by up to 75 percent. Progress has been made in educating women on the importance of consuming folic acid supplements and maintaining diets rich in folic acid. Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control shows an increase in consumption of vitamins with folic acid by 8 percent over 2003. Since the Food and Drug Administration decision to fortify enriched grains with folic acid, CDC has documented a 26 percent decline in these birth defects.

Although this is good news, we will still have babies born with Spina Bifida who need intensive care and families that need guidance and support in caring for and raising these children. The result of this neural tube defect is that most babies suffer from a host of physical, psychological, and educational challenges, including paralysis, developmental delay, numerous surgeries, and living with a shunt in their skulls in an attempt to ease their condition. Today, approximately 90 percent of all babies diagnosed with Spina Bifida live into adulthood, approximately 80 percent have normal IQs, and approximately 75 percent participate in sports and other recreational activities. With proper medical care, people who suffer from Spina Bifida can lead full and productive lives. However, they must learn how to move around using braces, crutches or wheelchairs, and how to function independently. They also

must be careful to avoid a host of secondary health problems ranging from depression and learning disabilities to skin problems and latex allergies.

After decades of poor prognosis and short life expectancy, breakthroughs in research combined with improvements in health care and treatment children with Spina Bifida are now living long enough to become adults with this condition. However, with this extended life expectancy people with Spina Bifida now face new challenges in the fields of education, job training, independent living, health care for secondary conditions, aging concerns, and other related issues.

I am proud to cochair the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus with my colleague Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH. The Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus brings increased attention to this condition and advances initiatives that will improve the quality of life for those individuals and their families living with Spina Bifida. So far we have 43 members, and I encourage my colleagues to join the Caucus.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect and for their commitment to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our nation. The Spina Bifida community and our nation owe a tremendous debt to the SBAA for its work over the past three decades. Much more work still needs to be done, and I am confident this fine organization and its chapters will lead the effort for decades to come. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America the best of luck in its endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support its important efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE DIAGEO SPIRIT OF AMERICA HUMANITARIAN RAPID RESPONSE EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF FLORIDIANS IN THE WAKE OF BOTH HURRICANE CHARLEY IN AUGUST AND HURRICANE FRANCES IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the Diageo Spirit of America Fund and its efforts during the recent devastating hurricanes that hit Florida in August and September. As we Floridians have dealt with the aftermath of these storms, it became apparent that the most precious commodity needed to jumpstart the road to recovery was electricity. Without this precious commodity, our relief workers were left literally in the dark to sort out what steps needed to be made to restore order, security, and normalcy to our devastated state.

Recognizing this need and even before either Hurricane Charley or Frances made landfall, Diageo was poised to help our cause by bringing four giant portable generators to the areas most likely in each storm's path. These generators were made available to relief workers in St. Lucie County and throughout each storm's most devastated areas.

Diageo's generosity and unique foresight helped us literally jumpstart our move down

the road toward recovery. Diageo's generators were first put to task by providing power to operate Hardee County's only solid waste facility, a facility critical to public health in crisis situations. Two additional generators were used to power a local campground being used as a temporary shelter for displaced families.

In my district, Diageo helped us after Hurricane Frances by supplying one of these generators to power the Port St. Lucie pumping station, sending safe drinking water to the homes and shelters of over 88,000 residents of Port St. Lucie and the surrounding area. Water usage was restored to my constituents much faster than in hurricanes of the past because of the Diageo Spirit of America efforts. The others were used at the will of the Fort Pierce Emergency Operations Center whenever the need was greatest.

This assistance effort is part of Diageo's ongoing humanitarian efforts. In the hours and days after 9/11 Diageo and its employees provided numerous relief activities and assistance. In December 2001, Diageo brought the first corporate humanitarian airlift to war-torn Afghanistan by delivering more than 100,000 pounds of food and emergency supplies to 800 orphans in Kabul. In June of 2003, the company chartered a DC-8 plane and brought a cargo of food, medicine and school supplies to Baghdad, becoming the first American company to embark upon a humanitarian mission into Iraq. In November, Diageo provided more than 12,000 turkeys to the Connecticut Food Bank so that 72,000 disadvantaged families could celebrate a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. And this past June, the Diageo Spirit of the Americas Airlift brought in and distributed emergency supplies to flood victims in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Diageo's Spirit of America Humanitarian Aid Missions are facilitated by the Bridge Foundation, a nonprofit humanitarian aid and development organization which provides humanitarian aid worldwide. Diageo is the world's largest total beverage alcohol company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Diageo North America and its Spirit of America Fund for its rapid response to the crisis created by these hurricanes. Their ongoing generosity and understanding of this crisis and these others throughout the world represent the finest and most compassionate qualities in America.

HONORING THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan celebrate their national day. I join with my colleagues here in the House in congratulating them on this solemn and happy occasion.

The United States and Taiwan have a long history of friendship and a tradition of democracy which bind our two nations. Despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations between Taiwan and America, our economic, political, and military ties are strong and continue to grow.

For decades, the freedom and individual rights afforded to Taiwan's citizens have

shown as a beacon in the darkness to the millions of oppressed Chinese citizens across the Taiwan Straits. Taiwan is a model for the mainland on many fronts, from its growing democracy to its robust economy.

I am proud to say that the United States has always been an uncompromising partner with Taiwan, making sure that our ally has the means to defend its democracy in the event of attack from mainland China. While peace in the Taiwan Straits has been fragile at times, the people of Taiwan continue to stand tall and firmly committed to their freedom.

I salute their courage and strength and know that the American people join with them in celebrating this important anniversary of liberty and democracy in East Asia.

HONORING ROBERT J. MANN

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our "Homegrown Hero," Robert J. Mann. As the founder and executive director of Bridging the Gap Inc., Bob is being honored by the organization on October 15, 2004, for his leadership and vision which transformed greater Kansas City into a collaborative and interconnected community of environmental awareness, advocacy and reform.

Thirteen years ago, Bob created Bridging the Gap, an environmental movement of volunteers who created and maintain our first 15 local community recycling centers. It has since grown into a regional, multifaceted environmental movement involving businesses, governments, schools and thousands of volunteers. Under Bob's leadership all segments of the greater Kansas City community have become interconnected and established partnerships working together to make a difference and improve Kansas City's quality of life, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability. During a decade of creating change for a healthier community, Bridging the Gap succeeded in educating the public through environmental publications and speakers bureaus, hosting special green events for environmental awareness and advocacy, and ballot initiatives that brought curbside recycling to Kansas City.

I have been an ardent supporter of Earth Day since the first one in 1970, when I showed my support by bicycling to my job as a schoolteacher and discussing with my students the responsibility each individual has to our global environment. Since 1997 my Earth Day celebration has come to include Bridging the Gap's Earth Day Walk, an eagerly anticipated annual celebration and fundraiser for more than 1,000 Kansas Citizens. More than 5,000 area residents attend the Party for the Planet at the Kansas City Zoo, another Earth Day event sponsored by Bridging the Gap.

Bridging the Gap Inc. has grown dynamically and now includes: RecycleFirst, Kansas City's curbside recycling education program; Keep Kansas City beautiful, a beautification project involving more than 7,700 volunteers for 165 metro wide cleanups; Kansas City Wildlands, a natural and wild places restoration and conservation project; Environmental Excellence Business Network, an education

and mentoring program for businesses; Waste Reduction and Recycling Consultation, an advisory, assessment and action program for governments, businesses, educational and cultural institutions; Regional By-Product Synergy Initiative, a project to help business and government reduce waste and increase productivity; Shadowcliff Retreat Center, environmental education and retreat center in Grand Lake, Colorado; and Environmental Excellence Awards, an annual event to honor individuals, businesses and schools.

Bob's efforts have been recognized locally and nationally for Building the Gap's leadership. Awards include: National Recycling Coalition's Award for Environmental and Community Leadership, Kansas City Consensus Achiever Award, Missouri Governor Carnahan's Pollution Prevention Award, EPA Pollution Prevention Award, American Forest & Paper Association's Best Paper Recycling Award, Mid-America Regional Council Regional Leadership Award, Waste Reduction and Recycling Award for non-profits, Missouri Environmental Education Association Environmental Education Service Award, and Keep America Beautiful First Place National Litter Prevention Award.

Bob's leadership and vision of collaboration, his perseverance in environmental problem solving, and his service and commitment to a healthy earth have inspired thousands of individuals to make a difference. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Robert J. Mann, a bridge builder who has indeed made our community, our region and our planet a better place through his tireless efforts to honor our Earth and all who share its wonders.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520,
AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters between myself and Chairman THOMAS for submission into the RECORD related to debate on H.R. 4520, The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, which took place October 7, 2004.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 7, 2004.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to raise a concern regarding regulations issued several years ago by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in which they apply an expansive new interpretation of the law retroactively.

Congress enacted section 263(g) of the Internal Revenue Code as part of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 ("ERTA") to discourage the use of certain "straddle" type tax shelters known as "cash and carry" transactions. In the Report accompanying ERTA, the Senate Finance Committee noted that "[t]he committee intends to discourage these transactions, sometime called 'cash and carry' shelters, in its legislation." The Committee also described the nature of the "cash and carry" transactions Congress was trying to discourage, in detail.

Twenty years later, on January 17, 2001 the Treasury Department issued a set of proposed regulations under section 263(g), that would expand the scope of 263(g) beyond so-called cash and carry transactions, and states in its effective date section that the new rules apply to ". . . interest and carrying charges properly allocable to personal property that are paid, incurred, or accrued after the date these regulations are adopted as final . . . for a straddle established on or after January 17, 2001."

Despite the clear legislative intent, the IRS has attempted to apply the proposed regulations expanding the coverage of 263(g) to transactions undertaken prior to January 17, 2001, and a number of field agents have indicated to taxpayers that absent clear guidance to the contrary, they will continue to apply this expansive interpretation of section 263(g) on a retroactive basis.

When the tax writing committees decide to change the law in a way that might affect ongoing transactions our normal practice is to put the public on notice through an announcement. Once we have so acted, it is considered fair to make the change effective on the date of the announcement because taxpayers have been given fair warning.

I would like to know if you agree with my conclusion that the IRS should follow rules that are equally fair. If a change in the law which was not made as a result of a legislative mandate is announced in regulations, do you agree that the change should be prospective?

Thank you for considering this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

PHIL ENGLISH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

Washington, DC, October 8, 2004.

Hon. PHIL ENGLISH,

House of Representatives, Longworth House Of-
fice Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. ENGLISH: I am writing in response to your letter regarding Sec. 263(g) of the Internal Revenue Code and the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) application of related regulations.

Without in any way questioning whether IRS interpretation in this case was appropriate, I agree with your conclusion that the expansion of the scope of 263(g) should have been prospective. I believe the Secretary of Treasury should do whatever is necessary to make sure that the regulations that have been brought to my attention by your letter are implemented in that manner.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520,
AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let's be honest: Republicans don't ship American jobs overseas. Neither do Democrats. Why would they?

But our own U.S. Tax Code does, and that's the responsibility of both parties in Congress. It's time we stop pointing fingers and start working together to save American jobs.

That's what the American Jobs Creation Act does. It removes the job-killers in our Tax Code.

It's a proven, commonsense principle: Stop punishing those who build in America. Lower the tax burden on those who manufacture and produce here in America, with a higher tax rate if you build it overseas.

Create jobs in America's small businesses by letting them keep more of what they earn—making it easier to buy that new computer, that new printer, that new machinery so they can compete with anyone, anywhere.

And for all those small industries—whether they are American companies making bows and arrows, tackle boxes, small aircraft, or U.S. films—let's get rid of the job killers where our Tax Code treats them worse than their overseas competitors.

Some critics may ridicule these provisions, but it's no laughing matter to the American workers in these small industries.

This bill also restores sales tax fairness to the Tax Code, easing the sales tax burden on American families and giving a direct economic boost to Main Street.

In States like mine, it means delivering \$1 billion of tax relief to Texas families each year, and creating enough new jobs to fill nearly every seat in the Toyota Basketball Arena with a new Texas worker.

Best of all, every taxpayer in America will have the option of choosing to deduct either their state and local income taxes or sales taxes, whichever is highest.

Thanks to the leadership of Chairman BILL THOMAS, the key support of Majority Leader TOM DELAY and hard work by my colleague SAM JOHNSON of Texas, we have re-opened the door to sales tax fairness that has been locked shut for 18 years.

Every legislator from a sales tax State should support this bill because this opportunity may not occur again for another two decades, if at all.

In conclusion, let's get the job-killers out of our Tax Code, and create jobs right here in America.

RECOGNIZING FRANK D. JACKSON
OF EUGENE, OREGON

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to thank Frank D. Jackson of Eugene, OR, for his tireless efforts to improve the lives of working men and women and their families.

Frank Jackson is a man of conviction, dedicated to serving his community by strengthening labor rights. His unwavering vision for working America has put him on the front lines in the fight for decent pay and benefits, safe and healthy workplaces, and dignity and respect for the rank and file.

Until he retired in 1992, Jackson worked two jobs for decades—firefighter and union activist. He has been a steadfast advocate for workers since joining his first union at the age of 15 and was recently inducted into the Labor Hall of fame for his many years of leadership in the labor movement. He served as president and secretary-treasurer of his union, Eugene Firefighters Association Local 851, International Association of Fire Fighters; president and executive secretary-treasurer of the Lane

County Labor Council; senior vice president of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council; and Executive Board member of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

In solidarity and strength, I am proud to salute Frank Jackson for his wholehearted commitment to organized labor and working people in Oregon.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENHANCING NUTRITION IN MEDICAL EDUCATION ACT OF 2004

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the importance of nutrition in attaining and maintaining a healthy lifestyle is well known. Today, as countless reports and articles call attention to the obesity epidemic in our country, it is more important than ever that we focus on preventive health measures including good nutrition habits. Nutrition plays a significant role in the onset and progression of six of the ten leading causes of death. Nutrition intervention also decreases morbidity, mortality, human suffering, and medical costs.

That is why in 1990 Congress mandated that our Nation's medical schools integrate nutrition education into their curricula. Today, however—14 years later—many physicians and medical students are still requesting more training and education in nutrition. I believe now is the time to take action to provide additional resources for medical schools throughout the country to address the known desire and demonstrated need for increased training and education in nutrition.

To that end, I rise today to introduce the Enhancing Nutrition in Medical Education Act of 2004. This legislation authorizes a grant program for which all U.S. allopathic medical schools would be eligible to apply, to assist them in developing, implementing, and integrating innovative nutrition components into their existing medical education curriculum. To name a few of the requirements, the grants will focus on preventive health measures such as education on the causes, treatment, and prevention of obesity; prevention and treatment of common nutritional deficiencies; and office education and counseling to ensure appropriate diet for mostly healthy people. The grants awarded will be in the amount of \$50,000 for any fiscal year, or a total of \$100,000 for the 2-year duration of the grant.

Also, schools awarded grants will be required to submit a report to the Secretary of HHS describing the nutrition curricula they developed, along with results achieved through its implementation. The Secretary will in turn be responsible for disseminating a report to all medical schools nationwide comprised of nutrition curriculum descriptions developed by the grantees. The reporting requirement will ensure that medical schools who either chose not to apply for the grants or who were not awarded grants still receive information and models on nutrition curricula they can incorporate into their own.

In 2003 a survey was conducted of all accredited medical and osteopathic colleges in the U.S. to determine the present state of nutrition training in medical school curricula. This

study showed positive trends, but with much room to grow. The study found that a nutrition course was required in forty percent of the medical and osteopathic programs, an elective course in 13 percent, and 24 percent of the schools integrated the subject in other courses. Approximately 23 percent lacked nutrition of any type. Schools that required nutrition showed a mean number of 2.5 credit hours, and it was rare for medical programs to require more than one nutrition course or for the course to exceed three credit hours.

Mr. Speaker, a similar survey conducted in 1997–1998 showed that 26 percent of medical school programs required nutrition courses. The slight increase in programs requiring nutrition courses is certainly a positive trend, but considering the alarming rates of obesity, diabetes, and other negative health affects associated with poor nutrition, we must do more.

The Enhancing Nutrition in Medical Education Act provides no new mandates to medical schools, but simply allows them the opportunity to access additional funds to enhance and increase nutrition education in their curriculum. I would like to thank the people at the American Dietetic Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges, as well as the many others who have helped me in developing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TOMORROW'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people, and the transitional government, of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on tomorrow's historic Presidential election. The Afghan people have come a long way in the past few years and deserve the recognition and support of the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the people of Afghanistan are at a historic turning point. Leading to tomorrow's election, great progress has been made in their electoral process: of an estimated 10 million eligible voters, more than 9 million have registered, and more than 40 percent of them are women.

I congratulate the Afghan people on this high registration percentage, and I applaud the diversity of the electorate and the 18 Presidential candidates. Their participation symbolizes a true commitment to pluralism, democracy, and to an open electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Afghanistan are still facing very real threats, however. There are still news reports of voter intimidation and violence against voters and poll-workers. There are even reports of Taliban loyalists advertising rewards for anyone who kills a poll-worker.

I would like to commend President Hamid Karzai for his leadership in opposition to these militants. Under President Karzai, the Afghan people continue to stand tall, bringing their country to its moment of democracy. They have remained steadfast and, in spite of the risks, have continued to register to vote in droves.

While Afghanistan has a long way yet to go, its people have come a long way already. The

greatest threat to the fundamentalists that would do harm to America is exactly what will take place tomorrow in Afghanistan: Democracy. And for that, Mr. Speaker, I commend the Afghan people.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 12–20, 2004, AS NATIONAL AWARENESS WEEK FOR THE F.O.P. CAMPAIGN

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (F.O.P.) Awareness Campaign and the declaration of October 12–20, 2004 as National Awareness Week. Currently 220 Americans have been diagnosed with this rare and incurable disease. F.O.P. is a musculoskeletal disorder that leads to the growth and formation of additional bones, ultimately forming a "second skeleton" in the human body. Due to the diligent and dedicated efforts of the friends and family of those diagnosed with F.O.P., there is a growing campaign to raise awareness about the disease and muster support for F.O.P. research. In addition, President Bush has declared the years 2002 through 2011 as the National Bone and Joint Decade; the kick-off for which is the National Awareness week set to begin October 12. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the observance of Bone and Joint Decade National Awareness Week and to encourage our fellow citizens to support awareness and research of musculoskeletal disorders.

INTRODUCTION OF "PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN THE MILITARY ACT OF 2004"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation, the "Preventing Sexual Assaults in the Military Act of 2004," along with Representatives ELLEN TAUSCHER, DIANE WATSON, and ED TOWNS, which would appropriate such funds as are necessary for fiscal years 2005 through 2007 to eliminate the backlog in processing DNA evidence, to ensure that testing takes place in a timely manner, to provide an adequate supply of forensic evidence collection kits at all domestic and overseas U.S. military installations, military academies, and theaters of operation, and to ensure that at least one military medical personnel member, who is trained as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) or Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE), is on duty at all times in the health care facility at a military academy, domestic military base, overseas military base, and theaters of operation, except where a memorandum of understanding is issued between the military installation and a local civilian hospital.

Rapes and sexual assaults are far too common in both civilian life and in the military. As the April 2004 report issued by the Pentagon

states, among other findings, current DoD policies and standards do not focus on sexual assault and “the military services” policies lack integration for effective prevention and response.”

This legislation will help bring justice to the victims and survivors of sexual assault by ensuring that DNA evidence is used to identify perpetrators and bring them to justice. Additionally, it will provide servicemembers who are raped with the necessary medical care.

As our soldiers are fighting for those who have long been denied basic rights, we should do everything possible to ensure that we are protecting their rights, too.

RECOGNIZING THE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TAIWAN

SPEECH OF
HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan will celebrate its National Day on October 10, 2004, and I wish to salute their many accomplishments.

Even though Taiwan is a small island with few natural resources, there is no question that it has prospered. With one of the world's largest foreign exchange reserves, Taiwan's 23 million people enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian has made clear his belief that every citizen ought to enjoy the right to work, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to an education, the right to participate in elections, and the right to social security in the event of unemployment, illness and disability. Also President Chen has promoted efforts to protect the rights of women, children, the elderly and the indigenous people, laborers and soldiers. It is evident that President Chen is committed to improving the lives of his people.

Although Taiwan and the United States do not have formal diplomatic ties, our people are closely connected. Taiwan is our eighth largest trading partner, thus providing many jobs for our manufacturers. In addition, more than 30,000 Taiwan students study at U.S. colleges and universities, and the United States is the number one destination for most of Taiwan travelers. The U.S. and Taiwan share many values in common such as a commitment to freedom, democracy and human rights.

I am pleased to congratulate our friends in Taiwan on this special day, and hope for their continued success and progress in the future.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520,
AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF
HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 7, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the conference report on H.R. 4520, the corporate tax bill. This bill, which repeals a portion of the U.S. tax code known as

the Foreign Sales Corporation and Extraterritorial Income Exclusion (FSC/ETI),—thereby ending European sanctions on American businesses, is nothing but the latest handout in a string of unnecessary tax cuts for multinational corporations by this Republican Majority.

With 2.5 million manufacturing jobs lost in the last 3 years, including nearly 40,000 in my State of Connecticut alone, many outsourced to other countries like China and Singapore, we all understand that steps must be taken to revive what is the very backbone of America's economy. We have seen more than half a million jobs shipped overseas over the last three years and that could grow to 6 million by 2015.

I do not believe government is in the business of creating jobs; but government has an obligation to foster an environment in which jobs can be created. With this legislation, we could be providing this country's manufacturers with the opportunity to be able to stay here. We could invest in our technology and invest in our workers. And, we could promote more economic development in the United States. Instead, this Administration and its Republican Leadership follow a business model that assists companies in sending the jobs offshore, allows companies not to pay their fair share of their taxes, and then rewards these companies with Federal contracts. They simply do not get it.

Even more, by clinging to the idea that we should be rewarding companies who send jobs overseas, this majority has delayed action on this issue for more than a year. As a result, manufacturers have been paying 11 percent tariffs on more than 1,600 American-made products.

But now that the fix is in, this represents a huge missed opportunity. Rather than helping our struggling manufacturing base, this Republican conference agreement would give U.S. multinational corporations more incentive to ship jobs overseas—more than \$42 billion in additional tax benefits for offshore operations of U.S. corporations.

In addition to rewarding corporations for exporting U.S. jobs, the conference report is just a grab bag of special interest provisions that will benefit few and clutter an already bewildering tax code. It includes billions for a range of new narrow special-interest tax breaks, such as tax breaks for several varieties of bows and arrows, NASCAR racetracks, electronic fish finders, bait containers, foreign gamblers who win at U.S. horse and dog tracks, nuclear steam generators, and importers of Chinese ceiling fans.

Mr. Speaker, what manufacturers need from this body is not more incentives to send jobs abroad; they need bold vision, recognizing that our Federal Tax Code could work for them, not against them, by favoring those companies who keep their jobs here. That is exactly what Democrats have been pushing for more than a year—to revitalize our manufacturing base by cutting taxes for U.S. companies in order to keep good-paying manufacturing jobs here at home and end the tariffs on U.S. products. American companies should not have to resort to transferring jobs to countries where workers make less and have fewer benefits to stay competitive.

Americans understand outsourcing. It is eroding our workforce; it has threatened every middle-class family in this country. Putting an

end to outsourcing starts with helping our manufacturers here at home become more productive, more innovative. If we want to boost sales, investment in modernization and employment is the way to do it. This conference report is not the answer.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN ON ITS
93RD NATIONAL DAY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Republic of China on Taiwan on its 93rd National Day and to welcome its new Representative to the United States, David Tawei Lee, with whom I met just a few weeks ago.

Both Dr. Lee and his wife, Chih Lin, know the United States well. Dr. Lee received both his Master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Virginia while Mrs. Lee received her MBA from the University of Maryland. Dr. Lee also served as a Research Associate at Harvard University while he was heading up the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston for three years. Both of the Lee's children were born in Washington, D.C. Dr. Lee's appointment to become Taiwan's representative to the United States follows a distinguished career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Government Information Office (GIO). From 1998 to 2001, he served as Taiwan's spokesman. In 2002, Representative Lee won the most distinguished diplomat award given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The people of Taiwan and the U.S. share important values and have maintained a strong and dependable friendship over many years. Taiwan has transformed itself from a oneparty dictatorship to a vibrant multi-party democracy, enhanced and preserved human rights and civil liberties, and vigorously guarded the right to a free press. Its market-based economy is now the 126th largest in the world. Last year it was the 8th largest trading partner of the United States and was the ninth largest export market for U.S. goods.

On its 93rd National Day, let us celebrate Taiwan's many accomplishments and extend a warm welcome to Dr. and Mrs. Lee.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE X
PRIZE WINNERS

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Paul Allen, Scaled Composites founder Burt Rutan, and SpaceShipOne pilots Mike Melvill and Brian Binnie for winning the Ansari X Prize. SpaceShipOne's two successful flights into space indicate a bright future for space travel and exploration. Just over 100 years after the Wright brothers' flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Paul Allen has proven that we continue to dream and dare to tackle evermore daunting challenges each day. The success of SpaceShipOne is truly a great victory

for Scaled Composites and for innovators around the world, as well as an indication of great things to come.

It is my pleasure to specifically congratulate Paul Allen for his crucial role in this endeavor. SpaceShipOne's success would not have been possible without his vision and confidence. Communities in my district have long benefited from Mr. Allen's investments in businesses and charities. Now the whole world will have the opportunity to benefit from his efforts to make Scaled Composites a success and to never hold back from pushing Americans' innovation to the next level.

Private space travel has been nothing more than a dream since the advent of space flight. The success of Spaceship One has prompted new fields of business and recreation. It is this kind of innovation that will bring the next generation of jobs and strengthen our economy. This breakthrough will provide the economic stimulus to financially and scientifically motivate individuals around the globe to look toward the sky. It will inspire us to surpass current scientific limitations and travel to places our grandparents could only imagine.

Innovation is the key to our future. Mr. Allen and the talented team at Scaled Composites have shown us that any goal is achievable when coupled with ambition and the drive to succeed. I congratulate all involved and look forward to seeing Paul Allen, Burt Rutan and others reach new heights and overcome new challenges.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CROSBY-PULLER COMBAT WOUNDS COMPENSATION ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by 14 of my colleagues in introducing the "Crosby-Puller Combat Wounds Compensation Act," a bill to remedy the lapse in support that a wounded soldier experiences from the moment he/she is evacuated from the combat zone for medical treatment. Although some of that support can eventually be restored if a soldier is discharged and applies under certain VA programs, this bill deals with the immediate burden placed on soldiers like James Crosby, a Marine who was seriously wounded while fighting for his country in Iraq. The bill has been named after James Crosby and, at his request, Lt. General Lewis "Chesty" Puller, USMC, the most decorated Marine in the history of the Corps.

Lance Corporal James Crosby of Winthrop, Massachusetts enlisted in the United States Marine Corps when he was 17 years old. He is married to Angela and was living in California before his service and his injury.

On March 18, 2004, James was wounded by enemy fire while riding on the back of a U.S. military vehicle in Iraq. A rocket fired at the vehicle killed the driver and injured two Marines including James. A piece of shrapnel pierced James' side and penetrated his intestines and spine.

James was taken immediately to a hospital in Kuwait. He had his first operation there, was stabilized and finally flown to a U.S. military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. In Ger-

many, James underwent several surgeries to remove shrapnel and repair wounds. James's wife, Angela, was flown to Germany to be with him during these difficult times. James was flown to Bethesda military hospital in Maryland in late March. Congressman Markey visited James in April at which time he received the Purple Heart. James eventually returned to Massachusetts and continued to receive care at the West Roxbury Veterans Hospital in Boston. He has lost over 50 pounds since his injury and requires a colostomy bag at all times. He has undergone 14 surgeries thus far, but remains paralyzed from the waist down.

The Boston Red Sox honored James on June 25, 2004 as he threw out the first pitch before a Red Sox-Phillies game at Fenway Park.

James's pay was immediately cut when he was transported out of the combat zone in Iraq. While serving the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq, James received his base pay as well as Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE), Imminent Danger Pay (IDP), Hardship Duty pay (HDP), Per Diem and Flight Pay. He also lost his Family Separation Allowance (FSA) once he returned to the United States for medical care. The tax exclusion and pays amounted to more than \$1,000 per month. James is now still a member of the Marine Corps and has not yet been discharged. He is not entitled to Veterans benefits until he is officially discharged. James was being paid about \$2,500 a month while serving in Iraq, but now is only receiving \$1,300 a month.

He has relied on family and friends to help him pay for a handicapped accessible apartment as well as daily expenses, because his current military pay of \$1,300 a month does not cover all of his expenses. James has also been helped by the Shutt Detachment, an association of former Marines, which held a fundraiser for him on August 19 at the Rack in Boston. Without the help of family, friends, and former Marines, James and his young wife would not be able to afford an apartment in the Greater Boston Area and cover expenses.

James eagerly wants to work to help other members of our nation's armed services that are in a similar situation. He and his family have worked with my office to address in this legislation the problems that they have experienced, first hand, in coping with wounds incurred in James's service to his country. I urge my colleagues to join us in ensuring that members of the Armed Forces that are wounded while serving in a combat zone will continue to receive certain special pays, tax exclusions and allowances associated with such service until the member recovers from the wound or injury.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL FRANK
"SKIP" BOWMAN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Admiral Skip Bowman, U.S. Navy, as he prepares to retire upon completion of more than 38 years of faithful service to our Nation.

Admiral Bowman has held the position of Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program

(Naval Reactors), for the last eight years. During his distinguished career, he played a pivotal role in ensuring that nuclear-powered warships continued to meet our global commitments in defense of our Nation's security.

During his career, Admiral Bowman served as the Commanding Officer of the nuclear-powered attack submarine, USS *City of Corpus Christi*, which completed a seven-month circumnavigation of the globe and two special classified missions during his command tour. Other highlights include tours as the commanding officer of the USS *Holland*, as the Director of Political-Military Affairs on the Joint Staff, and as the Chief of Naval Personnel.

Nuclear-powered warships have safely steamed over 130 million miles, and operated for more than 5,600 reactor years without a reactor accident. The last 24 million miles and 900 reactor-years have been achieved under Admiral Bowman's superb leadership. He currently oversees 105 operational nuclear reactors.

Admiral Bowman was a guiding force in the design and construction of the VIRGINIA Class submarine—our Navy's only major combatant available to the Fleet that was designed with the post-Cold War security environment in mind. These revolutionary submarines have significantly improved capabilities over their predecessors in acoustics, littoral warfare, communications, sensors, and life-cycle costs.

Admiral Bowman also drove many aspects of the design of the Nation's next-generation aircraft carrier class—the first new design in over 30 years. Owing much to his leadership, the CVN-21 propulsion plant will triple the electrical power available for transformational technology, reduce reactor compartment manning by nearly 50 percent, and increase ship operational availability by nearly 25 percent.

As the Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, Admiral Bowman's commitment to environmental stewardship and public health and safety helped foster the highest degree of public trust. The Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program continued the superb performance, safety, and environmental record of nuclear-powered warships that has existed for more than 50 years. Our nuclear-powered warships benefit from acceptance in foreign ports worldwide as a direct result of that record.

Mr. Speaker, I know the members of this house will join me in commending Admiral Bowman for a career of faithful service to his Nation. His leadership of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, a highly effective, responsive, world-class organization, has contributed significantly to our Nation's ability to confront 21st century security challenges. I wish him "Fair Winds and Following Seas" as he completes his honorable and distinguished service in the U.S. Navy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
GLOUCESTER CITY OPEN ACCESS
LEARNING CENTER, AND ITS
PARTICIPANTS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gloucester City Open Access Learning (GOAL) Center at the Mary Ethel

Costello School in Gloucester City, New Jersey, as well as its staff and participants. With funding from the 21st Century Community Learning Center program at the Department of Education, the Camden County United Way, and the Bureau of Child Nutrition at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the GOAL Center provides valuable services and opportunities to children and families in my district.

Housed at the Mary Ethel Costello School and also open to students from the St. Mary's Elementary School, the heart of the GOAL Center's programming takes place in the after school hours. Children in grades four through six participate in organized recreation and exercise followed by nutritious snacks which are provided in cooperation with the Bureau of Child Nutrition. The students then receive homework assistance, and take part in other types of tutoring and enrichment activities. The Center also hosts special events, such as field trips to museums, plays, and libraries, movie showings, and game tournaments, as a reward for the hard work the students do during the week.

In addition, the GOAL Center's positive community programming extends beyond the elementary school students. Computer classes and arts enrichment courses, taught by personnel from Camden County College, are offered for families and their children. Camden County College staff also teach free college courses to both parents and high school juniors and seniors in the evenings, and parents can participate in parenting workshops offered in cooperation with the Camden County United Way. These sessions are designed to give information about helping children deal with change, such as starting school, divorce, moving, and other potentially stressful events.

Those who choose to participate in the GOAL Center's programming have demonstrated a clear dedication to improving both themselves and their community, and I believe they deserve recognition. The following students have shown a notable commitment to the goals of the program: Briana Angier, Christopher DiDomenico, Jacob Franchetti, Brianna Goffney, Thomas Hellings, Katie Morgan, William Tozer, Jessica Valcarcel, Ashlee Cruz, Joseph Hamaker, Tamasa Nobles, Kyle Pollandar, Drew Pollitt, Erika Raiken, Matthew Sacilowski, Chelsea Amwake, Alexandria DiDomenico, Lori Mangini, Amanda Martin, A'niah Nobles, Jamie Phillips, Kevin Brown, Zachary Carey, Richard Mercedes, Sydni Durity, Kathleen O'Brien, Laura Casasbuena, Tracey Causey, Charles Clair, Edward Coleman, Kimberly Dieterich, Kevin Dickson, Ashley Egbert, Stevie Gallagher, Nicole Groves, Chelsea Gunning, Kyle Harkins, Damein Hart, Devon Huaca, William Jacobs, Ronnie Joshi, Daniel Karpinski, Lauren Klipp, Paige Kopras, Samantha Mease, Jessica Medina, Kwanna Mosley, Janee Powers, Thomas Raymond, Jennifer Reyes, Alexis Sabatini, Samantha Schultz, Kayla Skotnicki, Xavair Stang, Brianna Bangle, Tina Davis, Ariana Dragone, Joseph Foley, Kyle Gaff, Alex Gallo, CJ Genarie, Thomas Gorman, Brielle Gorski-Schultz, William Gross, Edward Gunning, Mathew Hender, Brittany Higginbotham, Courtney Iacovone, Chelse' Kiefrieder, Zachary Cooper, Harley Marks, Sarah Knipp, Jack Markiewicz, Angelica Medina, Michelle Moler, Thomas Moore Jr., Kevin Mottas, Alexis Naumann, Elizabeth Salvitti, Ryan Schafer, Carla Smith, Devin Vautier, Angelica Wunsch,

Dana Arroliga, Christopher Bittner, Samantha Brucoliere, Chelsea Clair, Denise Duterich, Randy Forte, Michael Gorman, Danielle Groves, Jimmy Baehr, Devin Jaskulski, Brian Donaghy, Deanne Cobb, Steven Karpinski, Hyeji Lee, Jennifer Liebrand, Melissa Miloshevsky, Ryan Moore, Robert Mortimer, Markita Nelson, Carlos Nieves, Jessy Perez, Scott Scmolia, Corey Scott, Gabrielle Spagnolia, Marissa Wood, Destiney Woodward, Alicia Yourison, Steven Kumpf, Andrew Morgan, Andira Morgan, Joseph Cipriani, Jordan Brady, Donna Weatherly, Jessica Meller, Regina Corvino, Jessica Finch, Racheal Finch, and Raquel Cannon.

Similarly, the following staff deserve recognition for the time and energy they have put into making the Center a success: Superintendent Mary Stansky, Business Administrator James Devereaux, Mary Ethel Costello School Principal Nancy Thomas and Assistant Principal William Marble, Director of Curriculum Sue McComb, GOAL Center Coordinator Catherine George, Public Information Officer Lynda Lathrop, Teaching Staff Members Lisa Amrosino, Patricia Duer, Gina Shank, Carl Kohler, William Kohler, Darcy Fox-Fuchs, Marge Dantonio, Marilyn Holmes, Dolores Militti, Cindy Kumpel, Janeen Thomas, Kathleen Davi, Kate Narducci, Guy Groff, Christie Murray, Lorri Stasium, Christine Wilson, Betty Averell, Craig Reinhart, Ellen Richards, Renee Robson, Ellen Conway, Mary Ann Woodrubb, and Don Dantonio, and Board of Education Members Judith A. Alberti, Robert H. Bennett, Sr., Sandra Lynch-Cowgill, Joanne Gurick, Patrick Healey, Edward Hubbs, Lousia Llewellyn, Bruce Marks, Danny O'Brien, Jr., and William Lunemann.

The GOAL Center is truly a complete program in that it assists students in the crucial areas of health, nutrition, and academic achievement. It also helps to foster a desire for life-long learning, and serves as a valuable resource for families and adults seeking development opportunities. I congratulate all the current staff and students on the hard work they put into the program, and wish them and the Center continued success in the future.

HONORING RYAN JERABEK

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, every now and then, I hear someone say that America lacks heroes—those great men and women amongst us who we can use to inspire and teach our young people. In my view, the problem is that too many people look to the playing fields or the big screen for their heroes. But all of us here today know better—because we are here to remember and honor one of our real heroes; an American who we are rightly very proud of, and whom we miss very much, Ryan Jerabek.

Now, we all know that our work in Iraq is far from over. There are many challenges ahead and, sadly, there will likely be some more dark days ahead as well. But we also know there will be brighter days ahead too, more and more of them, as freedom's sunlight chases away the shadows of tyranny. That's what Ryan helped to do—bring sunlight to the shadows.

What our servicemen and women are accomplishing is extraordinary—by any measure and compared to any mission in modern history. Sadly, their courage can be measured by the casualties—Ryan, Jesse Thiry of Casco, Warren Hansen of Clintonville, Stephen Martin of Rhinelander, Nichole Frye of Lena and others.

But on this day, let's also measure their courage by how they've changed Iraq. Just a year and a half after chasing Saddam from power, Iraq is on the path to full sovereignty and moving toward free elections. When our soldiers first reached Iraq, they found chaos and they found evil. As USAID has reported, Iraq has 270 mass graves holding perhaps 400,000 bodies—people tortured for their beliefs, and killed for their ethnicity.

Ryan and others fought, and rebuilt, and protected, and liberated—and the results have been historic. They've helped rebuild 240 hospitals, 1,200 clinics, 2,300 schools. They've distributed 1.5 million student school kits and 9 million textbooks. They've immunized over 5 million Iraqi children. They've established 16 governing councils, over 90 district councils and nearly 200 community councils.

