EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF GEORGE STRYDIO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Strydio for his support and remarkable work in helping others who are living with cancer. Mr. Strydio was honored at the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center's cocktail reception on October 27, 2004, in Bayonne, NJ.

At the age of 67, Mr. Strydio underwent a life-changing experience during a battle with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a type of cancer. After surviving chemotherapy, several cases of pneumonia, and other health complications, including learning how to walk again, he decided to channel his energy into helping others with the disease. He devoted two years to visiting cancer patients before determining that he should establish his own support organization, which he named the Community Cancer Support Group.

The group is a valuable resource consisting of a team of people who reach out to offer support, encouragement, and hope to cancer patients. The Community Cancer Support Group holds monthly meetings and brings in guest speakers that address the educational, psychological, spiritual, and medical needs of its members.

Mr. Strydio grew up in Bayonne and was an outstanding high school football and baseball player. At one time a catching prospect for the Brooklyn Dodgers, Mr. Strydio shifted his focus in 1970 to teaching Okinawa-style martial arts called Isshin Ryu. After more than 30 years, he is still teaching at St. Peter's College.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Strydio, a champion in many respects, for his courageous battle with cancer and his establishment of the Community Cancer Support Group.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN AMO HOUGHTON AND CONGRESSMAN JACK QUINN

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, November 19, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend two colleagues who will not be here when the next congressional session begins—Congressman AMO HOUGHTON and Congressman JACK QUINN. It has been a true honor to work with them. They will be greatly missed.

While we did not share the same political party, that fact never prevented us from working together to improve Upstate New York. These two men had very different back-grounds: JACK QUINN was a union steelworker and teacher before entering politics; AMO HOUGHTON was head of Corning Glass Works. Yet, they are good friends who have represented the working families in their districts well and with grace.

In 2002, when a State redistricting plan proposed to match these two men against each other, I think their statements at the time reflect their character and friendship:

“In my heart, I don’t want to knock out Jack Quinn,” HOUGHTON said. “He’s an extraordinary guy.”

“I hope it is not against my good friend, Amo Houghton,” QUINN said. “If it is, I’ll just invite him to dinner, maybe take our wives, and talk about what is best for the people of western New York.”

Through their committee posts, both moderate Members fought for the interests of New York State.

As the former chairman of a Fortune 500 company, AMO HOUGHTON understood how the Federal Government could play a role in sustaining and creating local businesses. As a senior member on the House Ways and Means Committee, Representative HOUGHTON partnered with me to help create and maintain the wool duty relief program, which is credited with stemming the loss of manufacturing jobs in the suit industry. Duty relief on imported wool suiting fabrics has proven critical to the survival of Hickey-Freeman, a high-end suit manufacturer that has long operated in Rochester.

I was privileged to work closely with Representative QUINN after the redistricting process in 2002 when we came to share the city of Buffalo. JACK went out of his way to introduce me to the area and its people. He is truly the “Big Man from Buffalo.” As one example of his effort to improve the local economy, we cohosted a widely attended forum with local manufacturers to discuss what action the Federal Government must take to ensure that western New York and the rest of the United States will remain competitive in the manufacturing sector.

I will miss the partnership I enjoyed with both men, and their decency and respect for this institution. I have heard it said that legislation is the art of compromise, and both of these men understood that principle. We need more people with the ability to reach across the aisle.

I know that this is not the last we will hear from either of them. Both of them still have much to contribute to public discourse and Upstate New York.

I wish both of them the best of luck and continued success in their future endeavors.
Federal law already protects medical professionals who refuse to take abortion training.

Is this what American women can look forward to under the new Republican “mandate?”

The rolling back of their fundamental rights, an elimination of their healthcare options, and an undermining of their representation in Congress.

I, for one, certainly hope not, but this action does not look good and should put us all on alert.

I urge my colleagues to remove the Weldon provision from the FY05 Omnibus spending bill.

IN HONOR OF THE URBAN LEAGUE OF UNION COUNTY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Urban League of Union County for its exceptional service to the community. The Urban League celebrated its 60th anniversary at the 34th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner on November 12, 2004, in Newark, New Jersey.

The Urban League was originally established to help African Americans secure economic independence and work for civil rights. Decades later, it has grown and expanded to assist the entire community with health needs, employment services, housing assistance, and educational opportunities.

The Urban League offers the residents of Union County a wide range of services to improve their quality of life. The Economic Development and Employment Department offers assistance with interview techniques, job referrals, career counseling, and job placement. In addition, it offers a Summer Youth Employment Program and a Work Opportunity Program for welfare recipients, as well as evening classes on computer literacy.

Working diligently to address important health issues, the Urban League has created the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Assistance Program, which works to positively influence teenagers by educating and counseling them about relationships, sexual development, and other related issues.

The organization has also established a Housing Community Development Department, which provides counseling on a variety of housing issues including mortgages, consumer credit and budget management, weatherization, and rental assistance. Other services include grant programs, emergency homeless programs, and Federal Emergency Management Assistance.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Urban League of Union County for six decades of outstanding service to the community. Its extensive services will continue to help improve the lives of countless individuals and families throughout Union County.

TRIBUTE TO MCCULLOUGH WILLIAMS JR. OF YOUNGSTOWN, OH

HON. TIM RYAN
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, my remarks today are to pay tribute to the life of my friend, McCullough Williams Jr. of Youngstown, Ohio.

Mr. Williams has long been active in service to the community. He served as Third Ward Councilman, Housing Coordinator for the City of Youngstown, and President of the Youngstown City Board of Education. He was appointed by the Governor to the State of Ohio Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers where he served as President. Mr. Williams was also a member of the National Board for Funeral Directors.

As well as being the founder of the Sterling-McCullough Williams Funeral Homes of Warren and Youngstown, and the former owner of numerous other businesses, Mr. Williams was a member of the Centenary United Methodist Church, where he served as trustee, the Robert Deliberating Club, Youngstown State University Penguin Club, Charter Member of the Youngstown Mahoning County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Rising Sun Masonic Lodge No. 90 A&FM, Member of the National Parliamentary Association, and Life Member of the NAACP.

Mr. Williams has been awarded the Buckeye Elks Community Service Award, the U.S. Small Business Administration Ohio Minority Advocate of the Year, the Ohio Expo Businessman of the Year, the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Leadership Award, the Martin Luther King Jr. Recognition Award, the YWCA Woman of the Year Award, the NAACP Ebony Man of the Year Award, the Curbitone Coaches Hall of Fame, the Ebony Life Hall of Fame, the YSU Alumni Relations Distinguished Citizen Award, and the Ohio Governor Bob Taft Award for 50 Plus Years of Marriage and Community Service.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of attending Mr. Williams’ funeral service. It was obvious to everyone who heard his family speak that McCullough Williams was an extraordinary individual who’s caring and commitment to the community guided his life of service. His family is a great testament to his life. They will keep his values and passion alive. In short, our community and our country are better off because Mr. Williams lived. My prayers are with Mr. Williams and his family, and we honor his life here today.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4670

HON. RUSH D. HOLT
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce letters of endorsement for the Center for Scientific and Technical Assessment Act of 2005 (H.R. 4670). This legislation represents the enabling bipartisan legislation with Mr. Houghton, Mr. Moran of Virginia, Mr. Honda, Mr. Gordon, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Waxman, Mr. Oliver, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Castle, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Frost, Mr. Berman, Mr. Ruppersberger, and Mr. Ehlers.

The Center for Scientific and Technical Assessment would be a bicameral and bipartisan resource providing Congress with highly respected, impartial analysis and assessment of scientific and technical issues and would enable Congress to better oversee the Federal science and technology programs, which receive over $130 billion, annually. Finally, the Center also would help the Congress to better understand complex technical issues by providing timely information to members of Congress and our Committees to make difficult voting decisions and funding tradeoffs. There is growing support for H.R. 4670 among our Nation’s best science and technology professionals. I submit the following letter of endorsement by several professional societies for H.R. 4670:

IN HONOR OF THE URBAN LEAGUE OF UNION COUNTY

HON. RUSH HOLT
OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, DC.

HON. AMO HOUGHTON
OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HOLT AND HOUGHTON:

America’s national security and economic well-being demand that the United States remain the world’s leaders in advanced technology in the 21st century. However, technological development is advancing with unprecedented speed and complexity in a truly global environment and other countries, for the first time in U.S. history, are now threatening America’s scientific and technological preeminence. Members of Congress, now more than ever, need to have access to objective, timely, and sound science, engineering and technology-related assessment pertinent to legislation and the complex policy issues before them.

The sheer volume and complexity of the technological data facing federal legislators necessitate some mechanism for balanced, non-partisan and technologically-informed analysis provided in a judicious manner. A Center for Scientific and Technical Assessment as envisioned in H.R. 4670 would satisfy these criteria by operating under the highly respected Government Accountability Office (GAO) to be overseen by bipartisan, bicameral Technical Assessment Board (TAB) consisting of Members of Congress and the Comptroller General of the GAO, to provide non-partisan peer reviews of all CSTA reports.

We are encouraged that this bill takes into consideration the GAO’s successful technical assessment pilot programs as well as the GAO study “Technology Assessment: Providing Independent Assessments of Technologies,” for guidance when drafting this legislation. We feel that H.R. 4670, if passed, would provide a valuable service to members of the House and Senate in making informed decisions on the complex technological issues of the times.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in advancing this important legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,
American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES),
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE),
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE),
American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
Federation of Materials Societies (FMS).
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers—United States of America (IEEE-USA).
National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE).
Optical Society of America.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF MRS. LENA ROBERT MURRELL-WHITE

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the American mother in the embodiment of Mrs. Lena Roberta Murrell-White. She has raised nine children and has nurtured a throng of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her labor helped to build ships during World War II, supported the effort during the Korean War, sent a son off to the Vietnam War, and provided more sons and daughters that have helped to build the American economy. Through her strong faith in a loving God she has brought light to her community in Camden, New Jersey. Mrs. Murrell-White was born and raised in the great State of North Carolina. In 1950 she married and raised her family. Now, at the age of 84 this paragon of mothers has neither slackened her pace, eased her resolve nor reduced her strength. She remains faithful to the Lord, committed to her family and solidly supports her community. So today she is to be commended for her efforts and receive the heartfelt gratitude of the Congress of the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF NICK STARITA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nick Starita for his exceptional community service and passion for helping others. Mr. Starita was honored at the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center’s cocktail reception on October 27, 2004, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Mr. Starita has devoted more than 30 years of service to the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Association of Hudson County. During his extensive time at UCP, he has helped the organization expand and diversify its services. His contributions include helping UCP establish a second facility, securing greater accessibility to therapy services, and developing new programs to better serve Hudson County residents. The organization also offers an Adult Special Needs Program to help those who are developmentally disabled and require special medical assistance, and a day care program that works with both able-bodied and disabled children. The time and passion Mr. Starita has dedicated to UCP throughout the years has transformed the organization into an extensive network that includes three facilities and services ranging from advocacy to accessible transportation.

Mr. Starita has demonstrated his strong leadership skills as UCP’s executive director for the past 16 years and previously, as a member of the Board of Directors for 13 years.

Always striving to help others, Mr. Starita has volunteered at the A. Harry Moore School and served on the boards of numerous community and civic organizations, including the State Interagency Coordinating Council, the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities, the Center for Enabling Technology, and the Boy Scouts Council, to name a few.

Mr. Starita has received awards from numerous organizations for his work, including the United Way of Hudson County, the PTA, the New Jersey State Parent Advisory Council for the Handicapped, and the Latin American Kiwanis Club of West New York.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Nick Starita for his outstanding service and tireless efforts to help the United Cerebral Palsy Association successfully achieve its mission to serve the people of Hudson County.

HONORING WORK AND LIFE OF DR. MELVIN DYSTER

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor the work and life of Dr. Melvin Dyster of Niagara Falls, New York, a family practitioner. I have known Dr. Dyster who this past weekend was honored by the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center for 50 years of practicing medicine.

Dr. Dyster is 77 years old and still makes early morning rounds seven days a week at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, sees patients at his office, and students at Niagara University in Lewiston, New York. Dr. Dyster has had many accomplishments over the years. He started a Family Practice Residency Program in 1976 at the hospital to avert a shortage of primary care doctors. He became involved with a fledgling migrant worker clinic 25 years ago. He secured donated drugs for the clinic, and encouraged residents and medical students to become involved with the clinic, the County Health Department, and Memorial Medical Center, which now sends its mobile clinic to the farms in the area.

His accomplishments have led to many honors and awards. In 1995, Dr. Dyster was recognized as Doctor of the Year by the New York State Academy of Family Practice. He has received an honorary doctorate degree from Niagara University and the University of Buffalo Medical School Dean’s Award for community involvement. He also received the Niagara University College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Award for his establishment of the Dr. Melvin B. Dyster Health Science Resource Center in 2003.

Dr. Dyster goes out of his way to provide services for those in need, working at the Hamilton Miller Primary Care Center in Niagara Falls, which serves predominantly inner city residents. Dr. Dyster is a consultant for the Niagara Falls City Task Force for Bioterrorism Preparedness, a member of Niagara County’s Health Emergency Alert Response Team and an advisor on Memorial’s Disaster Planning Committee.

Dr. Dyster’s efforts on behalf of the Niagara Falls community extend beyond the medical world; he was instrumental in saving the former Niagara Falls High School from demolition, which has become a well used arts and cultural center.

Dr. Dyster is a retired full colonel in the Army Reserve and was chief of staff at the 865th General Hospital at the Niagara Falls Air Base.

I am honored to have such a caring and compassionate man as Dr. Dyster live and work in my district.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN AMO HOUGHTON AND CONGRESSMAN JACK QUINN

SPEECH OF
HON. VITO FOSSELLA
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, November 19, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to one of my distinguished colleagues from the State of New York, Congressman Jack Quinn. In his six terms as Representative of the 27th District of New York, Congressman Quinn brought a strong and well respected voice to the United States Congress. His good nature and approachability made him a pleasure to work with, for both sides of the aisle. As Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Mr. Quinn fought to preserve Amtrak as part of our Nation’s infrastructure and worked tirelessly towards ensuring the safety of our railroads. He has used his seat on the Committee on Veterans to bring about needed reforms for our veterans and to raise awareness and appreciation of our Nation’s heroes and their sacrifices. His role as Chairman of the House Republican Working Group on Labor provided an important link to keep the lines of communication open between labor leaders and the Republican party. Beyond his legislative accomplishments, Congressman Quinn has made service to his constituents the cornerstone of his office, and it is this service that will be his legacy.

On behalf of the residents of New York, I would like to thank Mr. Quinn for his exceptional service to the United States Congress. His presence, both in the House and within the New York delegation will be greatly missed. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Quinn on 12 remarkable years of service, and in wishing him and his family all the best in the years to come.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2004 EXCEPTIONAL MERIT IN MEDIA AWARDS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winners of the 18th Annual

Mrs. Daughtrey was known for her tireless efforts to help those less fortunate than herself. Even as a child, she reached out to others and would often invite underprivileged peers over for dinner. She greatly helped the citizens of Bayonne by matching people with service organizations that offered the food, shelter, healthcare, or substance abuse treatment they needed. In addition, she coordinated food drives in City Hall for the past five years. With a passion for community involvement, Mrs. Daughtrey participated in numerous groups, including the New Frontier Democrats, Ireland’s 32, and the HIGHWAYS program. Additionally, she volunteered extensively at the Bayonne Democratic Organization and was on the Board of Directors for the Bayonne Community Day Nursery.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mrs. Daughtrey worked as a welfare investigator for the city for 27 years, and was employed at Woolworth’s department store. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Cookie Daughtrey for her deep commitment to serving others in her community. Her years of volunteerism helped countless individuals and she will be remembered fondly by all who knew her.

TRIBUTE TO WARREN G. HARDING HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. TIM RYAN
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, my remarks today are to pay tribute to the Warren G. Harding High School “Raider” Marching Band from Warren, Ohio.

On November 25th, Thanksgiving Day, 2004, the “Raider” Marching Band represented Ohio’s 17th District as it marched down Broadway in midtown Manhattan during the 78th Annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. The “Raider” Band was one of 10 bands to be selected nationwide out of approximately 500 applicants annually. With 201 members strong, the band played “On Broadway” as it stopped in Herald Square to showcase its talent for the millions of onlookers and viewers at home. The event was aired live on NBC Thanksgiving Day.