In short, Ryan was doing a good thing—no, he was doing a great thing. And the ceremony honoring Ryan this weekend in Wisconsin is just one small sign that all of us recognize it.

Ryan used to say that he wanted to be a teacher—he wanted to teach others and shape lives. Well, he did. His life, his work, his sacrifice have taught us all so very much. We will never, ever forget him. We are in awe of his service and all that he accomplished in his tragically short life.

Ryan, you are our hero—a real hero.

NATIONAL ALL SCHEDULES PRESCRIPTION ELECTRONIC REPORTING ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3015, the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act of 2003. As a cosponsor of H.R. 3015, I recognize that this bill represents an important step in curbing the abuse of prescription drugs.

According to the NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), an estimated 9 million people aged 12 and older used prescription drugs for non-medical reasons in 1999. Sadly the NIDA predicts that number to be on the rise. This problem is compounded by the fact that many doctors have a hard time discussing this matter with their patients. In a survey by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 46 percent of physicians reported they find it difficult to talk with their patients about abusing prescription drugs.

The National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act of 2003 provides grants to establish state-run programs for prescription monitoring that will be administered and coordinated at the Federal level. This will allow physicians to monitor whether their patients have been abusing addictive drugs or acquiring addictive drugs for others, even if a

patient has received prescriptions in other states. Additionally, this bill has the potential to significantly cut down on prescription drug abuse and to help physicians prescribe addictive medications to patients who really need them without fear that the patient will abuse the drug.

Since my home state of Illinois instituted the Illinois Triplicate Prescription Control Program in 1961, the program has been successful in combating prescription drug abuse back home. Now it is time to build on that success by creating a federal network so that state programs can be coordinated nationally.

Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity for this Congress to recognize that the abuse of prescription drugs is a serious problem in this country. The National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act of 2003 is a large part of the solution.

PANCREATIC ISLET CELL
TRANSPLANTATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3858, the Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act. As a cosponsor of H.R. 3858, I recognize that this bill will aid the medical community as it learns more about the potential of islet cell transplantation. More importantly, it will help increase the supply of pancreata that can be used for islet transplantation, while also better coordinating the efforts of those involved in the process. Innovations in this field can help people suffering from Type I diabetes to live without daily injections of insulin.

According to the American Diabetes Association, there are 18.2 million diabetics in America, a figure that accounts for 6.3 percent of our population. The Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act is a strong step forward on the path to significantly improving the quality of life for these Americans.

Individuals with Type I diabetes are dependent on insulin injections because their own immune systems destroy the islet beta cells that create insulin. Islet transplantation involves taking islet cells from a donor pancreas and implanting them into a recipient where the beta cells from the islets begin to make and release insulin. The goal is to eventually be able to infuse enough islets so that diabetics can control their glucose levels without needing painful insulin injections.

By ensuring the certification or recertification of islet transplantations and research under the Public Health Service Act, this bill will aid in further developing this medical breakthrough. This bill will break down barriers that now stand in the way of this treatment. Also, by mandating an annual assessment on pancreatic islet cell transplantation, we can guarantee that this procedure and the Americans who need it are not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, when a moment is at hand where we can improve the health of the citizens of our great country, it is incumbent upon us to do so. The Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act of 2004 presents us with precisely one of those moments. I commend the

gentleman from Washington for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

EXCESSIVE EXECUTIVE
COMPENSATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on the two-year anniversary of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, it is worth noting that this country has seen an increase in consumer and investor confidence, and a significant market recovery. Corporate scandals and plunging stock prices forced Congress to pass the most sweeping regulation of corporate activity since the 1930s, when the SEC was created.

Many positive developments have resulted from the passage of Sarbanes-Oxley, however more can be done. I fear that we have not seen the last of the corporate abuse exhibited by the Enrons and Worldcoms of the world, especially with regard to the raiding of pension funds.

I am concerned about a growing number of corporate executives in America who are less than fully accountable to their shareholders or employees. Some continue to demand and receive outrageous salaries and perks while their companies flounder. In some cases, these executives face civil and criminal investigations for fraud and corruption.

The current environment under which Corporate America pays its executives allows for minimal, if any, input by the shareholders. Oftentimes their will is often suppressed, as was the case with Alcoa Inc. in 2003 when the board of directors rejected a proposal approved by the majority of shareholders that urged the board of directors to seek shareholder approval for future severance agreements with senior executives. Boards of directors continue to reward their executives with outrageous retirement packages regardless of the company's performance. Not only is the discrepancy between pay and performance a problem, but the fact that the disclosure to shareholders comes months after the payments is also troubling.

One of the most disturbing facts of these misguided or criminal actions by corporate leaders is that their employees see their hard-earned profit sharing plans disappear. Yet, these corporate 'rock stars' ride off with their guaranteed benefits package intact, while the workers and shareholders take it on the chin. Their investments and savings, tied to corporate growth and built up over the years, have vanished. Plans of retirement are halted, either permanently or indefinitely; and many workers find themselves forced to work in their golden years.

Today, I have introduced legislation to require an advance disclosure to a company's shareholders upon the creation or increase in special retirement plans for executives. This could bring desperately needed transparency to the boardroom. Under current law, benefits payable under these plans are not considered reportable compensation, which is why this disclosure is necessary. This would allow shareholders to be proactive in determining whether or not their CEO deserves the millions he or she is getting paid.

I understand that this is a departure from the typical form of disclosure, however I believe the current environment under which Corporate America operates needs to change. We must improve investor confidence, and advance disclosure of excessive corporate compensation will move us in that direction.

REASSESSING FOOD LAWS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important issue facing the next Congress. Since enactment of the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990, obesity rates in America have soared, including among children.

According to a recent briefing provided by the Institute of Food Technologists, "the most recent data from NHANES (National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey) in 2002, 65 percent of Americans were overweight or obese, 30 percent were obese and 4.9 percent were extremely obese. Over 400,000 individuals die each year due to poor diet and physical inactivity. For the first time in 100 years, children face shorter life spans than their parents, as the obesity rate for children has doubled since 1980. The total estimated direct and indirect costs of obesity in the U.S. exceed \$117 billion annually. Less than 1/3 of adults engage in the recommended amounts of physical activity. In fact, more than 25 percent of Americans report no leisure time activity at all."

While evidence suggests that the increase in obesity rates is due primarily to a decline in physical activity rather than an increase in caloric consumption, the problem will not be solved by increased physical activity alone. For the sake of public health, many Americans must modify both their diets and physical activity practices.

We in Congress should examine whether our current food labeling laws are providing for the nutrition information, including claims regarding the health effects and nutritional composition of foods, that consumers need. A realistic appraisal of our food labeling law provides a mixed review:

The law effectively prohibits false or misleading nutrition information. Uniform food labeling laws facilitate consumer education and the efficient flow of commerce.

The Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA) and its implementing regulations took a prescriptive approach that emphasized fat, which effectively de-emphasized the very important consideration of total calories in a food. Though well intentioned, this approach may have exacerbated dietary problems.

The highly prescriptive approach of the NLEA, combined with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) cumbersome approval process, have resulted in the agency often standing in the way of providing truthful, non-misleading information to consumers. FDA has lost every major First Amendment case regarding implementation of the NLEA. In the landmark decision, *Pearson v. Shalala*, 164 F.3d 650 (D.C. Cir. 1999), reh'g, en banc, denied, 172 F.3d 72 (D.C. Cir. 1999), the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals even characterized

the government's defense of its stifling, moribund regulatory approach as "almost frivolous." Our law and regulatory systems cannot continue to block or excessively delay delivery of truthful, non-misleading information to American consumers.

To its great credit, the FDA has recently started to issue enforcement discretion letters that indicate the agency would not take enforcement action against particular qualified health claims that it has determined are truthful and non-misleading, even though those claims have not been approved pursuant to the excruciatingly slow NLEA process. While I have reservations about this approach, it is clearly a reasoned attempt to be less obstructive of truthful, non-misleading food label statements. For its part, this FDA initiative is likely to improve public health. However, it appears that Congress could do more.

Some of these observations are not new. In 1997, Congress enacted the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act (FDAMA), which provided for streamlined procedures for allowing certain products and claims to get to market. Simply put, FDA can say "no" with relative ease and speed, but has extensive clearance procedures with correspondingly long time requirements to say "yes" to any petition. So, FDAMA provided for notifications for indirect food additives, as well as for health claims and nutrient content claims based upon authoritative statements of certain scientific bodies or the National Academy of Sciences. Under that system, if FDA does not object to a notification within a specified period, the FDAMA requirements are deemed satisfied and the product or claim approved. Thanks to addition of these provisions, FDA has more expeditiously approved health claims that have provided consumers helpful information regarding the relationships between potassium and the risk of high blood pressure and stroke, and between whole grain foods and the risk of heart disease and certain cancers, as well as nutrient content claims identifying foods that are significant sources of choline and of DHA, EPA, and ALA, specific omega-3 fatty acids. Broader use of this concept must be considered if we are to continue to allow FDA to block a product or claim before it gets to market, but expect advances in science to reach market without delay that is unacceptably costly in terms of public health and capital investment.

Finally, FDA pre-market responsibilities regarding foods are extensive and include a number of matters that are not critical to public health protection, such as temporary permits for test marketing of a food in contemplation of amending its regulatory standard of identity. Often, FDA has explained that they are not handling such matters with a responsible pace because they are low priorities. As a matter of public health protection, such prioritization makes sense. However, it is time for us to review provisions of law and regulation that require agency pre-market approvals regarding low priority matters. If pre-market regulatory scrutiny needs to be maintained regarding such matters, consideration should be given to substituting notification procedures for the dysfunctional processes in place at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I share these observations so that my colleagues may consider them prior to initiating work of the next Congress and in hopes of stimulating debate on the subject.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS
LAUBACHER, SR.

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Thomas Laubacher, community leader and elected official from my district who passed away September 26 at the age of 91.

Tom Laubacher was a native son of Ventura County, California, having been born to a pioneering Oxnard family on August 29, 1913. During his life, Tom Laubacher was a farmer on his family's 150-acre farm, located between Doris Avenue and Teal Club Road; an oilman for Union Oil Company; and a B-26 pilot instructor for the U.S. Army Air Corps.

In 1954 he took over Laubacher Insurance Agency and Real Estate, which his father had founded in 1903. It remains in the family today. Tom Laubacher's son, Thomas Laubacher, Jr., now runs the business.

In 1964, Tom Laubacher ran for the Board of Supervisors for the same reason I ran for the Simi Valley City Council 15 years later: a belief that the business community needed better representation in government. He served three terms on the Board of Supervisors and I had the privilege of serving with him on the Regional Sanitation Board about 25 years ago.

Integrity is the word most associated with his public service, his business dealings and his community work.

A devout Catholic—his Uncle John was the first assistant pastor at Santa Clara Parish—Tom was a member of Oxnard Council 750 of the Knights of Columbus and served as the grand knight and district deputy. In 2002, he received the cardinal's award in recognition of a lifetime of service to his church and community.

Tom Laubacher also maintained a long relationship with the Sisters of Mercy and St. John's Regional Medical Center. He became the first lay member of its board of directors and later the board's first lay president.

Tom Laubacher is survived by his wife of 60 years, Helen, four children and 17 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in sending our condolences to Helen "Holly" Laubacher, their children and grandchildren, and pause in remembering a man for whom integrity was a way of life. Godspeed, Tom.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, 3 months ago, the bipartisan September 11 Commission pro-

vided Congress with 41 recommendations to help keep our Nation secure and our people safe in the face of rising dangers and threats throughout the world.

These recommendations were targeted at eliminating terrorist organizations, at preventing the continued growth of fundamentalist Islamic terrorism, and at protecting against and preparing for future attacks.

In my judgment, the 9/11 Commission report should have made our job easy. But instead, we find ourselves faced with a bill that dangerously ignores some of the Commission's most important recommendations, and adds hundreds of pages of extraneous and controversial provisions that may do little or nothing to better secure our nation.

Let me be clear. I do support the bill's provisions that identify the target terrorist sanctuaries; that focus U.S. efforts on some of the most critical parts of the world in the war on terrorism, such as Pakistan and Saudi Arabia; and that reform the homeland security grant process to ensure that higher threat cities receive more funds.

I'd like to emphasize that last point.

As I travel through my District and New York State, what I hear most from police officers and firefighters is that we need to change the funding formula to ensure that areas facing the highest threats—like New York—will get the increased funding need to face those threats head-on. We don't have another 3 years to get this done—it needs to get done now. As long as a State like Wyoming gets seven times the amount of funding that New York receives, changing the funding formula must be this Congress's priority.

I believe this bill makes important changes to the funding formula and I am proud to have helped to craft a number of these provisions and to serve on the committee that guided the bill through the legislative process.

But, unfortunately, I have serious objections to many other provisions included in this bill that do not have anything to do with intelligence reform and other 9/11 Commission recommendations.

In my judgment, there are more effective and efficient ways of protecting our national security without infringing on the rights or civil liberties of our Nation's citizens and immigrants.

While the 9/11 Commission report made several recommendations regarding border security and immigration policy, it did not call for the undermining of the due process rights of many immigrants by significantly expediting deportation laws; raising the bar substantially for a grant of asylum; or authorizing the government to deport foreign nationals to countries that lack a functioning government—or worse—condone and permit torture.

And, while the 9/11 Commission report recommended that we improve FBI counterintelligence capabilities, it did not recommend that Congress allow the government to secretly investigate an individual suspected of terrorism without having to prove that person is connected to a foreign power.

And finally, while the 9/11 Commission Report called for federal standards for identification documents, including drivers' licenses, it did not recommend that immigrants should be denied a driver's license.

While I do believe that the Federal Government should have a role in helping States to coordinate efforts to strengthen the security of

drivers' licenses, this bill would unnecessarily take away the power of States to set eligibility and documentation criteria for drivers' licenses.

My colleagues, the focus on immigrants and the expansion of federal powers of surveillance since September 11 has diverted attention from other critical security lapses that should be addressed in this bill, such as unfunded State and local homeland security needs, lack of adequate security at our nation's airport, intelligence gathering failures, and the substantial evidence of incompetence and lack of coordination at the Department of Homeland Security.

However, at the end of the day, I believe that Congress has an obligation to act as expeditiously as possible to make this country, and indeed the world, a safer place. I don't believe that this should be done on the backs of immigrants and law-abiding American citizens, and I'm going to work to make sure that doesn't happen.

But I don't want a single New Yorker, or American, to lose sleep at night because Congress failed to accomplish what we all agree is our highest priority—protecting America. We are 3 years after the attacks of September 11 and 3 months after the Commission issued its recommendations. We simply cannot wait any longer to move forward on these critical reforms.

So, my vote today is only a vote to protect the changed funding formula that prioritizes high-risk areas like New York, my home state, and to move this measure to conference with the Senate, which has passed a bill that more closely embodies the 9/11 Commission recommendations. And I can assure you that if the conference report that comes before our House is not significantly improved from what we have today, I will vote against it.

But for today, we must move this process forward to ultimately try to enact legislation that will truly and comprehensively improve our national intelligence structure.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON DREYER,
RECIPIENT OF SECRETARY OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT AWARD

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of the 4th Congressional District to recognize Don Dreyer of Rockville Centre, NY.

I am extremely honored to congratulate Mr. Dreyer upon being named by Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson as one of the eight people nationwide to receive the prestigious Secretary Recognition Award. Receipt of such an honor is testament to Don's impressive record of over thirty years of work on behalf of disabled persons.

Born with brittle bone disease, Don Dreyer was homebound until the age of 15. He has never let the fact that he is in a wheelchair be a handicap. Instead, he has spent much of his life seeing to it that the twenty percent of our nation's population who are disabled do not see themselves as handicapped either.

Don began his crusade for the disabled in 1971 when he served as Director of Media

and Public Relations at the National Center for Disability Services. Among his duties was the planning of foundation fund-raisers, including the Center's Annual Celebrity Sports Night Dinner. Don was also responsible for securing corporate and foundation grants for the education of young children with severe disabilities.

For over 25 years, Don has served as Director of the Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged where he has always exhibited consummate diligence and tireless effort. In this capacity, he has worked to enact State and Federal legislation to enhance the lives of both disabled children and adults. The pinnacle of Don's career was in 1990 when his efforts led to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Today, he continues to support civil rights policies for the inclusion of disabled persons in the workplace, commerce, transportation, education, and health care.

During October, which is Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Department of Health and Human Services seeks to recognize the efforts of those who have made a contribution to the disabled in both the public and private sectors. Although Don has received numerous distinctions in the past, this award distinguishes the national impact that he has had over the past three decades.

Mr. Dreyer's tireless commitment to his job has made a difference in the lives of many. Once again, I would like to offer my congratulations to him on this well-deserved national recognition and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

DISASTER AREA HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Disaster Area Health and Environmental Monitoring Act with my colleagues Representatives TIM BISHOP, SHAYS, SERRANO, MCINTYRE, McDERMOTT, and SCHAKOWSKY.

During a disaster our first responders heroically rush to the disaster area with little regard for their personal safety in hopes of saving others. We owe it to them to at least monitor their health when it has been put at risk. Unfortunately, no such program exists. There is no better example of this than what has happened in the aftermath of 9/11.

Today, more than 3 years after 9/11, there are literally thousands of individuals who are still sick as a direct result of their work in and around Ground Zero. Included in the sick are police officers, firefighters, volunteers, residents, and area workers. Despite a clear need, there is still no one in the Federal Government in charge of caring for these individuals, there are no coordination among programs established to screen these illnesses and there is no Federal program that provides anyone with any treatment. This is why we are introducing the Disaster Area Health and Environmental Monitoring Act. This is the companion to S. 1279, which was introduced by Senators VOINOVICH and CLINTON in the Senate and passed by unanimous consent.

The Disaster Area Health and Environmental Monitoring Act would create a standard

for a monitoring program following a disaster when the President determines a monitoring program is needed. This monitoring program would be set up to screen the health of affected individuals. By creating a coordinated monitoring program we can provide valuable information to affected individuals and we can assure our first responders that we will continue to care about the health affects after the disaster. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEN OF 2ND
BATTALION 7TH MARINES

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to men of the 2nd Battalion 7th Marines (2/7) that have recently returned from their tour of duty in Iraq. Specifically, I would like to honor Corporal Justin Perez, Lance Corporal Andrew Kingscott, Lance Corporal Justin Sebring, and Lance Corporal Ben Gunderson, of my district, for their outstanding service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

These proud Marines exemplify the honor and tradition that the Marine Corps stands for. These men have offered their lives for an idea greater than any one of us as individuals—the right of all God's children to live in freedom. Through their courage, the flame of freedom has been lit; through their bravery its warmth and light continue to shine on America; and through their courage its rays of hope and opportunity now reach a nation of people. Their actions laid the groundwork for a safe and democratic Iraq, which will ultimately make the United States and the world a safer place.

Their character is measured not only by their efforts in the field; it is measured by the freedom they brought to the terrorized, and the bravery and fortitude with which they completed their mission. I am honored today to recognize Corporal Justin Perez, Lance Corporal Andrew Kingscott, Lance Corporal Justin Sebring, and Lance Corporal Ben Gunderson for their exemplary service on behalf of their country, and thank them for their work.

COMMENDING DR. ROBERT
STUART

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to have the opportunity to talk about a positive, life-affirming journey which represents the best and the brightest of my district. It is with tremendous pride that I rise today to commend Dr. Robert Stuart from Charleston, SC, for being one of the 20 cyclists to participate in the Bristol-Myers Squibb Tour of Hope™.

The Tour of Hope is a grueling eight-day bike journey across America that is designed to help raise awareness about the need for increased participation in cancer clinical trials. The cross-country tour is the brainchild of

Bristol-Myers Squibb and Lance Armstrong, six-time Tour de France winner and cancer survivor, who credits his survival to the many people before him who participated in the clinical trials that ultimately led to the development of the treatment that saved his life.

As Robert begins the Tour of Hope on October 1 in Los Angeles, he will be one of 20 cyclists chosen from nearly 1,200 riders who were eager to dedicate themselves to being a part of the effort to cure cancer. The Tour of Hope Team members are cancer survivors, caregivers, physicians, nurses, and researchers. Each of them has a very personal experience with cancer that makes their efforts all the more poignant. Supporting and awaiting Robert and the rest of the riders at stops across America's great landscape will be cancer survivors, family members, friends, medical practitioners, researchers, and government officials, all of whom share the riders' passion and commitment to finding a cure for cancer.

To achieve his goal of riding across America Robert will have to undertake a rigorous training schedule, battle inclement weather, and endure physical and mental fatigue, so that the tour's message—the need to support cancer research—can be delivered to communities across our great country.

A selfless act, such as this, truly deserves to be publicly acknowledged, and I look forward to tracking Robert's progress. It is my hope that in these fiscally challenging times my colleagues and I will continue to make funding for cancer research a priority for the nation.

I offer my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Robert for his generosity of spirit, time, and fortitude. It is precisely this type of commitment that will allow us to conquer cancer once and for all.

NORMAN Y. MINETA RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following two letters for the RECORD.

The Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: I am writing with regard to H.R. 5163, the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Reorganization Act, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 29, 2004. As you know, the Energy and Commerce Committee received a named additional referral upon introduction.

I understand that you will include an amendment when the bill goes to the floor. The intent of new section 4(b) is to clarify that nothing in H.R. 5163 alters the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce over the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Specifically, section (b)(1) and (2) states that nothing in this Act shall grant any authority to the Research and Innovative Technology Administration over research and other pro-

grams, activities, standards, or regulations administered by the Secretary through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, but does not include those provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Accordingly I will waive the Committee's consideration of this legislation. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Energy and Commerce Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 5163. In addition, the Energy and Commerce Committee reserves its right to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Energy and Commerce Committee for conferees on H.R. 5163 or similar legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOE BARTON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, October 6, 2004.

Hon. JOE BARTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2004 regarding H.R. 5163, the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Reorganization Act, and for your willingness to waive consideration of provisions in the bill that fall within your Committee's jurisdiction under House Rules.

I agree that your waiving consideration of these provisions of H.R. 5163 does not waive your Committee's jurisdiction over the bill. I also acknowledge your right to seek conferees on any provisions that are under your Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference on H.R. 5163 or similar legislation, and will support your request for conferees on such provisions.

As you request, your letter and this response will be included in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your cooperation in moving this legislation to the House Floor.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

RECOGNIZING MARCO ANTONIO FIREBAUGH

HON. LINDA T. SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 2004, Marco Antonio Firebaugh, the Assembly Majority Floor Leader for the State of California, will term-out of the Assembly after six distinguished years of public service.

Assembly Member Firebaugh was born on October 13, 1966, in Baja California, Mexico. He made California his permanent residence in 1970.

In 1990, Assembly Member Firebaugh earned his Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. He subsequently earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law in 1997.

Assembly Member Firebaugh was first elected to the California State Assembly to represent the 50th Assembly District in November 1998. He easily won re-election and was sworn into office on December 2, 2002, to serve his third term.

As Assembly Majority Floor Leader, Firebaugh has been responsible for all matters that are relevant to the order of business on the Assembly floor. Furthermore, he has served as one of the chief negotiators for Assembly Democrats.

In 2002, Assembly Member Firebaugh was elected Chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus and thus was responsible for developing the annual Caucus' Agenda for California's Working Families. He has focused on providing resources to schools, increasing access to health care and affordable housing, and championing immigrant rights.

His legislative tenure has been highlighted with far-reaching accomplishments in numerous policy areas. Assembly Member Firebaugh's effort to ensure that California high school students have the opportunity to pursue a college education, regardless of their immigration status, illustrates his strong commitment to the people he represents.

As Chairman of the Select Committee on California-Mexico Affairs, Assembly Member Firebaugh has done extensive work in establishing a strong working relationship between California and Mexico. Through his committee work, he has launched creative initiatives to establish a Sister-State partnership with Jalisco, a key state in Mexico. He has also led efforts to reform money transmission services and disclosures to protect consumers in California.

Throughout his career, Assembly Member Firebaugh has continuously demonstrated his dedication to his profession, community and family. An avid art enthusiast, Assembly Member Firebaugh continues to seek out resources and facilities to further enable the creativity of the community to flourish. As a family man, he enjoys spending quality time with his son Nicolas and attending his daughter Ariana's soccer games.

From one public servant to another, I praise Assembly Member Marco Antonio Firebaugh for his service and dedication to the community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 306, of which I am a cosponsor, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on October 5, 2004. This important legislation honors the service of Native American Indians in the U.S. Armed Forces.

I have the privilege of representing the largest tribe of Native Americans east of the Mississippi River—the Lumbee Tribe. Approximately 52,000 strong, about 40,000 members of this tribe live in my home county—Robeson County, North Carolina.

Many Lumbee Indians have served our Nation with distinction, such as Rear Admiral Michael Holmes, who hails from my hometown of Lumberton and who is the first Native American to become an admiral in the U.S. Navy. I visited with Admiral Holmes in Europe last year, as I did with Army Specialist Jonathan Brooks of Pembroke, who also is from Robeson County. These gentlemen are just two of the many Lumbees serving our country. Lumbee veterans also serve on my Seventh Congressional District Advisory Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

In addition to the Lumbee Tribe, I also represent two other tribes—the Coharie Tribe, which has a tribal membership of more than 2,400, and the Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe, which consists of a membership of approximately 2,000. Members of each of these tribes have served honorably in the military. For example, the Coharie Tribal Chief, Mr. Gene Faircloth, is a Vietnam combat veteran and served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 6 years. And, approximately 100 members of the Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe have served honorably in conflicts since World War II. Unfortunately, on October 2, 2004, the Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe lost one of its esteemed members, Mr. Ernest Sylvester "E.S." Jacobs, who valiantly served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.

I am proud of the contributions that all Native Americans, including those that make up the Lumbee, Coharie and Waccamaw-Siouan Tribes, have made to our great country, and I applaud them for their rich tradition of strength, wisdom, commitment and service. I commend them and all those in uniform who have volunteered to defend the rights and freedoms that we all hold dear. May God bless each of them and their families as they continue to serve valiantly our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RICHARD GROSSMAN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Richard Grossman for his devoted efforts to improving the lives of burn victims in the San Fernando Valley and the Nation.

Dr. Grossman is an ally to firefighters, children, and those who have sustained burn injuries. He brings hope, comfort, and life into situations where they might otherwise seem nonexistent.

Dr. Grossman is board certified in both general surgery and plastic surgery. He holds membership in numerous societies, including the American Burn Association, the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the California Medical Association, the San Fernando Valley Surgical Society, and the International Society for Burn Victims. He has been president of the Los Angeles Society of Plastic Surgeons. He has been also associated with a number of other organizations including the Foundation for Burn Research, the Los Angeles Society of Plastic Surgeons, the National Coalition of Burn Center Hospitals, the American College of

Hyperbaric Medicine, and the Alisa Ann Ruch Foundation. In addition, he serves as Director of the Grossman Burn Center, Director of the Grossman Burn Unit, and Director of Research-Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.

His past involvement with the California Health Care Commission and a Judicial Nomination Evaluation Commission to the State Bar Association demonstrates Dr. Grossman's commitment to civic duty. In 1994, he was named Honorary Fire Chief for the City of Los Angeles, and was inducted into the California Department of Firefighters' Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Grossman is a compassionate and sympathetic man, which is evident through his work with San Fernando Valley firefighters. His expert care of burn-injured firefighters is indispensable. He is actively involved in developing training programs for the care of burn injuries. Please join me in recognizing Dr. Richard Grossman, a distinguished physician who has made it possible for many burn victims to triumph over their injuries. His dedication and expertise provide comfort and life to many.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FINANCING INCENTIVE ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will provide important incentives for farmers and landowners across the country to invest in the construction of renewable fuels facilities.

This bill, called the Renewable Energy Financing Incentive (REFI) Act is a carefully crafted piece of legislation that would give landowners in South Dakota and across the country additional tax planning tools when they chose to dispose of real property. At the same time, it would encourage investment in renewable fuel production facilities.

Throughout the United States, the ethanol industry is growing at an impressive rate. In fact, over the past several decades, it has been one of the most dramatic success stories in manufacturing in this country.

In 1980, there were only 175 million gallons of ethanol produced in the United States. In 2004, we will produce more than 3.1 billion gallons of ethanol in 74 different processing facilities. In addition, dozens of new plants are either under construction or in meaningful planning stages across the country. According to industry sources, 30 percent of all gasoline sold in the United States this year will be blended with ethanol. That is an impressive record of growth.

Even more significant, much of this growth is driven by the agricultural producers who actually grow the primary feedstock. In dozens of instances, corn farmers and other agricultural producers have banded together to form cooperatives and other ventures that produce ethanol. This has the double benefit of increasing the compensation they receive for the corn they grow and also providing them with income from the ethanol and the byproducts these facilities produce.

This cooperative formula is one of the few tools that have driven real economic development in rural counties throughout the heart-

land in recent years. This legislation would provide additional incentives and tools to further promote this development. It would allow owners of real property to avoid capital gains upon the sale of that property, provided they then invest those proceeds into a qualifying renewable fuels facility.

This bill will provide several benefits throughout rural America and across the country. It will help farmers and ranchers diversify their operations through investment in value-added agriculture. It will extend to all landowners an additional option when they seek to sell their real property. Often, in my part of the country, older individuals are forced to sell their property as they retire from farming and ranching. They then must invest their proceeds from this sale in order to provide themselves a retirement income. This bill will enable them to avoid capital gains taxes and provide them with an equity stake in a burgeoning industry.

It also will provide a new revenue stream for the ethanol and other renewable fuel facilities that are in discussion and development stages today. This will, in turn, reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil, promote increased use of clean-burning renewable energies, and provide new economic growth opportunities throughout rural America. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING ROBERT PARKER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the most prolific and respected wine writers in the history of our Nation, if not the entire world. It is only fitting that we recognize the distinguished career of Robert M. Parker, Jr. on this, the 25th anniversary of the first publication of his semi-annual journal, the Wine Advocate.

On October 22 and 23, 2004, the world-renowned Culinary Institute of America (C.I.A.) will host a gala weekend of events to honor the long career of Mr. Parker. I can think of no better place than the C.I.A. to have such an event, given all that Mr. Parker has done to further the enjoyment of fine wine and good food.

Robert Parker was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1947. The first 30 years of his life were filled with college, law school and a 10-year career in corporate America. In August of 1978, the Wine Advocate was born with less than 600 subscribers. Today, the Wine Advocate has over 40,000 subscribers in all 50 states and 37 countries around the world.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of 25 years of writing his newsletter, Mr. Parker has become known as one of the world's foremost experts on wine. Mr. Parker pioneered an innovative approach to wine criticism. Rather than limiting his ratings to a letter scale or a scale of 1–10, Mr. Parker rates wine on a scale of 50–100. This scale has become a widely accepted method of reviewing wines.

However, Mr. Parker's rating scale only accounts for a small portion of his wine reviews. Mr. Parker compiles extensive tasting notes highlighting each aspect of the wines he reviews. He is known for pinpointing the color,

tastes and aroma of a wine and eloquently translating these attributes into prose.

In addition to publishing the *Wine Advocate*, Mr. Parker has written 11 books on wine. His first book, *Bordeaux*, was published in 1985 and was met with critical acclaim worldwide.

Mr. Parker has been a powerful advocate of the international wine industry. In a 1998 article, *Los Angeles Times* media critic David Shaw called Parker, "the most powerful critic of any kind, any where." Mr. Parker's reviews have steadily guided wine consumers for many years.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I think it is appropriate that we honor and congratulate Robert Parker on his 25 years of publishing the *Wine Advocate* and we thank Mr. Parker for his service as a tireless champion of the wine industry.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL YOUNG
SCIENTIST CHALLENGE

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Committee on Science, I am an avid supporter of programs that encourage the youth of America to push the limits of innovation and originality in science. One such program is the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.

Created in 1999, Discovery Communications, Inc., designed the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge as part of the solution to America's chronic underachievement in science and math. The annual national contest responds to evidence that academic performance and interest in science among American students declines dramatically as students become older. This is particularly evident during the middle school years.

For these reasons, the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge identifies and honors America's top middle school student who demonstrates the best skills in leadership, teamwork, and scientific problem solving. More than 7,500 middle school students have entered the challenge since its inception in order to compete for the title of "America's Top Young Scientist of the Year." Since 1999, scholarship awards for the students have totaled more than \$450,000 and challenge winners have participated in science-related trips to far-off places, including the Roslin Institute in Midlothian, Scotland, and the El Yunque rain forest in Puerto Rico.

On September 20, 2004, Discovery Communications, Inc., announced the 40 middle school students who have advanced to the finals of the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge. Selected from more than 1,700 entrants, the finalists represent an elite group of young Americans who demonstrated exceptional creativity and communications skills in original science research projects. The 40 finalists will come to Washington, D.C., October 23–27, where they will take part in the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge finalist competition at University of Maryland's Cole Field House. They will compete in team-based, interactive challenges celebrating 100 years of Albert Einstein's physics discoveries. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on October 27, 2004.

The finalists for the 2004 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge are: Kasey Borchardt of Vernon, Texas; Pinaki Bose of Fort Worth, Texas; Rebecca Chan of Encinitas, California; Sara Clark of Pipe Creek, Texas; Shireen Dhir of Kathleen, Georgia; Nicholas Ekladyous of Imlay City, Michigan; Julia Fanning of San Antonio, Texas; Austin Fullmer of Glendale, California; Sherri Gerten of Columbus Grove, Ohio; Joy Hines of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Daniel Jakubisin of Fairview Park, Ohio; Christine Johns of Cape Coral, Florida; Sravya Keremane of Gainesville, Florida; Kevin Lane of Flora Vista, New Mexico; Amanda Lu of Plano, Texas; Philip Mansour of San Ramon, California; David Marash-Whitman of Saratogo, California; Shannon McClintock of San Diego, California; Elijah Mena of Gales Ferry, Connecticut; Mary Anne Messer of Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Maryam Mohammed of Niceville, Florida; Ana Pedrajo of Coral Gables, Florida; Jordan Pennell of Jacksonville, Illinois; Molly Pettit of Portland, Oregon; Jonathan Reasoner of Tucson, Arizona; Chana Rich of Fairfield, Connecticut; Anastasia Roda of Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Michael Rutenberg-Schoenberg of Portland, Oregon; Celine Saucier of Midland, Michigan; Anton Schraut of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; David Sharples of East Windsor, New Jersey; Dustin Shea of Jacksonville, Illinois; Daniella Sinay of Trumbull, Connecticut; Janet Song of Audubon, Pennsylvania; Eric Stregge of La Quinta, California; Adam Tazi of Orlando, Florida; Blake Thompson of Gainesville, Florida; David Westrich of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Kyle Yawn of Bonaire, Georgia; and Blake Zwerling of Portland, Oregon.

At a time when science and technology plays such an enormous role in our lives, I believe it is imperative that we continue to support and nurture the next generation of young scientists. I would like to congratulate these students for their dedication and hard work in the name of science and wish them all good luck during the 2004 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.

TRIBUTE TO CURESEARCH

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend CureSearch for the admirable work it does to fight against childhood cancers, the number one disease killer of children in the United States today.

CureSearch, a coalition between the National Childhood Cancer Foundation and Children's Oncology Group; which is comprised of over 5000 children's oncologist around the country, is on the frontlines of our nation's war against childhood cancer. Their efforts are making a considerable impact upon the lives of children who have been diagnosed. CureSearch's work has enabled more than 77 percent of those diagnosed to survive these diseases. This is dramatic impact considering that forty years ago childhood cancer was almost always fatal.

Certainly, this is an improvement, but we are still not doing enough to prevent children from dying of cancer. The fact that cancer still

kills is proof enough that more research is crucial to eliminate these terrible diseases.

A cure for all children fighting cancer is within our grasp. By further developing the Federal partnership with CureSearch and increasing funding for research, we can eliminate these diseases within our lifetime. By uniting to fight childhood cancers, soon there will be a day when every child with cancer can be guaranteed a cure.

HONORING JANET REDDING ON
HER RETIREMENT FROM SAN
JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, Congressman HONDA and I would like to congratulate Janet C. Redding, Vice President for University Advancement of San Jose State University (SJSU) as she retires after 19 years of dedicated and honorable service.

Redding was the Special Assistant to the President for Governmental and External Relations for San Jose State University, Silicon Valley's Metropolitan University. SJSU is the oldest public institution on the West Coast (founded in 1857) and one of the largest institutions in the 23-campus California State University System. With more than 3,000 employees, SJSU is the fourth largest public employer in Silicon Valley, with an annual operating budget of over \$350 million.

A former schoolteacher at both public and private schools, Redding has been at SJSU for 19 years, where she oversees External, Governmental and Community Relations. Under her leadership as Vice President for University Advancement contributions to the university have totaled more than \$100 million in the last decade. During her tenure, Redding created the Division of University Advancement by expanding the Alumni Association, the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, and the Office of Development. She also created the President's Advisory Council, whose members serve as advocates and advisors to the President of the university on issues affecting the university. In addition Janet was involved with helping to secure both public and private funds for the new Martin Luther King, Jr. joint library serving both the University and the City of San Jose. She helped raise \$10M from private sources and \$90M from the California State Legislature. Over the past two years she worked to secure Federal funding for the CSU Coastal Initiative at Moss Landing and for Nanotechnology Research in the College of Engineering here at SJSU.

A 1993 graduate of Leadership San Jose, Redding served on the San Jose Convention and Visitors Bureau Board for six years, including a term on the executive committee as treasurer. In 1997, San Jose Mayor Susan Hammer honored Janet as one of the Outstanding Women of Silicon Valley. She is a member of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, Silicon Valley Chapter, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, and the Silicon Valley Planned Giving Council.

Throughout the years, we have always been impressed by her energy and dedication to the

many causes she has worked so hard for. She leaves big shoes to fill and we will miss working with her for the betterment of San Jose State University. Good luck Janet.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, a very important initiative is being launched in my district by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Many of us think of a museum as merely a place to visit to see educational exhibits. That is not always the case. Many of our Nation's museums are leading the way in critical scientific research.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is one such museum. It is the steward of one of the world's largest collections of marine life, representing hundreds of years of ocean biodiversity. The Museum aims to organize its valuable, world class marine collection and merge that with new research opportunities to gather and distribute information critical to biodiversity studies and conservation efforts. With this, the Museum is establishing the West Coast Center for Marine Biodiversity as a hub for oceanic preservation and research.

The West Coast Center for Marine Biodiversity will be an extraordinary public-private partnership that will benefit the world's oceans and the future sustainability of its valuable resources. Most importantly, the Center will take a significant step to fulfilling the goals of the Federal Government to save the world's oceans and the ecosystems they support.