Lynn G. Martin is the Director of Bands at Warren G. Harding High School. A graduate from the Youngstown State University’s Dana School of Music in Youngstown, Ohio, and Marygrove College in Detroit, she has been leading and instructing the band for 10 years and has been teaching for 30 years. Richard J. Rollo is the assistant Director of the Bands and also the head of the jazz department where he has been teaching for 22 years. He is an alumnus of Youngstown State University and Vandercook College of Music in Chicago. The percussion section is composed of numerous students who participated in the 78th Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade:


IN HONOR OF COOKIE DAUGHTREY
HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mrs. Cookie Daughtrey for her dedicated work in serving the community and those in need. Mrs. Daughtrey was honored at the Bayonne Community Mental Health Center’s cocktail reception on October 27, 2004, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Mrs. Daughtrey was known for her tireless efforts to help those less fortunate than herself. Even as a child, she reached out to others and would often invite underprivileged peers over for dinner. She greatly helped the citizens of Bayonne by matching people with service organizations that offered the food, shelter, healthcare, or substance abuse treatment they needed. In addition, she coordinated food drives in City Hall for the past five years. With a passion for community involvement, Mrs. Daughtrey participated in numerous events, and I look forward to reading more of their work in the future.

IN HONOR OF COOKIE DAUGHTREY
HONORING FRANK VON HIPPEL, RECIPIENT OF THE GEORGE F. KENNAN PEACE LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. RUSH D. HOLT OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, Frank von Hippel, a physicist and professor of public and international affairs at Princeton University, has had, and continues to have, a far-reaching influence on arms control and nuclear policy. He is without question one of the world’s leading experts on nuclear arms control and non-proliferation.

Frank’s many contributions include path breaking work on nuclear reactor safety, energy efficiency in automobiles, support of whistle-blowers, training of a large group of young policy scientists, and his current work on the safety of stored spent power-reactor fuel. He is the founder of the journal Science and Global Security, the leading peer-reviewed journal on technical issues of arms control and international security. He is a model to many people about how a scientist should contribute to the policy process.

On the occasion of the award of the George F. Kennan Peace Leadership Award, I would like to highlight Frank von Hippel’s work with Soviet scientists that prepared the way for deep cuts in nuclear arsenals. This is only one aspect of Frank’s many contributions.

During the 1980s Frank developed a working relationship with Soviet physicist Evgeny Velikhov. At the time, Velikhov was the deputy director of the I. V. Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy in Moscow, and he became the science advisor to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. This was a critical relationship. Frank was able to launch a series of cooperative efforts between U.S. non-governmental organizations and the Soviet Academy of Sciences. These included the installation of devices to detect underground nuclear weapons tests, an arms control experiment to verify the presence of a nuclear weapon on Soviet warship, inspections of Soviet nuclear facilities, programs to safeguard and reduce Soviet stockpiles of nuclear weapons materials, programs to reduce the nuclear proliferation risk from former Soviet nuclear materials stockpiles and from former weapons scientists, and a joint U.S.-Soviet project to assess the potential for deep cuts in nuclear weapons arsenals. These activities provided a basis for U.S. and Soviet reductions in their nuclear arsenals.

Frank always knows his subject; his work is well reasoned and backed up with careful analysis. But his achievements show that he is much more than a technical expert. Frank is a great person to work with; everyone likes him. His generosity and, especially, his even temper, that have helped him forge international cooperation among scientists and government officials. Frank is the first person I call when I have questions on nuclear weapons and arms control or any number of other subjects. He richly deserves this great honor.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN GILMAN G. UDELL, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JACK KINGSTON OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our Capitol Police Officers. On December 31, 2004, Captain Gilman G. Udell will retire after 33 years of service to Congress as a member of the United States Capitol Police (USCP). Captain Udell spent the majority of his career, and finished as the commanding officer, of the USCP Hazardous Incident Response Division. Captain Udell was one of the six original members of the USCP bomb squad, first organized in the Spring of 1974. To exemplify Captain Udell’s fine work in this area, one must review the threat environment over the last 30 years.

On March 1, 1971 a bomb exploded in a restroom on the first floor of the Senate wing of the Capitol, causing extensive damage. After that incident, the Department selected six officers to attend the basic bomb course at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. When Gill Udell and the other original members returned to Washington after completing the training at the Arsenal, their new unit became part of the Special Investigations Division.

Over the 30 years of its existence, the Bomb Squad has excelled at developing and adapting new tools and techniques for rendering safe procedures. Members of the unit work with other Federal agencies such as the FBI, ATF, DoD and DoE, as well as private contractors in the defense industry to stay current with new technology and to promote the development of new tools and techniques for the bomb technician community. Captain Udell has been instrumental in every measure of this development.

Although most of the calls received by the Bomb Squad each day turn out to be nothing harmful, there have been a number of incidents over the years in which the danger was real.

July 4, 1976: An individual was stopped who insisted in detonating them. The suspect had in possession the explosive power of about a bomb sphere truck and transported to the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Okinawa. The perpetrator was arrested.

September 26, 1980: A Chevy pickup truck being used as an incendiary device tried to crash the South Wall of the Capitol building. The device, consisting of a hollow antenna segment filled with match heads, battery, and wire heating element, had been made by a prisoner and sent from a prison in Kansas.

December 5, 1990: A subject attempted to crash the South Wall of the Capitol building. The device, consisting of a hollow antenna segment filled with match heads, battery, and wire heating element, had been made by a prisoner and sent from a prison in Kansas.

April 19, 1988: The FBI called the Hazardous Devices Section for assistance. While executing a search warrant, FBI agents discovered deteriorated nitroglycerine-based dynamite in a suspect’s closet. The BDS responded, removed, transported and destroyed the dynamite.

June 21, 1988: A hoax device designed to resemble a hand grenade was sent to a Congressman’s office but was intercepted by the House Post Office. The item was detonated during render safe procedures performed by the Hazardous Devices Section.

December 5, 1990: A subject attempted to enter the Dirksen Senate Office Building with a hoax device consisting of three signal flares, a clock, wires and a circuit board.

January 3, 1995: Just three weeks after the Bomb Squad acquired its new, state-of-the-art Andros robot, a suspected pipe bomb was found at 3rd and Independence Ave., SW., and the Metropolitan police contacted BDS for assistance. When remote procedures could not open the device, it was placed in the bomb sphere truck and transported to the Marine Corps explosives range at Quantico, Virginia, where it was counter-charged and blown open. The device turned out to be a sand fuse belonging to METRO.

The Capitol Police Bomb Squad is rated by the FBI Bomb Data Center and staff of the Hazardous Devices School at Redstone Arsenal as one of the top bomb squads in the Nation. The unit has achieved recognition throughout the bomb technician community through its assistance to other agencies and services, offices and positions in professional associations and organizations.

Captain Udell successfully led the Unit through many changes as the Department’s mission evolved in recent years. The unit that started with a home-made bomb truck put together from donated and surplus parts is today equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Captain Udell was one of the first to recognize the need for specialized training in
Weapons of Mass Destruction and Hazardous Materials. Years before the Anthrax Letter was received in Senator Daschle’s Office, the HDS technicians were certified to handle nuclear, biological and chemical incidents.

Captain Udell was instrumental in the response to the Anthrax letter attack, which had just commenced after September 11th, 2001. He led his hazmat trained bomb techs on emergency calls that appeared to never end. Prior to the Anthrax attack, there was typically one or two “suspicious powder” calls a month. That was soon to change. On October 15th, the Senator Daschle anthrax letter was opened in the Hart Senate office building. It was the 3rd, of a total of 56 “suspicious powder” response calls, for just that day. Captain Udell managed the teams’ response, and being a certified bomb and hazmat technician himself, he jumped in and responded to calls with his team. The response and clean up of the anthrax incident encompassed nearly seven months until completion. Captain Udell worked tirelessly throughout the entire period, working long extended hours and rarely taking a day off. To Captain Udell, this was just doing his job; to his team, the Capitol Police, and the Congressional Community Captain Udell is a true leader and patriot in the protection of Congress.

After the Anthrax incident, Captain Udell played a critical part in the development and implementation of the police department’s Hazardous Materials Response Team. He finished his career as the Commander of the newly formed Hazardous Incident Response Division of the Capitol Police. The new unit incorporated an “all hazards” response capability to deal with the new and emerging threats in the post 9/11 era.

Captain Udell started his relationship with the Congress as high school student in the Page Program. He has served the Capitol Police and the Congress in an exemplary manner throughout his career. He is a role model to those who follow in what it means to “protect the Congress”—the mission of the U.S. Capitol Police, which Captain Udell has never forgotten.

IN HONOR OF SUE SHAPIRO

HON. ROBERT MENEZED
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sue Shapiro for her active role in community organizations and years of dedicated leadership. Mrs. Shapiro was honored at the Bayonne Jewish Community Center’s 52nd annual Sustaining Dinner Gala on October 23, 2004, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Sue Shapiro’s commitment to serving her community has been demonstrated by her steadfast involvement in local organizations. In the past, she has served as a member and trustee of the Bayonne Board of Education and was the second woman to serve as president of the Temple Beth Am.

Her most extensive service has been with the Jewish Community Center as chairman of the Health and Physical Education Committee for 24 of her 29 years of participation, Mrs. Shapiro has overseen a successful athletic program for youth and adults of Bayonne.

She has also served as chair or co-chair of the Open Tennis Tournament, Winter Holiday Elementary School Basketball Tournament, Annual Golf Tournament, and Annual Sports Awards Program. In addition, she has successfully organized three reunions at the Jewish Community Center.

Throughout her years of involvement with these organizations, Mrs. Shapiro has continued to work as a dedicated employee for the Rexall Drug Company and Judge Harvey L. Bime.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mrs. Shapiro was a member of the Jewish Community Center and was the second woman to serve as president. She has also served as chair or co-chair for the 52nd annual Sustaining Dinner Gala on October 23, 2004.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sue Shapiro for her outstanding leadership and dedication to the community of Bayonne, New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN DIPOFI

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. John DiPofi of Niagara Falls, NY, who passed away this week at the age of 106. He was the oldest living Marine in the United States at the time of his death.

Mr. DiPofi joined the Marines on November 10, 1922, and served for 3 years in Haiti. He was an expert rifleman and was assigned to guard the country’s agricultural assets.

Mr. DiPofi was born in Italy and came to America in 1913 at the age of 15. He lived and worked in Niagara Falls after his tour of duty.

It was an honor to have Mr. DiPofi living in the 28th Congressional District. I was privileged to meet him last year and congratulate him on his good health and service to our nation.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Mr. DiPofi’s family. The nation has lost a good soldier, and Niagara Falls has lost a good friend. His extraordinary life will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING LANCE CORPORAL PHILLIP G. WEST, USMC, WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN IRAQ NOVEMBER 19, 2004

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Phillip G. West, USMC, who was killed in action in Iraq November 19, 2004.

Corporal West was deployed to Iraq as a member of the 2nd Platoon, India Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division. He was on patrol in Fallujah when he was fatally wounded by an explosive device.

Corporal West loved his country and he enlisted in the Marines immediately upon graduation from high school in 2003. He was drawn to the Corps because, to him, it was “the best” and he wanted to be part of the best.

Corporal West was deployed to Iraq’s Al Anbar Province in June. As a Marine he was often in combat situations, either on safety patrol or in directly confronting insurgents. He excelled at his job, was highly regarded by his unit and received a commendation from the Marine Corps for superior performance.

Corporal West died serving the country he loved, with comrades he loved and with the love of his family in his heart. Our nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Lance Corporal Phillip G. West, USMC, who gave his life in service to his country.

HONORING THE WOODCLIFF COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Woodcliff Community Reformed Church, which celebrated its 75th anniversary on November 18, 2004, in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Throughout the years, the Woodcliff Community Reformed Church has helped the residents of Jersey City by supporting local organizations, providing outreach programs, and aiding in the spiritual development of its congregation.

Its efforts to serve the community include establishing a program to feed the homeless and offering building space to local Alcoholics Anonymous groups. It has also been a major supporter of the local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops in the area. The church’s dedication to serving others has greatly contributed to the success and stability of the community, and its contributions to the surrounding areas are to be commended.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Woodcliff Community Reformed Church for its 75 years of exemplary work within the community and its spiritual leadership in Jersey City, NJ.

COMMENDING HUMBERTO LOZANO LOPEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a unique American patriot and pioneer in the Tejano recording industry and the world of radio and broadcasting, my friend from our hometown of Robstown, TX, Humberto Lozano Lopez. Humberto was just inducted into the Tejano Hall of Fame in Texas for his lifetime of excellence in broadcasting and for the extraordinary
addition he has made to the tapestry of our lives through broadcasting—both music and community interest programming—composing, promoting Hispanic talent, and finally obtaining and operating the Lopez Broadcast System that now consists of several South Texas radio stations.

His introduction to radio came in 1955, while he was still in high school, conducting the American GI Forum Weekly Program on KCCV in Corpus Christi, TX. After graduation he continued this work he loved, and it took him across Texas and northern Mexico. In the early 1960s, he moved the family to San Antonio, where he branched out to television, and worked in the first U.S. Spanish Radio station, KCOR, and the first U.S. Spanish TV station, (KWEX).

His voice won him voice-over roles in some classic American movies—for voices of Spencer Tracy, Sidney Poitier, Anthony Quinn, and many more—and he dubbed several Hollywood movies into Spanish for broadcast into Latin America. He is a big fan of old movies and he dubbed several Hollywood movies into Spanish for broadcast into Latin America. He is a big fan of old movies and he dubbed several Hollywood movies into Spanish for broadcast into Latin America.

In the early 1970s, he returned to live in Robstown and work in Corpus Christi. He began as sales manager and columnist. Robstown and work in Corpus Christi. He then moved to Laredo and ran a newspaper. He then moved to Laredo and ran a newspaper. In 1980, he purchased and operated the Lopez Broadcast System, which serves our community and other inner-city markets such as College Station, San Angelo, and Houston.

Humberto's most memorable experiences included interviewing the widow of Mexican legend, Pancho Villa; Texas' first Hispanic Congressman, Pete Gallegos; members of the Mexican Battalion, 201, the World War II Mexican Battalion. Easily, his most rewarding experience is the continuing success of the Lopez Broadcast System, which serves our community and other inner-city markets such as College Station, San Angelo, and Houston.

In 1955, he quickly began acquiring radio stations in South Texas under the Lopez Broadcast System, which currently includes: KTMV-FM, Victoria; KTMV-TV, Victoria; KDJU-FM, Victoria; KDJU-TV, Victoria; KMIQ 104.9 FM, Robstown-Corpus Christi; KINE 1330 AM Robstown-Kingsville; KXTM 107.7 FM, Benavidez; KHMV 98.3 FM, Victoria; and KLMO 98.3 FM, San Antonio. He continues to explore broadcasting into other markets such as College Station, San Angelo, and Houston.

Humberto's philosophy is: "It's not about how much money someone may earn but the accomplishments and lives you touch—which leaves a legacy of hope.”

He is supported by the love of his life, his wife Minerva Rodriguez-Lopez; their children: Mario Humberto, Luis Homero, Larry, Manuel, Carlos, Humberto II, Ernesto, Mena Lamar, Melinda, Ray, Lisa, and Mary Helen; their 27 grandchildren—Mario Humberto II, Michael Anthony, Marissa, Celina, Carissa, Crista, Lizette, Nicole, Manuel Omar, Mireya, Alejandro, Gabriella, Laura Lynn, Carisa, Crystal, Katherine, Ernesto Nicholas, Raul Jr., MiaMar Minerva, Isabella, Giselle Fey, Cristian Esai, Ray Jr., Amy Desiree, Nayell, and Orlando DeLeon II; and their 2 great grandchildren, Mario Humberto III, and Michael Anthony.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending my dear friend, Humberto Lozano Lopez, for the amazing achievement so far in his lifetime and for his recent induction into the Tejano Hall of Fame.

HONORING THE BALLOU SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the District's own Ballou Senior High School Marching Band for its recent extraordinary achievement at the Home Depot National Battle of the Bands Competition. The band, numbering 86 members, placed second among eight bands in a competition which included 110 entrants in the initial field. Ballou deserves recognition from the House of Representatives not only because of this notable accomplishment, I ask the Congress to recognize the Ballou Marching Band also because these students, led by their able and devoted band director, Darrell Watson, overcame nearly impossible odds.

The high school is located in one of the city’s most disadvantaged and besieged communities. The students have lived with unusual human tragedy, including the fatal shooting of two fellow students this year. Also in 2003, the school was closed for more than a month because of an accidental mercury spill. At the end of the school year, many of the problems of the school, allegations of poor leadership and the principal was dismissed.

This is not an atmosphere conducive to producing award winning bands. Yet, the Ballou Marching Band's band director and the new principal, Daniel Hudson, persevered. However, talent, intelligence, diligence and dedication could not cover the $70,000 needed to travel to California to compete. The often struggling families of the students, and their inner-city community certainly did not have these funds. Still, the band and their school did not give up. They sought help from the business community, alumni and others. Many were moved by the determination of the students. Among the many contributors who made the trip possible were Federal Express—inspired by a Ballou alumna who was a vice president—Lockheed Martin, Embassy Suites Hotels, and William C. Smith and Company.

The outpouring of love and support that the Ballou band received was inspired not only by the need, but by the students’ own determination and efforts in doing car washes and selling dinners to pay for the trip.

The concrete show of confidence in these children enabled the band’s participation and its prize-winning finish. In fact, the competition was razor close, and Ballou almost came away with the top prize. Its reward was a trip to Disneyland and the opportunity to play in the holiday parade. The larger and lasting reward is the sense of accomplishment the students received and the opportunity to broaden their horizons and expectations concerning what hard work and high aspirations can lead. On the visit to the school, I was moved by the essence of the band’s presentations on the entire student body, which gathered to celebrate the band with principal, teachers and staff all present. The band director, Darrell Watson, spoke of the numerous compliments he received, including words of praise concerning the exemplary behavior of the members of the band. Principal Hudson is leading the students to transfer the band’s achievement to academic achievement as well for the students.

I am proud that the band represented the city so well and proud to represent the band, the school, and the community, in the Congress of the United States. Last week I wrote to President Bush to ask that the Ballou Band march in the upcoming Inaugural Parade. Considering what the band has achieved and the challenges the students face, I believe that the band and the school deserve this national recognition. Mr. Speaker, the Ballou Senior High School Marching Band deserves the accolades the band is receiving since returning from California. I ask the House of Representatives to add its own congratulations as well.

HONORING MARCELLUS’S GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAMES T. WALSH
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary group of athletes, the Marcellus Marauders, who a few weeks ago captured its second consecutive Section 3, Class B state title with a 6 to 0 win over Fredonia, ending their season with an overall record of 23–1–1.

The Marcellus Mustangs lived up to their season long No. 1 ranking with a decisive victory over Fredonia led by senior striker Jenna Farneti scoring three goals and two assists. Amy Ware and Hannah Vaughn struck the final blows to the nails in the coffin adding three more goals with Meghan Mannion and Alyssa MacLachlan contributing the assists.

While acknowledging these five, outstanding athletes for their efforts in the championship game is well deserved; any member of a team knows that victory isn’t possible without the contributions of all team members and coaches.

Coach Laurie Udpike, Jenna Farneti, Rachel Farneti, Stephanie Gosson, Kelly Hanlon, Sarah Holden, Jocie Jankowski, Alyssa MacLachlan, Meghan Mannion, Ashley Martin, Lauren Longo, Alyse O’Brien, Sarah Potter, Catherine Scott, Amanda Stessen, Hannah Vaughn, Katie Walter, Amy Ware, Jennifer Young, Katie Young, Katie Zimmerman, Emily Zimmerman, Emmy Potter, Meghan Kamiska and all equally valued components of the Marcellus perennial powerhouse.

A special recognition is also deserved to those whom support Marcellus’s fine athletes, the parents, teachers, students and fans. You were all instrumental in the Mustang’s success.

I commend the Marcellus Girls Varsity Soccer team for their dedication and congratulate them on a triumphant season. Your continued success reflects your tireless work ethic. Congratulations to the Champs.
HONORING THE IRONBOUND COMMUNITY CORPORATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ironbound Community Corporation, a multiservice organization that has made amazing contributions to the city and residents of Newark. The Ironbound Community Corporation celebrated its 35th anniversary on October 22, 2004, at the Mediterranean Manor in Newark, N.J.

Guided by a desire to ensure justice and equality for all people, the Ironbound Community Organization provides a variety of programs and outreach services and offers assistance in areas such as family literacy, multilingual adult education, family assistance, and development, and senior citizen care. In addition, it develops programs for children, adolescents, environmental projects, and general neighborhood issues, with the goal of improving the lives of those living in and around the ethnically and culturally diverse Ironbound neighborhood. More than 700 people benefit daily from the services this wonderful organization provides.

Each year, the Community Corporation honors those who have contributed greatly to the organization’s success. This year’s honorees include Gabriella Morris, Joseph DiVincenzo, Antonio Matinho, David and Florence Schnegelberger, Bernadine Fillmore, and Eva Harris.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Ironbound Community Corporation for 35 years of dedicated and honorable service working to improve the lives of the people of Newark. Its broad range of programs and services has greatly impacted the community and will no doubt continue to benefit the lives of countless people in the years to come.

RELEASE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENT AUNG SAN SUU KYI

HON. MIKE PENCE
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight recent and profoundly heartbreaking situations in the brutal authoritarian dictatorship of Burma. For nearly two decades, the ruling military regime has sought to crush any and all opposition to their complete domination of the country.

The military junta’s actions have led to the unjust imprisonment of over 1,000 political opponents, including the world’s only imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Aung San Suu Kyi. While indications recently hinted at the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, and call for her immediate release. I also encourage the Administration to take whatever measures necessary to exert more pressure on the ruling military regime.

As a strong advocate for children, I am saddened that the near 5,000 displaced villagers recently fleeing to the jungle include numerous children. The child mortality and malnutrition among these displaced people are staggering. Not only the children are suffering the effects of this displacement. With nowhere to go, many families are divided and many people die of preventable, treatable diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I add my voice to others in this great nation that continue to seek freedom and democracy for the people of Burma. I strongly object to the continued imprisonment of Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi, and call for her immediate release. I also encourage the Administration to take whatever measures necessary to exert more pressure on the ruling military regime.

SPEECH OF
HON. ED WHITFIELD
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to a provision inserted in the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act. Title 1 section 142 states “Any excess animal sold under this provision shall no longer be considered to be a wild-free roaming horse or burro for purposes of this Act.” This section completely reverses the goal of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, which was aimed at stopping wild horses and burros from being harvested for commercial poses without limitation.

The Bureau of Land Management, BLM, oversees approximately 261 million acres. More than 29 million acres of this land is used for wild horse and burro grazing. BLM’s responsibilities with regard to caring for wild horses and burros were created by the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. Although the act’s primary concern is caring for wild horses and burros, it also permits BLM to lease this land for several purposes, such as grazing, mining, and parks. The act and subsequent regulations require BLM to manage wild horses and burros on public lands and prohibit them from unauthorized capture, branding, harassment, death, and ensure their humane care.

Current law prohibits the sale of wild horses and burros for processing into commercial products. Section 142 will undermine these efforts by allowing wild horses and burros that are 10 years old or have been put up for adoption three times to be auctioned. As a co-sponsor of the American Horse Protection Act, along with 227 other Members, I am appalled that wild horses and burros could possibly be captured for slaughter.

Horses that are sent to slaughter are often crammed into double decker trailers, where conditions are so bad that many horses arrive at the slaughtering facility injured. Moreover, there are no export tariffs on horse meat, no profits from this industry remain in America. The profits go directly to Belgium and France, which is where the owners of the only slaughter houses in the United States live. More importantly, the provision is a devastating blow to the equine industry, because they have worked diligently to protect horses from slaughter.

Section 142 was inserted during conference negotiations, leaving many members unaware of the new provision and its impact. In addition, no stand-alone legislation has been introduced and, to my knowledge, the House Resources Committee had not seen this language. Because this provision was inserted behind closed doors, no congressional authorizing committee had an opportunity to comment on this provision and its impact. Additionally, no hearings have been held to get feedback from BLM on possible alternatives. In fact, since 1988, every Department of Interior Appropriations bill has included language that states, “Appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros in the care of the Bureau or its contractor.” Coincidently, this language was left out this year. I believe that if this language was brought before the full House for a vote as stand-alone legislation it would fail, because clearly the majority of the House has gone on record opposing the slaughter of horses.

Mr. Speaker, it does not speak well of this institution when individual members of the House and Senate can change 16 years of policy by sneaking a provision into the Omnibus without disclosure, discussion, or public knowledge. Horses are part of our American heritage and hold a favored status. They are not food animals in this country and, unlike cows, pigs, and chickens, they should not be bred, raised, or gathered for slaughter.

THE CURSE HAS STRUCK OUT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of the victory of the Red Sox in the World Series, I have an offering for the House, with apologies to Ernest L. Thayer entitled, “The Curse Has Struck Out.”

The outlook wasn’t guaranteed for the Red Sox nine this year

Since 1918 our boys had lost us crying in our beer

And when they lost twice in New York, and then at home again

A pall-like silence fell over the loyal Red Sox fans.

A straggling few got up to go in deep despair.

A pall-like silence filled the air.

The rest clung to that hope that springs eternal in the human breast.

“It ain’t over ’til it’s over” they muttered half in jest.

They thought, “If only our boys could put some bat on that ball,”
We'd put Bambino's curse to rest once and for all."

But then Ortiz let fly a homer, to the wonderment of all.

And Johnny Damon, bases loaded, tore the cover off the ball.

And when the dust had lifted on that memorable night

We had come back from three games down, the Curse was in our sights.

Then from all of Red Sox Nation's throats there rose a wild call,

It echoed on the Common, it shook Faneuil Hall.

It pounded on the River Charles, and splashed upon the Bay.

The Yankees were all through, kaput, a World Series would play.

And they rolled out to St. Louis, jewel of the Midwest.

The Cards had won their league with ease, little children

Were they ready for the Boston boys? The town was dressed in red.

The fans could not be nicer, the team was so close to the win.

But the Red Sox took the first three games, competing nobly one and all.

They overcame their errors, they answered every call.

And as Game Four proceeded, and a Series win now loomed,

All New England shivered with the thought we might still be doomed.

Henry shifted in his seat, Hope in Werner burned.

Epstein checked his numbers, Luchino's stomach churned.

What deus ex machina would fall down from the sky?

What Bucky Dent-Bill Buckner ghost might steer things all awry?

Keith Foulke climbed up upon the mound, ball burning in his hand.

The Curse stepped up to face him, to make a final stand.

There was ease in the Curse's manner as he stepped into his place.

There was pride in Bambino's bearing, a smile on the Curse's face.

And when, responding to his fans, he lightly doffed his hat,

No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas the Curse at the bat.

A nation's eyes were fixed on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt.

60,000 tongues applauded when he wiped them on his shirt.

Then, while Foulke rubbed the ball into his hefty hip,

Defiance flashed in the Curse's eye, a sneer curled on his lip.

And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,

And the Curse stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there.

Close by the portly batsman the ball unheeded sped.

"I just can't hit that," said the Curse.

"Strike one!" the umpire said.

From the canyons of Manhattan, there rose a muffled roar.

New York fans were screaming, "Would the Curse really be no more?"

"Kill him, kill the umpire," they shouted in Yankee land.

The Curse looked smug. In 86 years the Curse had never fanned.

With a smile of overconfidence, the Curse's veins shone.

He stilled the rising tumult, he bade the game on.

He signaled the Red Sox closer, and once more the sun sphere flew.

But the Curse couldn't hit it, and the umpire said, "Strike two."

"It's over," thought the Cardinals fans, who are brought up so well.

But the Curse gave a scornful look and an eerie silence fell.

They saw his face turn stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain.

And they really thought the Curse wouldn't let that ball go by again.

The sneer has fled from the Curse's lip, the teeth are clenched in hate.

He pounds, with cruel violence, his bat upon the plate.

And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go.

And now the air is shattered by the force of the Curse's blow.

Oh, all across that favored land the sun is shining bright.

The band is playing happily and our hearts are oh so light.

And Red Sox Nation smiles and laughs, and little children shout.

And there is pure joy in Beantown—

The Curse has struck out.

IN HONOR OF FRANK CARINE, JR.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank Carine, Jr., for his outstanding public service and demonstrated commitment to community participation and leadership. Hon. Frank Carine, Jr. was named the 2004 Honoree of the Year by the Sicilian Citizens Club on October 23, 2004, in Bayonne, NJ.

Mr. Carine has dedicated more than 27 years of his life to law enforcement. His service includes time on the municipal, county, and federal law enforcement teams. For the past 18 years, he has worked with the U.S. Department of Justice and Drug Enforcement Agency and is currently a Supervisory Special Agent in the Newark, NJ, division.

Within the law enforcement community, Mr. Carine has established himself as an exceptional leader as a three-term president of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, New Jersey Chapter 2. His leadership abilities are also clearly demonstrated through his positions as vice-president of the Nicholas Capodice Association, secretary for the Holy Family Father Club, executive board member of the Sicilian Citizens Club, and chairman and co-chairman of fundraisers for the Boys Scouts of America.

In addition to his years of public service, Mr. Carine has contributed his time and energy to helping others, including coaching Bayonne youth soccer teams. His extensive community involvement includes being a third degree member of Columbus Council 371, as well as a member of the Italian American Police Society of New Jersey, the Federal Agents PBA local 121, and the Honor Legion of the Police Departments of New Jersey. In addition, he serves on the Annual Blue Mass Committee for the Archdiocese of Newark and the Hudson County District Committee.

Mr. Carine was born and raised in Bayonne, New Jersey. He received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from New Jersey City University (formerly Jersey City State College) and graduated from the New Jersey State Police Academy in Sea Girt, NJ, and the DEA/FBI Academy in Quantico, VA.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Frank Carine, Jr., for his years of dedicated service to law enforcement and his significant contributions to the community.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY MELCHER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Terry Melcher, a prominent record producer and songwriter and a personal friend of mine, who recently passed away. I send the deepest sympathies to his wife, Terese, his son, Ryan, and his mother, Doris Day.

Anyone who knew Terry would claim that he was a talented man. He started his career in the music industry as a solo singer, but later he and future Beach Boy Bruce Johnston paired up and formed the group Bruce & Terry. They made several hits together and then went on to become part of the group, the Rip Chords. Together the Rip Chords recorded the 1964 hit, "Hey, Little Cobra".

Also, during this successful time, Terry's career included producing. He produced the top selling version of Bob Dylan's "Mr. Tambourine Man" and others, including the Byrds' "Turn, Turn, Turn" while with Columbia Records. He also worked his magic with the Mamas and the Papas, Wayne Newton, Paul Revere and the Raiders and Ray Cooter. In addition to his work Terry took time to be involved in the community; he was a board member of the Monterey Pop Foundation and a producer of the Monterey Pop Festival in 1967. This event rose to fame as stars such as Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Janis Joplin and Otis Redding emerged onto the national scene.

However, Terry was probably best known for his work with the Beach Boys, who once recorded an album at his studio in Carmel Valley. Terry co-wrote the song "Kokomo" and performed on their album "Pet Sounds". "Kokomo" was used in the movie "Cocktail", where it garnered a Golden Globe nomination in 1988 for best original song.

Terry continued his involvement with entertainment throughout his life and was the executive producer of his mother's shows: "The Doris Day Show", on CBS from 1968 to 1972 and then later, in the mid-80's, "Doris Day's Best Friends". He continued his involvement in the community and helped run his mother's charitable activities, including the Doris Day Animal Foundation. He was also a supporter of the Boy Scouts of America and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Speaker, Terry Melcher was a man who shared his gift of music with others and valued the Central Coast community. I would again like to extend my deepest sympathies to Terry Melcher's family at their loss.
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulat several of our great high school sports teams in the 4th Congressional District of Maryland for their outstanding seasons. Congratulations to Suitland and Potomac High Schools who both recently won state football championships.

Potomac High School located in Oxon Hill, Maryland rose to victory beating Hereford High School 19 to 12 to win the 2A title championship. Led by Coach Eric Knight, Potomac was finally able to achieve the title that had slipped through their fingers the previous season. In winning the state championship Potomac also became the first team in Maryland history to end the season with a 14–0 record.

Suitland High School located in Suitland, Maryland, led by Coach Nick Lynch and standout junior linebacker Navorro Bowman, beat Damascus High School 14 to 7 to win the 4A title championship. Although Bowman had been pinpointed as the obvious star of the team, the humble young player still managed to praise his fellow teammates including his aggressive offensive line, which did an excellent job to help seal the victory. Navorro Bowman who has already been offered a scholarship at the University of Maryland appears to be a young man on the move who has a bright and promising future ahead of him.

Congratulations are also in order for DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, Maryland, which ended the season as the number one boys soccer team in the region. Sherwood High School in Sandy Spring, Maryland should also be recognized for ending a great soccer season with their boys’ team ranked number three and their girls’ team number seven in the area.

In addition Seneca Valley High School in Germantown Maryland ranked number four in the top ten for volleyball, while Magruder High School in Rockville ranked number six.

I am extremely proud of the achievements of these young people from my Congressional District. I am sure that all the citizens of Maryland’s 4th Congressional District share my enthusiastic admiration for their hard work, sportsmanship and teamwork. Athletics plays an important role in the development of our youth, and teaches valuable life lessons in cooperation, camaraderie, and value. The famed football coach Vince Lombardi once said that individual commitment to a group effort—is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, and a civilization work.

On this day of remembrance America’s veterans deserve better.

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HON. DAN BURTON OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1941, over 2,200 brave service-men and women sacrificed their lives protecting the freedoms we have come to cherish. Now, sixty-three years after the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor, America has over 26 million veterans who have selflessly dedicated themselves in service to our great country and sacrificed to guarantee Americans the freedoms we enjoy today.