There has been significant news lately regarding the status of the world's oceans with the release of the Ocean's Commission Report earlier this year. I know the researchers and data at the West Coast Center for Biodiversity can be a tremendous asset to the efforts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other Federal departments and agencies doing similar work. I strongly encourage the development of a partnership with these Federal entities and the West Coast Center for Marine Biodiversity at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

LEONARD C. BURCH POST OFFICE
BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in condemning the ongoing civil war in Southern Sudan and the genocide in the Darfur region of the same country.

I was with my colleagues of the House of Representatives on July 22, 2004, when we unanimously voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 467, a resolution declaring that the atrocities in Darfur, Sudan, are genocide. That same resolution commends the Administration's leadership in seeking a peaceful resolution to

the conflict in Darfur and in addressing the ensuing humanitarian crisis.

I do not support H.R. 5061, Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act, however, because I believe it limits the President's options in dealing with Sudan at a time when he should have flexibility. I expect continued resolve from the administration and believe that we should preserve whatever flexibility is needed to move toward effective solutions in Sudan.

SPACE AND AERONAUTICS PRIZE
ACT

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, I can think of no better way to end my tenure than to finally witness the dream of commercial human space flight becoming a reality. Burt Rutan's tremendous accomplishment this week not only proved that space is no longer the sole domain of government, but it is a testament to the innovative and creative potential of space entrepreneurs. On my watch, I've been privileged to peer into the future of dynamic citizen astronauts routinely flying to and from the heavens. I applaud the hard work and dedication of Burt Rutan and the good people behind the Ansari X-Prize. They are shining examples of the American can-do spirit at its best.

Commercial space transportation is advancing on-orbit services that have so enriched our daily lives. The private sector should be encouraged to continue this successful trend. I am convinced a new generation of space entrepreneurs is ready to make their mark in contributing to low Earth orbit development, as well as returning to the Moon.

In the past, prizes have played an important role by promoting progress in the development of aviation. Charles Lindbergh won the \$10,000 private Orteig Prize for becoming the first man to fly solo across the Atlantic, and the U.S. government offered prizes in the 1920s and 1930s to meet its aviation needs. The X-Prize has served as a means to stimulate private manned space activities. I believe we can do more in making the President's vision for space exploration a reality by awarding cash prizes to encourage greater participation of the private sector in the national space program. Today, I am introducing legislation that will establish a National Endowment for Space and Aeronautics for the national good.

The Endowment is intended to provide an exciting new incentive to private sector space entrepreneurs. Cash prizes in recognition of outstanding achievements in the scientific research and technology development are envisioned as critical to the Endowment's program. The program also is directed to receive donations and private gifts for the benefit of the Nation's aeronautics and space endeavors.

The Endowment is specifically directed to award a prize for the demonstration of a reusable space flight vehicle to carry at least one person to a minimum altitude of 400 kilometers from the United States, or its territories. The spacecraft is to complete at least three complete orbits of the Earth and return

safely to the Earth. The total amount of the cash prize for this demonstration is not to exceed \$100,000,000.

Like the pioneers before them, I'm encouraged that individuals like Burt Rutan, Mike Melvill and Brian Binnie, as well as others, will open new frontiers that will continue to benefit American's leadership role in space. The Endowment legislation is a small step in the right direction.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I extend my best wishes and congratulations to Taiwan Ambassador David Lee, President Chen Shui-bian, and the 23 million people of the Republic of China on the occasion of their National Day, October 10th.

The United States is Taiwan's largest trading partner. In 2000, total U.S.-Taiwan trade was approximately \$65 billion, with a Taiwan surplus of approximately \$16 billion. Taiwan's chief exports to the United States include clothing and footwear, toys, and various electronic products. In recent years, Taiwanese government officials have attempted to accommodate increased U.S. pressure on trade issues by meeting many U.S. demands for greater market access for U.S. goods and services, and responded to U.S. complaints by taking stronger measures to protect U.S. copyrights and other intellectual property rights.

The Republic of China on Taiwan is a genuine democracy and its people enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. As one of our largest trading partners and friends in the Far East, it is my opinion that the Republic of China on Taiwan deserves much greater international recognition. I will continue to press for more favorable U.S. treatment of Taiwan and for Taiwan's inclusion in some capacity in international organizations like the World Health Organization. Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization is vital to the interests of the people of Taiwan, and will open Taiwan's access to the latest information on epidemics and diseases. I have joined the House Taiwan Caucus to express my support of this important ally.

I hope that we will continue to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations and raise the level of strategic cooperation between the United States and Taiwan in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UTAH RECREATIONAL LANDS EXCHANGE
ACT OF 2004

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of legislation that my colleague CHRIS CANNON and I are introducing in the House today. I am pleased that so many stakeholders have come together to create this legislation, which will preserve thousands

of acres of land along the Colorado River corridor and help to fund Utah's schools.

Since statehood, Utahns has been blessed with millions of acres of lands that are held in trust to generate funding for our schools. These lands are scattered throughout the state in a checkerboard pattern, making it hard for Utah and the federal agencies with adjacent property to manage our public lands. The legislation we are introducing today would consolidate some of these lands, with the goals of improving the state's ability to maximize the funding it earns for schools, preserving land along the Colorado River corridor for recreational use, and easing the Department of Interior's ability to manage federal land in Utah.

The land exchange that is being proposed today has the potential to be a win-win solution for the State of Utah and the United States. This legislation seeks to create an equal value exchange where both American taxpayers and the school children of Utah get a fair deal. Important to achieving this goal, the legislation establishes a valuation process that is transparent for the public to view.

This legislation represents a truly collaborative process with all of the stakeholders represented. It is supported by local government, the State of Utah, the recreation community, and the environmental community and has been worked on closely with the Department of Interior. The State has been working over the past year to address the concerns of all of the stakeholders and will continue to work until the legislation is perfected.

The introduction of this legislation marks Congressman CANNON's and my commitment to working with the local stakeholders, appropriate congressional committees, and the Department of Interior to craft a legislative product with a broad range of support. I urge the Secretary of Interior and her staff to dedicate the resources and time necessary to move this process forward in the coming months.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
CLARIFYING THE LAW PROHIBITING STATES FROM IMPOSING A TAX ON THE RETIREMENT INCOME OF NON-RESIDENTS OF THAT STATE

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to clarify Public Law 104-95, adopted by the Congress in 1995, prohibiting States from taxing the retirement income of nonresidents. That law was enacted in response to actions of some States which were aggressively seeking to tax nonresidents on retirement income from past employment in that state. The Congress felt that State taxation of nonresidents' retirement income was unfair and imposed an unreasonable burden on nonresident retirees.

The law defines "retirement income" as any income from specified types of qualified pension plans or from a nonqualified deferred compensation plan that meets certain payment requirements. Nonqualified deferred compensation plans are defined by reference to section 3121(v)(2)(C) of the Internal Revenue

Code (the "Code") which relates to employment taxes. Specifically, any income of an individual who is not a resident of the taxing State from any plan, program, or arrangement described in section 3121(v)(2)(C) is exempt from that State's income tax, provided the income received from such plan is part of a series of substantially equal periodic payments made—no less frequently than annually—over the life expectancy of the recipient, or for a period of not less than 10 years.

I think the intent of the law is clear, but I am aware that a question could arise regarding state taxation of nonqualified retirement benefits paid by a partnership to its retired nonresident partners. Specifically, the concern is that the reference to section 3121(v)(2)(C) of the Code could be construed to limit the exemption to payments made only to retired employees—i.e. those individuals subjected to FICA tax—since that provision is written in the context of employment taxation. Under this view, nonqualified retirement benefits paid by a partnership to its retired nonresident partners would not be exempt from nonresident state income taxation because there is no specific reference to self-employed individuals in the Public Law 104-95, section 3121(v)(2)(C) of the Code, or subsequently issued Treasury Regulations for that section.

The bill makes it clear that section 3121(v)(2)(C) was meant to define nonqualified deferred compensation income, irrespective of whether the recipient was subject to FICA tax, by specifically including self-employed plans or arrangements. The rationale for applying the statute's exemption for employee retirement income applies equally to retirement income of an independent contractor or partner. Given the fact that the bill is intended to clarify what has been the intent of the bill all along, it applies as of the effective date of Public Law 104-95, i.e., to amounts received after December 31, 1995.

THE CONGRESSIONAL
CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Judge Learned Hand once said:

... Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it. While it lies there, it needs no constitution, no law, no court to save it.

These famous words emphasize the fact that civic participation is vital to the maintenance of a healthy democracy. A national effort is currently underway to promote the civic engagement of our citizens by focusing on the youth of our nation. By creating effective civic education programs in our elementary and secondary schools, we can educate kids at an early age and encourage them to become active in local politics.

In September of last year, the First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was launched to begin a national conversation about how to encourage civic participation. One of the positive outcomes of the congressional conference was the establishment of

state delegations that would enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools.

I would like to recognize Diane N. Palmer, the facilitator, and the whole Massachusetts delegation for their leadership in working to design a strategy to improve civic education in our State. These Massachusetts activities include: Holding a statewide conference on civic education for new teachers; creating a commission to plan better civic education; and conducting a survey to determine what civic education programs are already used in high schools.

I look forward to seeing the accomplishments of the Massachusetts civic education delegation and their participation at the Second Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education on December 4-6 of this year.

FEDERAL CHARTER FOR THE
AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS
ASSOCIATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would recognize and grant a Federal charter for the National American Indian Veterans Association.

Native Americans have long answered the call to serve in our Nation's military and to make the sacrifices necessary to protect this country. In fact, in World War II, more than one-third of all able-bodied Indian men between the ages of 18 and 50 served in our nation's military. Even today, Native Americans have the highest rate of military service of any ethnic group in the country. Native American soldiers serve willingly and honorably and they should have a veterans' organization befitting that service.

Last week, the National American Indian Veterans Association, held its first annual meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Native American veterans from around the country attended this convention and voted unanimously to approve the charter for this new organization. I believe this organization is long overdue and I enthusiastically introduce this legislation today.

Over the years, Congress has chartered many veterans' organizations that represent specific groups: the American War Mothers, the Blinded Veterans Association, Catholic War Veterans, Italian American War Veterans of the USA, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, the National Association for Black Veterans, and the Polish Legion of American Veterans, just to name a few. Providing a federal charter for the American Indian Veterans Association is the right thing to do and it will provide many advantages for its thousands of potential members.

It will connect its members with a network of fellow veterans that will enable them to share information as well provide each other with as personal and emotional support. This group will serve as a resource and a clearinghouse for Native American veterans to discover what benefits to which they may be entitled, and assist them in taking full advantage of the many veterans' programs that may be geared to meet their needs.

I believe that the National American Indian Veterans Association would be an important

and positive resource for its members, and I encourage my colleagues to support this beneficial and important organization.

CONGRATULATING MACOMB
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Macomb Community College in Macomb County, Michigan on 50 years of educating some of Michigan's finest citizens. As a former student of Macomb, I have experienced first hand, the caliber of people associated with the college.

It has been wonderful to watch Macomb Community College expand its programs and campuses over the years. With only 84 students enrolled in its first year, Macomb has grown tremendously since its opening in 1954. Not only does the school offer precollege programs for high school students, it also provides more than 40 bachelor's degree completion and graduate degree programs.

Perhaps what is most impressive, however, about Macomb Community College, is its incredible partnership with the community. The Public Service Institute at Macomb strives not only to educate its citizens, but to equip them to serve the community with their respective skills. Classes I completed, such as marketing and speech, have certainly aided me during my years in public office.

I have formerly returned to Macomb to take additional classes, and had the same wonderful experiences. Though the school has grown, the quality and excellence remain the same. I know that in the coming years, Macomb Community College will continue to enrich the lives of its students as well as members of the community.

Congratulations to Macomb Community College on 50 years of excellence in education and service to Macomb County. May you be persistent in your commitment to higher learning and social improvement.

HONORING A FALLEN HERO

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, and friends, my congressional district experienced a great deal of pain and sadness as the City of Rome lost one of its finest residents—a young soldier, Sgt. Michael Uvanni. He paid the ultimate price to ensure our liberty. He gave his life so that the people of Iraq could live without repression and fear—and he gave his life so that Americans could feel safe to live their lives under a blanket of freedom. That freedom comes with a high price and we are eternally grateful for his dedication and commitment to the ideals that we hold dear.

Sgt. Uvanni died October 1 in Samarra, Iraq, as he was conducting combat operations and was shot by a sniper. Uvanni was assigned to the Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, Morrisonville, NY.

Sgt. Uvanni meant so much to the close-knit community of Rome, NY. He was a fine son and soldier, as well as a standout football player at Rome Free Academy. Sgt. Uvanni earned special honors in 1995 as a senior, being named as a conference second team all-star defensive end.

An outgoing and patriotic young man, Sgt. Uvanni personified the qualities and dedication that make our United States military the greatest armed forces in the world. Sgt. Uvanni completed a tour with the U.S. Marines, and joined the local National Guard earlier this year. Army Guard CSM Frank Wicks said, "While I am sure he will always be a Marine at heart . . . In January he joined the local National Guard and was deployed with the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry, New York Army National Guard. I am sure he was an outstanding Marine, I can attest to the fact that he was an outstanding member of the 2–108th and will be missed." As Sgt. Uvanni is laid to his final rest, we salute him, and all those killed in the line of duty, for their selfless service and ultimate sacrifice.

I ask my colleagues in the House, and all Americans, to extend our prayers and sympathy to his parents Kevin and Janet Uvanni, as well as the rest of his family and friends, and the entire Rome community.

Together we honor this fallen American hero.

RETIREMENT OF ALLEN J.
WELTMANN

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, we reach the close of the 108th Congress, I rise to note the retirement of Allen J. Weltmann after 39 years of service to PricewaterhouseCoopers. Allen is a Certified Public Accountant and joined the legacy firm of Coopers & Lybrand in 1965 after graduating from Penn State. Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand merged in 1998.

Allen began his career as an auditor in Syracuse before moving on to Philadelphia and New York. He started the firm's first government affairs unit in 1978 and has been one of the accounting profession's principal spokespersons in the public policy arena for 20 years. In that role I have worked with him on several landmark pieces of securities legislation, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act of 1998 and the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Allen has always been held in esteem by members of Congress and his colleagues in the private sector for his grasp of technical detail and professional demeanor.

In addition to his work on accounting policy, Allen served as the Working Chair of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue, a collaboration of US and EU businesses working to reduce trade barriers between countries. He also advises the Department of Commerce on accounting issues through his seat on the Industry Services Advisory Council.

Allen belongs to the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Greater Washington Society of Certified Public Ac-

countants. He and his wife, Judi, live in Chevy Chase, Maryland and have four children and eight grandchildren. He plans to remain in the Washington area and to serve as Chairman of the Libraries Development Advisory Board of Penn State.

TRIBUTE TO HAYES WENDELL
JONES

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a constituent of mine, Hayes Wendell Jones. This year marks the 40th anniversary of his gold medal victory in the 1964 Summer Olympics. Since then, Mr. Jones has succeeded in business and been a dedicated servant to our community.

Hayes Jones went to Pontiac, MI, schools and became a student athlete at Eastern Michigan University. To help pay his way through college, he mopped floors and washed dishes. As an athlete, he was considered too short for hurdles, but through hard work and determination, Hayes became a worldclass track sprinter and hurdler. In 1960 at the Rome Summer Olympic Games, he finished third to win the bronze medal. Four years later, in 1964 at the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games, Hayes won the gold medal in the 110-meter hurdles.

There is no question that Hayes Jones is a track and field legend. He is a member of the Helms Athletic Hall of Fame in Los Angeles; the Michigan Hall of Fame; the Eastern Michigan Athletic Hall of Fame; the National Track and Field Hall of Fame; and the Pontiac Central High School Hall of Fame.

Hayes has also been successful in business, using his athletic experience to learn about different cultures and backgrounds. He understands that good business is really about building and maintaining good relationships. He is currently a Senior Business Development Representative for Oakland County, Michigan. As an Oakland County resident, I can say we are lucky to have him serving the county.

Hayes should also be recognized for his selfless acts to the community. He has parlayed his athletic and business success into community service. He serves as chair of the volunteer committee of the Arts League of Michigan and is on the board of directors for Dominican High School and Academy in Detroit. He is former board chair of the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce and former economic development committee chair for the Oakland County Business Roundtable and the Pontiac Area Urban League. In addition, he has served on the board of trustees for North Oakland Medical Center and the Clinton Valley Boy Scouts.

Hayes has even donated his gold medal to the city of Pontiac, MI, to inspire youngsters to achieve their dreams. He has given them the opportunity by organizing a track and field program, "The Junior Olympics," for students in Pontiac middle schools. Just as importantly, he has worked to ensure their education by serving as a school board member for the Pontiac School District.

Mr. Speaker, on this fortieth anniversary of Hayes winning an Olympic gold medal, I commend and thank him for his service and dedication to our community.

TRIBUTE TO WEST BRANCH
HOSPITAL

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a hospital in my district that has recently passed a remarkable milestone. On October 25, the board of trustees and members of the staff at the West Branch Regional Medical Center, formerly known as the Tolfree Memorial Hospital in West Branch, MI, will celebrate their 75th anniversary. For the past 75 years, the West Branch Regional Medical Center has provided service and care to patients in West Branch area.

The original Tolfree Memorial Hospital was built in West Branch in 1929, through the generosity and vision of local farmer, lumberman and banker John Tolfree. Over the years, as the community grew and the hospital became more regional in scope, several additions were constructed.

In 1991, it was determined by the Tolfree Memorial Hospital's Board of Trustees that the region had outgrown the facility. After careful financial planning which included fundraising, ground was broken for what is now known as the West Branch Regional Medical Center in 1996. The center was dedicated in 1999 and has been successfully serving Ogemaw County and the surrounding counties ever since. Patients no longer have to travel to Saginaw, MI, which is over an hour away.

West Branch Regional Medical Center is the result of many dedicated people who from the beginning had the foresight and the dedication to see this hospital grow with the community and become a regional medical facility.

In the tradition of the past administration, the current board of trustees for the West Branch Regional Medical Center have also recognized they could offer more services to the community. Along with celebrating their 75 years of service, on October 25, the West Branch Regional Medical Center will also unveil its plan for the next 3 to 5 years which includes the construction of an Ambulatory Care Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the West Branch Regional Medical Center and its staff on their first 75 years of service and wishing them well in their next 75 years.

RECOGNIZING CENTER FOR CIVIL
EDUCATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to recognize the important work of the Center for Civic Education and the upcoming Second Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education, which will be held this December in Washington, DC.

The Center for Civic Education plans annual congressional conferences to focus attention on the importance of civic preparation and engagement in the United States. The first conference was sponsored by the Alliance for Representative Democracy and hosted by the Joint Leadership of the United States Congress here in Washington in September 2003.

The 2003 conference led to the formation of state delegations that are currently working on policies that will restore the civic mission of our schools, consistent with each state's unique education structure. I'd like to commend the California delegation and its facilitator, Roy Erickson, for their leadership in the current efforts to design an action plan for our state. California is creating coalitions of stakeholders in public education who will build support for, develop and implement high quality civic education programs. Through these programs, we will ensure that our youth have the necessary civic knowledge, skills and attitudes to be engaged citizens. I want to express my strong support for the Center for Civic Education's efforts to increase democratic participation, and for the work of the upcoming conference.

THE PATENT QUALITY
ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2004

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I join Representative BOUCHER in introducing the Patent Quality Assistance Act of 2004, PQA Act. Introduction of this legislation comes almost exactly one year after release of a Federal Trade Commission report entitled "To Promote Innovation: The Proper Balance of Competition and Patent Law and Policy," and several months after release of "A Patent System for the 21st Century" by the National Research Council. These reports both made a number of recommendations for increasing patent quality and ensuring that patent protection promotes, rather than inhibits, economic growth and scientific progress. Consistent with the goals and recommendations of those reports, the PQA Act contains a number of provisions designed to improve patent quality, deter abusive practices by unscrupulous patent holders, and provide meaningful, low-cost alternatives to litigation for challenging the patent validity.

I am a strong believer that the prospect of patent protection promotes innovation. However, I also believe that the patent system is strongest, and incentives for innovation greatest, when patents protect only truly deserving inventions. When functioning properly, the patent system should encourage and enable inventors to push the boundaries of knowledge and possibility. If the patent system allows questionable patents to issue and does not provide adequate safeguards against patent abuses, the system may stifle innovation and interfere with competitive market forces.

This bill represents our latest thoughts in an ongoing discussion about legislative solutions to patent quality concerns. We have considered the multitude of comments received on patent bills in years past, and acknowledge the problems to be difficult and, as yet, without

consensus solutions. It is clear, however, that introduction of specific legislation focuses and advances the discussion. It is also clear that the problems with the patent system have become exacerbated, rather than dissipating. With or without consensus, Congress must act soon to address these problems.

Thus, we introduce this bill at the end of this Congress with the intent of framing the debate going into the 109th Congress, and with every intention of passing legislation in the next two years.

The bill contains a number of initiatives to improve patent quality and ensure patents are positive forces in the marketplace.

Section 2 creates a post-grant opposition procedure. In certain limited circumstances, opposition allows parties to challenge a granted patent through a expeditious and less costly alternative to litigation.

Sections 3 and 4 permit patent examiners, within a limited time frame, to consider certain materials submitted by third parties regarding a pending patent application. Allowing such third party submissions will increase the likelihood that examiners are cognizant of the most relevant prior art, and therefore constitute a front-end solution for strengthening patent quality.

Section 5 addresses the inequitable incentives that exist between patent holders who indiscriminately issue licensing letters, and the parties who receive these letters. Patent holders frequently assert that another party is using a patented invention, and for a fee, offer to grant a license for such use. Current law provides no disincentive to indiscriminate and unfounded issuance of such licensing letters.

Conversely, parties receiving such licensing letters have a strong incentive to pay up even if they believe they are not engaged in infringement. Once in receipt of such a letter, the recipient faces no good options. If he ignores the letter, the recipient may be liable for treble damages as a willful infringer. The recipient can avoid being found a willful infringer if he obtains an opinion from a patent attorney that the recipient is not committing infringement, but such letters frequently cost up to \$50,000. A recipient cannot, however, file for a declaratory judgement of non-infringement unless the licensing letter creates a "Case or Controversy," and of course these letters are typically drafted to avoid meeting this threshold.

Section 5 addresses this inequitable situation. It ensures that recipients of licensing letters will not be exposed to liability for willful infringement unless the letter gives rise to a "Case or Controversy", and thus, allows the recipient to seek a declaratory judgement.

Section 6 is designed to address the deleterious effect on innovation created by patent "trolls." We have learned of innumerable situations in which patent holders, who made no effort to commercialize their inventions, waited in the shadows until another party had invested substantial resources in a business or product that may infringe on the unutilized invention. The patent troll then steps out of the shadows and demands that the alleged infringer pay a significant licensing fee to avoid an infringement suit. The alleged infringer often feels compelled to pay almost any price named by the patent troll because, under current law, a permanent injunction issues automatically upon a finding of infringement. Issuance of a permanent injunction would, in

turn, force the alleged infringer to lose the substantial investment made in the infringing business or product.

While we may question their motives, we do not question the right of a patent troll to sue for patent infringement, obtain damages, and seek a permanent injunction. However, the issuance of a permanent injunction should not be automatic upon a finding of infringement. Rather, when deciding whether to issue a permanent injunction, courts should weigh all the equities, including the "unclean hands" of the patent trolls, the failure to commercialize the patented invention, the social utility of the infringing activity, and the loss of invested resources by the infringer. After weighing the equities, the court may still decide to issue a permanent injunction, but at least the court will have ensured that the injunction serves the public interest. Section 6 accomplishes this goal.

Section 7 provides a much needed fix for the inter partes re-examination procedure, which provides third parties a limited opportunity to request that the PTO Director re-examine an issued patent. The limitations on the inter partes re-examination process so restrict its utility that it has been employed only a handful of times. Section 7 increases the utility of this re-examination process by relaxing its estoppel provisions. Further, it expands the scope of the re-examination procedure to include redress for all patent applications regardless of when filed.

Finally, Section 8 is similar to a provision in a bill we introduced during the 106th Congress. Section 8 addresses our concern that patents have been issued for the mere computer implementation of previously known inventions. The idea of implementing a method for doing business online should not, in and of itself, be sufficient to secure patent protection for that method of doing business. Section 8 creates a presumption of obviousness if the only "novelty" is in the fact that the method utilizes computer technology.

My colleague from Virginia, Mr. BOUCHER, and his staff deserve the greatest measure of recognition for their hard work in developing this legislation. In addition, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property, Mr. SMITH, deserves credit for bringing these issues to the forefront with the numerous hearings on patent quality. Also deserving of thanks are the many constitutional scholars, policy advocates, private parties, and government agencies that contributed their time, thoughts, and drafting talents to this effort. I am pleased that, finally, a consensus has emerged among the various collaborators in support of the basic "post grant opposition" approach embodied in the legislation. This bill is the latest iteration of a process we started over 3 years ago.

Though we developed this bill in a highly collaborative and deliberative manner, I do not maintain that it is a "perfect" solution. Thus, I will remain open to suggestions for amending the language to improve its efficacy or rectify any unintended consequences.

As I have previously said: "The bottom line in this: there should be no question that the U.S. patent system produces high quality patents. Since questions have been raised about whether this is the case, the responsibility of Congress is to take a close look at the functioning of the patent system." Patent quality is key to continued innovation. Thus, we must

act during the 109th Congress to assure the highest level of patent quality.

HONORING DR. GARY LOUIS ROSE
M.D. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
15TH YEAR OF PRACTICE IN
LEWISVILLE, TX

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the commitment of a very caring physician in my community, Dr. Gary L. Rose.

Dr. Rose came to our community 15 years ago and quickly established himself as one of the preeminent physicians in the area. Dr. Rose is an obstetrician. He has delivered thousands of babies in our area and provided consistently excellent professional medical care to his patients.

Mr. Speaker, almost anywhere I go in my district, I encounter families whose lives have been touched by Dr. Rose. They speak of him almost reverently about the high quality of care he has rendered throughout the time that he has practiced in our community. With patience and understanding he solves complex medical diagnostic dilemmas while serving the Lewisville community. He is also a technically gifted surgeon, and he has brought many a patient through a serious crisis in the operating room and back on the road to good health.

Mr. Speaker we are truly fortunate in my community to have the type of dedicated medical professional that Dr. Rose personifies, and I wish him every success during the continuance of his career in medicine.

SITUATION IN IRAQ

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, the President and Vice President insist that things are improving in Iraq and that all America must do is "stay the course."

Their evaluation of our situation in that troubled land has been challenged by many. And, of course, we all know that one cannot find a diagnosis until one admits that there is a serious problem.

One of the most gripping accounts of the situation in Iraq I have read recently was prepared by Wall Street Journal reporter Farnaz Fassihi. Regrettably, it appears that this reporter may be facing ramifications for speaking the truth. The New York Post has defended her editorially.

It is important for Americans to deal with the truth. I recommend reading this reporter's account as well as her defense by the New York Post.

[From the New York Post, Sept. 30, 2004]

WSJ EDITOR BACKS IRAQ SCREED

(By Keith J. Kelly)

Wall Street Journal Editor Paul Steiger has come to the defense of his beleaguered Baghdad correspondent, who blasted the war

in Iraq as a "disaster" that has deteriorated "into a raging barbaric guerilla war" that will haunt the United States for decades.

"Despite President Bush's rosy assessments, Iraq remains a disaster," Wall Street Journal reporter Farnaz Fassihi wrote in a group e-mail to friends that inadvertently became widely posted on the Web.

Yesterday, the e-mail was mentioned prominently on the journalism blog by Jim Romanesko on the Poynter.org site.

Steiger said Fassihi's missive included "a few expressions of purely personal opinion about the situation there."

But the Wall Street Journal editor said the musings in no way distorted his reporter's ability to deliver fair coverage from Baghdad.

In her e-mail, Fassihi laments, "Being a foreign correspondent in Baghdad these days is like being under virtual house arrest."

Fears of abductions have sharply curtailed reporters ability to cover events or move about.

"My most pressing concern every day is not to write a kick-ass story but to stay alive and make sure our Iraqi employees stay alive. In Baghdad I am a security personnel first, a reporter second."

She also said the "Iraqi government doesn't control most Iraqi cities." She said there are car bombs, assassinations, kidnappings and beheadings. "The situation, basically, means a raging barbaric guerilla war."

Steiger said: "Ms. Fassihi's private opinions have in no way distorted her coverage, which has been a model of intelligent and courageous reporting, and scrupulous accuracy and fairness."

FROM BAGHDAD—A WALL STREET JOURNAL
REPORTER'S E-MAIL TO FRIENDS

(By Farnaz Fassihi)

Being a foreign correspondent in Baghdad these days is like being under virtual house arrest. Forget about the reasons that lured me to this job: a chance to see the world, explore the exotic, meet new people in far away lands, discover their ways and tell stories that could make a difference.

Little by little, day-by-day, being based in Iraq has defied all those reasons. I am house bound. I leave when I have a very good reason to and a scheduled interview. I avoid going to people's homes and never walk in the streets. I can't go grocery shopping any more, can't eat in restaurants, can't strike a conversation with strangers, can't look for stories, can't drive in any thing but a full armored car, can't go to scenes of breaking news stories, can't be stuck in traffic, can't speak English outside, can't take a road trip, can't say I'm an American, can't linger at checkpoints, can't be curious about what people are saying, doing, feeling. And can't and can't. There has been one too many close calls, including a car bomb so near our house that it blew out all the windows. So now my most pressing concern every day is not to write a kick-ass story but to stay alive and make sure our Iraqi employees stay alive. In Baghdad I am a security personnel first, a reporter second.

It's hard to pinpoint when the 'turning point' exactly began. Was it April when the Fallujah fell out of the grasp of the Americans? Was it when Moqtada and Jish Mahdi declared war on the U.S. military? Was it when Sadr City, home to ten percent of Iraq's population, became a nightly battlefield for the Americans? Or was it when the insurgency began spreading from isolated pockets in the Sunni triangle to include most of Iraq? Despite President Bush's rosy assessments, Iraq remains a disaster. If under Saddam it was a 'potential' threat,

under the Americans it has been transformed to 'imminent and active threat,' a foreign policy failure bound to haunt the United States for decades to come.

Iraqis like to call this mess "the situation." When asked "how are things?" they reply: "the situation is very bad."

What they mean by situation is this: the Iraqi government doesn't control most Iraqi cities, there are several car bombs going off each day around the country killing and injuring scores of innocent people, the country's roads are becoming impassable and littered by hundreds of landmines and explosive devices aimed to kill American soldiers, there are assassinations, kidnappings and beheadings. The situation, basically, means a raging barbaric guerilla war. In four days, 110 people died and over 300 got injured in Baghdad alone. The numbers are so shocking that the ministry of health—which was attempting an exercise of public transparency by releasing the numbers—has now stopped disclosing them.

Insurgents now attack Americans 87 times a day.

A friend drove thru the Shiite slum of Sadr City yesterday. He said young men were openly placing improvised explosive devices into the ground. They melt a shallow hole into the asphalt, dig the explosive, cover it with dirt and put an old tire or plastic can over it to signal to the locals this is booby-trapped. He said on the main roads of Sadr City, there were a dozen landmines per every ten yards. His car snaked and swirled to avoid driving over them. Behind the walls sits an angry Iraqi ready to detonate them as soon as an American convoy gets near. This is in Shiite land, the population that was supposed to love America for liberating Iraq.

For journalists the significant turning point came with the wave of abductions and kidnappings. Only two weeks ago we felt safe around Baghdad because foreigners were being abducted on the roads and highways between towns. Then came a frantic phone call from a journalist female friend at 11 p.m. telling me two Italian women had been abducted from their homes in broad daylight. Then the two Americans, who got beheaded this week and the Brit, were abducted from their homes in a residential neighborhood. They were supplying the entire block with round the clock electricity from their generator to win friends. The abductors grabbed one of them at 6 a.m. when he came out to switch on the generator; his beheaded body was thrown back near the neighborhoods.

The insurgency, we are told, is rampant with no signs of calming down. If any thing, it is growing stronger, organized and more sophisticated every day. The various elements within it—Baathists, criminals, nationalists and Al Qaeda—are cooperating and coordinating.

I went to an emergency meeting for foreign correspondents with the military and embassy to discuss the kidnappings. We were somberly told our fate would largely depend on where we were in the kidnapping chain once it was determined we were missing. Here is how it goes: criminal gangs grab you and sell you up to Baathists in Fallujah, who will in turn sell you to Al Qaeda. In turn, cash and weapons flow the other way from Al Qaeda to the Baathists to the criminals. My friend Georges, the French journalist snatched on the road to Najaf, has been missing for a month with no word on release or whether he is still alive.

America's last hope for a quick exit? The Iraqi police and National Guard units we are spending billions of dollars to train. The cops are being murdered by the dozens every day—over 700 to date—and the insurgents are

infiltrating their ranks. The problem is so serious that the U.S. military has allocated \$6 million to buy out 30,000 cops they just trained to get rid of them quietly.

As for reconstruction: firstly it's so unsafe for foreigners to operate that almost all projects have come to a halt. After two years, of the \$18 billion Congress appropriated for Iraq reconstruction only about \$1 billion or so has been spent and a chunk has now been reallocated for improving security, a sign of just how bad things are going here.

Oil dreams? Insurgents disrupt oil flow routinely as a result of sabotage and oil prices have hit record high of \$49 a barrel. Who did this war exactly benefit? Was it worth it? Are we safer because Saddam is holed up and Al Qaeda is running around in Iraq?

Iraqis say that thanks to America they got freedom in exchange for insecurity. Guess what? They say they'd take security over freedom any day, even if it means having a dictator ruler.

I heard an educated Iraqi say today that if Saddam Hussein were allowed to run for elections he would get the majority of the vote. This is truly sad.

Then I went to see an Iraqi scholar this week to talk to him about elections here. He has been trying to educate the public on the importance of voting. He said, "President Bush wanted to turn Iraq into a democracy that would be an example for the Middle East. Forget about democracy, forget about being a model for the region, we have to salvage Iraq before all is lost."

One could argue that Iraq is already lost beyond salvation. For those of us on the ground it's hard to imagine what if any thing could salvage it from its violent downward spiral. The genie of terrorism, chaos and mayhem has been unleashed onto this country as a result of American mistakes and it can't be put back into a bottle.

The Iraqi government is talking about having elections in three months while half of the country remains a 'no go zone'—out of the hands of the government and the Americans and out of reach of journalists. In the other half, the disenchanting population is too terrified to show up at polling stations. The Sunnis have already said they'd boycott elections, leaving the stage open for polarized government of Kurds and Shiites that will not be deemed as legitimate and will most certainly lead to civil war.

I asked a 28-year-old engineer if he and his family would participate in the Iraqi elections since it was the first time Iraqis could to some degree elect a leadership. His response summed it all: "Go and vote and risk being blown into pieces or followed by the insurgents and murdered for cooperating with the Americans? For what? To practice democracy? Are you joking?"

INTRODUCING THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR CARIBBEAN NATIONALS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, epic floods, death, and starvation. Unfortunately for the people of Haiti, Grenada and the Cayman Islands these are not Biblical times of which I speak, but the here and now.

Mr. Speaker, Tropical Storm Jeanne and Hurricane Ivan have particularly devastated Haiti, Grenada and the Cayman Islands. There

are no structures in place to respond to the needs of the populations, especially in areas like Gonaives, St. George and Grand Cayman, where Jeanne and Ivan hit hardest.

The unusual and extraordinary hurricane activity in the Caribbean during the 2004 season has prevented many Caribbean nationals in the United States from returning to their home countries, and for these countries to receive their repatriation.

Responding to these dire needs, I have introduced the "Emergency Relief for Caribbean Nationals Act," which designates Haiti, Grenada and the Cayman Islands under section 24 of the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to make nationals of those countries eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a time for the federal government to grant Temporary Protected Status it is now.

TPS has been granted in the past to nationals of Sudan, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, Burundi, Bosnia-Herzegovina, El Salvador and Guatemala due to political unrest in those countries.

Also, TPS was granted to Hondurans and Nicaraguans after Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and to Salvadorans after an earthquake in 2001, and to Montserratians in 1995 after a volcano eruption. Sadly, Tropical Storm Jeanne and Hurricane Ivan caused similar devastation and suffering in Haiti, Grenada and the Cayman Islands, and in the same way merit TPS.

The startling facts of the natural disaster in the Caribbean are the following:

Tropical Storm Jeanne came ashore on the Island of Hispaniola, lashing first the Dominican Republic and then Haiti on September 16. When Jeanne hit, Haiti was already struggling to deal with political instability and the aftermath of serious floods in May. Nevertheless, Tropical Storm Jeanne hit Haiti with devastating force. More than 1,500 people are now known to have died and more than 1,000 are missing. Also, more than 300,000 people have been left homeless.

The situation is so calamitous that Haiti's Prime Minister Grerard Latortue said after visiting the stricken northern city of Gonoies, "We have a problem with bodies: there is a risk of epidemic. If you can picture this: there is no electricity, the morgues are not working, there is water everywhere."

Only weeks earlier, Hurricane Ivan, the strongest storm to hit the Caribbean in a decade, pounded Grenada. Hurricane Ivan killed 39 people in Grenada and left 40,000 of its 90,000 people living in 183 houses, schools and churches that have been converted into shelters. Grenada's capital, St. George, was hit by 125 mph winds—flattening homes and disrupting power. The storm destroyed the city's emergency operations center, the main prison, many schools, and damaged the main hospital.

Now an environmental health hazard has arisen in Grenada. The runoff, which contains pathogens from several sources, including human waste, is contaminating rivers where people are washing and bathing.

Thereafter, Hurricane Ivan blasted the Cayman Islands with 150 mph winds that ripped roofs off houses, uprooted trees and caused flooding across the British territory. 15 to 20 percent of homes on the eastern part of the Cayman Islands were completely destroyed, and another 50 percent suffered significant damage.

The extraordinary and temporary conditions caused by nature, and resulting in floods, epidemics and other environmental disasters in Haiti, Grenada, and Cayman Islands warrant granting their nationals Temporary Protected Status. Giving TPS to people from Haiti, Grenada and the Cayman Islands is consistent with the national interest of the United States, and denotes the values and morals that have made this nation strong.

Therefore, I urge you to cosponsor the "Emergency Relief for Caribbean Nationals Act."

TOPICAL AGENDA

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, great interest has been generated by the publication of a document from the 11th of February 2003 entitled "Topical Agenda". It involves the Department of Defense Personnel and Readiness Undersecretary and the Selective Service System and its Acting Director.