Unfortunately, rather than receiving the full respect they deserve, our nation’s veterans are now faced with a recently released Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) directive (VHA Directive 2004–045) that exposes them to tremendous loss of protective grants—non-Medical Doctors (MDs)—in the VA system privileges to perform laser eye procedures under the supervision of an ophthalmologist—a trained and certified MD. While I fully understand that the Directive mandates the procedure be supervised, I am also aware of the fact that supervising a procedure is not the same as actually performing the procedure. As a result, allowing an operation to be performed by a non-surgeon could potentially jeopardize patient safety, and ultimately the quality of care provided to our veterans.

As eye health deteriorates with age, more and more older Americans are faced with the need for eye surgery. And just when our aging veterans need this care the most, they are now faced with the prospect of having their surgery performed by someone who hasn’t been through intensive surgical education or training. This new policy blatantly imposes a substantial level of health care on our veterans.

Currently, only one state—Oklahoma—permits optometrists (non-MDs) to perform laser eye surgery, while 35 other states have outright prohibited this type of procedure. In fact, 14 states, including Indiana, have debated and soundly rejected similar measures—seven states in this calendar year alone. But regardless of individual state restrictions, the DVA Directive allows an eye care professional to practice anywhere in the VA system, “up to the limits” of their license. As a result, optometrists with no formal surgical education or training will be able to go to Oklahoma, take a 16 hour course, pass the Oklahoma optometry certification exam, and then go anywhere in the country and practice laser eye surgery on any veteran in any VA facility. Thus, in states that have prohibited this type of threat or rejected Oklahoma-like legislation, optometrists will be practicing surgery on veterans against the wishes of state lawmakers.

As a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, I find it shocking that this practice has been allowed to come this far. And I’m not alone in my belief that medical doctors who are specifically trained to reduce surgery-related risks should be the only ones legally permitted to carry out these delicate laser eye procedures. In fact, in a national poll of U.S. veterans, 95 percent said it was important for a licensed medical doctor, specializing in eye care, to conduct eye surgery.

Any medical operation has the potential to cause adverse affects. In older populations—such as those served by VA facilities—the rate of adverse events tends to increase for any surgical procedure. Therefore, it makes no sense that this very population—those most in need of a medical doctor’s training and education to determine the safest surgery for their overall health—be needlessly exposed to the very real threat of having a non-MD operate on them. It should be our highest priority as Americans to protect our citizenry to the best interest of those who have so proudly and bravely defended our great country. All U.S. veterans deserve to have quality health care performed by medical doctors with the proper education and training.

In Honor of Yolanda Fernandez-Quinocces

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yolanda Fernandez-Quinocces for her remarkable accomplishments in dance and music and her exceptional artistic contributions to the community over the past few decades. Ms. Fernandez-Quinocces’s extensive career includes teaching, choreographing, and producing. In 1974, she founded Yolanda’s Academy of Music and Dance, which has developed young talent in New Jersey for 30 years. In addition to managing the school, she has taught classes in the gifted and talented program in Union City and in the Woodrow Wilson School for the Integrated Arts. Under her dedicated instruction, more than 35 students have won recognition in statewide talent search competitions and many have continued their dance training at prestigious institutes such as the New York City Ballet’s School of American Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet, and established universities.

Her professional credits include a position as a teaching liaison between the New York City Ballet and New York City Opera and the Woodrow Wilson School. Ms. Fernandez-Quinocces was also involved with hosting and producing a television arts program on Cablevision, and has made several guest appearances on other shows. In addition to her current projects, she is a member of the National Education Association, the Dance Educators of America, and the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

For her exceptional work, Ms. Fernandez-Quinocces has received numerous awards, including “Teacher of the Year” for Union City, Hudson County, and the State of New Jersey, and “Outstanding Choreographer” for three different productions. In 1974, she received the Dance Educators of America in New York City. Most notably, she was also honored at the Statue of Liberty Centennial Celebration with other well-known artists, performers, and political figures. Ms. Fernandez-Quinocces emigrated from Cuba to the United States when she was three years old. She began studying ballet at the age of five, training at the New Jersey Ballet, Oneida’s Dance Studio, and the American Ballet Theatre. Ms. Fernandez-Quinocces also
TRIBUTE TO SHEILA PETERSON

HON. ANNA G. ESHP OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sheila Peterson, who was recently honored with the highest award of Sacred Heart Schools, the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California.

Sheila and her family have had a long connection to the Sacred Heart Schools. First, she had a great aunt who was part of the convent in St. Charles, Missouri. Next, her mother, Winnie Sullivan went to Jackson Street and Lone Mountain, where she made great lifelong friends. Winnie married Raymond Sullivan, later a distinguished Justice of the California Supreme Court, and Sheila, the eldest of their five children, “met” the Sacred Heart at Broadway in the 7th grade.

Ever since, Sheila has found a connection and a place with Sacred Heart. To quote Sheila, “Sacred Heart/Menlo/Atherton is our place: The first generation was my great aunt; the second was my mother; the third, my sisters and I; the fourth, the Peterson and Sullivan cousins, And at present, my son is on the English faculty and our cousin, Elizabeth is the new Alumni Director. I hope that someday, at some Sacred Heart School, they will find the same satisfaction that I received from helping here”.

Over the years, Sheila’s involvement with Sacred Heart has taken many forms. She has served as a Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub-served as a Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as a Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as a Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub- served as Room Mother (sometimes for all three of her children), Parent Club Head, sub-

As a senior member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with Mr. QUINN. Mr. QUINN, a six-term Member of Congress and Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Railroads, has worked tirelessly on a variety of transportation issues, the largest of these being Amtrak and its preservation as part of our Nation’s infrastructure.

Mr. QUINN also served as co-chair of the House Labor Working Group, advocating on behalf of organized labor with the Republican Leadership. Possibly the most important task to Mr. QUINN was ensuring a fair wage for all workers, as a leader and supporter of sensible labor policy. As a fellow New Yorker, I see the invaluable contribution of organized labor’s representation of working men and women, and commend Mr. QUINN for his unwavering leadership on this issue.

As Members of Congress, we are judged on our records, and I can say with great enthusiasm that Mr. Houghton and Mr. QUINN are men of honesty and integrity. Their work ethic and inspiring ideas, as well as their leadership, will be sorely missed. I am proud to not only call them colleagues, but also friends.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVES AMORY HOUGHTON AND JACK QUINN

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, as the 108th Congress comes to a close, I would like to honor two of New York’s greatest legislators—Rep. AMORY HOUGHTON (NY—29) and Rep. JACK QUINN (NY—27), for their outstanding careers in Congress. Unfortunately, Mr. Quinn and Mr. Houghton have decided to retire at the end of the 108th Congress. As Dean of the New York Republican Congressional Delegation, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and commitment to their constituencies.

Mr. HOUGHTON, a nine-term Member of Congress and founder of the influential Republican Main Street Partnership, has a legacy of supporting moderate social programs, while encouraging fiscal responsibility and much needed economic relief for American families. Houghton is also the founder of the John Quincy Adams Society, an issues forum that brings together moderate officeholders with top business leaders, which has been instrumental in strengthening the moderate movement.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working alongside Mr. Houghton for the past 18 years, and his vision for a less partisan and more effective Congress is truly inspiring. Mr. Houghton worked diligently on more equitable tax and health policies, in his role on the Ways and Means Committee. His counsel and fair-minded manner were always so valuable to myself, and all Members of Congress.

As Members of Congress, we are judged on our records, and I can say with great enthusiasm that Mr. Houghton and Mr. QUINN are men of honesty and integrity. Their work ethic and inspiring ideas, as well as their leadership, will be sorely missed. I am proud to not only call them colleagues, but also friends.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4818, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF
HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY
OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring my colleagues attention to a provision included in the Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations Omnibus bill, H.R. 4818, titled, “Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Salaries and Expenses.” The language included in this section declares that it is the intent of Congress for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to have exclusive jurisdiction over the siting and approval of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals. This language seems to target a pending lawsuit by the State of California challenging the placement of a LNG facility. Although the language is non-binding, I am concerned with the possible repercussions of this provision, as well as the method in which it was added to the bill.

My home state of Rhode Island is currently examining a proposal regarding a LNG terminal in Providence. Members of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation and state officials have been in active discussions with all federal and local agencies that would be affected by this terminal to ensure that the region is properly informed of the hazards of a potential expanded or new LNG facility. Rhode Island’s unique geography and narrow waterways would force the LNG tanker ships to travel through densely populated areas to reach the terminal. The citizens of Rhode Island and our Congressional delegation have justly requested that all safety concerns are addressed before the facility is considered due to the ships close proximity to residential and businesses areas. There is also an increased potential for environmental damage due to dredging, as well as concerns for how increased tanker traffic will affect the commercial fishing industry, which is already under tremendous stress. Further, the U.S. Coast Guard recently responded in a letter to my office that the safety of the LNG ships would be a shared Federal, State, local, and industry responsibility.

I understand the FERC’s assessment that the shipment of LNG is engaged in foreign commerce, however, this statement severely limits the process and dangers involved with shipping LNG. The delivery of LNG, especially in populated areas such as Rhode Island, could impact the lives of those who live near the transport route, also the state and local law enforcement agencies that will be called upon to ensure the public’s safety will continue to be stretched thin. Excluding the involvement of the state from the consideration of a LNG terminal is inconsistent with all the information my office has received from various inquiries that unequivocally proves that state and local agencies would be greatly impacted by the construction of a large facility. The federal government is also ignoring the critical expertise and knowledge that can be gained by including state and local experts in this process.

I am also extremely disappointed with the closed-door method that was used to add this
language to the omnibus. Supporting the FERC’s exclusive jurisdiction over the siting and approval of LNG terminals is an extremely important decision that is worthy of a full debate in Congress. By including controversial language in an omnibus at the end of the 108th session of Congress, there is no opportunity to amend or strip the bill of this or other, harmful provisions. I hope that my colleagues will join me in more closely examining the full impact of this issue on every state in the next Congress. I look forward to an open debate that will include the input of those citizens and local officials who are most affected by the inclusion of this language in the omnibus. Thank you.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND TYRONE CHESS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rose today to honor Reverend Tyrone Chess for his deep commitment to serving others. Reverend Chess was honored at the Holy Ghost Tabernacle’s Tenth Annual Banquet Anniversary celebration on November 7, 2004, in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Throughout the years, Reverend Chess has provided a strong spiritual foundation for the members of his community. As pastor and founder of the Holy Ghost Tabernacle Ministries, he has spent years attending to the spiritual needs of his congregants. His tireless service and willingness to help people in need has helped to enrich the lives of so many.

For more than 21 years, he has been active in community and civic affairs, where he has held a variety of leadership positions. Reverend Chess served as the political and social chairperson of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and is currently the division director for the Hudson County Consumer Affairs and Constituent Services Divisions.

Reverend Chess was born in Jersey City, New Jersey. He attended Essex County College and the American Fellowship Seminary, and received his bachelor’s degree in theology from the Adonai Temple Christian Center Bible Institute. He and his wife, Martha, are the proud parents of five children.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Tyrone Chess for his outstanding spiritual leadership and years of service to his congregation and community in Jersey City, New Jersey.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND TYRONE CHESS

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant who has served this institution with distinction.

During the 108th Congress, Bob Dix served as my staff director on the Government Reform Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census. In that capacity, Bob assembled a remarkable team of experts that assisted the subcommittee in conducting oversight on a number of areas crucial to our domestic and national security.

Over a period of 17 months, the subcommittee held 39 substantive hearings, ranging from the implementation of the President’s Management Agenda and E-Gov initiatives to the threats posed at our Nation’s airlines and seaports. Bob was the lead staff member of my Corporate Information Security Working Group which was a public-private partnership that was tasked with creating a uniform set of safe-practice information security standards for businesses, government and consumers. In the process, Bob has distinguished himself as a leading expert on the cutting edge technology issues of our times.

Bob Dix has accepted the position of Vice President of Government Affairs and Corporate Development for Citadel Security Software, Inc., and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his service to the subcommittee and his commitment to public service.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND TYRONE CHESS

BOB DIX, PUBLIC SERVANT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

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Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Tyrone Chess for his outstanding spiritual leadership and years of service to his congregation and community in Jersey City, New Jersey.
In 1936, the institution was renamed the Public Museum to better reflect its citizen ownership and operation and multidisciplinary, program-focused character. It had a professional staff and had seen a great increase in historical collections and programs as well as permanent installations. In 1938, the museum board matched a WPA grant with a bequest and built an innovative, modern building that looked and acted more like a department store than a traditional museum. Inspired by the writings of Newark Museum director John Cotton Dana, the museum was populist in philosophy and presentation, marketing itself in the style of your corner store, and friendly as your neighbor. By 1964, an incredible growth in service-oriented programming had necessitated building additions and the construction of the Roger B. Chaffee Planetarium along with the acquisition of the 143-acre Blandford Nature Center. The Voigt House, an unusually well-preserved, late-19th century residence, was acquired in 1974 with all of its original furnishings and archives. It is a house museum that balances the didactic historical displays developed in the main museum, especially those focused on furniture design, manufacturing and marketing.

In the late 1970s, even as it became the first museum in the Nation to be accredited by the American Association of Museums, 1971, it was evident that expansion was necessary again in order to maintain standards and better serve a growing audience. In 1982, an extraordinary public planning process was begun that resulted in the creation of a master plan for the museum on a new site in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids. This culminated on the museums 140th anniversary in 1994 with the debt free opening of its 155,000-square-foot VanAndel Museum Center. In total, $42 million was amassed from more than 25,000 public and private donors for its completion, with major support coming from the VanAndel family.

Community-based exhibition development, object conservation and program development were planned, fabricated and implemented simultaneously. The museum grew, and built an innovative, modern building that looked and acted more like a department store than a traditional museum.

![Image of the museum](image-url)

A new temporary exhibition program was initiated, which reached new heights of success with the organization of a proprietary exhibition of The Dead Sea Scrolls, organized in collaboration with the Israel Antiquities Authority. Between mid-February and June 1, 2003, the exhibition hosted a record 235,541 visitors, having an economic impact on the region of $9 million. It was the second-most-attended temporary antiquities exhibition worldwide in 2003. As 2004 draws to a close, the museum is again poised to expand both with new programs and exhibitions as well as a new 140,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art Community Archives & Research Center providing excellent preservation of the permanent collection and expanded public access. The center houses not only museum collections, but also the archives of the city of Grand Rapids and the county, which collaborate in its planning and operation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in congratulating the Public Museum of Grand Rapids on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. Its long history of service to the west Michigan community is laudable indeed and we look forward to its continued work in the future.

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**THE RECOGNITION OF MR. ROBERT BAUMANN**

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR. OF NEW JERSEY**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2004**

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in recognition of the endless accomplishments of Fire Fighter Robert Baumann who has served the Middletown Township Fire Department for 47 years. Fire Fighter Robert Baumann joined our community in 1957 as a member of the Bedford Engine Fire Co. #1 and has continued to volunteer his time, intelligence, and experience to the public ever since. I am honored to acknowledge someone of Mr. Baumann’s courage and strength.

During his tenure in our community, Mr. Baumann has been reliable and energetic in all his services. Mr. Baumann is a man who realizes the value of life and would give up his own to save another. Fire Fighter Robert Baumann is a true hero.

The Middletown community is grateful to have had a man of such character with us for all these years. At the age of 75 Mr. Baumann continues to volunteer his time to the Fire Police Unit by responding to calls from all hours of the night and day, on holidays and weekends. Mr. Baumann has always been there with the unit at fires, assisting the police department when power lines are down, or during any other type of emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I feel privileged to recognize a man of Fire Fighter Robert Baumann’s experience who has served our community with such dedication. Once again, I ask that you join me in congratulating Fire Fighter Robert Baumann on a life of public service, and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

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**A TRIBUTE TO RAMONA WILLIAMS**

**HON. EDOLPUS TOWNS OF NEW YORK**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2004**

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ramona Williams for her dedication to strengthening early education for our children and volunteer efforts to strengthen our community.

Ramona is a life-long resident of the Bedford-Stuyvesant community of Brooklyn and does not plan to move. She attended Public School 297, which her two younger children attended. She graduated from J.H.S. 126 and Eli Whitney High School. She has three beautiful children: Jessica, 14, Vanessa, 9, and Jerome, 5, each of whom have a dream of greatness.

Following her high school graduation, Ramona began work as a substitute teacher at Round Table Child Care Center, eventually becoming a head teacher. She enjoys creating curriculum and cultural activities for her students and assisting parents in helping their children. After 16 years of empowering her students, her personal horizon expanded and she accepted a position as Parent Coordinator for Mark Hopkins Intermediate School 33. Ramona works closely with the principal, P.T.A. and as a liaison between the community and school.

As a single parent raising three children and working full time, Ramona finds it important to further her education and has enrolled at the College of New Rochelle pursuing a Bachelor’s of Social Work. She is a member of the Great Faith Free Gift Baptist Church Inc., where the pastor is the Rev. William Raymond Whitaker, Jr., Th.M. whom she thanks for his spiritual leadership and wisdom.