This document appears on the web site of "Rock the Vote". The interest is intense because of the content of the agenda. It involves a review of selective service major policy issues since 1973; a synopsis of Department of Defense Policy regarding the draft and a detailed proposal for the renewal of the draft and conditions attendant to it.

The participation of the Department of Defense in the discussion associated with the agenda has been confirmed by the Secretary of Defense. The DOD contention is that the meeting on the agenda was for purposes of discussion only and that it took place off Pentagon premises. Obviously, the location of the discussion and the origination of the agenda for discussion purposes is immaterial to the issue at hand. The point is the Department of Defense from the Secretary on down has vigorously denied that any such discussions have ever taken place let alone been contemplated. This document shows that a detailed proposal for a new draft involving men and for the first time women has been under consideration and discussion by the Department of Defense. It also clearly indicates that consideration has been given to drafting not only for military needs but for purposes associated with the Department of Homeland Security. In addition it proposes that the draft age be extended from 18 to 34. It includes a proposition that a "self-declaration" of skill sets be required of all potential draftees to be periodically updated until the age of 35.

It is not enough for the Department of Defense to say it rejects the proposal and its findings. Saying "no" doesn't make it so. Denials that any such consideration has even been given let alone presently extent ring hollow in the wake of the implications of this agenda and the Department of Defense's participation in discussing it.

Given the broad and deep concern of the public about the draft and the possibility of its being reinstated it is imperative that the public be enabled to see, understand and analyze what the Department of Defense has had under consideration. The public, of course, can draw its own conclusions. The "Agenda" report follows.

TOPICAL AGENDA

DoD Participants: Hon. Charles S. Abell, Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Mr. William Carr, Acting Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy; Colonel David Kopanski, Deputy Director, Accession Policy.

SSS Participants: Mr. Lewis C. Brodsky, Acting Director of Selective Service; Mr. Richard S. Ftahavan, Director of Public & Congressional Affairs.

1. Review 30-year time-line—SSS major policy issues

A. Draft ends in 1973; Agency placed in "Deep Standby" from 1976 to 1980. Ninety-eight "record-keepers" remain to SSS, part-time Reserve Officers kept on board, but no registration, no Board Members.

B. 1980—Cold War continues. President Carter decides to revitalize SSS after Soviets invade Afghanistan and MOBEXs indicate need. No draft, but resumes registration program for men. Wants to include women but Congress says no. 10,000 Board Members appointed and trained. DoD sets preparedness goal for SSS: "Be ready to provide first draftees to MEPS at M+13 and 100,000 by M+30."

C. 1988—Congress reacts to military medical shortages ("war stoppers"). Language inserted in the Defense Authorization Act telling SSS to develop a "structure" which would allow the registration and induction of health care personnel in an emergency. DoD identifies more than 60 health care specialties to include in the SSS Health Care, Personnel Delivery System (HCPDS). Planning calls for first HCPDS draftees by M+42. HCPDS becomes a paper and computer exercise lasting many years.

D. 1989-1991—End of Cold War, Desert Storm, no draft, and SSS remains in standby status with flat-lined annual budgets.

E. 1893 and 1994—Detractors in the Congress challenge need for continuing to fund SSS and peacetime registration. Section 647(b), FY 1993 DOD Authorization Act requires SECDEF, in concert with SSS, to report on continuation of peacetime registration. This was accomplished, registration is retained, and an interagency task force review was formed, led by the NSC. Conclusion is announced by President Clinton: preserve SSS and peacetime registration in current standby status for three reasons.

1. A hedge against underestimating the number of soldiers, needed to fight a future war;

2. A symbol of national resolve to potential adversaries; and,

3. A link between the all-volunteer Armed Forces and society-at-large.

Clinton also instructs SSS to increase operational efficiency. Instructs DoD to update MOB requirements for SSS, re-examine timelines, and review arguments for and against continuing to exclude women from registration.

F. 1994—Defense issues new "post-Cold War" guidance to SSS: "provide first untrained draftee to MEPS at M+193; first Health Care draftee at M+222," DoD reaffirms that it is not necessary to register or draft women (for a conventional draft of untrained manpower) because they are prohibited by policy from serving in ground combat assignments. SSS recognizes women may have to be included in a health care draft.

G. 1998—DoD Health Affairs says health care personnel would be needed earlier than M+222 in a future conflict. Guidance changed to M+90. Today, HCPDS can be implemented, but ability to meet M+90 time frame is doubtful. Program not fully tested and compliance aspects still not complete.

H. 1995 through 2000—Anti-SSS Members of Congress almost successful in eliminating

SSS through the appropriations process. SSS undergoes structure and program reductions to make ends meet. Readiness suffers.

I. 2000 and 2001—DoD and SSS plan and implement joint mailing project to increase peacetime relevancy of SSS and improve timeliness and address accuracy of DoD recruiting direct mail campaigns.

J. 2002 and 2003—Administration says use of draft not an option for war on terrorism or potential war with Iraq. Rep. Rangel and Sen. Hollings introduce bills (H.R. 163 and S. 69) call for reinstating a draft for military and national service. SECDEF adamant and vocal against using the draft for any immediate or likely contingency. Most recently, Reps. Paul, DeFazio and Frank introduce H.R. 487, calling for repeal of the Military Selective Service Act and an end to the SSS within six months of the bill becoming law.

Synopsis: With known shortages of military personnel with certain critical skills, and with the need for the nation to be capable of responding to domestic emergencies as a part of Homeland Security planning, changes should be made in the Selective Service System's registration program and primary mission.

Situation: Currently, and in accordance with the Military Selective Service Act (MSSA) [50 U.S.C., App. 451 et seq.], the Selective Service System (SSS) collects and maintains personal information from all U.S. male citizens and resident aliens. Under this process, each man is required to "present himself for and submit to registration" upon reaching age 18. The methods by which a man can register with Selective Service include the Internet, mail-back postcard, checking a box on other government forms, and through the driver's license applications process in many states. The collected data is retained in an active computer file until the man reaches age 26 and is no longer draft eligible. It consists of the man's name, address, Social Security number, and date of birth. Currently, 91 percent of all men, ages 18 through 25, are registered, enabling the SSS to conduct a timely, fair, and equitable draft in the event the Congress and the President decide to reinstate conscription during a crisis.

However, the Secretary of Defense and Department of Defense manpower officials have stated recently that a draft will not be necessary for any foreseeable crisis. They assume that sufficient fighting capability exists in today's "all-volunteer" active and reserve Armed Forces for likely contingencies, making a conventional draft of untrained manpower somewhat obsolete. Yet, Defense manpower officials concede there are critical shortages of military personnel with certain skills, such as medical personnel, linguists, computer network engineers, etc. The costs of attracting and retaining such personnel for military service could be prohibitive, leading some officials to conclude that while a conventional draft may never be needed, a draft of men and women possessing these critical skills may be warranted in a future crisis, if too few volunteer.

Proposal: In line with today's needs, the SSS' structure, programs and activities should be re-engineered toward maintaining a national inventory of American men and (for the first time) women, ages 18 through 34, with an added focus on identifying individuals with critical skills.

An interagency task force should examine the feasibility of this proposal which would require amendments to the MSSA, expansion of the current registration program, and inclusion of women. In addition to the basic identifying information collected in the current program, the expanded and revised program would require all registrants to indicate whether they have been trained in, possess, and professionally practice, one or more

skills critical to national security or community health and safety. This could take the form of an initial "self-declaration" as a part of the registration process. Men and women would enter on the SSS registration form a multi-digit number representing their specific critical skill (e.g., similar to military occupational specialty or Armed Forces Specialty Code with Skill Identifier), taken from a lengthy list of skills to be compiled and published by the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security. Individuals proficient in more than one critical skill would list the practiced skill in which they have the greatest degree of experience and competency. They would also be required to update reported information as necessary until they reach age 35. This unique data base would provide the military (and national, state, and municipal government agencies) with immediately available links to vital human resources . . . in effect, a single, most accurate and complete, national inventory of young Americans with special skills.

While the data base's "worst-case" use might be to draft such personnel into military or homeland security assignments during a national mobilization, its very practical peacetime use could be to support recruiting and direct marketing campaigns aimed at encouraging skilled personnel to volunteer for community or military service opportunities, and to consider applying for hard-to-fill public sector jobs. Local government agencies could also tap this data base to locate nearby specialists for help with domestic crises and emergency situations.

With the changes described above, SSS programs would be modified to serve the contemporary needs of several customers: Department of Defense; Department of Homeland Security (FEMA, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs, INS), Corporation for National Service, Public Health Service, and other federal and state agencies seeking personnel with critical skills for national security or community service assignments. The SSS would thus play a more vital, relevant, and immediate role in shoring up America's strength and readiness in peace and war.

II. Are today's SSS capabilities in sync with DoD needs?

A. Is there a need to preserve the capability of conducting a draft of untrained manpower? If so, is the time frame still M+193?

B. How likely is it that DoD will need SSS to conduct a Health Care draft?

C. Now severe are any other critical skills shortages in the military?

D. Are the Clinton-era's abstract reasons for preserving the SSS and peacetime registration still valid?

E. Would DoD still fight any and all Congressional initiatives to cut or eliminate the SSS?

III. Consider restructuring the SSS to address contemporary national security needs

A. Focus might be on relieving critical skills shortages

B. Include potential service to DHS and other government agencies that must attract/recruit skilled personnel.

C. Explore the feasibility of developing a single-point data base of virtually all young Americans, 18 through 34 years old, immediately identifiable by critical skills possessed and practiced. Data base could be used for a draft in war and for recruiting in peacetime.

1. Would require modification of SSS mission and changes to authorizing law.

2. Cost considerations.

IV. Next steps—Statement of Administration Policy needed

A. DoD decides what services it needs and wants from SSS: Three options for consideration:

1. SSS status quo; however, redefine the DoD mission guidance and time lines to make the SSS more relevant to DoD's needs and the SECDEF's policy. The current guidance of providing untrained inductees at M+193 runs counter to the SECDEF's views and is out-of-sync with possible wartime scenarios.

2. Return the SSS to "Deep Standby" status. If a draft of any kind is highly unlikely and undesirable, eliminate peacetime registration and dismiss the 10,000 trained volunteer Board Members. However, should a draft be needed, it would take more than a year to get the system capable of conducting a fair and equitable draft from Deep Standby status.

3. Restructure the SSS and shift its peacetime focus to accommodate DoD's most likely requirements in a crisis. Plan for conducting a more likely draft of individuals with special and critical skills.

a. Minimum requirement: SSS mission guidance and time lines must be redefined promptly by DoD to allow more relevant pre-mobilization planning and funding for the possibility of a critical skills draft at M+90 or sooner. Peacetime registration of men 18 through 25 would continue, but consideration would also be given to identifying men with certain critical skills among these year-of-birth groupings. A post-mobilization plan would also be devised and computer programming accomplished for a full-blown critical skills draft. The HCPDS program is completed, brought to the forefront of SSS readiness planning, and tested through exercises. Without a reaffirmation of relevance and adjustment of mission, the SSS will be an easy target for reduction or elimination by detractors in the Congress and the Administration.

b. Expanded pre-mobilization requirement: SSS peacetime registration expanded to include women and men, 18 through 34 years old, and collects information on critical skills within these year-of-birth groupings. Requires change of law and additional funding (see Issue Paper dated 11 Feb 2003).

B. If more examination of the issue and options is needed, consider forming an inter-agency task force to provide the Administration with a policy recommendation. Possible players: DoD, SSS, DHS, NSC, OMB, Corporation for National Service, PHS, others.

C. After suitable analysis, obtain a White House Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) announcing plans for the future of the SSS (course of action 1, 2, or 3, above).

D. If the SSS is to expand its pre-mobilization activities to include registration of women and collection of critical skills identifiers, it will be necessary to market the concept for approval by the Armed Services Committees and Appropriations Committee draft implementing legislation for congressional consideration. The changes will be implemented after the amended law is signed and funding is identified.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LIPINSKI

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I want to join in this tribute to the many years of public service and the more than 20 years of service here in the House of our colleague BILL LIPINSKI.

I have had the privilege of serving with BILL on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for many years. During this Congress, he has served as the ranking Democrat on the

Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines. Together, we have had to navigate through the often frustrating, confusing and twisting course of the transportation bill reauthorization effort this year and last. BILL has always been a steady partner and a strong defender of the program. He certainly hasn't been reluctant to voice his strong support for increased investment in transportation. He is a great fighter, and we have been lucky to have him on our side during this particular fight. I have valued his advice and counsel these past two years as together we have worked to produce a transportation program that moves our country forward.

Beyond our work together on the Subcommittee, we have worked together on other issues, such as the expansion of O'Hare and many years fighting the whistle ban to protect our towns that had developed around the railroad tracks crisscrossing through our districts.

Apart from the Committee activities, BILL has been a tireless advocate for his constituents. He was born on the southwest side of Chicago, and he truly knows and understands his district. Prior to coming to Washington, BILL was a Chicago City alderman and he still is a Ward committeeman—a good education for any member of this House!

So I want to acknowledge BILL's courage, his strength in standing by his convictions, and his love for the city of Chicago. He has had a real impact, and his successes can be seen all over the city—whether riding the "el" or landing on a plane at Midway.

I wish him and his wife, Rose Marie, all the best on his retirement. He has been a valuable member of the House, and we will miss him.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BILL LIPINSKI

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in a tribute to my good friend, BILL LIPINSKI, who has made countless contributions to the State of Illinois and to the country during his years serving in the House.

George Washington is quoted as saying, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these." I believe BILL LIPINSKI modeled his Congressional career around this quote.

BILL's efforts in transforming our country's transportation infrastructure, especially that in the State of Illinois, has made every American's life a little easier by more efficient travel. Throughout the years, BILL and I have worked together on several transportation projects, from Metra expansion to road projects. In working with him on each of these projects, he showed great leadership, but most of all he showed great friendship. It is for this that I admire BILL the most. He could look past the harsh realities of partisan politics and work with me to help residents within my district. I will be eternally grateful not only for BILL's support of the projects he and I worked on but also for his friendship.

Another thing I will always remember BILL for is his independence. While BILL is a loyal

Democrat—one that I haven't yet been able to convert—he was never afraid to break from the ranks to cast his vote as he saw fit. I will always miss his camaraderie, and his love for this cathedral of democracy.

BILL, in the years to come, I hope I will still get to see you on the flights to and from Chicago and I wish you all the best in your retirement.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520,
AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, this week the price of oil rose to more than \$53 a barrel, a record that will translate into higher home heating oil prices this winter and higher gasoline prices at the pump.

Last night, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives responded to this news by passing a tax bill that renews an expiring tax loophole for small businesses to buy huge, gas-guzzling SUVs, like the Hummer.

Our tax code should offer incentives for people to conserve energy. Unfortunately, the SUV tax loophole does just the opposite. The Republican Hummer tax loophole entices Americans to buy the biggest, heaviest, and least fuel efficient vehicles on the market. Under this loophole, a small business that purchases a large SUV, such as a Hummer or Cadillac Escalade, can deduct up to \$25,000 of the vehicle's cost. In contrast, citizens who purchase a fuel efficient hybrid vehicle this year will be entitled to just \$2,000; starting in 2006, the hybrid vehicle tax deduction will shrink even further until it disappears entirely by 2009.

In 2003, nearly 1,000,000 large SUVs were sold in the US, outnumbering the number of hybrid vehicles sold by a ratio of 23 to 1.

The best-selling hybrid vehicle, the Toyota Prius, achieves an estimated 55 miles per gallon. In contrast, the Hummer H2, Ford Excursion, and Land Rover Range Rover all achieve less than 15 miles per gallon.

The Toyota Prius emits 3.5 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually; the annual greenhouse gas emissions for the Hummer H2, Ford Excursion, and Land Rover Range Rover each emit more than 4 times the amount of greenhouse gases than the Prius.

Instead of working towards independence from Middle East oil, the Republicans have voted to extend tax loopholes that will only help make us even more dependent. So far, we have had 1,066 American soldiers die in a misdirected, misguided attempt to stabilize the government holding the world's second largest oil supply. The war in Iraq has made our country more vulnerable to the extremists of the Middle East.

Instead of making our air cleaner and protecting our environment, the Republican Hummer tax loophole is making our air dirtier, making our planet warmer, and contributing to the

pressure to drill for oil in one of the last pristine ecosystems remaining in not only America but on the planet. Large SUVs are extremely polluting, particularly in regards to greenhouse gases. Due in part to the oil wasted by large SUVs, the Administration would like to open the ecologically pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling in order to extract a total of 6 months worth of oil—oil that would be pumped right into the tanks of Hummers and other SUV gas guzzlers.

Instead of working to pay down the nation's debt, the Republican Hummer tax loophole is digging our children's financial hole even deeper. For every 100,000 taxpayers that drive through the Hummer loophole, the Treasury is denied almost \$900 million.

Instead of helping the poor, the tax loophole is once again aiding the wealthy. Because Hummers and other large SUVs use an inordinate amount of fuel, they increase the demand for gasoline, which in turn causes the price of gasoline to rise. The price of gasoline in Massachusetts currently is \$1.93 a gallon. The price of oil is almost \$53 a barrel. These price increases make a disproportionately higher impact on the bank accounts of the nation's poorest households. In addition, because the SUV tax poolhole is designed for type-S corporations, the beneficiaries include lawyers, doctors, and real estate agents.

Clearly, something needs to be done to help wean the United States off of oil and free ourselves from the chains of OPEC. A step in the right direction would be for the United States to promote the use of high fuel economy hybrid vehicles.

This problem could be solved easily if we only had the willpower to do so. By changing one sentence in the tax code, we could preserve the tax deduction to small businesses owners, such as farmers, who were intended to benefit, and eliminate the benefit to those who abuse it. In the current version, some long overdue language was added to distinguish between large SUVs and industrial vehicles. That change somewhat improved the situation, dropping the deductible amount for large SUVs from a ridiculous \$100,000 to a sublime \$25,000; however, the fact that \$25,000 deductions for large SUVs are being extended until 2008 while the already minuscule deductions for hybrid vehicles are disappearing is ludicrous.

By not extending the SUV tax loophole and not eliminating the deductions for hybrid vehicles, we can help to increase our nation's security, protect our environment, reduce the national debt, and ease the financial burdens of the poor. It is time for the majority in the Congress to steer our nation in the right direction by saying no to the special interests who are working to keep this loophole open. The House vote last night to approve the Republican tax bill represents a failure of vision. We can only hope now that the Senate will block this legislation to extend the Republican Hummer loophole from 2006 until 2008.

Last year when we tried to get rid of this loophole during the energy conference, I resorted to bad poetry as a way of prying my colleagues free of this obscene subsidy. It didn't work. But I am told by people in the business of psychological operations that you can sometimes free a hostage by playing the

same thing over and over again until the hostage-taker comes screaming out of the house saying "Stop It! I Can't Take It Anymore!" So, for the sake of good policy, I am resorting once again to the same bad poetry.

"A TAXPAYER'S LAMENT," OR "WHY AM I PAYING FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S HUMVEES?"

I don't mind paying taxes, for energy and such

As long as I don't have to pay very much,
And as long as I don't end up subsidizing trucks

Called "Humvee Ones" and "Humvee 2s" for 25,000 bucks!

They don't fit in a parking space; they guzzle gas like a hog,

And they leave our children gasping for air turned in to smog.

I'm not for banning Humvees—some people think they're cool.

But subsidizing this luxury treats taxpayers like a fool.

With our soldiers now in Baghdad fighting for the oil

Wasting gasoline this way just makes my blood boil.

Voting for this subsidy is impossible to defend.

All we want to know out here is when will this end?

HONORING GENE HOOPER'S 50
YEARS IN BANKING

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Gene Hooper's service to the banking community of Middle Tennessee. Gene and his wife, Vera, are residents of Cookeville, Tennessee.

Fresh out of high school, Gene began working at Third National Bank in 1954. There, he formed a partnership with Homer Tidwell, and the two young men teamed up to win the American Institute of Banking's National Debate Contest.

Gene continued working for Third National Bank for more than 20 years. In 1976, he joined the Bank of Putnam County. At the time, the bank was preparing to open its second office in Cookeville. Under Gene's leadership, the Bank of Putnam County has grown into a two-bank holding company with 12 offices in four counties.

Gene has been a leader in banking, as well as a leader in the community. He has served as an officer in the American Institute of Banking, and he has served on the government relations committees for both the Tennessee Bankers Association and the American Bankers Association. He also is an active member of the Cookeville Chamber of Commerce and Cookeville Noon Rotary.

Gene has accomplished much in his 50 years of service. I thank him for his good advice over the years, and I congratulate him on his long and distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO MADGE J.
OVERHOUSE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Madge Jennings Overhouse to recognize her lifelong achievements and indisputable legacy of selfless volunteerism and dedication to public service. Madge Jennings Overhouse was born on July 29, 1924 in The Dalles, Oregon, and soon moved to San Jose. She attended San Jose State University, graduating cum laude in history, where she met her husband, a member of both the football and track teams. Madge married Howard Overhouse in 1949, and they had one son, Richard, and three lovely grandchildren, Ashley Ann, Katie and Will Overhouse.

Madge was a descendant of several generations of San Jose natives who served their city and passed that community service ethic on to her. The city's first and third fire chiefs, George and Richard Brown, were ancestors, and her father, Ralph James, was a San Jose fire captain. Her late husband, Howard Overhouse, also was a city firefighter. Madge herself worked for thirty years as a librarian at San Jose State University and San Jose City College.

Her career as a librarian spanned almost 40 years and two institutions, beginning at San Jose State, then moved to San Jose Community College. Typical of Madge, she assumed a leadership role in her profession, serving on the Santa Clara County Library Commission from 1976 to 1982, as well as serving on the California Library Agency for Systems and Services from 1979 to 1984, representing Santa Clara County as an alternate for Supervisor Rod Diridon. Madge also served on the Steering Committee for the Master Plan of California Libraries.

Madge's multitude of contributions to the community throughout her lifetime is legend, and the list of civic organizations that Madge has helped is extensive. We would like to take a moment to reflect on a few pivotal moments here.

Madge was one of the first women to serve on the Executive Board of the Santa Clara County chapter of the Boy Scouts of America. The Santa Clara County Fair Association benefited from Madge's input as a Board member from 1987 to 1995. Madge also served on the boards of the Iota Delta Chapter of the Chi Omega sorority and the Campbell Historical Preservation Board. Madge was a long-time member of the San Jose Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Madge lent her talents to the Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force, which led to the completion of Highway 85, which is now a major transportation artery in the Bay Area. She was honored in 1994 as a County Woman of Achievement for her volunteerism. At the time, she was the political director for the county Democratic Information Center, which she co-founded in 1969. In 1986, she was named County Democrat of the Year. She was a Democratic nominee for the 22nd Assembly District in 1974, served as chairwoman of the Northern California women's division of the Democratic Party and was selected to vote as an elector in the 1992 Electoral College. Over the years, she has

been honored by local police, firefighters and the AFL-CIO Labor Council. This past January 2003, she was presented the California Democratic Party's lifetime achievement award.

Madge Overhouse, known for years as the godmother of the Democratic Party in Santa Clara County, hobnobbed with top local, state and national Democrats for more than 30 years. She was a Democratic National Committee member and attended all but one of the party's conventions, since Jimmy Carter's presidency.

Madge began volunteering for political causes when politics was uncharted territory for women. As a result, she helped future generations of women see more possibilities available to them in politics. Also known as an Oracle of the Democratic Party, Madge lent her expertise to the careers of many public officials both male and female. Speaking from personal experience, Madge's gentleness in behavior, in advice and admonition will be my compass.

It was on Wednesday, September 29, 2004 that Madge Overhouse died of apparent heart failure after battling breast cancer for two years. She was 80. The original diagnosis of cancer was she had a month to live.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a friend, a role model and a constant inspiration. Madge Overhouse's heroic service to our community and guidance to individuals inspired many to go beyond their expectations and, as a result, contribute to the betterment of our beautiful and diverse community in Santa Clara County. Madge was a true hero, in every word and action.

HONORING YULIYA KOSTROMITINA

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yuliya Kostromitina, a student from McKay High School in Salem, Oregon. Yuliya, the daughter of immigrants from Russia, was selected as a delegate to the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships 2004 Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. As a result of the leadership demonstrated by Ms. Kostromitina, she was chosen as one of just four students nationwide, and one of forty internationally, to attend the 7th International Partnership Network Conference in London, England.

Yuliya's achievement is proof that the GEAR UP program, or Gaining Early Awareness and Preparedness for Undergraduate Programs, in which she participates at McKay High, can help build great students. GEAR UP provides five-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP programs serve an entire group of students beginning in middle school and continuing through high school. Within each school GEAR UP funds are used to provide meaningful academic enrichment activities that result in systemic school improvement and increased student achievement that will prepare students to go to college. GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to low-income students. With its emphasis on school improvement,

GEAR UP dovetails well with the high standards set by No Child Left Behind and gives schools the resources needed to meet NCLB standards. This outstanding program helps at-risk students succeed in school and prepares them to attend college, an option many of them had previously considered out of reach. GEAR UP helps students from low-income backgrounds realize that they too can succeed in college and shows them the path to a better future.

As Congress considers reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, I hope my colleagues will recognize the value of the GEAR UP program and continue to provide resources that will help students like Yuliya reach their potential.

HONORING MIM KELBER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mim Kelber, one of the bright, shining lights of the women's movement. Mim passed away this summer, leaving a legacy of extraordinary activism and passion for social justice. Best known as Bella Abzug's best friend, soul mate and speechwriter, Mim was also a much-admired activist and leader in her own right.

I had the privilege of speaking at her memorial service on August 17, 2004 where I said, "This weekend the world lost one of the great feminists—Mim Kelber.

A labor journalist, freelance writer and activist, Mim devoted her life to improving the world she lived in. Together with her great friend, Bella Abzug, Mim encouraged women to use their political power to ensure their rights.

There is not an American woman alive today who does not have more rights, command more respect or enjoy more opportunity as a result of their work together. Mim and Bella broke through barriers, shattered glass ceilings and woke people up.

Mim was a consummate organizer, a terrific writer and a true idealist. As co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, the Women USA Fund, the Women's Foreign Policy Council and WEDO, Mim worked to bring other women together to work to achieve common goals.

As an author, Mim helped draft a roadmap for women to follow in fighting for our rights. She wrote part of Bella's unyielding call to arms, including the Contract with the Women of the USA. Mim used her pen to help people change the way they looked at the world and how they lived their lives.

Whenever I wanted to organize women to pass the ERA, to fund UNFPA or to bring women together for any cause, I would call Mim. She was a source of inspiration for me. A veteran of many of the old battles, she always had good advice about how to fight new struggles.

It is incumbent upon all women to keep her spirit alive and to further the irresistible momentum that Mim helped foster. May we long remember her contributions.

To honor her memory, I want to insert into the RECORD some of the other loving tributes

made by family, friends and colleagues that day:

Her daughter, Karli Kelber: "I am so proud to be Mim Kelber's daughter. She was a great speech writer and she also gave many speeches—some in this very room. She was very modest. She would have been amazed by the number of people here today. She could have written for Presidents though unfortunately none of the presidents in recent history would have been worthy enough to read her words.

My mother spent her life working to make the world a better place. She had so many great ideas, especially for organizing women. She would often lament, "If only the men could stay home and the women could run things."

She hated religion, blaming it for so many wars. She often told me to remember that there were more good people than bad people in this world. She believed in the golden rule. She also warned us that happiness was not a constant state of mind—although she wanted her daughters to be happy all the time.

The consummate reporter, she was always asking questions. She taught me the five "w" questions at an early age and her sharp editing skills helped me through high school and college—if only she could have edited this speech!

She educated me to care about others. To help make a difference. The lessons started quite early. She was pregnant with me when she was called to the House Un-American Activities hearings in Washington where she took the 5th Amendment. She then named me after a very famous Karl.

Women's Strike for Peace and PTA politics were a constant in my childhood. She took my sister and me to countless peace demonstrations. And then there was Bella Abzug's strong influence on our lives. I was incredibly proud of the powerful speeches my mother wrote for her and mesmerized by the way Bella spoke. There was always hope in the air despite so many setbacks—and the victories were exhilarating.

Those were exciting times for my mother yet she told me that her happiest days were raising my sister and me in our Clark Street apartment across from the Brooklyn Heights promenade. She had a deep love and admiration for my father. She was in awe of his constant energy and determination and would often exclaim, "Your father is really a remarkable man!" That he is. And she adored her five grandchildren.

The peaceful world she envisioned has not yet come to pass. After witnessing terrorism from her living room window, in despair she told me, "We worked so hard—we always thought that things would get better." She labeled herself "a realist" yet her whole life was guided by an optimistic activism. Although her last days were a painful struggle for her, her intellect and political astuteness would often shine through. She was constantly composing letters to the editors in her head.

Katherine Hepburn, my mother's favorite actress, who was a true feminist, said, "I have no fear of death. Must be wonderful, like a big sleep. But let's face it: it's how you live that really counts."

My mother leaves behind a legacy of social activism and love. She had a real vision of the way things could be and she taught us never to give up—and mom, we never will."

Bella Abzug's daughter, Liz Abzug: "First, I want to send my deepest condolences to Mim's family and her friends.

Mim knew my mother, Bella Abzug, for 60 years. They were classmates at Walton High School in the Bronx. They worked together at Women's Strike for Peace in the sixties—pro bono, of course—and when my mother ran for Congress, Mim was tirelessly there for her, from the first campaign to the last.

In 1971, when my mother was elected to her first term in Congress, she named Mim as her executive policy assistant and speech writer. Mim chose to work out of New York instead of Washington because she didn't want to be separated from Harry and her children.

In 1980, Mim and my mother co-founded the Women USA Fund and in 1990, they co-founded Women's Environment and Development Organization, WEDO. Along the way, they co-authored many, many publications. Just to name a few—*Bella Abzug's Guide to Political Power for American Women; Women and Government, New Ways to Political Power* and *Gender Gap* which they dedicated "To our daughters and to young women everywhere, the future leaders of our Nation."

In other words, Bella Abzug couldn't have gotten along without Mim Kelber. I remember these lively discussions they had together, these great debates that were often loud—at least on my mother's part—and I think each inspired the other.

My mother often told me that she thought Mim was brilliant. From everything we've heard here today, I think it's obvious why."

Harold Holzer: "I first met Mim Kelber on a Monday morning in March of 1975—at Bella Abzug's Congressional offices at 252 Seventh Avenue. It was more than 29 years ago . . . a lifetime, really. But it seems to me, and probably to many of you, like yesterday. A yesterday when, unlike today, hope really did seem to be on the way.

I can still see the configuration of our office with vivid clarity: Bella and Dora Friedman in side-by-side offices, usually arguing. Sylvia Epstein and her constituent services operation to the south, although she was always available to come around the corner, for arguing. And to Bella's North—in a bullpen setting with steel and frosted glass walls that only rose five feet off the floor, sat Mim. An island of isolation and serenity. Tranquility and concentration in the eye of a hurricane. And right outside Mim's enclave was what passed for the press office . . . namely, me. Arguing.

But not with Mim. In fact, for 2 years I don't think I ever saw Mim's face for more than a few minutes every day. That's because her back was always to me. What I saw was her blonde hair, her head rigidly facing her desk against the wall, as if her gaze could not be torn away from the paper before her, no matter how loud the distraction. Her concentration was awesome. I've never seen anything like it before or since. What I heard from her direction was the constant clatter of her electric typewriter—remember that familiar sound in the days before computers? Rhythmically, rapidly, relentlessly, from 9 in the morning until 6 at night, when she would calmly board the Lexington Avenue subway for Brooklyn Heights to claim a bit of peace until the next morning.

Even more remarkably, not only did those words flow quickly—but also flawlessly. It's hard to imagine—these, after all, were the

days before we could move paragraphs, re-arrange words, and correct errors with the mere press of a button. But Mim had a computer operating in her head when Bill Gates was still a baby. She would pause from time to time, but for what only seemed like a second—then would come another clatter of the keys and another flood of words.

The office had its own particular assembly line. Speeches and statements flowed from Mim's electric typewriter to my desk for adaptation into press releases—while an office worker faxed a copy on to Bella in Washington—page by laborious page. Yes, those were also the days of the dinosaur fax—complete with chemical smells.

Somehow we got it done. And inevitably, almost routinely, by the time Bella rose to speak on the floor of the House, on the campaign trail around the state, and later around the world—the magic of the words were filtered through the singular personality and passion of her lifelong soul-mate. And the result made history.

I wasn't there to observe the development of the dynamic synergy that bound these two great women together. By the time I joined the assembly line, it was well-oiled, honed by years of practice, give and take, debate, a little fighting, and lots of passion—the fire and ice, yin and yang, of a partnership that inspired, challenged, and ultimately changed the nation. I simply had the privilege, for a few precious years, to observe it, promote it, marvel at it, celebrate it. And see some of its more hilarious manifestations, too.

Once, during the Senate campaign, Mim had prepared a 20-page speech for Bella to deliver in Buffalo. But Mim had also written a 20-page speech to deliver a few nights later in New York. Bella liked both of them—she didn't know which to use—and then hours before we were ready to leave, she demanded that Mim write an entirely new speech, based on the best of both. Mim's reply was simple: "Forget it Bella." They exchanged words. Bella screamed. Mim shouted back—in her own way. Then she simply turned and left. Bella's response: "I'll do it myself." Then she added: "The quiet ones always get you in the end!"

We were late: she grabbed up the two speeches and took them with her. We flew to western New York—Bella, Maggi Peyton, and me—she was holding the two speeches, still trying to figure out what to include and what to cut when we took an elevator up to the top floor of a Buffalo hotel. But when the doors opened, a huge gust of wind blew into the cab and all the papers went flying into the air and settled slowly to the floor. Bella said to us: "Pick those papers up and give them to me." We handed her 40 pages, which she simply shuffled together in no particular order. That night Bella Abzug gave two Mim Kelber speeches in one—and you know what? It sounded fine. Happily, Bella ran out of gas about two-thirds of the way through, or she might have spent the entire campaign there.

Bella is gone now. 252 Seventh Avenue is a luxury co-op—a far cry from the place where Dora couldn't leave animal crackers in her desk overnight without the mice eating them. But Bella's memory burns bright. And Mim's words live on in every thought inspiring the hope for a saner world—the world of peace and equality to which she gave such articulate vision.

The quiet ones will get you in the end. And Mim's quiet—her quiet dignity, tirelessness,

eloquence—got us right in the heart—in the beginning, for the duration, in the end, and afterwards.

One day, Mim walked out of the office—after an upheaval of a fight with Bella, accompanied by slamming doors and angry words—the full deal—about something quickly forgotten. But ever the professional, before she left Mim took her latest speech and practically threw it on Bella's desk.

Bella erupted. She pounded her fist on the table, took off her hat and slammed it down, and only then picked up the pages and started reading. She turned one page, then the other, grew silent, then looked up and smiled and said: "There's no one like Mimi." As usual, Bella was right."

Mim was a source of strength and inspiration to thousands of women who heard her words or followed her career. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mim Kelber, a brilliant strategist, eloquent writer, and faithful friend.

TRIBUTE TO ART GINSBURG

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting my good friend, Mr. Art Ginsburg. On November 6, 2004, the Los Angeles Valley College will honor him at its annual President's Gala. Art is a successful businessman and respected community leader who selflessly devotes much of his time and resources to community, governmental, civic and charitable organizations.

As the Vice President of the Los Angeles City Planning Review Board, he works hard to enhance the commercial areas of Studio City. He is a founding member of the Studio City Improvement Association and helped create its "Sidewalk Walk of Fame." Also, Art has been an active member of the Studio City Chamber of Commerce for 47 years and he serves as a member of the Studio City Residents Association.

A wonderful place to eat and one of the San Fernando Valley's famous landmarks is "Art's Delicatessen and Restaurant" in Studio City. It is a family run business that has been a favorite of many of my constituents since its opening in 1957. I know first-hand that, "every sandwich is a work of Art."

In addition to his business accomplishments, Art is a strong supporter of Los Angeles Valley College which he attended in 1956 and 1957. He is a member of the Board of Directors college foundation, the Patrons Association, and serves on the business liaison, executive council and scholarship committees. He has established a number of scholarships that have greatly benefitted many students. Art frequently sponsors campus activities by providing food from his Deli.

Art and his lovely wife, Sandy, have three children and three grandchildren. Two more grandchildren are expected soon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting my good friend Art Ginsburg and congratulating him on the honor being bestowed on him by Los Angeles Valley College.

RECOGNIZING THE YOUNG MEN'S LEAGUE OF GUAM FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING RESOLUTION TO GUAM WAR CLAIMS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the Young Men's League of Guam (YMLG) in building community support for the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission and working to bring resolution to a painful era in Guam's history.

As Guam's oldest fraternal organization, the Young Men's League of Guam, in conjunction with the Mayor's Council of Guam, has taken a lead role in building community consensus on the issue of Guam War Claims following the presentation of the Guam War Claims Review Commission report to Congress on June 9, 2004. YMLG and the Mayor's Council collected 1,800 signatures in a petition to the President, Congress, and local leaders requesting Congressional action to bring closure to the horrific experiences endured by the people of Guam, demonstrating broad support within our community for resolving the issue of Guam War Claims. YMLG advocates quick action on the recommendations of the Review Commission's report to bring closure for the remaining survivors of the occupation.

YMLG President and Chairman Dr. Jose T. Nededog and other YMLG leaders have championed the cause of bringing recognition and justice to those who experienced the occupation. Dr. Nededog, who lost his older brother in the Fena cave massacre during the occupation, is like many Chamorros, who after enduring enemy occupation went on to proud careers of service in the U.S. military.

Guam is the only United States jurisdiction invaded and occupied by enemy forces since the war of 1812. Over 8,000 Chamorros suffered personal injury, including rape, beatings, forced labor, forced march and internment, and approximately 1,000 were killed at the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army. YMLG is concerned that many of those who survived the brutal 32 month occupation are passing away before the issue of War Claims is fully resolved.

I commend Dr. Nededog, the Young Men's League of Guam, and the Mayor's Council of Guam for being a voice for the survivors of the occupation of Guam and for actively engaging in the effort to bring closure to the issue of Guam war claims. I welcome their support and encouragement and look forward to moving this issue through the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to submit for the RECORD a copy of the Young Men's League of Guam Resolution No. 01-04 "Relative to Expressing Strong Support to the Recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission for the Chamorro People."