Ramona’s concern for her church and community has led her to focus on fundraising and organizing outreach events for teenagers, which included finding them summer employment. She also sings in the Tabernacle Choir. For her volunteerism, Ramona has been recognized by her personal, personal and community, she is grateful for those who inspire her as she strives to make this a better place for others. Her unconditional love and thanks goes to her parents and siblings, and the sparkles in her eyes—Jessica, Vanessa, and Jerome (“Joy”).

Mr. Speaker, Ramona Williams has been a leader in our community through her consistent efforts to improve the quality of education for all of our children. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

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**HONORING BARBARA COHEN**

**HON. JIM GERLACH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2004**

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Barbara Cohen on the occasion of her retirement from the Phoenixville Chamber of Commerce where she has served as the Executive Director since 1992. Barbara Cohen has led an extraordinary and exciting life. Born in Philadelphia, she has always displayed energy and determination in all aspects of her life. Her childhood consisted of piano lessons, Haberdashers School, Girl Scouts, National Honor Society, and international travel. Barbara was her class valedictorian at Northeast High School in 1959 and, from there, she went on to Temple University where she earned a BS in education and a minor in political science. After graduation, Barbara began teaching 4th grade while attending University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of International Relations.
Barbara was married in 1964 and, shortly after her wedding, Barbara and her husband served their country by moving to Germany for three years where she taught military servicemen and women general education courses they needed to finish their high school education.

In 1983, ten years after Barbara and her family moved back to Pennsylvania and settled in Valley Forge, Barbara went back to school and earned her degree in interior design from Drexel University. During this time, she was also a full-time mother, driving her children to and from soccer practices, dancing lessons, Hebrew School and many other activities. In addition to her busy schedule and many accomplishments, Barbara has been actively involved in her community since returning to the States in the 1970’s. Barbara serves as a volunteer guide for the Friends of Independence National Historic Park, and as a volunteer guide for the Foundation for Architecture that gives walking tours of historic sites in Philadelphia. Barbara has also served as a board member for the Chester County Tourist Bureau and for the Schuylkill River Greenway Association. Barbara spearheaded an EPA brownfields initiative grant for PhoeniXville Borough as Director of the PhoeniXville Area Economic Development Corporation and Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce. And she has provided unparalleled leadership and direction for a wide variety of public improvement and revitalization efforts in PhoeniXville. Due to Barbara’s tireless efforts, almost 4 million dollars has been raised in the revitalization effort and the Borough now stands on the threshold of a magnificent resurgence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring this extraordinary woman for the years of good work she has done at home and abroad and for the many distinguished and remarkable contributions she has made to this community and the people whose lives she has graciously touched.

TRIBUTE TO EPWORTH MANOR

HON. BILL SHUSTER
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Epworth Manor for its service to the community, and to congratulate all those involved with the facility on its celebration of 85 years in operation.

Throughout this nation’s history, taking care of the elderly has never been more critical to our progress than it is now. With so many citizens reaching the age of retirement while having the ability to live longer due to advances in medical science, the services that care centers provide have become vital to a community’s subsistence. The legacy of consistent service that the Manor as built throughout the last 85 years has helped to earn people’s trust, making them more willing to seek medical help when in need. Facilities like Epworth Manor allow a region to thrive because of the assurance that quality health care is available, and its impact has been invaluable.

Established in 1919 when the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Church purchased the S.S. Blair Mansion, the facility, formerly known as the Methodist Home for the Aged, initially housed fourteen residents. After numerous expansions, extensive remodeling, and investment in new technology, Epworth Manor has expanded into a 144-bed comprehensive health care facility.

Epworth Manor has demonstrated an unyielding enthusiasm and care for the public which it serves, and its employees have worked diligently throughout its tenure, instilling a sense of pride and comfort into the area’s citizens. The center has not only enriched the lives of its residents, but of those in the surrounding communities who have undoubtedly benefitted from the outstanding service that they have repeatedly provided.

For its incomparable generosity, service to the community, and unabated commitment to excellence, Epworth Manor deserves the highest recognition. The center continues to grow and maintain a high level of quality, providing an example that all businesses should follow.

I congratulate Epworth Manor on its 85th anniversary and eagerly await its future progress.

INCREASE THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to S. 2986, legislation to raise the debt limit by a total of $800 billion, to $8.18 trillion. This marks the third time in three years that Congress has been forced to vote to raise the debt limit and burden our children and grandchildren for decades to come, raising the debt limit by a total of $2.2 trillion since 2001.

It is completely irresponsible to be voting to raise the debt limit today without taking additional measures to put our fiscal policy back on track and institute the common sense pay-as-you-go rules which were in effect from 1990 through 2002 requiring that both tax cuts and spending increases be paid for.

Five tax cuts in four years, soaring defense spending on the war in Iraq, in addition to our stifled economy have turned the record surpluses inherited by President Bush into a record deficit of $413 billion in the past fiscal year.

Unfortunately, we are not considering a reform of our current fiscal policies today, allowing our national debt to continue to rise. As a result, the amount of interest on the national debt—the “debt tax”—that each American family will have to pay will climb to $9,400 by 2014. America’s growing debt will ensure that our taxes will go toward paying interest on our debt instead of keeping our nation safe and strong, strengthening Social Security, or improving education for our children.

I will not vote to raise the debt limit by $800 billion today, and will only support an increase of the debt limit along with the reinstated common sense fiscal policy reforms.
Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant support of the conference report on H.R. 4818, the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill. Though there are many important and laudable provisions contained in this spending bill, I am troubled by other specific provisions and by the process that this bill has followed. I am pleased that the bill provides an increase in funding for national security and counterintelligence operations at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Unfortunately, this Congress has failed in its effort to pass comprehensive intelligence reform legislation, which would ensure that this money is being spent appropriately and that the efforts of our agencies are coordinated.

I am pleased to see that this conference report provides $1.3 billion for Education Impact Aid, $24 million more than last year. This program provides funding for military impacted schools such as those in the towns of Eatonville and others. I am also pleased that the bill includes $250 million for the community college initiative, which will fund workforce development partnerships between community colleges and employers.

Despite these provisions, we have more work to do to fully fund what should be a top priority for this Congress—education. One day after we passed the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, we underfunded aid to schools by $1.7 billion. Considering the rising cost of higher education, I am disappointed that the bill does not increase the maximum Pell Grant Award. We cannot keep the maximum Pell grant award at $4,050 and expect families to be able to afford college.

I am deeply troubled that this bill includes such a restrictive limitation on funding for a woman’s constitutionally protected right of choice. Specifically, this bill prohibits use of funds to pay for health benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion. It also protects health care providers who refuse to provide services. It also protects this constitutionally protected right of choice. Specifically, this bill prohibits use of funds to pay for health benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion. It also protects health care providers who refuse to provide services. It also protects this constitutional right of choice. Specifically, this bill prohibits use of funds to pay for health benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion. It also protects health care providers who refuse to provide services.

I am disappointed that the Community Oriented Policing Service, COPS, program has been cut by $142 million. Many of the towns in my district have received funding for police officers through this program, which has made the communities safer. It simply makes no sense to be taking cops off the street at a time when they are more needed than ever.

I am also troubled that this spending bill cuts the budget for the National Science Foundation, NSF, by $62 million from last year’s inadequate appropriation. The work of the NSF provides the basic scientific underpinnings for the most advanced technological research and development in the world. We cannot hope to remain the world’s most scientifically advanced nation if we continue to shortchange our researchers.

I am disturbed by the economic situation in which we find ourselves. Congress was forced to increase its debt limit by $800 billion—and that is on top of debt increases of $450 billion in 2002 and another $984 billion in 2003. The increase in the debt ceiling in just the past 3 years is almost 2.5 times the entire Federal debt accumulated between 1776 and 1980.

We are in this situation because of the choices of the Republican majority. They chose to prioritize tax cuts for the wealthy, rather than adequately maintaining balanced budgets and protecting the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. They chose to engage in a costly, dangerous, and unnecessary war in Iraq which has sapped our ability to combat al Qaeda and fund important domestic priorities. They chose to bundle funds for 13 Government departments rather than engaging in a robust debate justifying the policies and priorities that we are asking the American people to pay for.

Perhaps most disturbing about this appropriations bill is the process that it has followed. The infamous provision allowing unprecedented authority for Members of Congress and staff to access the private tax returns of individuals and businesses demonstrates that our budget process is broken. This provision was slipped into a 3,000 page bill which Members had no time to read before voting. The process has become corrupted by the Republican majority, which has evidently decided that enacting pet projects and controversial issues that cannot pass on their own merit, are more important than debate, compromise, and good governance.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill because it will allow the important work of the Federal Government to continue. However, I hope that next year’s appropriations process reflects a greater commitment to funding important priorities and following a fair and thorough legislative process.

CONGRATULATING DOBBS FERRY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. NITA M. LOWEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dobbs Ferry High School for winning the 2004 New York State Class C Football Championship.

Through hard work, commitment and by always keeping their eye on the ball, this team completed a perfect 13-0 season en route to the title.

This championship continues the rich tradition that Dobbs Ferry High School has established on and off the football field. By winning this title, Dobbs Ferry has now won the state title two of the last three years. Dobbs Ferry is only the fifth school ever to win a state title in multiple football classes.

By applying the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship and constructive competition to sports and all other walks of life, the school has become a shining example for others to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dobbs Ferry High School on their accomplishment, and I wish them the best of luck in defending their title next season.

A TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS SHERARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Phyllis Sherard for her dedication to educating our youth and strengthening our community.

One of the best kept secrets about Phyllis is that she was actually born in Norfolk, Virginia, arriving in New York via North Carolina at the age of four. In spite of this, she boastfully claims to be an authentic product of Brooklyn, having resided in this wonderful borough of New York all of her life.

As the eldest of six siblings, her parents instilled values and traits in her that have become her trademarks. Many people describe her as a born leader who is capable, responsible, compassionate, dependable, and motivational. No matter how high or wide the obstacles, Phyllis’ attitude is always, “We can handle it!”

In 1985, Phyllis joined the NYC Board of Education. She always wanted to teach but was encouraged to pursue commercial studies while in high school. However, through her experiences, she realized how important it is to get involved in the education of our children. Following the path that she now says was her destiny, she joined the staff of Project 17—the Drug Prevention Education Program in Community School District 17. Initially, she had second thoughts about the position because she had never taken a cut in pay. That was 20 years ago and needless to say, it has been the most fulfilling work of her life. The position opened doors for Phyllis to work with thousands of children, directing, intervening, and changing paths for so many children and their parents. Because of her ability and commitment, she was selected to serve as the Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Parent Involvement.

Phyllis is most proud of implementing The First Clergy Conference, a series of Saturday African American Studies for parents, The Cultural Awareness Summer Program for children, the Christmas Toy Drive, Family Literacy Program, Computer Literacy for Parents, youth conferences, and a general equivalency program for young mothers, as well as working with parents to coordinate the first math, science, and technology parent conference. She currently directs drug prevention education programs for Region Six, which is comprised of 109 schools. This has been the most challenging experience for her. She has also implemented an evening counseling program for at-risk students and their families.

Phyllis is a graduate of Long Island University, where she earned a B.A. in Political Science and a Masters degree in Supervision and Administration. She is the proud mother of Darryn and Jade-Lynn and the proud grandmother of grandson, Darryn Scott.

Mr. Speaker, Phyllis Sherard has been instrumental in strengthening the educational environment for children in our community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.
Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the Downingtown West High School Girls Soccer team for their 2–0 victory over the Moon Township team for the 2004 Girls Soccer PIAA Class AAA Championship.

Downingtown Girls Soccer last won the PIAA Class AAA Championship back in November of 2001 after a 7–0 victory and the team was determined to repeat that victory this year.

The Downingtown West Whippets were led by the senior co-captains, Adrienne Weisser and Jill Conaboy. The two co-captains worked together to lead the team after the Downingtown High School split into two separate schools: Downingtown East and West in 2003. In the post-season of 2003, the Whippets were determined to work on their game and improve after a late season slump that year and they continued to improve with each game they played.

The Whippets traveled to Hershey, Pennsylvania to play in the finals against Moon Township. In the final game, the Whippets proved to be a strong team with superior skills and easily won their next PIAA Class AAA Championship by shutting out Moon Township 2–0.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the players, coaches, and support staff of Downingtown West High School Whippets for their drive, determination, and commitment to excellence that led them to an outstanding season and the Class AAA championship. The team is comprised of: Kelsea Fortino, Amanda Marino, Jess Dean, Megan Miller, Captain Jill Conaboy, Lauren Sutcliffe, Katie Shannon, Jessica Stevens, Becky Edwards, Sarah Phillips, Katelyn Capps, Captain Adrienne Weisser, Colleen Flanagan, Ali McNeil, Bethany Warren, Christine McLaughlin, Caitlyn Coleman, Christine Thurwanger, Anne Collinson, Ashley Harrington, Kelly Peterson, Emily Fenimore, Sarah Halprin, Amber Reardon, Amber Werner, Coach Rob Smith, Varsity Assistants Mary Schanne and Kelly Cross, JV Head Coach Mike Huffman, Athletic Trainer Joe Iezzi and Assistant Athletic Trainer Jessica Korn.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of the B–52B aircraft.tail number 008, the oldest NASA aircraft and B–52 on flying status. This aircraft is flown by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base, California, which is in my district. I am especially proud of those who have worked over the years with the B–52B, making history and providing vital research data for our nation’s aerospace programs.

The B–52B is an important piece of our nation’s aerospace history, and I am pleased to note that it will remain on display on Edwards Air Force Base for future generations to visit. Visitors will be able to trace the aircraft’s history through mission markings along the side of the aircraft that document every research flight it made.

Beginning on June 11, 1955, this aircraft worked on some of the most significant projects in our nation’s aerospace history, including the X–15 hypersonic plane, which contributed to the developments of the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and space shuttle programs. Between 1959 and 1968, the B–52B was the launch aircraft for many of the missions of the X–15, or wingless lifting body aircraft, that contributed to the space shuttle’s development. Additionally, through this program, these missions explored areas of high aerodynamic heating rates, stability, control, and human physiological phenomena, and other problems commonly experienced with hypersonic flights.

Several remotely piloted aircraft used the B–52B for launching in the 1970s and 1980s. During this time, NASA studied spin-stall, high angle of attack, and maneuver characteristics. In addition, this was the launch aircraft to develop and test the parachute recovery system for the space shuttle’s solid rocket boosters. The aircraft was also used in several tests for the shuttle’s drag chute deployment system, which was later installed on the shuttle orbiters.

Most recently, the B–52B was the launch aircraft for the X–43A hypersonic research program. In March of this year, the X–43A flew freely at a speed of Mach 7, carried by the same pylon that carried the X–15. The final flight of the X–43A on November 16 flew a record-breaking speed of approximately Mach 10, almost 10 times the speed of sound, at an altitude of approximately 110,000 feet. The X–43A missions provided research in the area of ultra high-speed flights, such as increasing the affordability, safety and flexibility of such flights.

I commend the many men and women who have worked on the B–52B 008 and its research missions, and I thank them for pushing the envelope in aerospace research.

A TRIBUTE TO HILMA SHANNON

HON. EDDOLPH TOWNS

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hilma Shannon, who through hard work and determination has realized her dream to teach in the United States, serving a vital role in the education of our diverse community. Shannon was born in the Republic of Panama in the City of Colon to Enos Williams and Lilian Francis. Her education in Panama consisted of training in elementary education in
both high school and college. She taught school in Panama for 7 years. In 1971, Hilma married and, now, has one daughter, Gavianna. In 1974, she immigrated to the United States and settled in Brooklyn. Her first job was at the Ace of Suede Leather Cleaners where she worked for 10 years.

Hilma’s command of the English language needed a lot of work and with the assistance of her daughter, she read and studied constantly to improve her grammar, diction, and general ability to communicate in English. In 1984, she accepted a job with the New York Board of Education to fulfill her dream of teaching again. She was assigned to work as an educational assistant in 1985 at Walt Whitman I.S. 246. Her work included visits to the homes of students who were chronic absentees to encourage their consistent attendance. She took advantage of the Board of Education’s Career Ladder program to become a teacher, graduating in 1989 from the College of New Rochelle with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and Psychology. In addition, she completed a Masters in Guidance and Counseling and an Advanced Certificate in Guidance and Counseling. Upon completing both degrees she received the prestigious Lester Crow Award and was offered an adjunct position in the Guidance Graduate program.

In 1992, Hilma was assigned to Abraham Lincoln High School as a Bilingual Spanish Guidance Counselor and is there today. She has worked with students from various cultural backgrounds. She coordinates "La Herencia Hispana (Lincoln’s 1st Spanish Club), the Young Scholars program, The Choice Program, the Liberty Partnerships program with Kingsborough Community College just to name a few. At Lincoln High School, she has also taught Art Appreciation in the after-school program in addition to serving as a full-time Guidance counselor. She participates in Lincoln’s Key Club-European Exchange program traveling with the club members to Italy, Austria, Czech Republic, and recently to Denmark.

Lastly, Hilma is a Jehovah Witness and dedicates time to helping others understand the Bible. She is the proud grandmother of grandson Kameron, and the mother-in-law of Jerome.

Mr. Speaker, Hilma Shannon serves as an inspiration to us all through her accomplishments and commitment to educating our children. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1350, INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding local official in Michigan's First Congressional District. John T. Lewinski will be leaving the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners in January after 18 years of service. His years of work on behalf of his community represent the very best of Northern Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners for the first time. I commend Mrs. Pringle for her more than 30 years of dedicated public service to our nation and to those who have worn the military uniform.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARIE PRINGLE

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Pringle who is retiring as a senior budget analyst with the Energy Information Administration, as a budget analyst.

Mrs. Pringle has received numerous awards in recognition of her exceptional performance throughout her federal service career. She is a graduate of the Department’s prestigious Leadership VA program, Class of 1992. She also was a member of the American Association of Budget and Program Analysts (AABPA).

Mrs. Pringle received a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from George Mason University. She is a native of Washington, DC, and currently resides in West River, Maryland, with her husband Darian. The Pringles have been sponsor parents for midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy and enjoy sailing and cruising on their trawler, the Galleon. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Budget Committee, as well as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, I can appreciate how challenging it can be to deal with the federal budget. When the committees review VA’s five-volume budget submission each February, we see the industrious work of Mrs. Pringle and her associates on behalf of the Secretary. I commend Mrs. Pringle for her more than 30 years of dedicated public service to our nation and to those who have worn the military uniform.

HON. BART STUPAK
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding local official in Michigan’s First Congressional District. John T. Lewinski will be leaving the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners in January after 18 years of service. His years of work on behalf of his community represent the very best of Northern Michigan.

Mr. Lewinski’s dedication to service should not surprise us though. As a member of the Greatest Generation, he joined the Navy during World War II, and specifically as a Navy Seabee in Guam. Like so many of his generation, John Lewinski returned home and worked to improve the country he risked his life to protect.

Mr. Speaker, I rose to 1983, Mr. Lewinski was a forester’s aide with the Gogebic County Forestry Department, working to preserve the Upper Peninsula’s treasured forests. In January 1987, he joined the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners for the first time.

Since then, John Lewinski has served as chairman of the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners, chairman of the Airport Board, chairman of the Gogebic County Transit Board, chairman of the Community Mental Health Board, and twice as chairman of the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners.

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Health Board, chairman of Western U.P. Substance Abuse, a board member of the Community Action Agency, and in 2002, as the chairman of the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners.

Mr. Speaker, John T. Lewinski has had an extraordinary care for his community that led to his election as a county commissioner, and I am sure that his interest in the community will continue his work even after he steps down as a county commissioner. I know that his contributions to his community and his family continues as an example to all of us. I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring him, and thanking him for his service.

HONORING THE BROOKHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Brookhaven High School state champions. The Bearcats’ victory over Avon Lake in the championship game capped a season marked by one success after another.

Led by Coach Tom Blake, Brookhaven simply overpowered its opponents on its way to a perfect 15–0 season. Over the course of the year, the Bearcats outscored their opponents by an incredible 579–98 margin, and their record included four shutout victories. Their perfect 15–0 record included four shutout victories. Their 42–21 win in the state championship game ended Avon Lake’s 29-game win streak.

As important as anything else, Brookhaven becomes the first Columbus City League football team to win a state title in the 34 years since Ohio instituted a playoff format. It is something that all City League coaches, players and fans can take pride in.

As a Columbus public schools graduate, I offer my congratulations to Coach Blake, Principal Robert Murphy, the Bearcat football team, students and supporters. All have earned the right to be called state champions.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT SANTIAGO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robert Santiago for his dedication to strengthening our neighborhoods and improving the lives of our citizens through his work in various community based organizations.

Robert was born in Brooklyn to Norberto and Heriberta Santiago first generation immigrant parents who migrated from Puerto Rico during the mid 1940’s. He attended P.S. 285 and 67, Sands JHS 265 and graduated from Eastern District High School. He graduated with honors from Queens College where he majored in Political Science with a minor in Spanish. After a year at the University of Illinois College of Law, he returned to New York to complete his studies not realizing the journey would take an additional 10 years. He eventually graduated from Rutgers University School of Law in 1986. In between, Robert became an Army officer, did his masters work at Long Island University in economics and found time to raise his family.

Briefly practicing law in Fort Greene, he discovered that his true calling was elsewhere. His employment varied from working in several different New York City agencies to owner and operator of several businesses ventures.

Through the auspices of Colony South Brooklyn Houses, Robert as director of educational programs was able to increase the amount of funding for their educational and day care programs. Educational programs he helped begin for at-risk and homeless young residents in the areas of education, housing, safety, and economic development.

Mr. Speaker, the record is clear that Robert Santiago has been a leader in our community through his consistent efforts to improve the quality of life of those in need. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

KURT BUSCH—2004 NASCAR NEXTEL CUP CHAMPION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY
OF NEVADA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I join millions of NASCAR fans in honoring the extraordinary achievement of an outstanding son of Nevada, Kurt Busch—the 2004 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Champion.

Born in Las Vegas, and a graduate of Durango High School, Kurt developed his racing skills at age 14, driving Dwarf Cars to victory at a speedway in nearby Pahrump, Nevada, earning the title of Rookie of the Year in the State Championships. Still a teenager, Kurt won honors as Rookie of the Year for his exciting exploits in racing in the Legend Cars National, and shortly thereafter was awarded the same title for his tremendous performance in the Late Model Stock Southwest Series. By 1998, Kurt became the youngest NASCAR touring Champion with the record-setting victory in the Featherlite Southwest Series.

My favorite raceway, and one of the world’s greatest speed venues—the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, is Kurt’s home track, where he accelerated his drive to the pinnacle of NASCAR in just four racing seasons. His exciting racing style, which reflects the spirit of Las Vegas, from where he hails. In 2001, as part of the legendary Roush racing team, Kurt was recognized as NASCAR’s Rookie of the Year, setting the stage for a fabulous string of victories and top–10 finishes in 2002 and 2003.

This year, Kurt and the Roush team more than lived up to Nevada’s State Motto: Battle Born. With Kurt at the wheel, the team overcame a staggering gauntlet of bad breaks during their dramatic run for the NEXTEL Cup, including a blown motor, blown tires, wheels falling off, spin-outs, and crashes. Despite tire and wheel problems in the final race, which would have sidelined lesser teams, Kurt, beating the odds true in Las Vegas fashion, piloted Number 97 to a thrilling finish for the Roush crew, winning the NEXTEL Cup.

At just 26 years of age, Southern Nevada’s own Kurt Busch has reached the top of America’s most-watched sport. It is a pleasure to recognize in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the great performance of a great competitor from Las Vegas, Nevada, the 2004 NEXTEL Cup Champion, Kurt Busch.

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

HON. JOE BACA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American patriots who lost their lives on the fateful day of December 7, 1941.

In the greatest defining moment of the world’s most defining war in our history, over 2,400 Americans were killed and more than 1,100 were wounded at Pearl Harbor, including hundreds of innocent civilians.

As costly as it was in the lives of our men and women in uniform, in military assets, and in esteem and pride, Pearl Harbor was a watershed moment for America.

December 7, 1941 marked the turning point for our Nation and determined the future of our foreign policy. America changed from a Nation turned inward to a strong and unified superpower, steadfast in our commitment to champion and defend the ideals of freedom and democracy.

Pearl Harbor caused our Nation to whole-heartedly commit to winning World War II, changing the course of our Nation’s history and the world’s future.

The catastrophic loss of American soldiers led to our country becoming the America we live in today. At home and abroad, we fight for the ideals of social and political equality. This policy was founded in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and continues to be our Nation’s moral compass.

This day should not be remembered with hatred or bitterness. It should be a day to honor the bravery of our men and women and remembered as the day our Nation was united and our sacrifices consecrated.

We learned in World War II that no single nation holds a monopoly on wisdom, morality or right to power, but that we must fight for the weak and promote democracy. These are the difficult lessons learned in 1941 and enshrined in Pearl Harbor.
HON. JIM GERLACH  
OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Antietam High School Boys Soccer team for winning the Pennsylvania State PIAA Class A Boys Soccer Championship. 

The Antietam Mounts played a vigorous game against the Trinity Christian Falcons. The game was extremely competitive with both teams fighting to win. But in the end, the Mounts pulled out a 4–2 win. This win marked their first state title.

During the championship game, the Mounts were without one of their key players, Christopher Dock. Dock, a junior midfielder and a starter for the entire season, injured his left knee during Tuesday’s semifinal win. The Mounts were able to overcome the loss of a key player and still turn in a win.

Today, the Mounts are looking ahead to next season and possibly another state championship. However, the team will lose seven seniors, including one of the team’s highest scorers, Eric Kleiman, who scored 87 points and several game winning points.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the players, coaches, and support staff of the Antietam High School Boys Soccer team for their drive, determination, and commitment to excellence that led them to their first Pennsylvania state title. The team is comprised of: Matt Nuding, Ryan Hummel, Jordan Jones, Mike Melot, Vince Baro, Corey Hertzog, Austin Lee, Austin Kel ler, Seth Cerra, Kyle Cerra, Shawn Troxel, Mitch Weglos, Adam Cumbler, Maarten Koostra, Eric Kleiman, Steve Le, Madison Reece, Dan Pardo, Chris Laverty, Tom Talarico, Matt Stauffer, Pete Smith, Adam Kozlowski, Drew Gilbert, Eric Shank, Tyler Galczynski, Ian Burke, Joseph Stoltz, Seth Joy, and Coach Charlie Weaver, Coach Ralph Hertzog, and Managers Abbey Weaver, Jordan Cunninghan, and Dayna Goheen.

THE NEED FOR POSTAL REFORM

HON. TOM DAVIS  
OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues’ attention to an urgent issue that we must address in the opening months of the next Congress.

Early next spring, the Postal Service will file for a rate increase, to be implemented in 2006. Unless Congress acts, that rate increase will be the largest in history—at least 15 percent, or 6 cents on a First Class stamp. That will cripple an industry already in trouble, and reverberate through our entire economy.

It would be irresponsible and reckless for us to sit back and do nothing. The Postal Service is the center of a $900 billion industry, employing 9 million Americans in such diverse fields as manufacturing, advertising, publishing, and finance. This industry comprises 8.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product.

The cost of doing nothing will be steep, for the Postal Service, for the 9 million Americans whose jobs rely on the mail, and for every American who sends a birthday card, pays a bill, or orders something from a catalog or online.

Reforming the Postal Service is a crucial responsibility. The Postal Service operates under a rigid, 30-year-old legal structure that does not take into account the technological advances of the past decades. It is saddled with nearly $70 billion in retiree health costs, worker’s comp claims and pension payments. Each year, the labor and infrastructure costs facing the Postal Service rise, while the volume of mail continues to fall. This is a “death spiral” that can only be reversed by Congressional action.

Let me make clear what will happen if we fail to act.

A failure to act is the equivalent of a backdoor tax on every sector of the American economy.

A small business that now spends $5,000 a year on postage would be hit with a nearly $1,000 rate increase. And an industry like financial services would get slammed with an increase of over $600 million in postage costs annually.

Even though we’re trying to postpone Internet taxation, a failure to act would raise the cost of online purchases, because consumers will pay more for shipping and handling.

Overall, the American public and American businesses will waste over $20 billion in unnecessary payments to the Postal Service over the next decade.

This does not have to happen. We have the framework for responsible, comprehensive Postal Reform in the form of legislation that has been approved unanimously by my committee, the Government Reform Committee, and by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

This legislation will force the Postal Service to act more like a business, while also resolving two issues related to the Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003. This act placed an unusual burden on the Postal Service, making it the only major agency in the government responsible for funding the military portion of its employee retiree benefits. The Act also required the Postal Service to place into escrow any money saved through the legislation—and I believe we should free this money, to allow the Service to make some cost-reducing and productivity-enhancing capital improvements.

I have worked with the Government Reform Committee’s ranking minority member, HENRY WAXMAN, as well as Representatives JOHN McHUGH and DANNY DAVIS to craft legislation that will allow the Postal Service and the industry that relies on it to survive well into this century.

I urge my colleagues to come back next year ready to pass meaningful Postal Reform. There are critics who will say the bill costs too much. I say the cost of not acting is what we really cannot afford.

CONGRATULATING BONNIE JONES ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER  
OF FLORIDA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bonnie Jones on her retirement as the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections.

A fixture in Escambia County politics, Bonnie Jones was appointed Escambia County Supervisor of Elections by Governor Lawton Chiles on August 1, 1994 to fill the vacancy of Mr. Joe Oldmixon. Mrs. Jones was officially elected on November 8, 1994 and was re-elected without opposition in 1996 and 2000. Born and raised in Pensacola, Florida, Bonnie gained employment with the Elections office at the young age of eighteen. Her love of democracy and Northwest Florida lead the way to her involvement with other community organizations, such as the Rotary Club of Pensacola, the Board of Directors and Secretary for the Ronald McDonald House, the Woodham High School Advisory Board, and the Pensacola Pen Wheels. Currently she is a member of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, the Elections Center Professional Education Program, the Pensacola North Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Woman’s Board of the Baptist Health Care Foundation.

With a partisan atmosphere surrounding the 2000 elections, Bonnie was a fair and steadfast public servant in Escambia County. She was diligent in ensuring every vote was counted, including the large number of military absentee ballots arriving from overseas. Her foresight and wise choice to use the optical scan prior to the 2000 Elections prevented problems in the county with dimpled and hanging chads, which other Floridians experienced.

Today, I salute a woman who has dedicated her life to ensuring liberty and defending the principles of this country. Her exemplary service has guaranteed that the United States will continue to prosper as the world’s greatest democracy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Bonnie Jones on her retirement and wish her many more years of success and happiness.

A TRIBUTE TO JOELLE BAILEY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS  
OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Joelle Bailey for her accomplishments in the field of business and efforts to improve the manners of all people in our community.

Joelle has over 20 years experience in catering, event planning and the restaurant business. Little did she know that a position at Essence Magazine would serve as the impetus for her to enter the food and hospitality industry. At a very young age, Joelle’s mom Marie felt very strongly about manners and etiquette and instilled those values in Joelle and her sister Yves. Joelle has taken these values and...
turned them into a lifetime mission not only for herself but to assist and instruct others in these areas.

Joelle has learned through some of the best working positions at the Vista Hilton, Marriot and Plaza Hotels and LSG Sky Chefs. She received her formal training at the French Culinary Institute and Sky Chefs. By 1994, she opened Classic Catering which is a full service event planning and catering business that caught the attention of the New York Times, Daily News, NY Post, 98.7 KISS FM and WOR 710. In June 2004, Joelle was featured in the Daily News’ “Spotlight On Great People” by Clem Richardson. Publicity aside, Joelle is pleased that her clients and guests approve of her fabulous catering and cooking skills. Currently, Joelle writes several columns, sharing her knowledge on entertaining, etiquette and menu and recipe suggestions. Some of Joelle’s most memorable clients have included: The New York Urban League, Diana Ross, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Russell Simmons, Suzanne Taylor, The United Way, Bill Cosby, Children’s Television Network, Jackie Robinson Foundation, New York Bar Association, New York University, Columbia University and many more.

Joelle shares her love for young people by teaching courses in the art of etiquette, table manners, sophistication, food, nutrition and teaching courses in the art of etiquette, table skills. Currently, Joelle writes several columns, sharing her knowledge on entertaining, etiquette and menu and recipe suggestions. Some of Joelle’s most memorable clients have included: The New York Urban League, Diana Ross, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Russell Simmons, Suzanne Taylor, The United Way, Bill Cosby, Children’s Television Network, Jackie Robinson Foundation, New York Bar Association, New York University, Columbia University and many more.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, in the early hours of Thanksgiving morning, two Sikh brothers, Sarabjit and Sukhjinder Singh, arrived for work at the gas station they owned, only to find it burned to the ground with racist graffiti scrawled all around the burning rubble. I am glad to say that this sad incident was immediately reported to the local Chesterfield County police, to the FBI, and to the Civil Rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and all are now diligently working to
make sure that whoever perpetrated this heinous crime is brought to justice.

It seems obvious from the graffiti left at the scene that whoever committed this crime intended to target Muslims—not Sikhs—proving that this unknown anarchist was not just a bigot, but an ignorant bigot. If they had been Muslims, this would still be a senseless and horrific crime, and one to be condemned in the strongest possible terms, because to attack innocent practitioners of any religion for the acts of a handful of misguided fanatics is inexcusable.