RESOLUTION NO. 01-04

Whereas, the Young Men's League of Guam is the oldest Chamorro fraternal organization in Guam, established in 1917; and

Whereas, members of the League are replete with great leaders of Guam who determined the destiny of Guam and its people; and

Whereas, the majority of the members of the League and their families have experi-

enced the atrocities of the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II; and

Whereas, the majority of the members of the League have testified before the Guam War Claims Review Commission during their visit to Guam to secure testimonies from the Chamorro people who experienced the atrocities of the Japanese occupation; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors and the Council of Elders of the League were elected at large by the general membership; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors and the Council of Elders are representatives of the General membership with the fiduciary responsibility of overseeing the general welfare and well being of the members: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Young Men's League of Guam totally supports the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission that would bring closure to the long awaited recognition for the undue suffering of the Chamorro people through Japanese atrocities during World War II because of their dedication and loyalty to America; and be it further

Resolved, That the Young Men's League of Guam requests the Guam Legislature and the Governor of Guam to jointly support the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission.

NATIONAL WILDERNESS PROCLAMATION MONTH

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 40 years since Congress passed the 1964 National Wilderness Act, which has allowed parts of public land to be protected by law for future generations.

It might surprise some to know that this groundbreaking act of legislation was derived in part from the work of a New York City resident, David McClure, who chaired the Committee on Forest Preservation at the state constitutional convention in Albany in 1894.

McClure helped draft an article, which ensured that certain state land would remain "forever wild." Those words, adopted by the convention and later approved by the voters, have never been altered and remain in effect for the 3-million acre New York State forest preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill parks. This visionary accomplishment was the inspiration for those who drafted the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a New York City Proclamation honoring the 40th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and designating September 2004, in New York City, as National Wilderness Act Month.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas: While we thrive in a concrete jungle, New Yorkers are not blind to the necessity of forest preservation. In fact, our urban sensibility allows us a special appreciation for green spaces and wilderness.

Whereas: It has been forty years since Congress passed the 1964 National Wilderness Act, which has allowed a small percentage of the nation's public lands to be protected by law for future generations. It might surprise some to know that this groundbreaking act of legislation was derived in part from the work of a New York City resident, David McClure, who chaired the Committee on Forest Preservation at the State Constitutional

Convention in Albany in 1894. He helped draft an article that ensured that State land known as the Forest Preserve in the Adirondacks and Catskills would remain "forever wild." Adopted by the convention and later approved by the voters, the words of Article 14, Section 1 of the State Constitution have never been altered, and remain in effect for the three million-acre New York State Forest Preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. This visionary accomplishment was the inspiration for those who drafted the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Whereas: Eleanor Roosevelt said, "perhaps nature is our best assurance of immortality." As we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of this important act, New Yorkers are called upon to follow in the footsteps of Mr. McClure and become environmental stewards.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in attendance for a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have cast my votes as follows: "Yes" on rollcall 487, "yes" on rollcall 488, "yes" on rollcall 489, "no" on rollcall 490, "no" on rollcall 491, "no" on rollcall 492, "yes" on rollcall 493, "no" on rollcall 494, "yes" on rollcall 495, "yes" on rollcall 496, "yes" on rollcall 497, "no" on rollcall 498, "no" on rollcall 499, "yes" on rollcall 502, "yes" on rollcall 503, "yes" on rollcall 504, "yes" on rollcall 505, "no" on rollcall 506, "yes" on rollcall 507, "yes" on rollcall 508, "yes" on rollcall 509, "yes" on rollcall 510, "yes" on rollcall 511, "yes" on rollcall 512, "no" on rollcall 513, "no" on rollcall 514, "no" on rollcall 515, "no" on rollcall 516, "yes" on rollcall 517, "yes" on rollcall 518, "no" on rollcall 519, "yes" on rollcall 520, "yes" on rollcall 521, "yes" on rollcall 522, and "yes" on rollcall 523.

THE TERROR ATTACKS IN EGYPT

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound shock and sorrow concerning the bombings that occurred yesterday, October 7, 2004, in Taba, Egypt, where at least 29 people died and 160 were injured. The fact that the attacks coincided with the joyous Jewish festival of Sukkot is particularly horrifying. Two years ago we witnessed similar acts of violence when terrorists struck the Park Hotel in Netanya, killing dozens of Israelis celebrating the traditional Passover meal and again in Mombasa, Kenya where terrorists unsuccessfully attempted to take down an Israeli passenger jet but were successful in killing twelve people at an Israeli-owned hotel.

Yesterday's bombings, which occurred at a popular hotel and camping ground in Egypt, are especially jarring for two reasons. First, the attacks show the indiscriminate nature of these terrorists who killed innocent Muslims,

Christians and Jews, Egyptians, Russians, Britons and Israelis alike. Second, photos and accounts of Israelis rushing the border to get back into Israel are a jarring reminder of why the State of Israel was created—to provide a safe haven for Jews the world over who all too often cannot find peace elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, the bombings in Egypt also illustrate another important point—that the security fence being built around Israel works. Although no group has yet been definitively tied to this attack, it is clear the attack in Egypt was chosen because it would be too difficult to perpetrate inside of Israel. The security fence is a sad reality for those living on either side, but a necessary reality in order to save lives. As our strategic military partner, ally, trusted friend of 56 years, and only democracy in the Middle East, Israel needs the continued support of the United States as it works to secure her people from Palestinian and other terrorists who seek Israel's destruction.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that the bombers may have hoped to bring an end to talks between Egypt and Israel that focused on halting arms smuggling from Egypt to Palestinian terrorists in Gaza, and addressing other issues of shared concern to both nations. We must not let that happen. Egyptians died in Taba just as Israelis did, Egyptians that lived and worked in peace with Israelis each and every day. I encourage Egypt and Israel to continue to work together and I applaud President Mubarak and his government for coordinating with Israeli rescue workers and response teams to allow them access to the site of the attack in Egypt.

Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to all those whose loved ones were killed or wounded in these vicious attacks and I vow to continue my work to fight terror to prevent such horrifying attacks in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLINICAL LABORATORY COMPLIANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Clinical Laboratory Compliance Improvement Act of 2004, legislation to improve the accuracy and reliability in medical testing and to provide protections for employees who report laboratory problems to their superiors or regulatory entities.

Medical laboratory testing is a fundamental pillar of our nation's health care system. Virtually every American undergoes testing in the course of receiving medical care and relies on the accuracy of laboratory tests to receive appropriate medical care and treatment.

Incorrect test results, in the worst case, can contribute to misdiagnosis that leads to inappropriate care and possible adverse health consequences for the patient. In the best case, incorrect or invalid results can lead to undue stress and inconvenience. Inaccurate testing for communicable diseases poses an especially serious threat to the public health.

On March 11, 2004, the Baltimore Sun reported that Maryland General Hospital (MGH), located in my district had issued invalid HIV

and hepatitis test results to hundreds of patients from June 2002 to August 2003 when an Adaltis Labotech Immunoassay Analyzer ("Labotech") was used to conduct HIV, hepatitis and other tests at the MGH lab. The tests results were issued despite instrument readings indicating that the results might be erroneous. It was also disclosed that the testing equipment itself might be at issue.

In May and July of this year, the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources held hearings to investigate the lab deficiencies that led to the release of hundreds of invalid HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C test results by MGH. I requested the hearings as the Subcommittee's Ranking Minority Member, and, with the cooperation and support of the distinguished chairman—the gentleman from Indiana, Representative Mark Souder—the Subcommittee conducted the hearings on a strictly bipartisan basis.

During the hearings, the Subcommittee received testimony from: Teresa Williams and Kristin Turner, two former laboratory employees who complained to superiors and state health officials about serious, longstanding deficiencies in the lab, including failure to implement quality controls on a diagnostic device used to read tests for HIV and hepatitis; officials from the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) responsible for implementing federal regulations governing medical diagnostic devices and for regulating laboratory operations, respectively; the former chief executive of Adaltis US, Inc., manufacturer of the device used to run the invalid tests; the College of American Pathologists, the private accrediting organization responsible for certifying the laboratory's compliance with federal and state regulations on behalf of CMS and the state; and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

In fact, it was Ms. Turner's complaint in December 2003 that triggered investigations by the state, CMS, the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), and CAP, between January and March. The investigations confirmed Ms. Turner's allegations that, during a 14-month period between June 2002 and August 2003, Maryland General Hospital issued more than 450 questionable HIV and hepatitis test results to hospital patients. During this time period, the hospital laboratory was inspected and accredited for two years by CAP, receiving CAP's Accredited with Distinction certificate (standard for CAP-accredited labs). Despite an earlier anonymous complaint by Ms. Williams and several colleagues, the state also was unable to identify the problems, and serious deficiencies in two key departments of the lab went undetected by CAP and the state until January.

I should also point out that the ongoing faulty testing and related problems at the MGH lab were brought to the attention of the public only after former lab technician Kristin Turner filed a lawsuit.

This spring, inspectors from the state, CMS, and JCAHO concluded that laboratory staff had falsified federally instrument quality control results and reported patient results even though quality control checks failed. Learning of the problems by way of news reports, CAP conducted a complaint inspection in April,

found similar deficiencies, and suspended accreditation of the lab's chemistry and point-of-care departments for 30 days.

To its credit, Maryland General Hospital conducted its own internal review and vigorously undertook efforts both to retest the affected patients and to revamp the lab's leadership and operations.

Fortunately, retesting verified the accuracy of the overwhelming majority of the HIV and Hepatitis C tests. In addition, Maryland General has made enormous strides in improving its lab operations so that patients receive test results that are accurate and reliable.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, this is a situation that caused great distress to the community that Maryland General serves, and I should note that I live in that community and have received care at Maryland General Hospital. This is a situation that could have put many lives in jeopardy and one that simply should never have occurred given the regulatory safeguards that exist to ensure quality testing.

Mr. Speaker, Congress recognized the importance of ensuring that all Americans receive accurate diagnostic test results when it enacted federal standards for medical laboratories under the Clinical Laboratories Improvements Amendments Act of 1998, now known as "CLIA." Under CLIA, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) were charged with developing and implementing regulations to ensure that all labs conform to strict federal standards.

Pursuant to CLIA regulations and agreements between CMS and the states, clinical laboratories that choose to be accredited by CAP or one of the five other private accrediting organizations are "deemed" to be in compliance with federal and state regulatory requirements and can bill for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubting the fact that CLIA has made medical testing more accurate and more reliable and, surely, the overwhelming majority of labs do their best to conform to these high standards. Unfortunately, the Maryland General case clearly demonstrates that not all laboratories will play fair and that the current system does not guarantee that serious instances of noncompliance will be detected or corrected.

Testimony before the Subcommittee indicated that, in the Maryland General Hospital case: laboratory supervisors failed to implement quality control measures and deliberately masked lab deficiencies from inspectors from CAP and the state; employees who complained were subject to retaliation and intimidation; state and CAP inspection teams were unable to identify or verify serious ongoing deficiencies during accreditation and complaint surveys; and enforcement entities failed to share information about reports of deficiencies, investigative actions taken, and their investigative findings.

Since our hearings concluded, another CAP-accredited laboratory in my state, Reference Pathology Services of Maryland, had its CAP accreditation and state license revoked because of longstanding deficiencies related to testing for sexually transmitted diseases and cervical cancer. This case and other information brought to the Subcommittee's attention suggest that at least some of the problems that occurred at Maryland General are not unique to the Maryland General case.

Chairman SOUDER and I have asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine a number of issues related to the enforcement of federal standards for labs and I expect that investigation to tell us more about the prevalence of such problems.

For now, it is unclear how many other laboratories may be experiencing such problems and, certainly, one would hope the number is few. But the record gives us little assurance that what happened at Maryland General could not occur elsewhere and I believe the Maryland General case reveals weaknesses in the current system for ensuring compliance with federal clinical laboratory standards.

The bill I am introducing today aims to correct the weaknesses that are apparent.

The Clinical Laboratory Compliance Improvement Act of 2004 seeks to improve compliance with laboratory standards by (a) facilitating the disclosure and detection of deficiencies by employees and (b) increasing cooperation and accountability among entities involved in the accreditation and monitoring of federally regulated medical labs.

Specifically, the bill would amend Section 1846 of the Social Security statute to:

(1) Establish whistleblower protections for employees of clinical laboratories and providers;

(2) Require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, state health agencies, and private laboratory accrediting organizations such as CAP to share information about reports of deficiencies and investigative activity undertaken pursuant to such reports;

(3) Require that standard accreditation surveys be conducted without prior notice to the provider or clinical laboratory facility to be surveyed; and

(4) Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to submit an annual report to Congress describing how CMS, private accrediting organizations, and state health agencies responded to reports of deficiencies during the preceding year.

The whistleblower provisions would facilitate reporting of deficiencies by: Requiring that participating providers and clinical laboratories post a conspicuous notice advising employees how and to whom to report deficiencies; prohibiting retaliation by providers and clinical laboratories against employees who report deficiencies to CMS, accrediting organizations, or state health agencies; and establishing a federal cause of action for employees who are retaliated against for reporting deficiencies.

With regard to unannounced inspections, the bill sets forth a civil monetary penalty of up to \$2,000 for persons who provide notice to a lab or provider about the timing of a survey.

Mr. Speaker, it is sad but true that we cannot afford to take it for granted that all laboratories will approach compliance with laboratory standards in a good faith manner, or even that deficiencies will be discovered when conscientious lab employees want to disclose them.

The Clinical Laboratory Compliance Improvement Act of 2004 would reduce the likelihood that serious laboratory deficiencies will escape the notice of entities charged with ensuring compliance with the standards that we in Congress have established to ensure a high standard of healthcare for all Americans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in demonstrating their support for strengthening our national system for ensuring accuracy and accountability in medical laboratory testing.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

Finally, I want to thank my Subcommittee counsel, Tony Haywood, as well as Jolanda Williams, Trudy Perkins and Kimberly Ross of my staff for their tireless work on this issue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Friday, October 8, 2004, and missed the rollcall votes ordered, due to illness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 494–497, 502, 505, 507–508, 510–512, 517, 518, 520–524, and 526–527. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 495, 496, 497, 502, 505, 507–508, 510, 511, 512, 517, 518, 520, 521, 522, and 527. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 494, 523, 524 and 526. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520, AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4520, the so-called American Jobs Creation Act, because it is just another example of the Republicans' seriously misplaced priorities. Instead of closing corporate tax loopholes to fund housing, education, and veterans' programs, the Republicans decided to give 276 new tax breaks in industries from oil and gas corporations to tackle boxes and ceiling fans makers. Instead of encouraging companies to create jobs in the U.S., the Republicans chose to reward companies that export jobs overseas. Instead of helping six million working families make ends meet, the Republicans decided to strip the overtime protections in the Senate bill and erode the 40-hour work week. Instead of regulating tobacco, a drug that kills 400,000 people every year, the Republicans gave tobacco companies a bail out. It seems the Republicans are interested in helping big businesses avoid paying their fair share of taxes and subsidizing the tobacco industry, even if it is at the expense of American workers and families.

The Republicans rammed through those corporate taxes cuts, although corporate taxes are at their lowest level since the 1930s. The

Government Accountability Office recently revealed that over 60-percent of large corporations do not pay any taxes. In fact, a recent study of 275 of the Fortune 500 companies revealed that those companies alone have avoided paying over \$175.2 billion in owed taxes.

The Republicans claim the tax cuts for corporations in H.R. 4520 will not add to the largest deficit our country has ever faced. However, a study by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities reveals that once all their cost-hiding gimmicks are stripped away, this bill will put us at least \$80 billion more in debt than we are today. The increase in debt will mean more cuts to vital programs, such as children's health care and homeland security. This new round of tax cuts is a continuation of the failed Bush economic policies that turned a federal surplus into deficit. We do not need more of the same, we need a new direction.

We have lost a net total of over one million jobs since President Bush took office. With the passage of H.R. 4520, we are at risk of losing even more American jobs. H.R. 4520 adds even more incentives for corporations to ship jobs overseas. But, not only are Republicans intent on aggravating our already dismal jobs picture, they are also acting to severely undermine the quality of jobs that do stay in our country.

The few new jobs that have been created in the past few months pay an average of \$9,000 less than the jobs they are replacing and many lack affordable health benefits. Yet, the Republican conferees rejected a Senate provision in H.R. 4520 that would have restored six million workers' right to overtime that the Administration took away earlier this year. The Republicans have total disregard for the fact that costs for basic necessities, like health care and energy, have skyrocketed and that families must make do with much less income.

What H.R. 4520 did include was a \$10 billion bail out for the Big Tobacco—that is equal to the tobacco industry's advertising budgets for one year. In another win for the tobacco industry, the Republicans refused to include the Senate to allow the Federal Drug Administration to regulate tobacco products. According to recent statistics, more than 400,000 people die each year from tobacco-related diseases and, if action is not taken, more than five million children living today will ultimately die as a result. We cannot afford this loss of life or the \$89 billion in annual public and private health care costs attributable to tobacco. The passage of H.R. 4520 shows that not only do the Republicans have complete disregard for our fiscal health, but our children's physical health as well.

H.R. 4520 is a shameful bill that will make millions of Americans pay through cuts to vital programs, like health care for children and heating assistance for seniors, cuts to U.S. jobs, and cuts to workers' protections in order to subsidize big business and special interests.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention, and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, in November 2002, Congress authorized the creation of a bipartisan 9–11 Commission to prepare a report on the status of our intelligence prior to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the effectiveness of our response to those attacks, and to make recommendations to strengthen identified weaknesses. I applaud the work of the commission and support their recommendations to strengthen our country against attacks at home and abroad.

It is critical to our national security that Congress act quickly and thoughtfully to implement the 9–11 Commission's recommendations. I was hopeful, therefore, that the Republican leadership would put the interest of the country ahead of political considerations and bring to the floor a bipartisan bill that would protect our country from terrorist attacks. Unfortunately, the bill before us, H.R. 10, as currently written, fails to meet this standard, and I must reluctantly oppose it.

H.R. 10 is full of extraneous provisions that have nothing to do with the 9–11 Commission recommendations. The Republican leadership has added highly divisive immigration-related provisions which have been criticized by the chairman and vice chairman of the 9–11 Commission, the families of the 9–11 victims, and even the White House. For example, the bill seeks to deport people without due process, punish those seeking asylum, return victims of torture to cruel governments, and prevent hardworking individuals from obtaining basic forms of identification.

The serious problems with H.R. 10 could have easily been avoided had the Republican leadership written this bill in a bipartisan manner. Instead, they removed provisions that were passed in committee on a bipartisan basis. At a time that our country is at war and we are threatened on a daily basis by potential terrorist attacks, it is unconscionable that the Republican leadership has turned the bipartisan recommendations of the 9–11 Commission into a politically divisive piece of legislation.

The Senate has proceeded in a bipartisan manner and passed, by an overwhelming vote of 96 to 2, an intelligence reform bill that follows the framework recommended by the bipartisan 9–11 Commission. It is my sincere hope that the serious problems with H.R. 10 will be resolved when the final product emerges. Americans are trusting that Congress will push partisan politics aside and unite in support of legislation that will truly make this country safer.

FREEDOM FOR FIDEL SUÁREZ CRUZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Fidel Suárez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Suárez Cruz is a farmer and pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. He is a member of the Party for Human Rights in Cuba. Mr. Suárez Cruz also heads the private library "San Pablo." Because of his admirable beliefs in freedom, democracy, and human rights, Mr. Suárez Cruz has been the target of the nightmare called the Castro regime.

According to Amnesty International, in 2000 Mr. Suárez Cruz was sentenced to 6 months of restricted freedom for "disobedience" for fishing in a restricted area; however, this sentence was changed to imprisonment in the totalitarian gulag because he was arrested for carrying out peaceful political activities.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the dictator's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Suárez Cruz was arrested because of his belief in freedom and human rights. In a sham trial, he was "sentenced" to 20 years in the inhuman, totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Suárez Cruz is currently languishing in an infernal cell in the totalitarian gulag. These depraved conditions are truly appalling. The State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes. It is a crime of the highest order that people who work for freedom are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Suárez Cruz is suffering in a grotesque gulag because he believes in freedom. My Colleagues, we cannot allow peaceful pro-democracy activists to languish in the depraved prisons of tyrants. We must demand immediate freedom for Fidel Suárez Cruz and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, this is a historic moment for our Nation as we take a giant step forward in national security by reforming our intelligence community to make our citizens and our communities safer. These reforms include the establishment of a National Intelligence Director and the implementation of new information sharing strategies to

break down old barriers between agencies. While no legislation is perfect and I believe the Collins/Lieberman version of Intelligence Reform legislation passed in the Senate this week is a better solution, I stand in support of H.R. 10 and vote for this bill today. These reforms move us towards a safer and stronger America.

In the course of the House debate of H.R. 10, many concerns have been raised about immigration and I would like to speak about this particular component of the bill. I remain convinced that illegal immigration is a serious issue that needs to be addressed by the Congress. People who circumvent our Nation's laws and enter this country illegally should not be here. I believe this is central to our national and economic security for hard working Americans and others who come to this country legally.

But I also believe it is important that we remember the purpose of this bill and what brought us to this historic point in time. The purpose of this bill is to reform our Intelligence Community; to lay the foundation we need to protect Americans today. The 9/11 Commission specifically addressed Intelligence Reform. With five Republicans and five Democrats, the Commission spent 20 months on an exhaustive examination of millions of pages of documents, countless interviews and hearings, and hundreds of hours of debate—and produced a bipartisan, unanimous list of 41 recommendations. This report provided the Congress with a real, workable and effective blueprint that became the foundation of the Collins/Lieberman bill that passed the Senate 96–2 on October 6, 2004.

So while I applaud some of the measures in H.R. 10 and have ultimately chosen to vote for this bill because it provides many measures to protect all Americans and our communities, I remain concerned about some of the extraneous provisions it includes like immigration. There are enormous differences between illegal aliens and legal immigrants. There are enormous differences between immigration and terrorism. All of these issues are incredibly important to the fabric of our Nation and deserve to be considered in full and separately.

**CORRECTING THE WASHINGTON
POST RECORD ON THE VA**

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight on what is happening to recently-separated veterans who seek benefits and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs. There has been significant progress made in the last 3 years; some of that progress was reported correctly in a Washington Times article this past Sunday, but the headline in a piece from the Washington Post that appeared on the same day and was quoted by one of my colleagues on Monday made it seem that VA is totally unprepared to provide disability, compensation, rehabilitation and other benefit to America's veterans.

It is inaccurate to describe the current inventory of 323,000 claims for VA benefits as

a “backlog,” if by that term you mean to imply that veterans are waiting unnecessarily for an answer from VA. The truth is that at any given time, the VA is actively processing more than 250,000 claims while receiving more than 70,000 new and reopened claims each month. It's normal for the VA to have a working inventory of at least 250,000 claims.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, at the request of this President, Congress provided additional funding to increase the number of VA claims processors by more than 1,300 since he took office. When we authorized these new employees, we effectively overstaffed the VA so that experienced employees would be available to train these new employees without an adverse effect on the timeliness of claims processing. These new employees are now fully trained and productive, and there should be no reduction in services to veterans.

With respect to meeting veterans' benefits needs, the Washington Post article cited recently one of my colleagues failed to mention any of the documented improvements in VA claims processing. In the past four years, the VA has reduced the average time to decide disability claims from a high of 233 days to 160 days, reduced the percentage of pending claims for over six months from 48% in 2002 to 21% now, reduced rating-related claims from 432,000 in 2002 to 323,000 currently and is on track to meet the VA goal of 250,000.

Most importantly, VA has increased the number of claims decisions from an average of 40,000 per month in 2001 to nearly 70,000 in 2004. These are significant accomplishments by the Bush Administration on behalf of veterans, and all of us should be proud to have supported the increased funding which the Administration requested to make this possible.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post article lead readers to believe that there was some delay in providing benefits to a soldier on active duty, and that the VA is unresponsive to America's veterans. In fact, I am advised that VA has already evaluated this particular soldier's disabilities and will begin awarding benefits on the first the day he is discharged from the Army. As all of my colleagues should know, VA cannot provide veterans benefits to a soldier until he or she is discharged from active duty.

The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense are working hard to ensure that military members have a “seamless transition” from active duty; this means prompt decisions on claims for disability benefits and quality health care when needed. Even before servicemembers are discharged, VA provides transition services at 136 military bases so that servicemembers can ask questions and be briefed about their VA benefits and how to file for those benefits as they approach discharge. The VA has even assigned its own professional staff to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda and the Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany to ensure our wounded American heroes will be aware of their VA health care and benefits long before they are discharged.

Mr. Speaker it is often said that you shouldn't argue with an entity that buys ink by the barrel, but the Washington Post has its facts wrong in this case. This is not that surprising since the Post has not reported on any of the hearings—and we've had many—on

these issues held by either the House Committee on Veterans Affairs which I chair and the House Armed Service Committee during the past year. Had they done so, their readers could have learned about the problems which have faced separating service members in the past and what is being done today to prevent those problems from occurring in the future.

Both the Armed Forces and VA are working more closely together than in any previous conflict to ensure that the benefits which service members earned by their faithful service are delivered in a timely and compassionate manner. Members who attended those hearings learned that while mistakes have occurred, no one is more dedicated to ensuring that these deserving veterans than the current VA Secretary Anthony Principi and his able staff. The VA, the Congress and the President are all working together to make sure that our newest generation of combat veterans are taken care of. They deserve nothing less.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, if I had been present for the vote on the conference report for H.R. 4200, “The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2005,” and conference report for H.R. 4567, “The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for FY 2005,” I would have voted “yea” on both.

**H.R. 1047, MISCELLANEOUS TRADE
AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS
ACT**

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1047, the Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2004. This important, bipartisan legislation is long overdue, and I am pleased we have the opportunity to consider the conference report this evening.

H.R. 1047 is a compendium of trade provisions drawn largely from legislation introduced by individual Members. The bill contains provisions involving the temporary suspension of duties on narrowly defined products, miscellaneous trade items, and technical corrections to the Trade and Development Act of 2000.

There are a number of provisions in this bill that are noteworthy, including several that I have long championed. For instance, I am pleased that the legislation follows in the tradition of both the 2000 and 2002 Trade Acts, by including a reduction of the tariff for certain types of wool used in the production of men's suits.

This reduction in tariffs is important not only as a matter of trade policy, but also to suitmakers across the country, who not too long ago saw their industry decimated by high tariffs. Reducing these tariffs has stabilized the domestic industry, and nowhere is this more apparent than at Hart Marx, the only publicly-

traded company manufacturing suits in America today.

I had the opportunity to tour the wonderful Hart Marx facility in Des Plaines, IL, this past August, and saw firsthand how important that tariff reduction is for the nearly 600 employees at Hart Marx, many of whom are my constituents.

I am therefore most pleased that this legislation will further reduce the tariff on worsted wool. History shows us that this will not only save jobs, but even add to jobs, in Illinois and throughout the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HAITI SMOLDERING ON THE EDGE OF CHAOS

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, on February 29 of this year, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the first democratically elected President of Haiti, was overthrown in a coup d'etat. This coup d'etat was led by heavily armed thugs and killers, many of whom are former members of the Haitian Armed Forces which were disbanded in 1995 and are notorious for their history of human rights violations. These thugs and killers have refused to disarm and now control several Haitian towns and cities, where they terrorize the local population. They are demanding the reestablishment of the Haitian Armed Forces, and they even had the gall to claim that the Haitian Government owes them more than 10 years of back pay.

The following research paper, entitled "Haiti: Smoldering on the Edge of Chaos," is an insightful analysis of the crisis in Haiti brought about by these thugs and killers. The paper was written by Jessica Leight, a research fellow at the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization. I hope my colleagues find Ms. Leight's analysis informative.

HAITI: SMOLDERING ON THE EDGE OF CHAOS

Six months after the abrupt and violence-laced departure of constitutionally-elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and over three months after the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping units which were hailed as an instrument for order and stability for this long-troubled Caribbean island, Haiti remains poised on the edge of chaos. Just as nature in the form of a tropical storm that has managed to kill as many as 3,000 Haitians, thousands more have died over the past decade, victims of right-wing military and paramilitary forces. Today, ruled by a bumptious, ineffectual and illegitimate cabal whose only validity is supplied by U.S. fiat, Haiti now faces the imminent de facto reconstitution of its brutal Haitian Armed Forces (FADH), dissolved by Aristide in 1995. Across the island, bands of former soldiers are seizing police stations and establishing themselves as the de facto local power, at times displacing the remnants of the national police and placing large swaths of the country under what is effectively outlaw rebel jurisdiction. Meanwhile these soldiers demand the restitution of unpaid wages over the past ten years for such services as torturing and murdering civilian victims.

These soldiers of ill-fortune have met little, if any, resistance from the rump Wash-

ington-imposed interim government of Prime Minister Gerard Latortue, and at times they have received open encouragement from Latortue's "cabinet members," most notably Interior Minister (and former general) Herard Abraham and the island's notorious justice minister Bernard Gousse, both of whom have suggested that former soldiers—some of the most prominent among whom have already been convicted in absentia for human rights violations committed during the military government of 1991-1994—could simply be integrated into the police force.

AN ARMY REBORN

In the face of these developments, FADH leaders are gathering strength in a bid to re-take political power and restore the repression for which the army could always be counted to provide throughout most of Haiti's turbulent twentieth-century history, the U.N. stabilization force and the international community alike have remained almost deafeningly silent. At the present time, the U.N. presence in Haiti is more myth than fact, while a handful of renegades with a military background, in conjunction with the tiny opposition business and professional Group of 184, have the clearest access to the Latortue regime and its ability to obtrusively impact on the daily lives of the population. Within Haiti, international troops drawn principally from the former rogue armed forces of Brazil, Argentina and Chile, which were better known for the repression of their own citizens during previous eras of military rule than for their nation-building skills, are seemingly paralyzed by inaction. These U.N. forces have made only the paltriest of efforts to preserve order in the face of paramilitary power-grabs by ex-FADH and police figures like Louis-Jodel Chamblain and Guy Philippe. They have proven better at stalking pro-Aristide Lavalas party's political forces than well-armed renegade former soldiers.

In Washington, a State Department pre-occupied by Iraq and North Korea appears to have all but overlooked the island's existence; and in New York, a craven lack of political will is in evidence, accompanied by the kind of Machiavellian plotting by the U.S. and French U.N. Security Council delegations that was witnessed when that body refused to provide an international police force to defend Aristide earlier this year. Nor is U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan any more sensitive to the plight of the Haitian populace than he was just before Aristide's downfall, when he provided cover for the U.S. insistence that the former president deserved to be forced into exile because he was a failed leader.

There has yet to be any kind of clear acknowledgment of the magnitude of the threat that Haiti's already battered democratic institutions face from the military resurgence on the island, much less the strategy which will be used to disarm these illegal militias as well as clearly establish the authority of a trained, professional police force, and bring to justice the same former soldiers accused of human rights abuses who are now making outrageous demands for compensation. Quite to the contrary, as the exonerated of mass murderer Louis Chamblain by Justice Minister Gousse and the island's tainted courts graphically exemplifies, Haiti is still a very sick country.

Thus as the clock continues to tick on a peacekeeping mission originally authorized for only six months, it seems increasingly likely that the United Nations will exit Haiti much as the United States and Canada precipitously did in 1996: leaving behind a profoundly unstable political situation dominated by heavily armed factions, as thou-

sands of weapons remain in the possession of right-wing vigilantes as well as some in the hands of pro-Aristide supporters. The situation is made even more volatile today by the former military leadership's aspirations to restore both the army and the same reign of terror it applied during the decades-long Duvalier and post-Duvalier military dictatorships, as well as under the brutal 1991-1994 military junta led by the brute General Roaul Cedras.

THE HAITIAN MILITARY: RISING FROM THE ASHES?

Among the most alarming signs of military resurgence within the last sixty days was the acquittal on August 17, in a show trial, of former army captain and paramilitary leader Louis-Jodel Chamblain, previously convicted in absentia for the 1993 murder of prominent Aristide supporter Antoine Izmerly. This outrageous verdict, achieved under the aegis of Latortue's disreputable justice minister, Bernard Gousse, was reached after a ludicrously brief overnight trial in which the prosecution called only one witness who proved to be entirely irrelevant to the case. This earned for the interim government opprobrious remarks on the editorial pages of the New York Times and the Washington Post, as well as widespread denunciations from human rights organizations, and even from the State Department, which bears much of the blame for the current dysfunctional rule of the island. However, the subsequent rash of self-serving individual power plays on the part of the ex-soldiers, and the government's utter unwillingness to confront or even denounce such challenges to state authority, has received virtually no attention outside of Haiti. This development has to be rightfully considered part of the same dangerous phenomenon which includes the growing power of former military figures like Chamblain, as well as sly ideologues like the grinning Justice Minister Gousse, who was clearly complicit in orchestrating Chamblain's acquittal.

For example, only six days after the conclusion of the Chamblain trial, the Haitian Times reported on August 18 that the interim government had appointed Winter Etienne—a leader of the bloody armed uprising in Gonaives that preceded Aristide's exile, who is also the coordinator of the National Reconstruction Front, a party headed by former army officers, including rebel leader Guy Philippe. The last named became the director of the National Port Authority in Gonaives, the very city he earlier had helped sack. At the Ministry of Interior, former ranking military figure Minister Herard Abraham continues to add former high-ranking military cronies to his staff; among the recent arrivals is former colonel Williams Regala, a particularly sinister aide to former dictator General Henri Namphy and undoubtedly a main plotter of the massacre of voters during Haiti's aborted November 29, 1987 election. Regala joins another former colleague, Colonel Henri-Robert Marc-Charles, a member of the Cedras-led military junta that overthrew democratically-elected President Aristide 1991, who currently is the target of a (as yet un-enforced) judicial order requiring his imprisonment prior to trial for alleged involvement in a peasant massacre in Piatre in March 1990.

EROSION OF AUTHORITY OF THE MOST PATHETIC GOVERNMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

Given these pro-military signals on the part of the Latortue government, which consistently has demonstrated its sympathy for former military leaders at the same time it officially rejects the idea of reconstituting the armed forces on the grounds that such a momentous step should be taken only by the

next elected government, it is hardly surprising that bands of former soldiers are making ever more far-fetched bids for power in municipalities across Haiti. On August 17, five officers of the national police's riot squad (CIMO) returned to their Port-au-Prince headquarters asserting that a group wearing the garb of the disbanded military had attacked them and seized their weapons and uniforms. Subsequently, Radio Kiskeya reported that other CIMO officers have accused the government-appointed director of the National Police Administration and former military figure, Destorel Germain, of organizing the attack along with a number of demobilized soldiers seeking reinstatement, an accusation that raises the specter of collaboration between some of the more predatory elements of the police force and bands of ex-soldiers, in the latter's fight for legal status.

Former military elements already have begun to establish their control over a series of small urban areas, particularly in the desperately poor Central Plateau region. On September 1, a large force of 150 former soldiers took control of Petit-Goave, southwest of the capital, and seized ten police officers as hostages the following day in neighboring Grand-Gove. This was in retaliation for the arrest of four soldiers by police officials. The two sides subsequently agreed to an exchange of prisoners. Also on September 2, more than fifty heavily armed ex-soldiers demonstrated in Gonaives, calling for the reconstitution of the army and the restoration of their back pay. Once there, they were met with open arms by the fiercely anti-Aristide rebel group, the Gonaives Resistance Front— itself largely constituted by former soldiers—which expressed its support for the immediate formation of a legally reorganized and retrained army.

Even more alarming was the response of the official government authorities to the Gonaives march. Rather than denouncing this clear threat to public order on the part of a "gang of thugs" (as they earlier had been characterized by Secretary of State Colin Powell), departmental delegate Elie Cantave declared that the former soldiers had no aim other than to help the people of that city as he prepared to negotiate with them over their taking over as their headquarters a state school located within the city. Further south in Jacmel and on the same day, yet another contingent of former soldiers arrived to reinforce with arms and ammunition a group of their colleagues occupying the office of Radio Ti Moun. And in perhaps the most symbolically important incident, former soldiers occupied the police station in Belladere on the Dominican border on September 5 and immediately repainted the facility in yellow, the traditional color of FADH barracks. Simultaneously, the band of ex-soldiers in control of Petit-Goave was swelled by new arrivals, and coast guard installations in Les Cayes remained under the control of ex-soldiers.

The first evidence of a response on the part of the government and the U.N. peacekeeping force came on September 7, when Haitian police, backed by Argentine troops, regained control of Saint-Marc a day after former soldiers took control of the city sixty miles north of Port-au-Prince. In response, rebel leader Sergeant Remissanthe Ravix declared on behalf of the ex-soldiers, "We'll fight to the last man. We'd rather die in combat instead of dying on our knees. They [government authorities] came to power thanks to our weapons they now declare illegal. If they think they can deny us our rights, they will know the same fate as Aristide. The fact that we left Saint-Marc does not mean we gave up. We'll teach a lesson to those who want to destroy the mili-

tary." Ravix, once implicated in a brutal 2002 massacre committed by former FADH personnel in Belladere, is now the most visible and rambunctious spokesman for the ex-soldiers' movement, which is on the brink of maintaining de facto control over large swaths of Haiti.

ESCALATING VIOLENCE, INEFFECTIVE RESPONSE

The government's show of resolve in Saint-Marc on September 7 hardly deterred the ex-soldiers in their attempts to establish themselves as a rival security force. Also, on September 7 in Port-au-Prince, two ex-soldiers, reportedly from Petit-Goave, were shot and killed by riot police near the Prime Minister's office in Musseau after firing at a police station. According to Police Commissioner Fritz Gerald Appolon, the two were riding in a seized police car that had been reconfigured as an army vehicle, and were fatally wounded after one of them shot at an officer who had called upon him to lay down his weapon. Ravix denounced the incident as an "assassination" and called for retaliation across the country. The following day, in response, a group of ex-soldiers attacked the police station in Hinche and hundreds of former FADH and its supporters from other anti-Aristide factions paraded in Cap-Haitien demanding ten years of back-pay. These former soldiers already had begun arrogating police functions to themselves inside of Cap-Haitien, including going out on surveillance patrols. In Petit-Goave, rebels took four police officers hostage and seized their weapons, though they were released later that day.

In the face of this wave of new challenges, the government and U.N. peacekeepers alike appear virtually helpless. Prime Minister Latortue and his self-caricaturing government have made bold declarations that peacekeepers will "imminently" retake control of all government buildings, but the prospect of any such action occurring any time soon appears to be nothing more than a mixture of bluff and fantasy. The government has set up a committee to negotiate with the soldiers and offered as an initial concession, the integration into the police force of up to 1,000 former soldiers of a body that once numbered over 6,000 in strength. However, Ravix refused to meet with the commission, declaring in Petit-Goave, "The government doesn't need to reconstitute us. We are here. We have always been here. The only thing the government has to do is pay us the 10 years, seven months they owe us and let us do our jobs." On September 12, the government did succeed in obtaining the commitment of a group of representatives of former military personnel (of which Ravix was not a member) to a vaguely worded declaration asserting that "The matter of the military will be dealt with through dialogue; the authority of the Government must be respected; [and] the voluntary and peaceful evacuation of public buildings actually under the control of demobilized soldiers must be done . . . within the framework of an agreement between the two parties."