But these men were Sikhs. Sikhs are not Muslims; they are not Hindus. Sikhism is a noble independent religion that traces its roots back hundreds of years. It is not part of any other religion. Furthermore, Sikhs believe in one God and in equality for all—an ideal that forms one of the very pillars of our own society.

Swift prosecution and severe punishment of the perpetrators of this crime is the best way to combat this type of bigotry. I am sure every Member of this House joins me in urging the police, FBI, and Justice Department to promptly and thoroughly investigate this matter and bring the perpetrator or perpetrators of this crime to justice. I am sure all of my colleagues will also join me in extending our best wishes and prayers to Sarabjit Singh, Sukhjinder Singh, and their families during this traumatic time.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that one day—a day in the not too distant future—we will live in an America where this type of crime, born out of ignorance and fear, is forever a thing of the past.

INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

HON. HENRY J. HYDE
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, now that Congress is close to passing landmark legislation that will help our intelligence community, it is time to take a closer look at streamlining congressional intelligence oversight responsibilities. I believe the time for change is now and I am pleased to share with my colleagues a recent editorial in the News-Leader, Florida's oldest weekly newspaper, which explores some of the options once again available to us:

[From the News-Leader, Dec. 3, 2004]

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE OVERHEAD

The collapse of Congressional efforts to reform the intelligence community dominated the news just before Thanksgiving. The proposed legislation embodied many of the major recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for fixing the executive branch's intelligence problems. Largely overlooked in this reform debate is Congress' failure, so far, to do enough to address its own problems. Yet the 9/11 panel noted that, "of all of our recommendations, restructuring Congressional oversight may be the most difficult and important." The commission also pointed out that, "Congressional oversight for intelligence and counterterrorism is now dysfunctional."

The main reason this critically important congressional responsibility is malfunctioning is because it is spread amongst too many committees. That is why the 9/11 Commission urged Congress to replace the current fragmented oversight arrangement with either a House-Senate joint committee or single panels in each congressional body with exclusive oversight and legislative power.

Consolidation along these lines would drastically reduce the time high level intelligence community officials spend on Capitol Hill repeating over and over again the same briefings and testimonies to the various committees now exercising jurisdiction over intelligence activities. Redundant congressional demands are becoming so time-consuming that it is increasingly difficult for these senior officials to discharge their primary duties of ensuring the many security issues confronting this nation.

The need to reform Congress' oversight of the intelligence community has been recognized by some members of Congress for years. Henry Hyde, currently chairman of the International Relations Committee in the House of Representatives, proposed legislation to create a Joint Intelligence Committee in 1984. He spelled out what he had in mind in numerous forums, including op ed pieces that appeared in major newspapers. He was the first to introduce in Congress the top recommendation of the Republican members of the Iran-Contra Committee. Among those endorsing the Hyde initiative were Dick Cheney, Mike De Wine and Orrin Hatch, who served with Hyde on the Iran-Contra Joint Committee. All of these political figures remain major players in Washington.

The reluctance of Congress to get its own house in order is politically understandable. A Joint Intelligence Committee would require a number of committees and their power brokers to give up the full control of their jurisdiction over intelligence matters. But given what is at stake, it is time to subordinate such parochial concerns to the national interest.

To really, be effective, a Joint Intelligence Committee must have both oversight and legislative authority. Otherwise, those committees with an interest in intelligence issues will try to recapture their lost purviews. Historically, those committees have been Armed Services, Judiciary, Appropriations and Foreign Relations.

To mollify these traditional bailiwicks, membership on the joint committee should include representatives from each of these committees. The panel must be small to ensure secrecy and promote individual responsibility and accountability. To encourage bipartisanship, neither political party should have a majority. The membership on the joint committee staff should be composed of apolitical professionals.

In summary, the time has come to think outside of the box and adopt radical congressional reforms to meet national security challenges in the post 9/11 world. The 9/11 commission panel did not warn that "the other reforms we have suggested—for a national counter-terrorism center and national intelligence director—will not work if congressional oversight does not change too. Unity of effort in executive management can be lost if it is fractured by congressional oversight."

A TRIBUTE TO KEYONA DAVIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Keyona Davis for her academic and extra-curricular accomplishments as well as her commitment to the church and civic organizations.

Keyona was born and raised in the borough of Brooklyn. She is the second daughter of Brenda and John Davis. Currently, she is a senior at the Brooklyn High School of the Arts, where she has maintained a 3.0 grade point average and has been continuously on the Honor Roll. She is now enrolled in a Sociology course at New York City Technical College. Keyona is featured in "Who's Who Among American High School Students."

Keyona has been involved in many extra curricular activities that have helped shaped her to become the young woman she is today. For 2 years, she participated in a teen dance company that performed in competitions including the Eastern Dance Association, International Dance Challenge, and ESPN's own dance competition. She is a member of the Berean Baptist Church's Ministry of Sacred Dance where dance is used to present God's message. Keyona is a Girl Scout of the Great er New York area where she has acquired skills to assist in planning social activity projects and setting an example for young girls and her peers. Keyona gives back to her community by donating clothing and volunteering at her church's annual Thanksgiving feed the homeless program.

As an independent young woman, Keyona has had many jobs since the age of 14. She was a camp counselor at the Professional Center for the Arts Dance Camp, clerical assistant at the Office of Children and Family Services, and at the New York State Child Support Office in 2002. She is currently a Senior Operations Specialist at Chase Bank. These employment experiences have helped Keyona grow mentally and gain an understanding of being a positive part of the workforce.

After graduation this June, Keyona plans to be a pre-law student at a 4-year university. A long-term goal has always been to become a prosecutor and a part-time dance teacher. Iyana Vanzont once said, "Faith and fearlessness fuel your dreams!" Keyona tries to live by this motto with her strong focus and dedication to things she loves.

Mr. Speaker, Keyona Davis, through her accomplishments and maturity, serves as an outstanding role model for all of our young people in the community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable young lady.

RETIREMENT OF RITA THOMPSON

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rita Thompson upon her retirement from the House Armed Services Committee after 30 years of loyal and dedicated service to the United States Congress. Rita grew up in southwestern Virginia and before coming to work for Congress, she worked for the Department of the Army in the Pentagon for 5½ years.

Rita began her career on Capitol Hill in January 1974 with the House Armed Services
After graduation, Bill and his wife Christy set out to work at the Business School at Stanford University. He graduated from Princeton University with an engineering degree and then attended the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California. He was awarded the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Religious of the Sacred Heart he came to love and respect. Bill says that growing up he had never really known a nun. But after meeting Rita, he says, “It was love at first sight.”

Rita’s committee service has spanned six presidents, seven committee chairs, and seven staff directors. I speak for myself, past chairs and ranking minority members, and any and everyone who has had the privilege of working with Rita, in thanking her for her tireless work and dedication to the House Armed Services Committee.

Rita’s charm has always been a trademark of her personality. In a place where many people come and go, Rita has been a symbol of commitment and dedication from which many of us could learn. I congratulate her on her retirement and thank her for over three decades of honorable service to this Congress and her country. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and the United States Congress, I wish you the best of luck as you begin this new chapter of your life.

**TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM NEIDIG**

**HON. ANNA G. ESHTOO**

**OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. ESHTOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor William Neidig, who was recently honored with the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California.

Bill grew up on the east coast and graduated from Princeton University with an engineering degree. Before coming West to attend the Business School at Stanford University. After graduation, Bill and his wife Christy settled in Palo Alto because of the city’s outstanding public school system, and Bill began in the real estate business.

Fate intervened and the Neidigs enrolled their daughter Stephanie in the kindergarten at St. Joseph’s. Bill says that growing up he had never really known a nun. But after meeting the Religious of the Sacred Heart he came to appreciate the well-educated women who have devoted themselves to educating his children, and he was sold on the school and wanted to help out.

Bill joined the Building and Grounds Committee in 1990 and joined the board of trustees in 1991, where he has continued to serve ever since, except for a mandatory one-year sabbatical. In this capacity, Bill worked diligently to maintain and upgrade the facilities and grounds at Sacred Heart. He has been involved in upgrading St. Joseph’s classrooms, offices, and science lab. He developed Spiegel’s Pavilion, the Main Building, the Aquatics Center, the West Wing and the library, the football field, the track and tennis facilities, and most recently the Performing Arts Center. At no other time in the history of Sacred Heart Schools Atherton has so much been accomplished in such a short time period.

Bill has also served on the Finance Committee, where his familiar cry, “Less is more, but will it do everything you need?” has been a guiding principle in the financial decisions of the school.

Bill knows how to ask the right questions and get the right answers. Whenever something needs to be done, he can be counted on to make sure it gets done. He has been extraordinarily giving of his time and talent, and his support for Sacred Heart Schools is an inspiration to all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and inspiring man, William Neidig, as he is honored with the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal.

**RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER EARLEY**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

**OF MISSOURI**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Earley, 2004 graduate of Chillicothe High School.

This year Christopher completed a distinguished career as a wrestler at Chillicothe High School, under the tutelage of coaches Dave Kimmen and Ken Stull. Christopher was named to the All District Wrestling Team in 2003, and a State Wrestling Qualifier in 2003 and 2004. During his senior season Christopher enjoyed a great deal of success, as he won the Coach’s Award, was named to the Midland Empire All-Conference, and won the District Wrestling Championship. Christopher was also a four-year letterwinner in wrestling. His academic achievements are equally impressive, as he was the recipient of four consecutive academic letters at Chillicothe High School as well.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Christopher Earley and wishing him continued success. Christopher is a great role model for student-athletes in our state, and I am proud to serve him in the United States Congress.

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF PETER V. KILBANE**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

**OF OHIO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Peter V. Kilbane—United States Veteran of WWII, thirty-six year member of the Cleveland Police Department, and most significantly, devoted family man; and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Kilbane’s life centered around his unwavering commitment to his family, to community, and to our nation. He embraced his Irish heritage, and embraced the values, traditions and history of his parents, Mihal Moor and Honora Joyce. Together, Peter and his beloved wife of sixty-two years, Margaret Mary, offered these vital life lessons to their children: Karen, Grace Ann, Peter G., Peggy, and Mary. He will also be remembered as a loving father figure to Mary Lou Wallish, and to the memory of Harry Spencer.

Mr. Kilbane served our country with honor and courage. His decorated service during WWII reflected his heroism in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, including the Battle of the Bulge. From the front lines fighting for liberty during the war, to the front lines fighting crime along the streets of Cleveland, Mr. Kilbane exhibited same unyielding dedication and concern for others. He worked in every district within the Cleveland Police Department, and held the position of Lieutenant of Special Operations, Detective Bureau, when he retired in 1987. Beyond his professional commitments, Mr. Kilbane consistently reached out into our community. He held board positions and was an active member of many civic organizations, including St. Malachi Parish, the Holy Name Society, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Emerald Society, and the Retired Irish Police Society. In 2000, the Retired Irish Police Society named him the Retired Irish Police Officer of the Year.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. Peter V. Kilbane—who was a man of heart, courage and integrity, who lived life with a joyful focus on family, friends and helping others. I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Margaret Mary, to his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and to his extended family members and many friends. His kindness, heart and courageous service has served to uplift our Cleveland community, and his shining legacy, spirit and memory will live on forever in the minds and hearts of all whom knew and loved him well.

**IN HONOR OF ADM SAMUEL LEE GRAVELY**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

**OF NEW YORK**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of an extraordinary American, ADM Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr. Admiral Gravely passed away recently, but he leaves behind a legacy of stunning accomplishment, which undoubtedly renders him as one of the most significant figures in American military history.

Admiral Gravely was born in Richmond, Virginia on June 4, 1922. As a young man, he attended Virginia Union University for 2 years, he enlisted in the Navy Reserve in 1942 and was trained as a fireman apprentice.

As a newly commissioned ensign, his first duty assignment was at a naval training station in Illinois, where he was assistant battalion commander for new recruits. Following
that assignment, he began his seagoing career as a sailor aboard the PC 1264, one of only two World War II ships with a predominately African-American crew.

In April 1946 he left active duty, but remained in the Naval Reserve. He returned to his hometown of Richmond, Virginia, and completed his bachelor’s degree in history. Soon after obtaining his degree he was recalled to active duty during the Korean war. His service during that time earned him a Legion of Merit Award, Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

In the 1960’s, Admiral Gravely became the first African-American to command a navy warship when he was appointed executive officer, and later, acting commanding officer of the destroyer Theodore E. Chandler. That momentous milestone was just one of many in Admiral Gravely’s career.

Some historic firsts that he has achieved include: the first African-American to command an American warship under combat conditions since the Civil War, USS Taussig; the first African-American to command a major naval warship, USS Jouett; the first African-American admiral; the first African-American to rise to the rank of vice admiral; and the first African-American to command a U.S. fleet, commander, Third Fleet.

Admiral Gravely belongs to a group of African-American military heroes whose belief in self and country gave them strength to overcome incredible obstacles and reach unprecedented heights. In so doing they have given hope and pride to the generations that have taken, young Brad Faircloth was not only a hero in his own words: “A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.” Make no mistake, young Brad Faircloth was not only a dedicated marine who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero.
Maxine Waters join me as I rise in honor of a good friend and outstanding public servant, former California State Senator Henry Mello. Henry passed away on September 4, 2004, but will always be remembered for his dedication to the communities of the Central Coast. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends, but his legacy will live on in many ways.

The son of Portuguese immigrants, Henry was born in 1924 in the rural community of Watsonville, where his mother’s family had been farming apples since 1874. He had an eye for business and left Hartnell College after one year to work with his family on the apple farms. At the age of 29, Henry founded John C. Mello and Sons Cold Storage and ran it for 20 years before selling it to Del Mar Food Products in 1973. By this time Henry had found his true calling: public service.

In 1966 Henry officially began his political career with his election to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. He was not afraid of politically charged issues, and in 1972 composed a motion disapproving the United States’ involvement in the Vietnam War. Because of his dedication to his constituents and his commitment to the Monterey Bay area, he was elected to the California State Assembly, serving from 1976 to 1980. Henry was then elected to the State Senate, rising quickly to prominent positions, including majority whip from 1981 to 1992 and the majority leader from 1992 until he left the legislature in 1996.

While in the legislature, Senator Mello was an ardent supporter of many vital segments of our population, especially senior citizens. Senator Mello authored legislation to enact the Older Americans Act of 1982, which provided funding for education projects through Title V. In 1966 he sponsored legislation to enact the Older Americans Act of 1965, which provided funding for education projects through Title II, which included assistance to states for the development of state and local aging programs. In 1982, Senator Mello introduced legislation to enact the Older Americans Act of 1986, which provided funding for education projects through Title III, which included assistance to states for the development of state and local aging programs.

Henry also served as the Senate majority whip from 1981 to 1992 and the majority leader from 1992 until he left the legislature in 1996. While in the Senate, Senator Mello was an ardent supporter of many vital segments of our population, especially senior citizens. Senator Mello authored legislation to enact the Older Americans Act of 1982, which provided funding for education projects through Title V. In 1966 he sponsored legislation to enact the Older Americans Act of 1965, which provided funding for education projects through Title II, which included assistance to states for the development of state and local aging programs. In 1982, Senator Mello introduced legislation to enact the Older Americans Act of 1986, which provided funding for education projects through Title III, which included assistance to states for the development of state and local aging programs.

Henry was proud to serve him in the United States Senate. He was a champion of public service careers, and we all wish to extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Helen, and his sons Stephen, John, Michael and Timothy.

Recognizing Kyle Marcolla
Hon. Sam Graves of Missouri

In the House of Representatives
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Marcolla, 2004 graduate of Chillicothe High School. Kyle accepted a golf scholarship at the University of Missouri—Columbia where he is currently a member of the Men’s Golf Team.

Kyle is an outstanding golfer, and I know the University of Missouri is excited about his commitment to the fine golf program in Columbia. I also suspect that Chillicothe High School is excited about his dedication to helping others.

Kyle’s performance on the golf course is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Kyle’s contributions to his community. Kyle was the Midland Empire All Conference golfer in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004; his entire career at Chillicothe High School.

In 2003, Kyle won a grueling competition to be named Missouri State Champion. In 2004, in addition to these accolades, Kyle is the holder of several state golfing records.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Kyle Marcolla and wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

State of the African American Male and Overrepresentation in America’s Prison Systems
Hon. Charles B. Rangel of New York

In the House of Representatives
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I join many members of the Congressional Black Caucus, am moved to speak about the state of the African American male and their alarming overrepresentation in the American penal system. Sweeping changes in crime control and the drastic modifications of sentencing policies have led to a staggering increase in prison populations. Ironically, although the country is experiencing a decrease in crime rates, the inmate population is increasing. According to the Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Statistics, the increase in inmate population is...
largely due to “truth-in-sentencing” laws that limit early releases, mandatory drug sentences, get tough anti-crime policies enacted in the 1980s and 1990s, and “three strikes and you’re out” laws for repeat offenders. Over 2,000,000 prisoners are now held in Federal and State prisons and local jails. Nearly 925,000 Americans are convicted of felony offenses in American courts each year and some 600,000 are incarcerated as a result.