Whether this vague rhetoric will produce any concessions in practice on the part of the ex-soldiers remains to be seen, but subsequent demonstrations in their support in Saint-Marc and Petit-Goave, on September 13 and a march of ex-soldiers wearing military uniforms in the capital on September 15 sent a clear signal that the militant remnants of the FADH are far from ready to yield their arms to civil authority.

STABILIZATION MISSION IS TOO WEAK TO STABILIZE

At the same time that the government has shown itself utterly incapable of (or uninterested in) controlling the rebel bands, the U.N. Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH) has

disavowed itself of any responsibility in dealing with the ex-soldiers. Spokesman Toussaint Kongo-Doudou declared, "We have no comment on the subject because it is a government problem. It is not a problem of the MINUSTAH. This is a Haitian affair." As astounding as this statement appears, given that among the principal points of MINUSTAH's mandate are the disarmament of armed factions—of which the ex-soldiers are currently the most powerful—the establishment of a climate of security in advance of national elections on the island is a must. The acknowledgement of a stalemate when it comes to security issues is an all too accurate description of the current limitations of the undersized U.N. force now in Haiti. To date, only 2,755 of an authorized 6,700 U.N. troops have arrived in Haiti, making deployments in the north and east of the country impossible, and only a few hundred of the 3,000 civilian police officers authorized have been trained and deployed. Thus the U.N. is unable to maintain a security presence in many of the more remote regions of the countryside, and has yet to launch the disarmament program that is a fundamental prerequisite for the reestablishment of some measure of political stability.

Moreover, the U.N. force's Brazilian commanders have openly warned that they do not have enough troops to stop renewed conflict. Likewise, Argentine Defense Minister Jos Pampuro highlighted the particularly troubling prospect that renewed skirmishes could have taken place on September 18, the anniversary of the dissolution of the army by Aristide. While additional troops from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Spain and Morocco, among others, are expected to bring the total MINUSTAH force to 5,000 members by the end of October, for the moment, the U.N. peacekeepers have been rendered completely incapable of fulfilling their most basic function: preserving order and a measure of governmental authority.

THE SOUND OF SILENCE: WASHINGTON, NEW YORK TURN THEIR EYES AWAY FROM PORT-AU-PRINCE

Perhaps the most alarming aspect of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Haiti is the extraordinary indifference, aside from some storm-related humanitarian aid in response to the natural catastrophe that just hit Haiti, that has been exhibited by the international community in the face of this creeping coup being executed by the former FADH. The Security Council issued only an anemic statement on September 10 in which it stressed "the urgency of disbanding and disarming all illegal armed groups," but offered not even the whisper of a commitment to ensure that this task is in fact achieved. The Organization of American States has remained silent, as has the State Department, and much of the Caribbean Community, which over the past six months had taken the most courageous stands on unfolding events in Haiti. CARICOM is now riven by internal divisions over whether to readmit the Latortue government into CARICOM.

Also strangely absent is the recently appointed U.N. Special Representative to Haiti, Chilean diplomat Juan Gabriel Valdés. His selection was widely hailed at the time as evidence of a new Latin American commitment to inter-hemispheric cooperation, but he has since all but disappeared from carrying out his admittedly difficult mission. While his capacity for action may be constrained, Valdés should at the very least be actively attempting to convey to the Security Council, the Bush administration and the leaders of other hemispheric bodies the gravity of the unfolding military takeover in Haiti. Unfortunately, up to now, Haiti's

plight has been overshadowed by the persistent bloodshed in Darfur, Iraq, and Afghanistan, or has been patronizingly dismissed as yet another round of violence in a perennially unstable country. Additionally, the natural disaster that occurred to the island landed a devastating blow to its ability to function.

Haiti has reached a point of crisis, and decisive intervention is required if any shred of, or hope for, Haitian democracy is to be preserved. However shorthanded and overburdened its staff may be, the task of convincing the international community of the necessity of such intervention falls first to the U.N. Stabilization Mission and to Valdés. Hopefully, in the coming months they will decisively demonstrate their commitment to ensuring that Haiti is not being abandoned by the international community yet again, or that leading U.N. authorities, including Valdés, will at least have the dignity of resigning from their assignment in protest of the cruel hoax now being unleashed on the island and its population.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520,
AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 is misnamed as it relates to my congressional district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, because of changes it makes to our Economic Development Program. These changes could "likely cripple our Economic Development Commission (EDC) program, robbing it of many of the incentives it uses to lure mainland businesses to the islands, if companies decide to pull their investments, jobs and money out of the territory."

The conference report contains a new provision, not previously considered by either the House or Senate, which poses a serious risk to our EDC program. The Government of the Virgin Islands strongly opposes this provision as currently drafted. This provision, which was added in a closed door meeting with House and Senate tax writers over this past weekend and unveiled in the draft conference report late last Monday night, would require V.I. taxpayers to be physically present in the Virgin Islands at least 183 days in any tax year in order to be deemed a "bona fide V.I. resident" under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. The new provision eliminates the alternative 3-year 122-day test included in the original Senate bill.

The new provision also restricts the type of income that can qualify for EDC benefits to V.I. source income. It would eliminate the possibility that some of an EDC beneficiary's U.S. source income that is "effectively connected" with a V.I. trade or business could qualify for tax reduction under the EDC program. The 1986 Tax Reform Act specifically permitted the Virgin Islands to reduce tax liability on income "effectively connected" with a conduct of a V.I. trade or business even when such income is sourced outside of the Virgin Islands in certain circumstances. Neither the House nor the Senate bill contained any provision on source of income rules.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize and accept that the genesis of this new provision is the fact

that there have been participants of our EDC program that have taken positions that they are bona fide Virgin Islands residents when they did not in fact spend a significant amount of time in the territory. We also acknowledge that there have been situations where individuals have received EDC tax exemptions even though they continued to live and work in the United States. We agree that the rules governing this situation need to be clarified and made certain. And to that end, we look forward to working with the Treasury Department in crafting reasonable regulations which accomplishes these goals while preserving the essential elements of our program which was designed to promote fiscal autonomy for the Virgin Islands.

We encourage the Treasury Department to develop reasonable rules, post haste, that will ensure the integrity and effectiveness of the Virgin Islands EDC program and promote both tax compliance and economic growth. Without such rules, the impact of the conference report language on legitimate businesses in the Virgin Islands or on local government revenues could be enormous, creating the financial equivalent of a massive hurricane leveling the islands.

HONORING TOM FILLIPPO

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Tom Fillippo, the President and CEO of Devault Foods in Chester County, Pennsylvania. This month, Tom will be honored at the Chester County Council of the Boy Scouts of America's 3rd Annual Distinguished Citizen Awards Dinner.

Tom grew up in Malvern, Pennsylvania and has remained in the area his whole life. He is committed to the community and county he grew up in and he currently serves as the Chair of the Council of Trustees at West Chester University. Tom is also the Chair of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry and of the Foundation at Paoli Hospital. In the past, Tom served as the Chair of the Chester County Industrial Development Authority. Today, he still sits on the Board of the Chester County Industrial Development Authority and is affiliated with the organizations that work within their authority. Tom is also been a member of the Board of Directors of the American Meat Institute and involved in other industry organizations.

Tom has served as Devault Foods' President and CEO since 1972 when he took over the family business from his father. Devault Foods began as a family-owned, one room butcher shop in 1949. The small business grew tremendously in the following years and, in 1963, Devault Foods began to supply Burger King with ground meat. This move gave an explosive boost to the business. In 1972, when Tom took over for his father, he wanted to expand the company's customer base. He made a business deal with Wendy's fast-food restaurant and became the fast-food chain's new meat supplier. Today, Devault Foods is one of Chester County's largest privately held businesses.

Outside of business, Tom has always been active and has participated in sports, particu-

larly football. Tom played on the West Chester University football team that went to the Tangerine Bowl twice, and he was the head coach at General Wayne Middle School and at Malvern Prep football teams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Tom Fillippo. As an outstanding businessman, community leader, philanthropist, and beloved family man, he is one of Chester County's and Pennsylvania's exemplary citizens and is most deserving of this House's recognition and kudos.

HONORING CHARLES G. (CHIP)
ROACH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles G. (Chip) Roach who was recently awarded the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors Distinguished Service Award.

Chip Roach is most deserving of this award in that he has worked for over 25 years with the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors; has held leadership positions on local, state, and national associations; and has proven himself to be a local leader whose performance of service and involvement in political and community activities has been extraordinary. This legacy of service has been in Chip's family for five generations. Today, he has two children in the business with him and a son who works as a developer in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Chip Roach is a broker for Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors and for the Trident Group, a multi-service homeownership company in the Philadelphia area. Trident Group is the fifth largest provider of home services in the nation, with more than 3,200 sales associates in 60 sales offices spanning three states.

Currently, Chip is a director of the National Association of Realtors and the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors. Not only does Chip help oversee preeminent realty associations, but he also is a director at the Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness and is a former director of the Employee Relocation Council.

Chip has served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Rosemont College, the Main Line Chamber, and of Genesis, a relocation network of over 25,000 sales associates in the United States. Today, Chip is also the President of Fox & Roach Charities. Under Chip's leadership, the Fox & Roach Charities have donated over one million dollars to different organizations that are involved with providing housing for families in need.

Outside of work and his community contributions, Chip enjoys spending time with his wife, three children, and five grandchildren. Chip has been described as an upbeat person with a positive attitude that inspires those he works with. His wife describes him as always "on the go," and everyone always knows he is coming by his happy whistle and big smile.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Chip Roach for his exemplary community service and the excellent

work he has done in the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors. The Pennsylvania Association of Realtors Distinguished Service and National Award Chip received is a most prestigious honor and one that appropriately acknowledges Chip's outstanding contributions to his profession and community.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM TO HONOR
TURKISH DIPLOMAT FOR SAVING
JEWISH LIVES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on October 26th, the Holocaust Memorial Museum will honor former Turkish diplomat Selahattin Ulkumen. Few honors anywhere have been more deserved.

In 1944, Mr. Selahattin was a young diplomat who stared down German military authorities on the occupied island of Rhodes, convincing them to rescind the deportation orders of 50 Jews and their families and saving them from certain death. He paid a painful price for his courage.

Today Rhodes is part of Greece, but it was part of the Ottoman Empire from 1522 to 1912 and under Italian control from 1912 through most of World War II. There were 1,700 Jews on the island when Germany took over Rhodes in 1943, after the death of Mussolini hastened the disintegration of Italian rule.

On July 19, 1944, the Gestapo ordered all Jews on Rhodes to report for "temporary transportation to a small island nearby." Everybody knew what that meant. They were to be transported—and not temporarily—to Auschwitz.

When the Jews were rounded up, Consul-General Ulkumen went immediately to the detention center and demanded the release of the Jews who were Turkish citizens, as well as their spouses and families. The German commander refused at first, but Ulkumen persisted, claiming that deportation of Turkish citizens would violate German-Turkish treaties and boldly asserting that neutral and neighboring Turkey would raise the matter to the level of an "international incident" if Turkish citizens were deported. In the eyes of Turkish law, he said, all citizens are equal.

The German commander finally relented, but insisted that only Jews with citizenship papers—a total of 13—would be released, not their spouses and families. Ulkumen, however, would not give ground. According to Turkish law, he said indignantly, the spouses and families of Turkish citizens ARE Turkish citizens. He was lying through his teeth. There was no such Turkish law. But the German commander fell for it, and, after a few days, agreed to release the spouses and families. In at least one instance, the husband of a Jewish Turkish citizen actually was taken off a train already bound from the Greek port of Piraeus to Auschwitz after Ulkumen won his point. Ulkumen also managed to win the release of some 25–30 Jews who were former Turkish citizens but had allowed their citizenship to lapse.

In all, according to the website of Israel's Yad Vashem Memorial Museum, Ulkumen managed to win the freedom and save the

lives of some 50 Rhodes Jews. He was their only line of defense against the final solution. The remainder of Rhodes Jews all were deported to Auschwitz, where 90% of them perished.

The story doesn't end there. Shortly after the release of the Turkish Jews and their families, the Germans—perhaps having discovered that Consul-General Ulkumen had tricked them regarding Turkish law—took their revenge. They bombed the Turkish Consulate on Rhodes. Consul-General Ulkumen escaped harm, but his pregnant wife did not. She was seriously wounded—mortally, it turned out a few weeks later. But, before she died, she managed to give birth. Ulkumen himself died last year at the age of 89, but the product of that pregnancy, a son—now a 60-year-old man—will accept the Holocaust Museum's award on his late father's behalf.

Ulkumen went on to hold many distinguished positions in the Turkish foreign service before retiring in the 1970s. Yad Vashem paid tribute to his courage in 1990 by naming him one of the "Righteous Among the Nations" and planting a tree in his honor. He was the first Muslim ever to receive this honor. In 2001, his own nation bestowed its highest award on Ulkumen—the Supreme Service Medal—for his Holocaust-era heroism on behalf of Jews.

In both Judaism and Islam, it is said that saving one life is like saving the world. Thanks to Mr. Ulkumen, several family trees flourish today that otherwise would have been eliminated forever. He put his life—and that of his family—at risk rather than compromise his belief in equality and his commitment to the sanctity of human life. Unfortunately for Europe's Jews, bravery of his sort was all-too-rare. I commend the Holocaust Museum for venerating the memory of Selahattin Ulkumen and his deeds and for bestowing this honor on this profoundly honorable man.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE
NEWSPAPER ASIANWEEK

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, a distinguished, nationally-distributed newspaper based in San Francisco is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Today I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting a quarter-century of achievement by this important information resource, AsianWeek.

Founded in 1979 by John T.C. Fang, who came to the United States from China in the early 1950s, AsianWeek now boasts a confirmed readership of 175,000 people in its print form and countless others on-line. It is the only English language, national newsweekly chronicling the Asian Pacific American experience in all its variety. AsianWeek also offers an opportunity for Americans as a whole to learn about issues of particular importance to one of the country's fastest-growing communities, including civil rights, immigration, employment, and international affairs.

John Fang launched the paper to help his fellow new Americans better themselves, and his legacy has passed to his family: Now published by his son James and edited his son

Ted, and with the guidance of their mother, Chairwoman Florence Fang, AsianWeek reaches a broad cross-section of Americans, from recent arrivals in the immigrant community to leaders of national stature in business, politics, academia and culture. Its mission is to tell the story of Asian Pacific American life, to provide a forum in matters of importance to its readership, and to involve Asian Pacific Americans meaningfully in the nation's political process.

To this end, the paper recently scored an important exclusive among the Asian American press: an interview with presidential nominee JOHN KERRY, who discussed a range of subjects with editor-in-chief Samson Wong, from a proposed federal program combating hate crimes to the new vistas that have opened for his niece, a toddler adopted in China.

But perhaps more important than any single story, AsianWeek aspires with every edition to deliver consistent, high-quality information on all manner of subjects of interest to its target readership. For these efforts, it has won several awards—both for overall coverage and individual citations from New California Media, a national association of more than 700 ethnic media organizations.

The paper also provides place where disparate views on those subjects can be freely expressed. Dedicated to promoting discussion among people whose backgrounds include the many ethnic groups of South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, AsianWeek describes itself as "The Voice of Asian America."

Mr. Speaker, may the Asian Pacific American community, and U.S. society as a whole, continue to benefit from the availability of this eloquent and extraordinary voice.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 10, 9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it pleases me that the Committee on Rules had the prudence to make the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. MENENDEZ, in order. This important amendment has been endorsed by the 9/11 Commission and embodies the provisions found in the Collins/Lieberman proposal, S. 2845 and the McCain/Lieberman proposal, S. 2774.

Nevertheless, I am disappointed that we only have 3 hours and 40 minutes of general debate to divide between eight of the many committees of jurisdiction with respect to this legislation. In our work on H.R. 10, we have a duty to take into account the families that will be affected. We in this august body have a duty to take into account that these families—in fact, all American families, will be waiting and watching to see if this body will act responsibly, appropriately, and adequately.

The base bill includes over 50 extraneous provisions that were not recommended by the 9/11 Commission. Within these extraneous provisions are legislative "poison pills" that will ultimately frustrate our overall purpose—to make America safe. These poison pills include:

Giving the President "fast track" authority to reorganize the intelligence agencies, undermining the reforms recommended by the 9/11 Commission;

Giving the President authority to bypass Senate confirmation of the Director of the CIA and other key intelligence and defense officials, weakening congressional oversight;

Giving Federal law enforcement officials new authority to deport foreign nationals, revoke visas, and deny asylum without judicial review;

Creation of new national databases of driver licenses, birth certificates, and criminal histories, raising civil liberties and privacy concerns; and

Expansion of the authority of the Justice Department by relaxing grand jury secrecy requirements and increasing its ability to conduct secret surveillance.

I serve on the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, and it troubles me that while that body received a referral for markup, the leadership has chosen not to schedule such a hearing. The very committee that would presumably hold the most jurisdiction over this matter deferred its opportunity to make this legislation better. That does not sit well with my colleagues on this side of the aisle and it does not sit well with the families of the victims of 9/11—it does not sit well with the American people.

Furthermore, while the September 11 Commission has set forth its bipartisan suggestion for rebuilding and improvement, we cannot even move legislation that authorizes homeland security spending through a markup by the main committee of jurisdiction. These issues are indicative of a body that has its priorities misplaced.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition and tribute to the families of the 9/11 victims, there should never be a price limitation placed on effectively securing the homeland. Nor should solid legislation be ignored or thwarted in carrying out the will of the American people. For this reason, I fully support the goals set forth in the Shays-Maloney proposal that was not made in order by this committee. I also fully support the Menendez amendment that has been endorsed by the 9/11 Commission and embodies the provisions found in the Collins/Lieberman proposal, S. 2845 and the McCain/Lieberman proposal, S. 2774.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4200,
RONALD W. REAGAN NATIONAL
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am pleased to speak in support of the conference report before us. Chairman HUNTER and Ranking Member SKELTON deserve great credit for negotiating a bill that will provide our military—and the men and women who serve in it—the resources they need to keep America strong in the 21st century. It is always a daunting task to craft legislation that balances the needs of our services, and such an effort is

even more challenging during a time of military conflict. The chairman and ranking member have succeeded admirably in this endeavor, and the product before us today is a fine example of careful craftsmanship and bipartisan cooperation. We are proud of our men and women in uniform, and we must ensure that they are given the resources necessary to succeed in their mission.

H.R. 4200 recognizes the importance of our service men and women in the field and around the world and demonstrates the appreciation of Congress through the provision of a 3.5% pay increase for military personnel in FY 2005 and a permanent increase in the family-separation allowance and imminent-danger pay. I am particularly pleased that the measure extends TRICARE benefits to nonactive duty reservists. Our Reserve component has served the Nation professionally and valiantly even though they and their families have often had to make sacrifices. Providing enhanced access to TRICARE will provide greater stability to reservist families and will ensure that we do not lose qualified servicemembers because of insufficient access to health care.

The conference report also addresses several major problems that my colleagues on the committee and I have been working to solve. Our committee and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the House have fought for an end to a current flaw in our survivor benefits system that penalizes military spouses. For too long, military spouses have witnessed their survivor benefits drop by more than one-third once reaching the age of 62. Comparable civilian plans provide survivors a lifetime annuity of 50–55 percent of retired pay and protect against a drop in annuity at age 62. As a co-sponsor of the Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act, I have supported efforts to repeal this unfair burden and am pleased that this legislation would phase out from October 2005 to March 2008 the current offset under the Survivor Benefit Plan, and increase the annuities paid to survivors of military retirees who are 62 years or older. Additionally, the agreement expedites last year's concurrent receipt improvements by authorizing full concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees rated 100% disabled.

I am, however, disappointed, that the conference report scaled back the provisions that I offered with Congressman JIM COOPER during committee consideration that would ensure greater equity and efficiency of the Department of Defense's contracting process. The agreement appears to close loopholes that have allowed the Department of Defense to avoid Congressionally mandated competition requirements and provides limited appeal rights for government employees to challenge contract decisions. Yet it falls short in other areas intended to guarantee taxpayer savings and improved efficiency in DoD contracting procedures. I look forward to working with the committee to implement H.R. 4200's provisions and to address other shortcomings in this area.

Overall, this legislation is a well-balanced approach to the needs of our Nation's military, and I commend the chairman, ranking member, and my colleagues on the committee for a fine work product.

HONORING MARY MILLS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take time today to recognize someone who has been a true public servant in Williamson County, Tennessee. Few communities are fortunate enough to have someone like Mary Mills. But we in Tennessee have been blessed by her hard work and dedication for years now.

Williamson County Commissioner Mary Mills has consistently and without fanfare worked to improve her community. As a former educator and an active member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Commissioner Mills has been a leader in everything she does.

This week she's being recognized by the United Community Resource Foundation with a Lifetime Achievement Award, and I join the people of Williamson County in thanking Mary for her dedication.

IN SUPPORT OF BORDER
BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of an important event that I am proud to say will soon take place in my congressional district of El Paso, Texas—Border Binational Health Week. Through the efforts of federal, state, and local stakeholders and community members in the United States and Mexico, Border Binational Health Week will raise awareness and strengthen our commitment to overcoming border health challenges.

The border is a very dynamic region and a gateway for diseases such as gastrointestinal illnesses, a tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS, and a disproportionate number of border residents suffer from chronic illnesses like cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. It is impossible to stop the spread of diseases at the border, so we must work together, bi-nationally, to address health concerns and combat illness. In short, Mexico and the United States must be partners in achieving our common goal of solving health problems along the U.S.-Mexico border.

As part of that critical effort, I am pleased to announce that Border Binational Health Week will be held from October 11–17, 2004, and is being sponsored by the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission. The Commission, along with many partners on both sides of the border, has worked diligently in developing the agenda for this extremely important event.

The theme for Border Binational Health Week is "Families in Action for Health." Some of the many topics to be highlighted are improving access to health care, reducing health disparities, and increasing immunization rates. The week will also include community mobilization efforts, informational presentations, policy forums, models of excellence programs, and health careers and professional exchanges—all illustrating the steps to a healthier border and advancing the goals of the Healthy Border 2010 initiative.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission and all those involved with Border Binational Health Week, and in wishing them a productive and successful week of events.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 10, 9/11 RECOMMENDA-
TIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the National Defense Authorization Act which provides almost \$450 billion to support our troops. I want to start by thanking and congratulating the Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee, Mr. SKELTON who worked so hard for so long to make this legislation beneficial to our men and women of the Armed Forces. While I will vote for this legislation it is truly unfortunate that a more bipartisan approach was not taken in order to include numerous important Democratic provisions which would have further benefited our fighting men and women. I am also saddened that this Defense Authorization comes at a time of such great need for our Armed Forces because they have been pushed into a war that could have been avoided and has been so poorly managed from the start. It is truly unfortunate that the brave men and women of our Armed Forces are fighting around the world while the Department of Defense is in the current state it is in. The Administration must be accountable for the actions of the Armed Forces; the unfortunate events taking place in Iraq have caused our nation irreparable harm. I only pray that the provisions in this legislation that will help protect our fighting men and women in Iraq are not the only step we take to alleviate their burden.

I am heartened by the fact that Democrats have worked so hard to put pieces of our ideas into this legislation. As I stated earlier, too many vital Democratic proposals that would have given our Armed Forces the equipment and support they need to successfully complete their dangerous missions, were denied based simply on partisanship. However, the few Democratic principles that were put into this legislation will greatly help our soldiers past and present and their families.

Because of Democrats insistence this conference report provides additional funds for force protection measures, including additional body armor, countermeasures for improvised explosive devices, and armored Humvees. It also includes a Democratic proposal that would reimburse families who purchased body armor or other protective equipment for a loved one serving overseas. Sadly, before today many families had to take the safety of loved ones serving overseas into their own hands. Those kinds of practices make it seem as if we are running a civilian militia as opposed to the greatest Army in the history of mankind. According to a report commissioned by DOD, as much as 25 percent of U.S. combat deaths might have been prevented if there had been sufficient supplies of body armor

and armored vehicles. These facts are astounding and yet truly saddening, yet another indication that this Administration sent our young men and women to fight in Iraq and never gave them the proper plan or the proper support.

This conference report also provides long overdue retirement benefits for our service men and women that Democrats have been demanding for years. Because of Democratic pressure, Republicans finally included bipartisan provisions to end the Widow's Tax, and Democrats were successful in adding provisions that would immediately end the disabled veterans tax for the most severely disabled veterans. This conference report also ensures that every member of the Guard and National Reserve called up to serve in Iraq or Afghanistan can purchase TRICARE coverage for their families after they return home. Members would be eligible for one year of coverage for every 90 days of service after they have been called up. TRICARE, the military health program is an essential need for every member of the Armed Forces, especially those with families. It seems so intolerable to me that we would allow even one member of our Armed Forces to go without proper health coverage.

This conference report also includes a 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise for members of the Armed Forces. It permanently increases the rate for imminent danger pay from \$150 to \$225 per month and increases the family separation allowance from \$100 to \$250 per month. It also ensures that construction of new family housing for almost 50,000 military families will proceed without delay. Again, it sickens me to think that we left these brave and proud military families out in the dark for even the shortest possible period. This conference report finally ensures that these families will receive some justice for the sacrifice they make everyday to keep our Nation protected.

I must also add that it is truly unfortunate that this Defense Authorization continues this Administration's policy of having misplaced priorities. Instead of directing more money for proper planning in Iraq, or for greater protection equipment for our troops, or maybe for greater pay raises for our troops; this Administration has decided to budget \$10.2 billion for missile defense next year—twice the request for any other weapons system. Missile defense systems are not new; in fact they have been discussed for decades. The truth is that missile defense systems have proven to be overly complex, unreliable, and often been little more than pipe dreams. Why in good conscience, in this time of budget constraints and increased need, would we allocate even more money for failed programs? There are more responsible ways to budget this money. Money from the Defense Authorization should go to our men and women in the Armed Forces who actually defend our nation instead of into programs that just waste needed funds. Also, once again Democrats have been able to restore some sanity to this issue. Because of their efforts the Pentagon's Office of Testing and Evaluation regains an oversight role and there will be some controls over this dubious program. OT&E is tasked with devising a realistic test regimen for the Ballistic Missile Defense system.

While I will support this legislation because of the support and protection it provides to our men and women in the Armed Forces, I sin-

cerely hope in the future that such significant legislation as this will involve the debate and full consideration of all necessary and relevant provisions from both sides of the aisle. The men and women of our Armed Forces and indeed the American people as a whole deserve as much. It is our duty in Congress to serve the interests of the people, it is the duty of the Armed Forces to protect and serve our national interests; one can only hope we can serve our mission as well as the members of the Armed Forces have served theirs.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY SALISBURY,
RSCJ

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Sister Nancy Salisbury RSCJ, a distinguished and nationally respected and beloved educator who passed away on September 27, 2004 at Oakwood in Atherton, California.

Born May 15, 1930 in New York City, Sister Salisbury was the daughter of the late Philip Turner Salisbury and Ethel Walsh Salisbury. She was educated at Convent of the Sacred Heart in Overbrook, Pennsylvania, and earned her bachelor's degree from Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart in Purchase, New York in 1952. She received a master's degree in History from Manhattanville in 1962 and a second master's degree in Mathematics from the University of Detroit in 1968.

Sister Salisbury entered the Religious Order of the Sacred Heart in 1952 and devoted her life to the Society as a teacher, administrator, headmistress and mentor. The stature of her accomplishments are reflected in the following:

Headmistress, Convent of the Sacred Heart, New York City, 1980-2000

Chair, New York State Association of Independent Schools Accreditation Commission

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, New York State Association of Independent Schools

Headmistress, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich, 1970-1980

Head of Middle and Upper Schools, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich and New York City

Teacher, Administrator, Sacred Heart Schools: Greenwich, Grosse Pointe, Kenwood, New York

Chair, Guild of Headmasters of Independent Schools, New York City

Chair, Fairchester Association of Headmasters

Chair, Board of Trustees, Carrolton School of the Sacred Heart

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, Early Steps Member, Network of Sacred Heart Schools Commission on Goals (NCOG)

Member, Boards of Trustees: Network of Sacred Heart Schools: Greenwich, Doane Stuart; Youth Services Opportunities Program, Independent School Admissions Association of Greater New York, Connecticut Association of Independent Schools, Manhattanville College Alumni Association Member, Committees of the New York Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart

Upon her retirement as headmistress of the Convent of the Sacred Heart School in New York, Sister Salisbury spent time in Chicago where she continued her mentorship of young women entering the congregation. It was in recent years that she came to the

Oakwood Community, and earlier this year became its Director. Of Oakwood she said "I continue to discover each day the deep roots of the love of God, the Society and the Community. I believe it is these bonds which make Oakwood a home of joy, understanding, reconciliation and celebration. I see my responsibility to find new ways of keeping this spirit alive and visible as we celebrate the end of our journey together in love."

Sister Salisbury was a holy woman, devoted to her RSCJ community and their mission, and deeply committed to living her life loving and serving the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Her wisdom was recognized by anyone who met her. Her wisdom was more than being smart . . . it came not from a busy head but from a deeper well . . . her peaceful heart. Her leadership skills lifted people to new heights and she emulated Jesus by gathering, teaching, and loving the children and she contributed mightily to the future well being of our nation, preparing generations of young women for leadership roles. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this good and great woman, paying tribute to her, the life she lived and the lives she shaped. How blessed I am to have known her and benefited from her love, counsel and wisdom.

CELEBRATION OF THOMAS JAMES OWENS

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, Tom Owens was my friend; he came to Washington, DC, almost weekly until he retired in 1996. Tom always wanted to play tennis and go to the best restaurants for dinner. Tom was a very effective lobbyist. He worked both sides of the aisle very skillfully.

His friends and family were all shocked when he suddenly died on September 16th.

I wanted to include in the RECORD a recent article about Tom and his family. Tom Owens was a tremendous human being who will be missed by all who knew him.

THOMAS JAMES OWENS

Thomas James Owens—Born June 2, 1928, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Tom died suddenly and unexpectedly in his north Capitol Hill home early in the morning, September 16th. He was preceded in death by his parents, Helen Reese and Edward Addison Owens, and brother J. David Owens. A graduate of Amherst College and Michigan Law School, he moved to Seattle in 1955 where he began a law practice and eventually met and married his wife of 44 years, Angela (Pellegrini). A lobbyist, he worked on both the state and federal levels, retiring from a successful practice in 1996. A masterful communicator and intermediary, he was liked and respected by Democrats and Republicans alike. Impeccably dressed, with his unmistakable trench coat, he was a fixture in political circles in both Olympia & Washington D.C. Tom was also an accomplished racquets man. After a successful tennis and squash career in the Ivy League, he went on to become one of the more dominant amateur players in the area, winning numerous titles in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, including the Pacific Coast Championship in 1964, ranking him among the best amateur players in the country. His true passions, first and foremost, were his loving family and dear friends. A particular joy in his life

was the time he spent together with his children and their friends. A gracious host, he loved to surround himself with friends, family, wonderful meals prepared by Angela, and fine wine, most often a robust cabernet made by his late father-in-law, Angelo Pellegrini. Loud, boisterous and laughter filled evenings, roast pork, roast potatoes, hot peppers and greens from the garden were the norm in the Owens home, with Tom at the head of the table, wine glass in hand, belaboring the occasional anecdote or joke. To hear him tell a story was an experience in and of itself. In Tom's case, punch line were an irrelevant detail, as the delivery, often scrambled and confused were what made his diatribes so unforgettable. He also loved travel, particularly to Italy, working out, playing the piano, cigars, spending time with his children and grandchildren, bullmastiffs, trees, and golf. He is survived by his loving wife, Angela, two children Tom (Dena) and Sarah (Scott Lindblad), five grandchildren, Olivia, Evan, Reese, Cameron, Lauren and surrogate granddaughter Gabriella Pellegrini. He is also survived by a brother, Dr. E. Reese Owens (Betsy), of Pittsburgh, PA. We will miss your thoughtful generosity, your wit, love of family and friends, and your frank and honest emotional support. For now we say to the man clad in the trademark blue blazer, see you again someday, somewhere, as we lift a glass in fond farewell to our beloved patriarch: Salute! e Addio, caro Tommaso. Sarai sempre nel nostro cuore e nei nostri pensieri. There will be a celebration of Tom's life at 4 p.m., Friday, October 1st at the Seattle Golf Club.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MICHAEL ANDREW MITCHELL

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Michael Andrew Mitchell, a loving family man who nobly served his community as a Tampa Police Officer.

A natural athlete, at Tampa Bay Technical High School Michael excelled in football, track and basketball and earned a football scholarship to Miles College. After graduating from the police academy, Michael went on to serve in the Tampa Police Department, for 25 years.

During his career, Michael earned the praise of his colleagues and superiors. He was twice awarded the Tampa Police Department Commendation Award, as well as earning a Special Award of Recognition from the Department of Justice. But more important than any award, Michael earned the trust of his fellow officers. As Jose Feliciano, Michael's former partner said, "I never worried when I was with Mike. I always knew he had my back."

Michael's dedication to serving his community extended beyond his role as a police officer. A lifetime member of First Baptist Church of College Hill, Michael was active in nearly every aspect of the church. He was a member of the Youth Choir, Youth Usher Board, Young Adult Choir, Tape Ministry, Breakfast Ministry, Security Ministry and Deacon Board Ministry. And Michael always had time for young people. His patient, calm and caring demeanor drew people of all ages.

However, Michael may best be remembered for his devotion to his family. In June, he gave up his career at the Police Department so he

could take care of his mother. His brother Pat remembers how "if the family needed him for anything, he'd be there." Michael was never one to miss the weekly family dinners on Friday or the family get-togethers at church on Sunday.

On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I would like to extend my thanks to Michael for his dedication to serving others and offer my deepest sympathies to his many loved ones.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and co-ordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the Gentleman from Indiana designated as #29. This amendment directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to "ensure that all appropriate personnel engaged in security screening of individuals have access to law enforcement and intelligence information maintained by DHS." It also calls for the submission of an overview of all the agencies, databases, and other capabilities that exist within the Department involved in intelligence relating to terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal immigration, screening, investigations, and inspection of goods or individuals entering the United States. Furthermore, this amendment would require the submission of a report to Congress within 180 days on actions taken and plans in place to improve access and the flow of information.

Proposals that seek to ensure that DHS is functioning efficiently, effectively, and in accordance with the U.S. Constitution with respect to individual rights and liberties should be supported fully because the function of DHS is a bi-partisan issue. Protecting the American people is a bi-partisan issue.

Similar to this amendment, I would have offered a proposal that would make the "Next Generation Airline Passenger Prescreening" provision (Section 2173) more effective while taking active measures to protect individual rights and liberties.

The existing language in Subsection (i) of Section 2173(a)(C) assigns the task of testing the next generation passenger prescreening system against automatic selectee and no-fly lists and records in the consolidated and integrated terrorist watchlist maintained by the Federal Government to the "Assistant Secretary or designee." This is a very loose assignment of a very important task. Moreover, the duties of the Assistant Secretary would hardly allow for the time and effort that is necessary to perform the functions of this provision to address the needs of the American public.

The Jackson Lee Amendment would have assigned this task rather to the "Civil Liberties

Protection Officer” or designee thereof—in consultation with the Assistant Secretary. Therefore, this amendment would have added teeth to the existing provision in the area of personnel assignment.

The Civil Liberties Protection Officer is the most appropriate personnel to perform this function.

Therefore, it is very important that we not only make this legislation efficient and thorough but that we craft it to protect civil rights and civil liberties. Mr. Chairman, I ask that my colleagues support the amendment by the Gentleman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on Thursday, September 30, 2004, due to a death in the family. If I was present for rollcall votes, it would be the following:

No. 480 on motion to recommit with instructions—Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part V—1 “yea.”

No. 481 on Passage, Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part V—H.R. 5183—“yea.”

No. 482 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5149—the Welfare Reform Extension Act, Part VIII—“yea.”

No. 483 on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 4231, the Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2004—“yea.”

No. 484 on passage of H.J. Res.106. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage—“nay.”

No. 485 on motion to suspend the rules and agree on H. Con. Res 501, Honoring the life and work of Duke Ellington, recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and supporting the annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival . . .

No. 486 on motion to suspend the rules and agree on H. Res. 792, Honoring the United Negro College Fund on the occasion of the Fund's 60th anniversary and the Fund's unflagging dedication to enhancing top quality college opportunities to millions of students . . .

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in attendance for a number of rollcall votes taken on October 8, 2004. Had I been present I would have cast my votes as follows:

“No” on rollcall No. 524; “yes” on rollcall No. 525; and “no” on rollcall No. 526.

I was unable to be present for votes taken on October 9, 2004, however, I would have voted:

“Yes” on final passage of conference report on H.R. 4200—Defense Authorization Act for FY 2005; “yes” on final passage of the con-

ference report on H.R. 4837—Military Construction/Emergency Supplemental Appropriations; “yes” on the conference report on H.R. 4567—Homeland Security Appropriations; and “no” on the Adjournment Resolution, because the 108th Congress should complete its work before it adjourns. The Republican-led Congress has failed to address the needs of middle class families. Republicans have failed to create jobs, end outsourcing, improve national security, lower health care costs, improve education, or protect our environment.

IN MEMORY OF BISHOP MOSES TAYLOR, MINISTER TO AND FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE OF LONG ISLAND CITY AND ASTORIA, NY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the life and achievements of Bishop Moses Taylor, one of New York City's foremost spiritual leaders. I am saddened to report to the members of this chamber that Bishop Taylor passed away on October 1, 2004. He is survived by his loving family, his many friends and the congregations of the three ministries he founded in Long Island City and Astoria, Queens.

Bishop Taylor was a fixture of his community for more than 60 years. Bishop Taylor's ministry began in a small house on 12th Street in Long Island City, where he preached to a group of twelve followers; in the next few years, this ministry moved to a larger, permanent home across the street and became known as the Long Island City Gospel Tabernacle. It was during this time that Bishop Taylor began many of the community service initiatives for which his ministries would become widely known in the Queens community. Indeed, the two founding principles of the Bishop's ministries are “to teach and preach the Word of God with simplicity and understanding” and “to undergird, strengthen and increase (the) community through programs, targeted activities for men, women, singles and families, combined with educational instruments that will address the whole need of man.”

Building on the success of the Gospel Tabernacle, Bishop Taylor went on to found the Astoria Outreach Ministries and the Center for Hope International in Long Island City, which is now led by his son, Pastor Mitchell G. Taylor. I am certain that Bishop Taylor was extremely proud to see his son follow in his footsteps and dedicate his life to enriching the lives of people in the Queens community.

The three ministries founded by Bishop Taylor have become invaluable parts of New York City's spiritual life. They are true reflections of the vibrant and generous Queens community that Moses Taylor so faithfully served.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in honoring the late Bishop Moses Taylor, whose dedication to community service lives on thanks to the generosity of his many followers. With his passing, the community has lost one of its true heroes.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to address the Amendment offered by Mr. KIRK of Illinois which would require that the President submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees detailing how the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) can be integrated into the intelligence community. I believe it is important that we recognize the vital role the DEA has played in our War on Terror and we should study how effective it would be to officially include the DEA in our intelligence apparatus.

Many of the terrorist groups including Al Qaeda that are targeting our Nation derive much of their income from the sale of drugs which finances their terror network. It is clear that narcoterrorism is becoming a larger threat to our security and the DEA is playing a significant role in reducing this threat. Just last December the USS *Decatur* intercepted a boat in the Gulf near the Strait of Hormuz that was found to be carrying almost two tons of hashish valued at up to \$10 million. The boat was found to have direct connection to the Al Qaeda terror network. While this large shipment was intercepted we can safely assume there are many others that are out there that pose a threat to our national security.

In Afghanistan, we replaced the brutal Taliban regime that was harboring Al Qaeda terrorists, but today Afghanistan faces many threats from those same terrorist networks. President Karzai himself has said that the cultivation of drugs namely the poppy crop is one of the biggest threats that Afghanistan faces. The U.S. State Department has indicated that poppy cultivation in Afghanistan is expected to jump by 40 percent this year. In fact, Afghanistan is one of 22 nations listed by President Bush in his annual report to Congress on “major” drug-producers. Our own Pentagon is reporting that the drugs trade is corrupting Afghan government institutions and that without vigorous eradication, security will not improve quickly. The U.N. released figures earlier this year saying three-quarters of the world's opium poppy was now grown in Afghanistan. These figures are staggering and indicate the battle we face to eliminate these drugs so that they can not benefit our terrorist adversaries.

The DEA has played a critical role in challenging Al Qaeda and other terror networks that engage in narcoterrorism. The DEA currently has an international presence with 77 offices in 55 countries that gather drug enforcement intelligence, take part in host-country drug-related law enforcement operations, and train host-country law enforcement personnel. An indication of DEA's effectiveness in foreign operations can be found in the intelligence information the DEA gathered to reveal that Osama bin Laden himself had been

involved in the financing and facilitation of heroin-trafficking activities, which were then shut down by our military operations in Afghanistan. Today, the DEA continues to push forward in identifying narcoterrorism threats that are vital to maintaining our national security. I look forward to seeing a report from the President that will indicate the efficacy of officially including the DEA in our intelligence system. Clearly, the DEA plays an important information gathering and enforcement role in our War on Terror, this report will simply clarify their position in our national intelligence system.

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
REUNION—YORK, SC

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, on the weekend before Labor Day, some 400 alumni of Jefferson High School gathered for their first reunion since Jefferson closed more than 30 years ago.

Jefferson got its start in a frame school house built for African-American students next to Wesley United Methodist Church on West Jefferson Street in York, South Carolina. From there, Jefferson graduated to a Rosenwald school and became the African-American public school in a racially segregated system. Although the system was called "separate but equal," Jefferson never had facilities or teaching materials equal to its counterparts, the white schools that I attended. Used books were passed on from white students, dated and worn. The school district built a new high school for white students in 1950, but left black students to make the best of their old one. The students, teachers and administrators at Jefferson did just that. They made the most of their circumstances. The students who came back for this reunion did not dwell on what they lacked at Jefferson High School. They saluted teachers who took a personal interest, believed in them, and encouraged them to excel. They recalled their formidable teams in football and basketball and the musical talent they produced. They recognized the values instilled in them for a lifetime.

When the alumni sat down for a banquet the last night of their reunion, the pride they felt at being "Jeffersonians" was easily felt and well-founded. Among the 400 attending the dinner, there were graduates who had risen to the highest levels of the Civil Service and become department heads in state government; Ph.D.'s in the sciences and liberal arts; college professors; school teachers; successful entrepreneurs; attorneys; and many more who had distinguished themselves. The banquet speaker, Roberta Wright, symbolized their success. She finished Jefferson and went on to become a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Fisk University and the University of Michigan School of Law. She made a stirring speech, challenging everyone to do more for the common good.

With the onset of integration in the early 1970s, Jefferson High School came to an end. But the 3-day Reunion made clear that Jefferson lives on in the lives it made better. Hundreds of the alumni attending attested to bet-

ter, more productive lives because of what they learned at Jefferson under teachers who cared, encouraged, and challenged.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, because of business in my district (27th Congressional District of Texas) I was absent for rollcall vote Nos. 509–530. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below: 509—"Yes"; 510—"Yes"; 511—"Yes"; 512—"Yes"; 513—"Yes"; 514—"Yes"; 515—"Yes"; 516—"No"; 517—"Yes"; 518—"Yes"; 519—"No"; 520—"Yes"; 521—"Yes"; 522—"Yes"; 523—"No"; 524—"No"; 525—"Yes"; 526—"No"; 527—"No"; 529—"Yes"; 530—"Yes."

IS ISRAEL STILL AN ENEMY OF
THE STATE IN THE NEW IRAQ?

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern, and frankly my disbelief, at the arrest of Mithal Al Alusi, an Iraqi citizen who was charged recently for visiting an enemy state.

The world took little notice of what one might expect to be major news in the United States and around the world. Unfortunately, this story has been nearly invisible.

What makes this case so disturbing is the fact that the nation he dared visit, the nation labeled an enemy state by the new post-Saddam government in Iraq is none other than America's strongest ally in the Middle East—the State of Israel.

As unbelievable as it seems, under a 35-year-old law written by Saddam's Baath Party, Israel remains an enemy of the Iraqi State. And any Iraqi who dares visit our ally Israel, can expect the same criminal punishment now being sought against Mr. Al-Alusi.

A New York Times article published on October 6, 2004, described the situation this way:

In recent days, Iraq's special criminal court established by the American occupation authority issued a warrant for Mr. Al-Alusi's arrest based on the 1969 law. According to the Oct. 4 issue of the Iraqi newspaper Al Sabah, a court official said, "Al-Alusi committed a crime by visiting the enemy, the Zionist state," and the official vowed "to protect the Islamic and Arab identity of Iraq."

Is this the new Iraq that we have sacrificed more than a thousand American lives to protect? A country that allows Israel to be labeled as a Zionist threat, and whose courts, which were established under our Coalition rule, are now being used as a tool to inflame anti-Israeli sentiment.

It is a disgrace that as we shed American blood, and the blood of our allies to bring democracy to the people of Iraq, those who have persecuted Mithal Al-Alusi remain in authority.

Secretary Powell is reported as saying that he is looking into the outrage committed

against Mr. Al-Alusi. I encourage him to swiftly complete his examination and to provide guidance toward a U.S. policy that forever eliminates this type of bigotry from Iraqi law.

I hope President Bush, Secretary of State Powell and Members of Congress will step forward and without reservation, condemn this continuation of an anti-Semitic policy that is a hateful and dangerous residue of Saddam Hussein's failed regime.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security; and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment as offered by my Texas colleague Mr. Bonilla of the 23rd Congressional District to increase the number of beds available for immigration detention and removal operations in the Department of Homeland Security. As the Ranking Member of the House Immigration Subcommittee, I recognize the urgent need for this proposal.

The growth of the Immigration and Enforcement Agency's (ICE) and Border Patrol Services (BPS) enforcement efforts, along with the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, which requires INS to detain aliens subject to mandatory detention, have increased the Department's need for detention bed space in recent years.

The average daily bed space usage has more than doubled from 8,279 average daily detention beds in FY 1996 to 18,518 in FY 2000. Every year the Department of Homeland Security arrests over 1.6 million aliens.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has 19,444 beds a night. But an average 22,500 detainees are in custody on any given day. The lack of space has led to a \$1.3 billion shortfall that must be made up in other areas of the budget for Immigration and Customs Enforcement and detention.

One of my concerns is the rise of the harmful effects of the "capture and release" program. Brought on by a shortage of detention space, the program allows immigration officials to routinely release tens of thousands of illegal immigrants from countries other than Mexico after extracting a promise from each to show up at a future detention hearing.

DHS officials acknowledge that more than 70 percent of those released disappear from law enforcement's radar, resulting in a fugitive population of 400,000 nationwide. Mexican migrants who are detained are deported and are usually bused to a port of entry where they cross the bridge to Mexico.

Some 15,000 of these people (non-Mexican migrants) are in communities in Texas in the last eight months. Nearly half of non-Mexicans arrested since October 2003 were released on

the U.S. side of the border, according to Department of Homeland Security statistics released last week to the Chronicle. So far this fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, 2003, Homeland Security officials released from Border Patrol custody 21,979 of the 49,705 illegal immigrants from countries other than Mexico, known to the Border Patrol as OTMs.

As a member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Infrastructure and Border Security and Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Control I joined Mr. BONILLA and another of my Texas colleagues, Mr. SOLOMON ORTIZ for a series of briefings and field visits at the Brownsville border areas.

When Border Patrol (BP) officers catch undocumented immigrants, they take them to a facility to be processed. If they are Mexican, they usually are placed on a bus and returned to Mexico. If they are not Mexican, BP classifies them as "OTM" (other than Mexican). Under a new detention policy popularly known as "catch and release," thousands of OTMs are released on their own recognizance pending a deportation hearing scheduled to be held months after they are released. Apparently, a large percentage of the OTMs abscond instead of appearing for removal proceedings.

I share many of the concerns that my colleagues SOLOMON P. ORTIZ and HENRY BONILLA have expressed about border security. The catch and release policy appears to be the result of a lack of funding for detention facilities. The security concern about the catch and release policy is that it includes individuals from nations the U.S. defines as state sponsors of potential terrorism. Before commenting on the catch and release policy, I want to emphasize that immigration does not equate with terrorism. All but a few of the immigrants who enter our country unlawfully are hardworking people who are coming to the United States because they want better lives for themselves and their families.

I favor the approach that Canada takes to border security, namely, they emphasize identifying the people who might be dangerous. We must improve intelligence operations so that our border patrol officers will be able to separate out the potential terrorists. This involves a two step process. We must first identify the potential terrorists, and then that information must be made available to the border patrol officers.

My colleagues SOLOMON P. ORTIZ and HENRY BONILLA have said that we need to increase the number of immigration judges. They believe that an increase in the number of immigration judges will dramatically reduce the need for detention facilities. I agree that we need more immigration judges. I also think that we need more Board Members for the Board of Immigration Appeals. Attorney General Ashcroft removed 5 experienced Board members a few years ago in a misguided effort to increase the productivity of the Board.

My alien smuggling bill, the CASE Act, or H.R. 2630, will address one of the major impediments to gaining control over our borders. The CASE Act would establish a three-point program to facilitate the investigation and prosecution, or disruption, of reckless commercial alien smuggling operations that features incentives, penalty enhancements, and an outreach program. This three-point program would provide government investigators

and prosecutors with tools that have proven their worth in other areas of criminal law and would be just as useful with commercial alien smuggling operations. The result would be fewer deaths from alien smuggling operations.

Therefore, this amendment will address a very clear need, and I support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on October 5, 2004, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall votes 494, 495, and 496. Had I been present I would have voted, "no" on rollcall vote no. 494, H.R. 163; "yes" on rollcall vote no. 495, H.R. 2929, and "yes" on rollcall vote no. 496, H.R. 5011.

EGYPTIAN SINAI BOMBINGS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in deep disgust to speak about the ghastly attacks on three Egyptian Sinai resorts.

It should be obvious to all of us that these attacks were perpetrated because we are entering the final days of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot.

The terrorists who committed these heinous attacks had one goal—that goal was to kill as many innocent Israelis as possible.

The three terrorist attacks murdered at least 29 people and injured scores of others but unfortunately I fear the number of dead will rise as rescue teams search through the rubble.

The international community to the fullest extent must condemn these attacks.

It is time for the anti-Israeli elements within the United Nations to stop their one-sided resolutions and recognize that terrorism is a continuing threat to Israel and to the world.

The nations who continually work to pass these anti-Israeli resolutions within the United Nations General Assembly—must stop their rhetoric and instead do something to stop these attacks.

These nations can no longer be content by sitting on the sidelines and criticizing the actions of the Israeli government to protect their citizens.

Instead, it is time for these nations to help the Palestinian people who seek a nation that is not lead by corrupt leaders who support terrorism.

If these nations really want to see the success of the Palestinian people they will not only condemn these attacks, but they will finally begin to work toward ending terrorism and the attacks we see in the Middle East and around the world.

SPECIALTY CROPS COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3242, the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004, albeit with reservations about the scaled down version of the substitute bill that comes before us today.

When I joined Representative DOUG OSE last year in introducing H.R. 3242, it was a natural reflection of my longstanding interest in a prosperous and competitive specialty crops sector.

U.S. farm policy has long overlooked the importance of specialty crops, despite the fact that these non-subsidized crops account for the majority of crop production in this country. Instead, U.S. farm policy has tended to focus on so-called "program" crops, such as cotton, rice, sugar, peanuts, wheat, corn, oilseeds, feed grains, and others, which account for less than half of domestic production.

H.R. 3242 was introduced not to bring fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and other horticultural products into the category of "program commodities" but instead to focus federal attention and resources on the problems facing this segment of U.S. agriculture. The bill as introduced included various regulatory reforms as well as a modest level of federal dollars to invest in non-market-distorting ways in the competitiveness of the U.S. specialty crop sector.

As the lead Democrat sponsor of H.R. 3242, however, I am very disappointed that the version of the bill that moved out of the House Agriculture Committee and is before us today is significantly scaled down from the original bill. In particular, the federal funding provided by this substitute bill has gone from a mandatory spending level of \$508 million per year for five years, to a discretionary authorization of only \$54 million per year that is further subject to annual appropriations.

This is a far cry from the level of federal commitment to the specialty crop sector that is warranted.

Specialty crops have an annual farm-gate value of \$52 billion and receive no federal subsidies. Program crops, on the other hand, have a farm-gate value of only \$48 billion. Yet the program commodities received federal subsidies in the amount of \$12–13 billion, the equivalent of 27 percent of their farm-gate value.

This bill does not change the fact that producers of specialty crops receive no federal subsidy payments, and instead rely solely on the market for their income. No new federal price supports, direct payments, marketing loans, or counter-cyclical payments are created in this bill.

A serious federal commitment to this sector, however, requires a serious level of federal dollars.

The bulk of federal expenditures under H.R. 3242 would go to a block grant program that would distribute federal dollars to interested states for research, marketing, promotion, and other competitiveness-enhancing programs for their specialty crop industries. These funds are designed to increase consumer awareness and demand for specialty crop products and

otherwise strengthen U.S. producers' ability to supply a safe, nutritious and quality product to both domestic and foreign markets.

Unfortunately, the bill as amended drastically reduced the federal commitment to this block grant proposal, from \$470 million in mandatory spending down to \$44.5 million in discretionary spending.

During the Agriculture Committee's markup of this bill, I attempted to restore merely half of the mandatory funds provided under the original bill for the block grant program. In order to keep the legislation revenue-neutral from a budgetary standpoint, I offered two separate alternative offsets—one based on a small, pro rata reduction in direct fixed payments to program commodity producers, and the other based on a bipartisan payment limitations proposal pending in the Senate (S. 667).

My amendment to finance the cost of a mandatory \$220 million per year block grant program for specialty crops would have reduced the annual federal subsidies received by program crops by merely 1.7 percent. As a percent of program crop gross income, this represents a 0.36 percent reduction. Yet even this minuscule reduction encountered strong resistance by those farm and commodity organizations benefiting from these federal subsidies today.

The inequitable distribution of federal expenditures between program commodities and non-subsidized specialty crops must be changed. The United States can no longer afford to short-change the majority of its crop producers who rely on market forces—not federal program payments—to drive their income. The fact that the current farm bill, enacted in 2002, does not expire until 2007 is no excuse for not reallocating a small portion of federal expenditures by less than 2 percent.

Some of my colleagues seek to support the specialty crop sector without simultaneously disturbing the enormous benefits enjoyed by the program commodities. However, federal dollars are scarce resources and a more equitable distribution of these limited resources is long overdue. I hope my colleagues will eventually agree.

In the meantime, I urge adoption of this legislation today and hope that it will lay an effective foundation for a stronger federal investment in our specialty crop sector in future years.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, the protection of the Nation against terrorist attacks is foremost on all of our minds. We all agree that we need to identify, detain, and prosecute those who intend to inflict terror

on this Nation and its people. While I agree on the prosecution of terrorists requires tools that go beyond those available in our criminal justice system, I believe that this amendment goes too far.

Specifically, this amendment denies pre-trial release of terrorist suspects upon a certification from the Attorney General. Denial of pre-trial release would impede the ability of the wrongly accused from clearing their name. They would be hampered in their ability to select and meet with counsel, to search for witnesses who could vouch for them, and collect their own personal documents and other effects as evidence which could absolve them.

These concerns are not theoretical. We need only look to Oregon attorney Brandon Mayfield who was arrested in May as a suspect for the horrific terrorist attacks in Madrid last spring. Mayfield, a former U.S. Army lieutenant, was detained for three weeks because authorities believed that his fingerprints were found on evidence recovered in Madrid. Shoddy practices were used to transmit Mayfield's fingerprints by U.S. officials to Madrid. The poor quality of those transmitted prints should have precluded any positive identification. However, the compulsion to catch the perpetrators lead investigators to jump to the conclusion that Mayfield, a Muslim, must have been involved. Only after good quality fingerprint data was transmitted to Madrid was Mr. Mayfield cleared.

We need to pass responsible legislation that will be effective in detaining those who seek to harm this Nation. This amendment includes some provisions that overreach this responsibility.

IN MEMORY OF VERNON ALLEY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, It is with great personal sadness and San Francisco's deep sorrow, that I rise to pay tribute to Vernon Alley, the most distinguished and beloved jazz musician in San Francisco's history, who passed away on October 3rd. Vernon honored his beloved City by choosing to pass up playing in the big jazz cities of New York and Chicago to devote his life to enchanting and inspiring generations of San Franciscans. He elevated our City with his music and his dedication to racial justice.

A lifelong San Franciscan, Vernon went to high school with Joe DiMaggio, where he became an all-star fullback. His interest in jazz began as a boy when his parents took him to see jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton. He started his own group in the 30's in the Fillmore. In 1940 he went to New York and joined the Lionel Hampton Band. Two years later, he became a member of the Count Basie Orchestra.

Vernon Alley knew and played with the greatest jazz musicians and performers of his generation—Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Erroll Garner, Nat King Cole, Charles Mingus, Ella Fitzgerald, and Billie Holiday.

He returned to his beloved San Francisco in 1942. The music scene exploded in the 40's when African Americans moved to San Fran-

cisco's Bayview District to work in the shipyards. Vernon fostered jazz in the Bay Area during the heyday of the Fillmore District and North Beach jazz scenes of the 1940's and 50's.

Vernon was as dedicated to fighting racism as he was to his music. He singlehandedly integrated the San Francisco Musicians Union. As chairman of the board of the black musicians local, he fought for integration of the City's jazz clubs, luring most of the white musicians into his local, because they wanted to play jazz in the swing clubs. As an accompanist for Ella Fitzgerald, he fought the segregationist policies of the casinos of Las Vegas.

A close friend of many San Francisco mayors, he served for years on the San Francisco Arts Commission and the Human Rights Commission. He was active in the City's arts community and hosted two popular radio programs and a television show. His good friend, columnist Herb Caen, whom he first showed around town when Caen was a young newspaperman, often mentioned Vernon as a man "whose smile lights up the town, even on foggy days."

Vernon was inducted into the San Francisco State University Alumni Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2001, when his health was declining, the San Francisco Jazz Festival put together a 3½ hour tribute called "The Legacy of Vernon Alley" that drew more than a thousand musicians and friends. Later that year, an alley in a redevelopment project was named "Vernon Alley."

We will never forget our most beloved jazzman. With a twinkle in his eyes, an infectious smile, a booming laugh, and his bass "Baby" in hand, he captivated us all. I hope it is a comfort to his brother, Eddie, his longtime companion, Loma Ruyter, and his nieces and nephews that so many friends and fans share their grief and are praying for them at this sad time.

APPLAUDING LOUISVILLE'S JEWISH HOSPITAL

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize the incredible accomplishments of one my district's premier hospitals in the field of medical technology advancements. Jewish Hospital HealthCare Services is a regional network of more than 50 health care facilities providing services for Kentucky and Southern Indiana residents. It has recently opened the doors of a "next generation" medical center, Jewish Hospital Medical Center East, offering the region's most advanced outpatient diagnostic procedures and treatment options in the areas of outpatient surgery, endoscopy, gender-specific medicine, diagnostic medical imaging, cardiopulmonary services, rehab services and occupational health.

Earlier this year, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced a legislative plan to electronically link health records nationwide, part of President Bush's call for an electronic health record for every American in the next 10 years. The aim is to make patient information available to several

physicians in multiple locations and to expand the capacity for monitoring disease trends and other indicators, as well as to facilitate research.

The benefit of linking medical records nationwide is clear: even when you are out of town and unable to reach your doctor or hospital, the staff at any ER or medical facility will have your medical history available at their fingertips. That can save valuable—possibly life-saving time. It is the healthcare of the future, but it's already happening in Louisville at Jewish Hospital.

The electronic health records system in place at Jewish Hospital Medical Center East is now referred to as a "show-site" for medical technology. Accessing medical records, in the past, would take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. Now the process is instantaneous. And according to an HHS report, only 13 percent of hospitals and between 14 and 28 percent of physician practices have such computerized patient records. The Louisville facility is, indeed, ahead of the curve.

I applaud the efforts and advancements in medicine pursued by Louisville's Jewish Hospital and offer them up as a model of health care excellence for the nation.

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS
REDUCTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2608. Title I of the bill is the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act and Title II is the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act. Both of these sections passed by the House separately earlier this year.

I want to acknowledge the leadership of Research Subcommittee Chairman SMITH and my colleague from Washington, Mr. BAIRD, in introducing and championing the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program—often called NEHRP—was established 25 years ago to address the serious seismic hazards in the United States. The program has the primary goal of determining how to lower the risk to people and to the built environment.

Most observers of NEHRP believe it has made many valuable contributions toward advancing understanding of earthquake processes and in developing detailed information about the geographic distribution of earthquake risk.

Equally important, the program has helped to improve engineering design and practice for structures and lifelines suitable for earthquake prone regions.

H.R. 2608 focuses on strengthening NEHRP by reinvigorating program leadership and by increasing program emphasis on transitioning the results of research to practice.

When I first introduced Title II of H.R. 2608 5 years ago, I modeled it after the NEHRP program because of its success over the past 30 plus years.

I would like to thank Chairman BOEHLERT for following through on his promise to mark up

legislation on wind storms in the 108th Congress. I would also like to thank Congressman NEUGEBAUER for working with me on this important legislation.

I would like to thank Representatives MARIO DIAZ-BALART, MELISSA HART, and WALTER JONES for working with me over the past three Congresses. I would like to thank Minority Counsel JIM TURNER of the House Science Committee and Brian Pallasch of the American Society of Civil Engineers for working on this issue tirelessly over the course of the past 5 years.

Almost 6 years ago, my hometown of Wichita, Kansas, was hit by a F4 tornado which plowed through the suburb of Haysville, killing 6, injuring 150, and causing over \$140 million in damage. The devastation of this attack motivated me to try to do something.

I put together a bill, my goal—to mitigate loss of life and property due to wind and related hazards.

I reviewed comments from the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Association of Home Builders, the insurance industry, meteorologists, emergency managers, academia, industry, and the manufactured housing associations to fine-tune the legislation.

On May 4, 2003, almost 4 years to the day after the deadly 1999 Kansas and Oklahoma tornadoes, tornadoes touched down in metro Kansas City and the surrounding suburbs, as well as in many of my congressional colleagues' districts, destroying property, killing and injuring our constituents.

These tornadoes did not check with Congress to see if they were hitting Republican or Democratic districts; they are truly an equal opportunity destroyer. This is not a Republican or a Democratic issue; it is a human issue, and it is a human tragedy. These windstorms destroy lives; I have seen it in my own district and know many of my colleagues have seen it in theirs.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support this amendment that will help to facilitate emergency preparedness between the Federal Government and the States. This amendment instructs the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop emergency preparedness compacts for acts of terrorism, disasters, and emergencies throughout the Nation. Specifically, this will require the identification and cataloging of emergency response capabilities from Federal-State collaborations and from the Federal Government. It also shares examples of best practices between responders at the State, local, and Federal levels. No obligations

are imposed on the States as a result of this amendment.

In August and September we saw the benefit of State and local government collaboration in the wake of the devastation caused by the four hurricanes that caused so much devastation in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and other southeastern states. This amendment will help to strengthen those collaborations and help to extend the benefit to all States.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, after the horrific attacks of September 11, Americans understand the significance and seriousness of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. Developed in a bipartisan manner after long study and debate, the recommendations (if implemented) would radically reorganize the intelligence community and unify government efforts to prevent future terrorist attacks. Of course, once the depth of the failure of our intelligence agencies became clear after 9-11, many of us recognized the need for such reform. The question Congress asked the 9-11 Commission to answer was—how?

We got an answer in the form of the 9-11 Commission report. The Commission put forth forty-one in depth recommendations to serve as a proposed blueprint for intelligence reform. While I believe Congress should not necessarily rubber-stamp the Commission's work, I also believe that we should honor the bipartisan spirit of the Commission by working in a similarly bipartisan way to reach agreement on the best way to implement the recommendations.

That is what has been so deeply disappointing about the process in the House. While the Senate—through an open and deliberative process—reached agreement on a substantive bill that reflects the views of both parties, the Commission, and the families of 9-11 victims, the House has played shameful politics with intelligence reform.

The Republican bill (H.R. 10) only fully implements eleven of the 41 recommendations of the 9-11 Commission, while it ignores some of the most important Commission recommendations. For instance, it fails to give the National Intelligence Director sufficient authority over the budgets and personnel of intelligence agencies. It fails to include a strong National Counterterrorism Center. It fails to strengthen the Nunn-Lugar programs and other nonproliferation programs to secure nuclear materials around the world. It fails to create an integrated border screening system to improve security at our borders. It fails to improve communications for first responders. It fails to create a government-wide Civil Liberties Oversight Board to review the use of intelligence powers and address civil liberties concerns. The list goes on.

Meanwhile, the bill includes dozens of extraneous provisions that the Commission did not recommend and that are opposed by the Commission, families of 9–11 victims, human rights and civil liberties groups, and some by the White House itself. The provisions include new authority allowing the President to completely undo the intelligence reforms passed by Congress, expedited removal of undocumented immigrants without judicial review, revocation of visas, exceptions to the UN Convention Against Torture, and allowing the U.S. government to spy on individuals without proving they are connected to a foreign government or terrorist group, among others.

These extraneous provisions aren't just objectionable because of their content—they are objectionable because at a time when we most need to think of country before politics, to find ways to come together to make our country safer, not ways to further divide us, the Republican leadership is more interested in scoring political points than in passing responsible legislation.

Even so, I am voting for H.R. 10 today because I believe that we need intelligence reform. This bill does not go far enough to protect the American people, but it is better than no reform at all. The good news is that the Senate—by a 96–2 vote—produced a bipartisan bill that should help strengthen the Senate's hand (and the voice of reason) in the conference committee. With the President supporting the Senate bill and every Republican in the Senate voting for it, it seems to me that House Republicans' misguided criticisms of the bill in conference won't carry much weight.

I am optimistic that the conference report will more closely reflect the Senate bill. As 9/11 Commissioners Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton wrote in the Washington Post last month, "We should not wait until another [intelligence] failure takes place, until another commission has a task as somber as ours. We welcome refinements to our recommendations through the legislative process. But the time has come to act."

H.R. 10 is not the legislative refinement Commissioners Kean and Hamilton had in mind, nor is it mine. But it is a start. As the legislative process continues, I will do all I can to help move the bill in the right direction. I hope my colleagues across the aisle will do the same. At a time when our security is at risk, Congress must set politics aside and pass intelligence reform legislation that will truly make America safer.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this measure which would

reform and improve our security and intelligence structure.

The Houston area, of which I represent part of, meets every single criteria for critical infrastructure terrorist targets—14 of 14—we are a perfect storm of terrorist targets. Texas shares about half of its borders with International interests—Mexico and The Gulf of Mexico—leaving us even more vulnerable and facing some unique security needs.

Houston and surrounding areas are ripe for trade, are magnets for the petrochemical industry, have been thriving agriculture regions and remain the center of activities for the energy, banking and many other industries. We have ports and airports large and small, NASA, many tourist attractions, and an environment that invites businesses large and small. All these things make our area wonderful to live in but at the same time make it a higher potential target for terrorism and disasters. Greater risk area because of our size, population, not only in urban core but also in outlying areas geographically and population density.

H.R. 10 is about protecting our interests at home and abroad and protecting our way of life. It would be irresponsible to not act. I'd like to take a few minutes to talk about a few provisions in this bill which I think are particularly important:

Taking serious action to strengthen our borders—doubling border patrol agents—tripling immigration agents.

To seriously restructure our intelligence community and truly making the way we do business more intelligent.

Sending more targeted First Responder grants to where the real threats are and supporting the folks on the ground who are our own front line. Our colleges and community colleges and first responders throughout the state and their ability to quickly respond to local needs make our area an excellent model for delivery of training.

Treating terrorists like terrorists and not giving them free U.S. vacation visas and asylum.

Cracking down on terrorists—whether acting alone or state sponsored or some guerrilla regime—knocking the wind from their sails and taking our country—our way of life—back.

We stand for freedom and democracy and terrorism targets these values—the things this nation hold most dearly. We need to act now to protect our families and our way of life.

SUPPORT OF WORLD FOOD DAY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Mr. PAYNE to recognize World Food Day on October 16.

It is imperative to reflect on one of the greatest problems facing humanity today, hunger. Statistics show that close to a billion people around the globe suffer from the effects of hunger and malnutrition. Sixteen thousand children die daily of hunger-related illnesses.

The United Nations Hunger Task Force estimates that, globally, 50 percent of hungry people are in farm households; 22 percent are the rural landless; 20 percent are urban; and 8 percent are directly dependent on natural re-

sources. The fight against hunger must target rural populations in developing countries.

The World Food Summit and the first Millennium Development Goal, MDG, aim to reduce the number of hungry by 2015.

Increasing a population's productivity lends itself to community development and access to resources. These resources can be used to facilitate agricultural and educational programs, which from people can learn and teach themselves to grow. As a result, healthy women are more likely to pass on these positive aspects to their children.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt took the initiative to address concerns about world hunger. He assembled 44 governments in Hot Springs, VA, to establish a permanent organization for food and agriculture. Two years later that assembly became the FAO—the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Since its establishment in 1945, FAO has committed itself to raising levels of nutrition, improving agricultural productivity, for the betterment of people residing in rural areas. Each year on October 16, FAO's commemorates its founding with World Food Day (WFD). The theme for 2004, "Biodiversity for Food Security," addresses biodiversity's role in ensuring that people have sustainable access to enough high-quality food to lead active and healthy lives, www.fao.org/wfd.

More than 150 countries observe World Food Day. Numerous activities take place on this day to promote awareness within the United States. Examples of these are the World Prize Award Ceremony and Symposium in Des Moines; hundreds of WFD teleconference sites at colleges across America and at U.S. Embassies around the world; "Restaurants against Hunger" in New York, Washington, DC, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and Boston; 2204 CROP walks sponsored by Church World Service in some 2,000 communities. Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO will keynote observances at the United Nations in New York on October 18 and at Howard University's Law School on Tuesday, October 19.

While conflict and harsh climate—the more publicized conditions—often create hunger emergencies; chronic malnutrition claims the majority of the lives lost in the battle against hunger. The world possesses the capabilities to alleviate hunger. Lacking are stabilized governments in developing areas and proper distribution of desperately needed materials, where it be food, medication, or equipment.

The U.S. Alliance Against Hunger is working on the following: making hunger an election issue, helping develop the International Alliance Against Hunger and encouraging business, religious and nongovernmental organizations to build the public will to overcome hunger.

The International Alliance Against Hunger, IAAH, assists in building national alliances around the globe. These alliances composed of governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector work to raise public awareness about the 2015 hunger goal. Eighty-four countries have expressed interested in being part of this global effort.

Individual governments must do more to indicate change of these staggering numbers. Bread for the World estimates, that Congress' bipartisan agreement increased poverty-focused development assistance by nearly 30

percent in 2003. The Millennium Challenge Account, MCA, has provided new hope to selected countries. Sadly, appropriations for the MCA have been cut in half in 2004 by the president's request, and neither the President nor Congress is currently keeping the promises they have made. These funds must be resorted in order to make progress against worldwide hunger.

In closing Mr. Speaker, we stand in full support of World Food Day and the efforts of the international community to end hunger throughout the world.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this measure, not because I endorse all of its provisions, but because I believe that Congress must act swiftly to reform our intelligence community and to protect our homeland.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I believe H.R. 10 does not go far enough to establish a National Intelligence Director with real authority. I agree that we must provide the Department of Defense and our men and women in uniform with the military intelligence needed to be successful, an assertion that 9/11 Commission Vice Chairman Lee Hamilton accepted even though it was not specifically addressed in the report. At the same time, if we do not grant the NID true authority over our intelligence assets, we run the risk of adding another layer of bureaucracy that complicates, not simplifies, the challenges facing our system.

Furthermore, I am disappointed that H.R. 10 is largely silent in addressing the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation. There is no greater danger to our homeland than the possibility of a nuclear weapon being smuggled into our country by terrorists. Russia and many former Soviet republics retain nuclear material that is not appropriately safeguarded, and the United States must lead an international effort to track down, lock up and destroy those potentially deadly weapons. Unfortunately, an amendment offered in committee by the gentlewoman from California, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. SPRATT, was blocked from consideration.

On a more positive note, this legislation appropriately recognizes the need to enhance our human intelligence capabilities and creates a national counterterrorism center to coordinate interagency intelligence efforts.

I am also heartened that H.R. 10 heeds the Commission's call to enhance America's image in the world and prevent the rise and recruitment of future terrorists. Dr. Joseph Nye, the former dean of the Kennedy School of Government and Assistant Secretary of De-

fense for International Security Affairs, has talked about the need to supplement our military might with "soft power"—efforts to win the world's hearts and minds with our values and culture. Successfully exercising this type of power requires that we pursue many fronts, including international diplomacy, democracy-building, cultural exchanges, economic development, educational initiatives and communication about our values and ideals.

To win the ideological battle being waged in the world today, we have to offer an alternative to the hopelessness and despair that the likes of Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida prey upon. There are millions of young people in the Islamic world who are hungry for hope and opportunity, and it is in our interest to show them that hope lies in freedom, liberty and democracy—not in extremism and hate. In doing this, we take a major step towards ensuring that we win the long-term war on terror.

As the 9/11 Commission so eloquently put it: "We need to defend our ideals abroad vigorously. If the United States does not act aggressively to define itself in the Islamic world, the extremists will gladly do the job for us." While H.R. 10 does not implement all of the Commission's recommendations in this regard, I am pleased that our nation is finally taking an important step toward bolstering its stature in the world. I am hopeful that the Conference Committee will adopt stronger provisions from the Senate bill regarding our efforts in Afghanistan, public diplomacy initiatives, educational and cultural exchange programs, and economic development initiatives.

With regard to domestic security, the measure before us today takes some major steps forward. As recommended by the Commission, the bill calls for the creation of a stronger biometric entry-exit screening system, global standards for security systems, a transportation security strategy for all sectors, and improved prescreening of airline passengers. H.R. 10 also moves closer to a threat-based formula for distribution of first responder grants, an important change in the way we fund state and local preparedness efforts. Unfortunately, the bill falls short of several critical goals, among which are protecting privacy in information-sharing, ensuring spectrum and equipment for public safety interoperable communications, enhancing private sector preparedness, and improving the way we track terrorist travel and financing.

Most disappointingly, H.R. 10 undertakes a number of controversial immigration modifications not recommended by the 9/11 Commission and not found in the Senate legislation, which passed earlier this week by a resounding vote of 96–2. The inclusion of these divisive sections will likely slow down the upcoming conference and delay implementation of the many beneficial parts of this legislation.

One worrisome provision of H.R. 10 strips from the courts their traditional judicial oversight in many immigration cases and may require automatic deportation of noncitizens, even if they will face torture in the country to which they are sent. Not only is this provision a violation of the International Convention Against Torture, it is morally unacceptable and risks further damaging America's image in the world.

In addition, the bill expands the use of secret intelligence court orders, which can be issued under a far lower standard than con-

ventional warrants or wire taps. The unfortunate inclusion of these and other extraneous provisions threatens civil rights and civil liberties and endangers the future of intelligence reform. I look forward to addressing some of these issues during the amendment process and urge conferees to reject any provisions which would threaten the bipartisan, bicameral response that the 9/11 Commission's report requires.

I am pleased that we will have the opportunity to vote on a substitute offered by the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. MENENDEZ, and I urge all of my colleagues to support its passage. The Menendez substitute is based on the bipartisan McCain-Lieberman-Collins legislation, which has the support of the 9/11 Commission, the White House and families of the 9/11 victims. This amendment addresses all 41 of the Commission's recommendations, and does so without adding controversial and divisive provisions that jeopardize the broad-based support the recommendations have garnered.

I am deeply disappointed that the House leadership has denied the minority a voice in drafting this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the Menendez substitute to correct these problems. However, should it fail, I am confident that we will be able to improve this legislation in negotiations with the Senate and the White House so that we may provide the type of reform that the American people deserve.

THE DEBT WE OWE OUR WOUNDED

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, in his 1917 poem, *Disabled*, the British poet Wilfred Owen, whose haunting verse brought the horror of the First World War to millions throughout the English-speaking world, described the loneliness and emptiness of a soldier who had lost his leg in war.

Alone, in a wheelchair by a window, the soldier remembers all that he has lost and how the cheers that accompanied his departure for the front were not so loud upon his return—how

only a solemn man who brought him fruits
Thanked him; and then enquired about his soul.

Today thousands of young Americans face many of the same challenges of the young amputee in Owen's poem. Thanks to vastly improved battlefield medicine and body armor, fewer of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan die from their wounds than in any of America's previous wars. But this improved survival rate does not come without a price: Thousands of young Americans are returning home paralyzed or without limbs. More than 7,000 Americans have been wounded in Iraq according to the Defense Department and many hundreds more have been wounded in Afghanistan.

Last month, when I visited our troops in Iraq, I spent some time at a military field hospital near Baghdad. It was a deeply moving experience to confront the costs of war. Two weeks ago, I shared with this House a discussion I had had with two young Marines whose armored Humvee had been blown up by a

roadside bomb. Nearby there was another soldier whose spine had been severed by shrapnel. He was unconscious when I was there, but his doctor told me that he will be a quadriplegic for the rest of his life.

We have asked so much from the young people we send into battle and they have the right to expect that if they are wounded that we as a nation and as a people will be there for them. That is the covenant that we have made with them.

The vast majority of our most severely wounded will receive cutting-edge medical care; many will convalesce right here in the Washington area at Walter Reed or the Bethesda Naval Hospital. During my visits to Walter Reed I have been impressed by the work of the doctors, nurses and therapists who are doing a marvelous job for the troops there, many of who stay for months as they recover from their wounds and begin a new life—often with prosthetic limbs.

Many of the troops who are treated at Walter Reed or Bethesda are discharged from the military shortly after leaving the hospital. As they continue their recovery most of these former soldiers will still require medical treatment, physical therapy, and counseling. Some will need care for the rest of their lives.

For many veterans, especially the severely wounded, navigating the labyrinthine bureaucracy of the Department of Veterans Affairs is a frustrating challenge in itself. Yet, even as the VA is taking on thousands of newly disabled veterans, the largest such group since Vietnam, three VA hospitals are slated for closure, while another eight will be partially closed.

The backlog of disability claims is growing and now exceeds 330,000, while the backlog of veterans claims pending before the Board of Veterans Appeals has nearly doubled in the last four years. Even though it now takes the VA about 160 days to process a claim—more than 5 months, the Administration wants to cut 500 claims processors in FY 2005.

I see no reason why, at a time when we should be adding to the VA's 162 medical facilities, we are shutting them down. In a survey released in March of last year by the American Legion, patients wait an average of seven months to see a primary care physician at VA facilities and more than half reported that they had an appointment postponed by the VA, with an average wait of an additional 2½ months.

When they finally receive care at VA facilities, some of our veterans receive substandard care. In April of this year, an ABC News aired investigation of two VA facilities in the Cleveland area, found dirty bathrooms, halls filled with dirty linens, unclean examination rooms, and memos discussing broken sterilization machines. Former patients spoke of insensitive staff who often ignored patient needs; one woman spoke of patients begging for food and water.

As bad as conditions were before, they are likely to be worse now as the influx of wounded from Iraq grows. In August alone, more than 1,100 U.S. troops were wounded.

The treatment of those wounded in battle is a good measure of a nation, and Congress, and the president must take corrective action now. I realize that fixing a problem of the magnitude of that facing our veterans cannot happen overnight, but we can begin now. The House should do is to pass immediately H.R.

5057, which will expand the Army's innovative Disabled Soldier Support System to all of the military services. The bill was introduced by my colleagues, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. JONES, and enjoys support on both sides of the aisle. The DS3 program has helped more than 200 severely wounded soldiers to adjust to their new lives, but there are thousands more who need help.

We must also rely on the generosity of the American people to help wounded soldiers. Local communities, service clubs, religious congregations, schools and individuals can pitch in to help new veterans. Medical professionals, social workers, and therapists can volunteer to help until we can get the VA medical system into shape. Contractors can donate their services to remodel homes for soldiers who are paralyzed or have lost a limb. Automobile dealers can donate vehicles that are modified for the needs of their new owners. Students can volunteer their time to run errands, do laundry or just visit with these heroes, many of whom are only a few years older than they are.

Mr. Speaker, no American who has served this Nation in the armed services and been grievously wounded should ever be left to stare out a window and dream of a life that could have been. We are a stronger, prouder and more grateful nation than that.

IN HONOR OF MIM KELBER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mim Kelber once again. When Mim passed away this summer, we lost a woman whose clear vision and verbal acumen helped change the world. A brilliant writer, Mim used her facility with words to inspire supporters of the feminist, labor and environmental movements, among others.

Mim became friends with Bella Abzug when they were still in high school, and they attended Hunter College together. At Hunter, Mim became editor of the Hunter Bulletin while Bella was elected president of the student body. From 1943 to 1955, Mim was national news editor and Washington Bureau Chief of Federated Press, a national syndicated labor news service. She covered the founding meeting of the United Nations in San Francisco, and the labor movement, as well as Congress and the White House. She was an editor/writer for Science and Medicine from 1958 to 1970, leaving that position after Bella was elected to Congress (1971–78).

Mim served as Bella's executive assistant and chief speechwriter, co-edited Bella's Congressional newsletter and was her policy adviser on women, foreign policy, urban affairs and civil liberties. Family life was always of paramount importance to Mim, and she insisted on working out of Bella's New York office, so she could remain in her Brooklyn apartment with her husband, Harry Kelber, a labor journalist and educator, and their two daughters.

In 1974, Mim chaired the Media Committee of the National Women's Political Caucus and directed a national media campaign, Win With Women, a major effort to elect more women to

Congress. She was a policy consultant/writer for President Carter's National Advisory Committee for Women (1978–79) and co-authored the official report of the committee's Houston conference. She also co-authored Gender Gap: Bella Abzug's Guide to Political Power for American Women (1984); Women and Government: New Ways to Political Power (1994), and Women's Foreign Policy Directory (1988). In 1990 she co-founded Women's Environment and Development Organization with Bella, and remained involved with WEDO until her death. Mim leaves her beloved husband, Harry, two daughters, Karli and Laura, and five grandchildren.

Many people spoke movingly at a memorial service held for Mim on August 17, 2004, and I have already included some of their tributes in the RECORD. To honor Mim's memory, I am pleased to offer some additional statements given that day:

Robin Morgan: "I wrote down a few thoughts, because I could almost hear Mim saying, 'Don't wing it,' and adding, 'Quote me every chance you get.'"

When Harry kindly asked me to say a few words today, the first thing I thought of was Mim's lifelong love affair with words. Others have noted—as history will—the many details of her early, continued, consistently principled life, starting with political engagement even as a young girl and intensifying across the decades: the social-justice and labor and civil rights and peace and feminist and environmental organizations she founded, cofounded, and participated in with never-lessening commitment—and always more than slightly ahead of the curve.

Of course, just as it was difficult to speak of Bella Abzug without speaking of Mim, so the reverse is true. They met in the 1930s: young girls in high school. As Mim herself wrote: "Bella was class president and already a fearless leader, and I was shy and hung out in the library. She was an active young religious Zionist—I was an atheist marching in radical May Day parades." Later, they were both in the first class to enter tuition-free Hunter College's new Park Ave. building where—Mim's words again: "Bella majored in political science and was president of the Student Council—I was a journalism major, news editor of the Hunter Bulletin—and still shy." Over their lifetimes, Mimi and Bella loomed as giants in virtually every progressive movement of the time and—with all due respect to their beloved husbands (Harry; and the late Martin)—they were like a 20th-century version of a "Boston marriage": joined in political creativity and dedication, their relationship illuminated by laughter, trust, incredibly hard work, dauntingly long hours, the familiarity and ability to finish each others' sentences, HUGE fights, and makings-up. In sum, a lasting political and personal dynamic duo, an historic—and certainly odd—couple. It's no exaggeration to say that they were the Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony of our time. Personally, I never fully realized, just how challenging it had been for Mimi to write speeches or statements for Bella—for years—until I tried it for the first time myself. I just about killed myself, draft after draft, revision after revision. Finally, Bella approved the text. "It's OK," she shrugged, "but it sure ain't Mimi."

Nor were speeches all Mim penned, with and for Bella—but also on her own. Books. Articles. Manifestos. Reports. Position papers.

Drafts of legislation. Journalism and analysis and rousing rhetoric. Always intelligent, well-crafted, powerful. "Power," Mim once wrote to me, "is a word for which women should never apologize." It was one of many words she loved, in a life passionately dedicated to ideas and the language for expressing them. My only regret is that the world's sufferings and her resolve to alleviate them left too little time for her to write all the novels that shy girl in the library had dreamed of writing.

Because her passion was not confined to politics, Mim was one of two or three American political activists I have ever known to read serious literature—even poetry, even contemporary poetry—for pure pleasure. We sometimes snuck away for a quiet coffee at various conferences, and could be seen whispering secretly, almost guiltily, in corners. Were we discussing conference takeovers, purges, devious amendments? No. We were talking about Milton and Donne and Seamus Heaney; about Kafka, Mann, the Brontes, Mary Shelley, Aphra Behn, Hawthorne, Wolfe, Twain, Faulkner—and especially and always, Mim's greatest favorite, Jane Austen. That taste for understatement was reflected in Mim's own sharp wit—which was sometimes so dry it could pucker. She could get depressed, yes, and be bitter, too—at the state of the world, at stupidity, cruelty, cupidity, violence, hypocrisy, and at, as she growled once, "A bit too much so-called pragmatic compromise." But her anger and even, at times, despair was rooted in a brilliant grasp of history, and a too-rare capacity for irony. This surfaced again during the one of the last conversations I had with her, when she was in the hospital. We were talking by phone about the framers of the Constitution, and I made a passing reference to the familiar quote of Abigail Adams to her husband John, to "remember the ladies." Then, out of nowhere—or, rather, out of pain, fragility, and that fading memory we're all prone to—Mim sighed, "Yeah, but," then suddenly snapped back with John Adams' far-too-little known response to Abigail's plea: "Depend upon it we know better than to repeal our masculine systems."

In a culture cheapened by relentless commercial cheer and prone to instant, superficial fixes and fake spiritual grace, her acerbic intellect was bracing in its integrity. Even when discouraged, though, she never stopped pushing boundaries throughout her rich, full, consistently principled life. Perhaps because she had already been a fierce, uncompromising atheist when so young, she knew early on that there was no need to hope for any better heaven—and no need to fear any worse hells—than what life itself offers. So she deliberately faced into it and lived it utterly, in all its bleakness and all its glory. About this Mim was never shy.

She leaves a trail of light behind her, for us to read by and see our way by, in her political legacy, and in her cherished, well crafted words.

Our deep gratitude to Harry, their daughters, and the rest of her family, for having shared Mim Kelber with us—and with history."

Blanche Wissen Cook: "Modest and too often anonymous, Mim Kelber had the best ideas, wrote the best speeches, the most searching essays, the most valuable political analyses.

Mentor and guide, I learned something important from Mim every time we spoke on the

phone, every time we were together. Brilliant and precise, she was a great journalist, a splendid organizer, a peerless leader, a caring, considerate teacher, a warm and generous friend.

Perhaps best known publicly as Bella Abzug's partner during and after the congressional years, she was for most of us the person to consult with on the most difficult questions of political strategy on war and peace, women and policy.

One depended on Mim, who never asked anything for herself. Wise, discerning, informed, Mim was above all a great writer and editor. She turned the most difficult issues into the clearest arguments, the most vivid paragraphs.

She did not (so far as I know) finish her book, *Women and War*, but Harry, her devoted husband, beloved ally and champion, also our guide, gave us the gift of her publications, *The Bella Abzug Reader*, and also her novel, *A Pride of Women*.

We will miss her every day, and have forever the legacy of her bold vision, her steadfast commitment to goodness, justice, environmental sanity, and complete respect and love for the people she loved, all the people of earth.

June Zeitlin: "I had the good fortune to work with Mim over a period of almost 30 years—first, as a young lawyer working in Bella's Congressional office in Washington. We would always send our statements up to New York for Mim to look at—I didn't know her well then but I knew the work better be up to her high standards!

Inside the Carter Administration, I watched Bella and Mim and others transform the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year into a radical force for change. We still cherish its publications, which Mim not only wrote but infused with such far ranging ideas, we could go back to them today.

Their active involvement in international women's year activities and the nascent global women's movement led Bella and Mim to focus more of their attention on both US foreign policy and global policy in general. Seeing that it was mostly men who were making foreign policy and the policies that even at that time weren't working so well (at least if you were female or happened to be poor), they formed the Women's Foreign Policy Council to show the news media and foreign policy community that there were many women with expertise to draw on as well.

Mim and Bella saw the 1990s and particularly the Earth Summit at Rio as an opportunity to bring women—with their unique and diverse experiences, perspectives and voices to the critical issues of war and peace, environmental degradation, social and economic justice and of course women's rights. Together, they founded a new organization—the Women's Environment and Development Organization—WEDO and We Do!

This is not an organization about the environment in the traditional sense. To Bella and Mim, it was the planet! And their goal was a peaceful and healthy planet and human rights for all. Joining with amazing women leaders from around the world—Wangari Mathai, Peggy Antrobus, Vandana Shiva, Chief Bisi Ogunleye, Thais Coral and many others, they brought 1500 women from 83 countries to Miami in 1991 for the World Women's Con-

gress for a Healthy Planet. There, the participants formulated and adopted the Women's Action Agenda, a comprehensive global vision that articulated women's leadership and empowerment as catalysts for change.

Women's Action Agenda was a direct challenge from the world's women to government officials, the UN, and the World Bank to shape the official Rio platform and subsequent global policy documents. To lobby for this comprehensive agenda, WEDO established the Women's Caucus, bringing together women from North and South, East and West, in a systematic and participatory mechanism for bringing women's experiences and voices into UN processes. The results were extraordinary—a whole chapter devoted to gender equality and, for the first time, formal recognition of women's central role in achieving sustainable development.

By the time I joined WEDO in the fall of 1999, more than a year after Bella's death, the burden and responsibility for ensuring the ongoing work of the organization had fallen to a very committed core of the Board of Directors and the staff—all of whom were guided on a day to day basis by Mim. But Mim was already experiencing severe hearing loss and other physical ailments. And the world, too, had changed—despite her great and steadfast faith in the United Nations, she kept saying—"We have so many words on paper—we don't need any more words—we need actions!" But she herself was unable to join in the "actions" which left her deeply frustrated and sometimes discouraged.

Yet Mim was a giant—we have all drawn inspiration from her lifetime commitment to activism and her prodigious work. We have lost several of our giants in recent years—Bella, Patsy Mink, earlier this year Millie Jeffries, and now Mim. As she wrote in her novel, "God-dess help me!" But these were women and Mim was a woman "who would never give up and never give in." We at WEDO will continue their work and their fight—and make it our fight—and we are committed to never give up and never give in until we have achieved a peaceful and healthy planet with human rights for all."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mim Kelber, a remarkable woman whose words will continue to inspire future generations.

ARMY 1ST LIEUTENANT TYLER BROWN

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay homage to the life of a fallen American hero, U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant Tyler Hall Brown of Atlanta, Georgia. Lieutenant Brown was killed by sniper fire on September 14, 2004 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, a town 70 miles west of Baghdad. Tyler was leading his unit on a reconnaissance patrol in the Iraqi town when he and his unit were ambushed by insurgents. He was a heroic leader to his men even until his passing as he, though mortally wounded by the sniper's shot, was able to give a warning to his men, preventing any others from being injured.

His fellow officer, Captain Daniel M. Gade considered Lieutenant Brown one of the finest officers he'd known, saying that he was an inspirational leader, both on and off the field of battle who during numerous enemy contacts, was calm, leading his men with bravery and aplomb. He loved his men, and they loved him in return.

That is how Tyler lived life, a born leader, a born officer that had a passion for people and a passion for life. His leadership qualities were identified early. While President of his high school senior class at Woodward Academy, his classmates considered him a politician in the making; patriotic, red, white and blue to the core; and figured he could even become President of the United States some day.

After high school, Tyler proudly followed in the footsteps of his father, Carey and his older brother, Brent to Georgia Tech, which is my alma mater. At Georgia Tech, Tyler served as President of the Student Government Association for the 1999–2000 academic year, a position that his father had also held while in school. His hard work, dedication, and commitment to inclusion inspired fellow students to become more involved on campus and to get the most out of their college days. Tyler graduated in 2001 with dual Bachelor of Science degrees in management and in history, society and technology. Commissioned from the ROTC program at Georgia Tech, he earned paratrooper's wings and completed the rigorous Army Ranger training course before joining the Army's 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry, based at Camp Hovey in Tongduchon City, Korea.

Tyler was among 3,600 troops of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division deployed to Iraq in early September from South Korea. He had only been in Iraq 2 weeks when he was killed. Tyler had been approved for service in the Army's famous 3rd Infantry Regiment, known as the Old Guard, one of the oldest and most respected Infantry Regiments in the United States Army. The Old Guard has the responsibilities of guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, serving as the Army's ceremonial unit and, as an active and well-trained Infantry Regiment, the 3rd Infantry is also responsible for the protection of Washington, DC.

Instead of accepting this prestigious assignment he chose to go to Iraq with his men. That decision exemplified his life, putting the good of others in front of his own interests.

On September 28, Tyler finally was joined with the Old Guard as they escorted him to his final place of rest with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. He was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantryman Badge for his heroic service.

I had the privilege of being present at his interment and to pay respect to a young man who in only 26 years had made a difference and touched more lives than many do in their entire life. As the bugler began to play taps and the honor guard fired a rifle volley salute, I couldn't help but look around at some of those lives who stood beside me and see the heaviness in their hearts and the sadness in their eyes, but I could tell we were saying goodbye to a truly special individual.

My heart went out to the Brown family, a proud American family giving so much to their country, as the flag that draped Tyler's coffin was folded and presented to his mother, Sally,

and the medals that had been earned by the ultimate sacrifice were placed into the hands of his father.

The heavy rain that fell down that day was fitting to the somber mood created by this loss. Tyler Brown was a young man, a son, a brother, a friend, an officer, a leader who left this world with so much potential and so much ahead of him.

His brother Brent said that Tyler "died for the country he loved, doing what he wanted to do. He lived well and died a hero. He lived life to the fullest, he truly did. He became a role model to me."

Mr. Speaker, Tyler Brown in his life and in his death has become a role model to me, a role model for all of us. I salute his service to our nation, the love he showed to his family and all those with whom he came into contact. We know that he is in a better place now and pray this knowledge will provide some measure of comfort for his family in the days ahead.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown along with the entire Brown family are to be commended and honored for their sacrifice and my thoughts and prayers remain with them as they endure this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN J.
FINKELMAN.

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on May 2, 2004, Steven J. Finkelman received the Southwest Achievement Award from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and I am proud to memorialize here in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the accolades Steven received as he accepted this prestigious award. Steven is a devoted father and husband, and he is equally devoted to his community and his country. He has devoted countless hours of his life to preserve, protect and defend the United States of America, and he understands, as I do, that America's strongest ally in our war against terrorism is the State of Israel.

Here again tonight I want to record my immense pride in Steven's achievements and my gratitude to him for all that he has done to improve the lives of our neighbors in Houston, and for his tireless work to promote the principles of individual freedom grounded in faith and self reliance that have America the greatest and most prosperous nation in the history of the world.

Congratulations Steven, on receiving AIPAC's Southwest Region Distinguished Leadership Award for 2004. No one deserves this high honor more than you do. I am pleased to memorialize here in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD my own congratulations, your speech as you received the award, and the eloquent words of our good friend Melvin Dow as he introduced you.

AIPAC PRESENTATION TO STEVE FINKELMAN

The video mentioned that Steve is the child of a Holocaust survivor. That fact sends two messages about this presentation to Steve.

First, it is a tribute to Steve's family that one generation arrives in this country with nothing, and a generation later the family

operates a respected successful business, has educated its children and grandchildren, and Steve, as the video pictures reflect, is a personal friend of Senators, Congressmen and other government leaders—the American dream coming true.

Second, the story illustrates the unique glory of this wonderful country which takes, in the words on the Statue of Liberty, "the tired, the poor, the wretched refuse of a teeming shore" and offers them the golden opportunity to enjoy freedom and to use their talents and energy to be whatever they can be.

Hillel said: "Do not separate yourself from the community. Be involved and be a part of the community." Steve is the paradigm of Hillel's concept.

Steve is in numerous Jewish organizations, not just as a member, but as an active, involved leader. I will tick off a few:

First, naturally, I will mention AIPAC—Steve is on the National Executive committee and the Houston Advisory Council.

He also has served or currently serves on the board of directors of these organizations:

The Republican Jewish Coalition;
The Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA);

The Institute of Hebraic Christian Studies;
State of Israel Bonds (Steve has been President of the Prime Ministers Club);

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev;
Congregation Beth Yeshurun;

Holocaust Museum of Houston (Steve has served on the Board of Directors or Advisory Board since the inception of that organization);

Anti-Defamation League;
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston;

Camp Young Judaea;
University of Texas at Austin Hillel.

I could go on, but that gives you the idea.

Steve has won awards from the Jewish Federation of Houston, Hillel, State of Israel Bonds, and Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Israel.

He spent a year studying and working in Israel. He's been to Israel 16 times.

A tribute to Steve would not be complete without also paying tribute to Sandra—his wonderful partner of almost 17 years. Steve and Sandra share not only community property but also a heart-felt appreciation of the American dream, a profound dedication to the security of Israel, and a deep commitment to Jewish values. In the latter connection, their three children all attended Jewish day schools and all attended Young Judaea summer camp.

For all these reasons, AIPAC is proud and honored to present its Southwest Achievement Award for 2004 to Steve Finkelman.

STEVEN J. FINKELMAN—RESPONSE FOR AIPAC
SW REGION DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP
AWARD

Thank you, Melvin. Receiving this award from you makes it even sweeter!

Friends! I am filled with humility and gratitude for being chosen as a recipient for this award. I have so much respect for AIPAC and for its vital mission to support the U.S.-Israel relationship. Being recognized by AIPAC, therefore, means so much to me.

When I heard Joy's beautiful rendition of the national anthems earlier this evening, I didn't hear two separate songs, rather two verses of the same song.

In my mind, love for the United States and love for the State of Israel don't compete with one another; they compliment each other.

Memory can be fickle and in the whirlwind of current events and competing interests, it is easy to forget the fundamentals. No one

does a better job keeping us focused than AIPAC.

Tonight, I am inspired . . .

Inspired by the incredible dedication of people whom I have met through my involvement in politics . . . grassroots activists, elected officials, candidates—all of you have my deepest admiration.

Inspired by our Christian Zionist friends who mean so much to me and who have opened their hearts to Israel and to the Jewish people.

Inspired by the words we heard earlier this evening from Sen. John Cornyn and the members of our local Congressional Delegation, who prioritized their schedules to be here tonight. And by all the other elected officials who have joined us here tonight as well.

Inspired by our wonderful Houston Jewish Community and the professionals and lay leaders with whom I have the privilege of working. Each organization plays an important role in the totality we call Klal Yisrael.

Inspired by a strong spiritual attachment to Judaism. My faith and the values that derive from our rich heritage are the underpinnings for my political activism.

I want to thank Relda for sharing this honor with me. And to the entire AIPAC staff who worked so hard on this event.

As a Holocaust survivor, my father's legacy to me is the sacred duty to remember those who did not survive. My mother, of blessed memory, was an example of unending endurance and inner strength, and my mother-in-law's zest for life is very special to me.

Sandra and I have been blessed with three wonderful children—Jordan, Seth and Marissa. They have learned to cope with the evenings that both Mom and Dad are out at meetings. However, Friday nights are spent together at Beth Yeshurun and Shabbat Dinner afterwards.

I hope my children will look around this room and see how many of you have taken the time to support the important mission of AIPAC.

Things can get pretty crazy in our home between all the meetings and events Sandra and I are involved with. Yet, Sandra still makes sure that there are three meals a day on the table, and that each kid gets to wherever they need to go. She is an awesome mother, wife and partner. I am so fortunate to have a wife who is not only supportive, but who makes me proud for all that she does. Sandra, I love you.

At one time or another, all my other family members who are here to support me this evening end up pitching in to help in one way or another. Thank you all.

I close with a hope that each of us this evening has been inspired to increase our level of pro-Israel activism at least one notch—it begins with education on the issues. There is no better place for that than AIPAC . . . get involved with candidates, elected officials, and the political party of your choice . . . or better yet, with the political party of my choice. Not to worry, Mark, that's as partisan as it gets tonight.

The great sage Hillel asked—“If I am not for myself who will be? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?” The answer to the question “when” is “now!” Let's go do it!

Thank you.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL CRABBERS 700TH VICTORY IN FOOTBALL

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues, Representative JOANN DAVIS and Representative ED SCHROCK, I rise with great pride to call attention to a group of young students who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Hampton High School Crabbers football team won their 700th game last night. By doing so, the Crabbers became one of only 11 high school football programs in the Nation to reach 700 victories. This is a remarkable feat and I believe they deserve formal recognition for their accomplishment.

Hampton High School began playing football in 1899, so the legacy of this milestone extends to the hundreds of players who have worn the Crabber uniform and to coaches such as Mike Smith, Dick Esleeck, James “Suey” Eason, and Johnny Palmer. Coach Smith has been head coach for more than half of the Crabbers' 700 wins, and has been a part of more than 400 victories.

My colleagues JOANN DAVIS, ED SCHROCK, and I would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to the Hampton High School players and their families, Coach Smith and the rest of his coaching staff, Hampton High alumni, and the entire Hampton High community for their remarkable accomplishment.

THE INCREASED MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF OUR RETURNING SOLDIERS AND VETERANS

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, October 3 through October 9 is Mental Illness Awareness Week. During this week, it is critical that Members of Congress and the American public recognize the increased mental health needs of our returning soldiers and veterans.

As co-Chair of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, I rise today to express my strong support for expansion of the mental health benefits offered to our veterans and the men and women currently serving in our armed services. Those who have witnessed the atrocities of war must have professional assistance to deal with the traumatic memories that they are going to live with for the rest of their lives. These traumatic memories can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, a dangerous biological condition affecting a soldier's body, mind, and certainly family. Unfortunately, soldiers returning home often do not receive the comprehensive care they need. Some even sign their rights-to-service away.

Many of the soldiers who served in recent wars in the Middle East have a desperate need for mental health services. Here are some alarming statistics. Out of 15,000 veterans returning from the Middle East who

have utilized VA healthcare services, 12 percent presented symptoms related to psychological trauma. It is estimated that more than 25 percent of troops returning from Iraq are being examined for mental health concerns. These are startling statistics and dramatically demonstrate the need for more mental health services.

We must concern ourselves that many soldiers find it difficult to obtain treatment or fail to seek help because of the stigma attached to mental illness due to a lack of sensitivity. Just look at our jails and our homeless population. Our communities and our social service system are affected, yet we refuse to admit a problem exists.

I am also deeply troubled and concerned, as are many women Members of Congress, with our returning women soldiers who may have been exposed to the traumatic experience of sexual assault. For example, a horrendous 8 percent of female Gulf War Veterans experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault during deployment. The PTSD from sexual assault is just as harmful as combat related PTSD. This must cease immediately.

In the past three decades, the Veterans' Administration has taken great strides toward better mental care services for men and women, and there is now a better understanding of PTSD because of research conducted through the VA health system. More remains to be done. Twenty-five years ago, the VA offered no PTSD services, no Vet Centers, no homeless services. Today these services exist though limited. However, many veterans will not benefit from these services because of a lack of access. There are just not enough Vet Centers, and the need for services will only continue to grow as a result of U.S. involvement throughout the world.

Additional funding for the VA health system must be appropriated to improve access to care. The President's proposal of funding increase of only 2 percent for the VA health system does not even cover increases in cost of living and is insufficient even to maintain the inadequate current level services. The demand on PTSD services has not kept up with the increase need of services. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have greatly increased the need for these vital services. Some veterans who need weekly or biweekly follow-up appointments for therapy are forced to wait weeks, and in many cases even months. This is unconscionable. The VA does not have enough mental health professionals due in part to lack of funding, and the President's low funding proposal will exacerbate this problem. Our returning soldiers and veterans deserve better from their government. They have earned what was promised them.

The Bush administration has repeatedly emphasized that the war in Iraq is not another Vietnam. However, by not providing veterans the necessary mental health resources, we can assure the same high rates of suicide that existed among Vietnam veterans. As we conclude our recognition of mental illness awareness this week, we will continue our fight to ensure that our veterans and service personnel will be able to receive the mental health services they deserve. Their sacrifice for our beloved country paid for them.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4200,
RONALD W. REAGAN NATIONAL
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of adoption of this conference report which authorizes \$447.2 billion for the U.S. Defense Department (DOD) and the national security programs of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

As is always the case, there are many provisions in the final version of this massive bill every year which I enthusiastically support and others that I do not. On balance, this conference report has more merits than shortcomings.

First, I am pleased that it provides more generous pay and benefits for the men and women who currently serve in our armed forces and for those who have done so in the past.

It authorizes a 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise for our troops. This is the sixth consecutive year that Congress will have provided a pay raise for our men and women in uniform greater than the level of private sector pay raises. This will help to further reduce the gap between average military and private sector pay. Similarly, it makes permanent the increased rates for imminent danger pay from \$150 to \$225 per month, and the family separation allowance from \$100 to \$250 per month, while also eliminating out-of-pocket housing expenses.

For members of the National Guard and Reserves, it extends several special pay provisions and bonuses through December 31, 2005, including bonuses for enlistment, reenlistment, and prior service. Reservists and family members will also receive enhanced TRICARE benefits.

For our Nation's military retirees and their survivors, this legislation goes further in protecting their financial security. It will eliminate the Social Security offset under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) by increasing in stages the annuities paid to survivors of military retirees who are 62 years of age or older from 35 percent of retired pay.

Last year's version of this legislation, made significant and overdue strides in redressing the disparity by which disabled military retirees have their pension benefits reduced, dollar for dollar, by the amount of disability benefits they receive from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It authorized full concurrent receipt to be phased in over 10 years. This bill makes further progress by removing disabled retirees, who are rated as 100 percent disabled, from the 10-year phase-in period. These deserving military retirees will be authorized for full concurrent receipt effective next January.

Second, we now know that our troops were poorly served by Pentagon war planners in advance of the invasion of Iraq. Many of them were sent into harm's way without adequate supplies of body armor, armed Humvees, and other essential equipment. This bill will help correct these inexcusable miscalculations by providing a \$572 million increase to speed the

production of up-armored Humvees plus \$100 million for add-on armor kits for Humvees already in use.

Third, it is no secret that current troop strength is inadequate and our troops in Iraq and elsewhere are stretched too thin. To address this military manpower shortage, this bill increases active Army end strength from the present level of 482,400 to 502,400 in 2005 and authorizes further increases to 512,400 by 2009. Similarly, it increases the Marine Corps from its current level of 175,000 to 178,000 in 2005 and to 184,000 by 2009.

Fourth, in their recent presidential debate, both President Bush and U.S. Senator JOHN KERRY spoke about the importance of stepping up nonproliferation efforts to curb the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and to lessen the danger of terrorists acquiring these horrible weapons. While I'd have preferred a higher level of funding, this bill provides \$409.2 million for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Initiative that will help dismantle, secure, and eliminate WMD and WMD facilities in the former Soviet Union.

On the negative side, this legislation provides \$10 billion for a bogus missile defense program. In defiance of physics, this Congress continues to shovel ever increasing sums of taxpayer funds to deploy a missile defense system that has not been tested adequately nor demonstrated to work.

There is continued authority and funding in this legislation for further research on new tactical nuclear weapons. Specifically, it provides an additional \$27.9 million for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator—the so-called nuclear bunker buster, plus an additional \$9 million for advanced concept initiatives. While these sums may not seem all that significant in a \$447.2 billion bill, they continue our nation down a dangerous and destabilizing path. By continuing to fund this type of research; the U.S. is opening Pandora's box and encouraging other nations to develop and deploy supposedly more usable nuclear weapons.

Finally, I am disappointed that a provision authored by U.S. Senators BOXER and COLLINS was dropped from this conference report that would have afforded stronger protection for women serving in our armed forces who are victims of rape. More specifically, it would have permitted women victimized by rape to receive medical abortions without having to pay for the procedures themselves.

Recent statistics from DOD reveal that as many as 6 percent of active-duty service women report having been sexually assaulted. There have been 112 reports of sexual misconduct over the past 18 months in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan.

U.S. Army officials recently issued a policy statement to Army medical professionals clarifying their position on care for victims of sexual assault. In it, they instructed that "the Army has existing medical and legal policies and programs to assist leaders. Use these resources to provide victims with immediate medical care, follow-up counseling, and seamless victim assistance." However, by banning abortion funding for rape victims in the military, this provision will severely impede the ability of rape victims to receive the appropriate medical care and assistance they need. This ban further injures the women who are bravely defending our country, and keeps victims who have already suffered an unspeakable assault from exercising their constitutionally-protected right to choose.

On balance this legislation will enhance our Nation's security.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES DENTAL
AND VISION BENEFITS ENHANCE-
MENT ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, visual health and oral health are integral to our general health. Eye and oral diseases are progressive and become more complex over time. Our ability to eat, see, read, learn, and communicate all depend on good visual and oral health.

Periodic eye and dental examinations are an important part of routine preventive health care. Many visual and oral conditions present no obvious symptoms. Therefore, individuals are often unaware that problems exist.

There are safe and effective measures to prevent the most common eye and dental diseases. That is why early diagnosis and treatment are important for maintaining good visual and oral health and why a vision and dental benefit should be made available to federal employees and annuitants.

We know that in 1987 the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) stopped plans in the Federal Health Benefits program from adding new vision and dental packages. OPM did so for various reasons. However, that decision was made over 15 years ago, and it is time to take a fresh look at how we can meet the visual and oral health needs of federal employees.

In the long run, preventive care, through periodic examinations and doctor visits, will help keep down long term vision and dental costs due to early detection.

Therefore, I am extremely pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 5295, which permits OPM to contract with qualified companies to offer dental and vision benefits to federal employees and retirees under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program.

I am also pleased that this bill includes a provision that requires OPM to study the feasibility of providing hearing benefits to federal employees and retirees. Currently, over 28 million Americans suffer hearing loss, half of whom are under the age of 50. Hearing loss is not just a problem affecting adults. Thirty-three children are born everyday with some form of hearing loss. With early detection and treatment, these children can be taught in regular classes, saving a school system as much as \$500,000 during a 12-year education.

I included similar language in H.R. 3751, which passed the House in June. Like vision and dental benefits, most insurance plans do not provide hearing benefits, such as coverage for hearing aids. I believe the Federal Government should consider taking a lead in this area.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4200,
RONALD W. REAGAN NATIONAL
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF
HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us contains several extremely important provisions. They are designed to provide essential medical care and compensation for the brave Americans who worked from the 1950s through the 1970s to build this Nation's atomic weapons, often at serious risk to their own health and well-being. In far too many cases, these atomic energy workers were deliberately misled about the serious health risks their occupational exposure to radiation, heavy metals, and other toxic and dangerous substances would entail. Although Congress enacted the Energy Employee Occupation Illness Compensation Program Act, EEOICPA, in 2000 to provide such workers with essential medical care for specified types of cancer and compensation for their inability to work due to illness, a scarce few actually received it. Moreover, a number of workers died without the government ever making good on its promises to recognize their critical contributions to national defense work. In such cases, the surviving spouses and dependent children of these workers remain justly entitled to compensation.

Mr. Speaker, in the early 1950s there were two atomic weapons employers in my district, the 11th Congressional District of New York. One such plant, the American Machine and Foundry, AMF, designed and produced industrial equipment for the Atomic Energy Commission. By carrying out metal machining work for the Atomic Energy Commission—with uranium, thorium and zirconium—employees at this plant were exposed on a daily basis to large volumes of radioactive and hazardous metals. A second plant in my district, the Wolff-Alport Chemical Corporation, procured thorium sludge for stockpiling by the Atomic Energy Commission. Wolff-Alport Chemical workers were likewise exposed to thousands of pounds of dangerous radioactive substances.

Mr. Speaker, the provisions in this bill will settle long-standing health care and compensation claims by providing guaranteed Federal benefits for eligible employees whose work in Department of Energy nuclear facilities caused serious illness, impairment and/or dis-

abling conditions. Likewise, this bill will guarantee Federal benefits for the uranium miners, millers and transporters made ill as a result of their work and covered under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program, RECA.

From Brooklyn, NY, to Berkeley, CA, the atomic energy workers and surviving relatives have been hurt twice. First, many workers contracted grave diseases, often after a long latency period, as a result of exposure to dangerous nuclear and toxic materials. Second, the workers and their families were hurt for too many years by a policy of denial with respect to our national responsibility to them. It is imperative we reverse this policy of denial for once and for all. This bill accomplishes just that. It provides a guaranteed Federal benefit for the critical health care and compensation these workers and their families both require and deserve. In closing, I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from Missouri, the ranking minority member of the Armed Services Committee, as well as minority and majority staff, for their hard work and persistence in making certain these deserving workers and families will finally get justice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House late in the afternoon on Thursday, September 30, due to an unavoidable commitment, and for the first two votes on Monday, October 4, due to mechanical problems on the plane from Newark International Airport. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: On rollcall vote 484, H.J. Res. 106, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage, "no"; on rollcall vote 485, H. Con. Res. 501, honoring the life and work of Duke Ellington, "aye"; on rollcall vote 486, H. Res. 792, honoring the United Negro College Fund on the occasion of the Fund's 60th anniversary, "aye"; on rollcall vote 487, S. Con. Res. 76, recognizing that November 2, 2004, shall be dedicated to "A Tribute to Survivors" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "aye"; and on rollcall vote 488, S. 1814, the Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center legislation, "aye."

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the Intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I voted against the Carter amendment and the Green amendment to H.R. 10, the 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act. I certainly understand why my colleagues introduced these amendments. Their intention was to make us safer.

However, the amendments are not drafted well enough and their operation relies on particularly vague underlying statutory definitions and agency decisions. In addition, the purpose of each amendment can be achieved under present law in virtually every case.

In particular, these amendments rely upon the definition of terrorist act and terrorist organization. One would have to have overwhelming faith, perhaps even blind faith, in current and future administrations to believe that these amendments will be immune from misuse.

I have seen the State Department place or remove organizations on the terrorist list, influenced, at least in substantial part, by diplomatic, political, and even trade considerations.

The Carter amendment essentially attempts to create a felony murder rule for terrorist offenses. If a defendant is part of a conspiracy to commit a felony, and someone dies in commission of that felony, the harshest penalties are applied, even if the conspiracy did not envision anybody dying. I support felony murder rules, particularly those applied to violent terrorist conspiracies. Unfortunately, this amendment, in the hands of unwise or politically motivated prosecutors, could be used to seek the death penalty for those involved in a Sierra Club protest at federal facilities, if there was some tragic and perhaps unforeseeable action.

I am confident that the Judiciary Committee will work on these matters in the weeks and months ahead and design legislation to bring us the safety-enhancing objectives of the foregoing amendments, without raising the same concerns.