As the national inmate population has increased, the minority community has been devastated. Two-thirds of the prison population are now racial and ethnic minorities, and for African American men in their twenties, one in every eight is in prison on any given day. Even more upsetting is that African American males born today have a one in three chance of going to prison during their lifetime, compared to a one in seventeen chance for white males. At year-end 2003, African American inmates represented an estimated 44 percent of all inmates with sentences of more than one year.

Despite the notion that the Scales of Justice is blind, it is no secret that racial bias plays a deplorable role in the disproportionate conviction and sentencing of African American men compared to their racial counterparts (who are charged with the same or a similar offense). In addition to racial bias, the high rate of minority involvement in the system reflects a complex set of social, economic, and community problems often tied to poverty, lack of access to education, and unemployment.

While some would assert that “if one does the crime, then he has to do the time,” it is imperative to remember that once these individuals have done their time and “repaid their debt to society,” they should not be thrown back into the fray without the proper tools they need to overcome the factors that initially led to their involvement in the criminal justice system. The transition from prison life is inherently difficult, especially for individuals who have served a lengthy sentence and received little preparation for life in a law-abiding society. In addition to being stigmatized with a conviction, former offenders face challenges finding employment, housing, health care, and public assistance. Often they are also alienated from their families and communities. All of these negative outcomes contribute to increased recidivism, public health risks, homelessness, unemployment, and disenfranchisement.

Perhaps the most significant costs of prisoner re-entry are the impact on children, the weakened ties among family members, and destabilized communities. The long-term generational effects of a social structure in which imprisonment is the norm and law abiding role models are absent are difficult to measure but undoubtedly exist.

African American males are a critical component of African American families and communities. I, like my CBC colleagues, remain poised to take action to reverse the negative trends surrounding African American males and their incarceration and to reinforce this group’s positive characteristics. It is for this reason that Congress members John Conyers, Jr., Bobby Scott, and I introduced H.R. 5075, which identifies programs and policies that would encourage the successful reentry of incarcerated persons into the community after their release. For similar reasons, I have continually pushed for the reauthorization of the Community Safety through Recidivism Prevention Act (The Second Chance Act of 2004).

Consequently, I co-sponsored Congressman Rob Portman’s bill, H.R. 4676, to reauthorize the grant programs of the Department of Justice for reentry offenders into the community and to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities related to the reentry of offenders.

While members of the CBC and other conscientious national and state legislators have worked to reform the prison system and provide programs and policies that eliminate many of the barriers that ex-offenders face upon reentry, there is still much work to do. We will continue to fight for the passage of federal legislation to provide former offenders eligibility for public housing assistance, funding for students loans and grants, and assistance in retaining or re-establishing voting rights. We will also continue to push for legislation that would provide tax incentives to businesses that hire former felons, helping them to become self-sufficient upon reentry.

I sincerely believe that we can assist these men, our brothers, to reach their potential when they return to society. I know that this requires the creation of a support system that begins during their incarceration and continues after their release. We must not give up on these men, but provide them with the resources they need—during and after their incarceration—to contribute to their families and society in a meaningful way.

Mr. CONYERS, Mr. Speaker, the residents of Mobile, Alabama, are without question very proud of the efforts of its band. For several months, the 220 members of this group, both musicians and flag corps participants, worked tirelessly in preparation for a performance which took place in front of thousands of men, women, and children lining the streets of Manhattan, and for an audience of millions watching the parade on television here in the United States and around the world.

The members of the band spent the past two years holding multiple fundraisers to raise the money necessary to make this trip to New York. These efforts, which included gift wrapping, selling coupon books to friends and neighbors in the Mobile area, and bagging groceries at local supermarkets, were extremely successful and provided the band with the means to travel to this event. Even the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan could not dampen either the enthusiasm or determination of these fine young men and women to participate in this Thanksgiving Day tradition.

The one hour, 45-block walk down Broadway from Central Park to 34th Street in lower Manhattan gave the band and flag corps the opportunity to demonstrate its abilities, and they did not disappoint. The total of 96 songs performed by the band were enthusiastically received by the thousands along the parade route, and their talents were showcased even further when NBC gave the band the chance to perform for its nationwide television audience on that morning’s broadcast of the “Today Show.”

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Mobile, Alabama, are extremely proud of all of the young men and women who participated in this event. I ask my colleagues to join with me and the families of all of these students in praising them and their band director, Tripp Morris, for a fine showing for south Alabama and a fine performance for the entire country.

I salute AMO HOUGHTON for all that he has done for Western New York and New York state in his time here in Congress. Our community owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude. I will certainly miss his friendship, his intelligence, and his warm personality; but I wish him all the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MOBILE, ALABAMA’S BAKER HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE 2004 MACY’S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

HON. JO BONNER
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Baker High School Marching Band for their participation in the 2004 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

Baker High School, located in Mobile, Alabama, is without question very proud of the efforts of its band. For several months, the 220 members of this group, both musicians and flag corps participants, worked tirelessly in preparation for a performance which took place in front of thousands of men, women, and children lining the streets of Manhattan, and for an audience of millions watching the parade on television here in the United States and around the world.

The members of the band spent the past two years holding multiple fundraisers to raise the money necessary to make this trip to New York. These efforts, which included gift wrapping, selling coupon books to friends and neighbors in the Mobile area, and bagging groceries at local supermarkets, were extremely successful and provided the band with the means to travel to this event. Even the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan could not dampen either the enthusiasm or determination of these fine young men and women to participate in this Thanksgiving Day tradition.

The one hour, 45-block walk down Broadway from Central Park to 34th Street in lower Manhattan gave the band and flag corps the opportunity to demonstrate its abilities, and they did not disappoint. The total of 96 songs performed by the band were enthusiastically received by the thousands along the parade route, and their talents were showcased even further when NBC gave the band the chance to perform for its nationwide television audience on that morning’s broadcast of the “Today Show.”

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Mobile, Alabama, are extremely proud of all of the young men and women who participated in this event. I ask my colleagues to join with me and the families of all of these students in praising them and their band director, Tripp Morris, for a fine showing for south Alabama and a fine performance for the entire country.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN AMO HOUGHTON
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Congressman AMO HOUGHTON of Corning, New York, as the House of Representatives have honored him with the award of 18 years of exemplary public service.

Throughout his time in the U.S. House of Representatives, AMO HOUGHTON was one of those individuals who showed us what a noble calling public service can be. AMO has been a bright, compassionate and valued leader, and he retires as one of the most respected members of Congress, on either side of the aisle. And despite his great responsibilities, AMO always remained deeply rooted in his community, and in our Western New York values.

Throughout his entire career, he remained a fiscal conservative committed to responsible government spending. As the sixth ranking Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, AMO has played an important role in ensuring that our Nation’s tax policy was shaped with the best interests of New Yorkers in mind. His service on the International Relations Committee and as the vice-chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa allowed him to use his deep understanding of international affairs to manage important foreign relations matters.

AMO has been a bright, compassionate and valued leader, and he retires as one of the most respected members of Congress, on either side of the aisle. And despite his great responsibilities, AMO always remained deeply rooted in his community, and in our Western New York values.

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AMO also earned a reputation for terrific congressional service. AMO has been a terrific representative for his constituents. AMO has been a terrific representative for his constituents. 

I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking Congressman AMO HOUGHTON of Corning, New York, for his years of service to Western New York, New York state, and our Nation, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.
A TRIBUTE AND CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. ALI RAZI
HON. GARY G. MILLER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute and congratulate Mr. Ali Razi on his accomplishments during the past year as President of the Building Industry Association of California, Baldy View Chapter. As President and Member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Razi has toiled to meet the growing demand for quality, affordable housing for San Bernardino County residents.

A graduate of King's College, London University, Mr. Razi earned a degree in Civil Engineering, and later obtained a Master of Science degree in Business Administration. Following graduation, Mr. Razi went on to lecture at Tehran Polytechnic University, and in 2002 received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from California State University, San Bernardino. In addition to serving as a cardinal investor in higher education, Mr. Razi has distinguished himself as an eminent force in housing development and construction.

Prior to 1984, Mr. Razi served as Principal and CEO of Ira Engineering and Construction Company, a construction company of large international projects. In 1984, Mr. Razi co-founded the Stratham Group, a major owner and developer of Southern California real estate. Since then, the firm has acquired and developed more than 10,000 apartment units, single family homes and parcels of land. Mr. Razi received personal recognition as Builder of the Year for 2000 by the BIA, Baldy View Chapter. In 2003, his company was acknowledged as building company of the year.

Throughout his career, Mr. Razi has held a series of prestigious titles. He has demonstrated diligence to education and dedication to successful land development. I am proud to recognize Mr. Razi’s achievements and honor him for his steadfast efforts this year as President of the BIA of California, Baldy View Chapter and grant him my best wishes in his future development endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE BRUCE McPHERSON
HON. SAM FARR
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated and passionate public servant, my friend, the Honorable Bruce McPherson. Senator McPherson recently left office after eight years representing California’s fifteenth district in the California State Senate. He has served as President of the Monterey Bay Area as a state senator since 1996, and had previously served two terms as a member of the State Assembly for the 27th district. Though term limits have ended his career as a State Senator, Bruce leaves behind a lasting legacy of service and bipartisanship that I wish to honor here today.

Senator McPherson spent twenty-six years in the newspaper business with the Santa Cruz Sentinel, always staying active in the community that he loved. However, it was after I stepped down from my seat in the Assembly to run for Leon Panetta’s seat in Congress that Bruce heard the call of elected office. After a successful campaign, he became the first Republican to represent Santa Cruz in the legislature since 1976, and since then has continued to win every local election in which he has run.

While in the legislature, Bruce has focused on several key issues, chief among them was education. In fact, while still a private citizen, he took the lead to enhance local education programs, such as creating a literacy program for the county while he was president of the local Rotary Club. This commitment continued as he worked to pass two state school bond measures, and worked annually to lower class sizes and keep them low. His position as Vice-Chair of the Senate Education Committee was a platform for him to work cooperatively within his chamber, as well as with the Assembly and Governor’s office on difficult budget decisions.

As a member of the Monterey Bay Area’s legislators, Senator McPherson also put environmental issues in the forefront of his agenda. He supported the statewide ban on oil drilling off our coasts; helped with the purchase of over 7,000 acres in north Santa Cruz County for preservation; and authored legislation to protect water quality in our oceans.

Looking to take his message statewide, Bruce ran for Lieutenant Governor in 2002, a role he took on with a personal passion after the tragic loss of his son, Hunter. After this unimaginable loss for Bruce and his wife, Mary, they continued their positive and issues-oriented campaign. Mr. Speaker, Bruce McPherson leaves the California Senate having accomplished many goals for his constituency and for the state. As he looks forward to spending time with his family, I wish to honor his work and dedicated public service, and to wish him happiness and success for the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDWARD O. WAYSON, JR.
HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, a true American patriot, Mr. Edward O. Wayson, Jr.

Ed Wayson passed away on December 4, 2004 and his funeral was held today in his beloved city of Annapolis, Maryland. For all who attended today’s service, it was clear that Ed was a man of incredible character and integrity. He was a man who touched so many lives personally and professionally through his humor and sheer joy of life. He believed in making the most of every moment he had and I speak for many when I say his moments were far too few in number.

Ed Wayson was a dear friend of mine and I would like to also pay tribute to his family. He is survived by his brother Boone, his wife of eight years Jeannine, his mother Ruth Ann, his first wife Jeanne, his four children Sarah and Anne, and his stepdaughter Kacey. Ed Wayson was a very successful man on many levels, but he was most proud of his family. It was impossible to have a conversation with Ed without him mentioning Sarah or Anne. I would like to extend my sincerest thoughts and prayers from my family to his.

Ed Wayson was an active citizen who embraced the American democratic experience fully. Through political campaigns, local charities, education, and development, he worked to make the world better for all of us.

During the funeral service today, it was said that this quote from Abraham Lincoln best describes Ed Wayson, and I would have to agree. “Character is like a tree and a reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.” Ed Wayson was the real thing and the world is a better place for him.

GAS STATION BURNED OUTSIDE RICHMOND; CRIME MUST BE PROMPTLY AND FULLY PROSECUTED
HON. EDOPHILUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to learn that on November 25, a gasoline station outside Richmond, Virginia was burned. It was owned by two Sikh brothers. From the graffiti that appeared on the charred remains, it appears that due to their turbans, the person who committed this horrible crime thought they were Muslims affiliated with Osama bin Laden.

It is important to note that whoever the victims of this brutal crime were, it is a terrible act that must be fully and quickly prosecuted. Blaming all Muslims for the terrorist acts of a few is unfair, bigoted, and intolerant. But it is interesting that the victims of this crime were neither members of the targeted group.

Sikhism is a distinct religion from any other, including Hinduism and Islam. It is monotheistic and believes in the equality of all, including equality for women. Our Sikh friends have made many contributions to this country as lawyers, doctors, engineers, farmers, computer specialists, and in many other fields. One Sikh, Dalip Singh Saund, was even a Member of this House from California, serving from 1959 to 1963. He was the first South Asian to be elected to Congress.

The President of the Council of Khalistan, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, has written to the Chief of Police in Chesterfield County asking for a swift investigation of this incident. He received a prompt response from the police chief stating that the incident is being fully investigated and those responsible will be caught and prosecuted.

It is unfortunate that incidents like this still occur in America. Three years after September 11, people are still attacking anyone they perceive as foreign. This must be stopped. This kind of hate crime does not advance America or its ideals; it only harms our national security at a time when we are most in need of it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place Dr. Aulakh’s letter into the RECORD.
IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. COLMAN PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the leaders and members of St. Colman Parish, of Cleveland, Ohio, as they celebrate 125 years of faith, guidance and support, embracing generations of citizens throughout our westside Cleveland community.

In 1880, St. Colman Parish was formed to serve the spiritual and cultural needs of the Irish-American residents of this neighborhood. Since that time, St. Colman’s has evolved into a parish community that reflects the racial and cultural diversity of the community it serves, wholly embracing and celebrating the brilliantly diverse mosaic that is the rich fabric of the people of this parish.

St. Colman’s historical and bright legacy of social justice, community outreach, cultural preservation, educational programs and spiritual guidance, continues to emanate along these streets, offering tangible services and assistance to citizens of all ages. Restoring broken homes and broken hearts is the continuing legacy of St. Colman’s Parish.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every leader and member of St. Colman Parish, as they celebrate 125 years of cultivating faith, hope and heritage for generations of families within our Cleveland community. We also rise in honor and memory of the struggle, sacrifice and triumph of the founding members of this parish, who journeyed to America with little more than faith, hope and the grit to survive. Love and faith still radiates from St. Colman Parish, en-circling this neighborhood with light, strength and hope rising on the dawn of a brand new day.

OSSIE DAVIS AND RUBY DEE: AMERICAN ARTISTS AND ACTIVISTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the life and work of Osise Davis and Ruby Dee, two prolific artists whose achievements have immeasurably impacted the liveli-hood of African American artists and the Afri-can American community as a whole. Together, they helped to knock down the exclu-sionary barriers placed upon minority artists, eff-ectually ushering in a new age of American art and culture in which the contributions of Afri-can American artists have been, for the first time in our history, recognized and appre-ciated. The pair were recently honored at the annual John F. Kennedy Center for the Per-forming Arts, in celebration of their life’s work.

Appearing in more than 20 films, the tal-ented Ruby Dee has enthralled audiences in notable stage appearances such as her role in A Raisin in the Sun and The Balcony. The rec-ent of countless cultural awards, Ms. Dee continues to push the boundaries of the pre-conceived notions of women in film and thea-ter. She has written plays, musicals and sev-eral books of poetry, eventually turning her stories into the 1998 critically acclaimed one-woman show, One Good Nerve. Truly a trail-blazer in her own right, Ruby Dee has played a vital role in the progression of the arts in our country.

An actor, playwright, producer, screenwriter and director, the impressive career of Osise Davis spans more than half a century. Having written and directed such memorable films and plays as 1970’s Cotton Comes to Harlem and 1967’s controversial exploration of segregation, Purlie Victorious, the works of Mr. Davis are long-lasting in depth and scope. A gifted actor, Osise Davis has shown his versatile talents in a bevy of roles and memorable performances.

In a time of limited opportunities for African-American actors, both Ms. Dee and Mr. Davis sprung from the Harlem cultural scene before meeting on Broadway and forging their leg-endary partnership, later on pledging their lives to one another as husband and wife. To-gether, Osise Davis and Ruby Dee have ap-peared in more than 20 films, featured in sev-eral Spike Lee efforts, including Jungle Fever, Get on the Bus, School Daze and the classic Do the Right Thing. Also appearing in Malcolm X, Mr. Davis plays himself, reprising his pas-sionate eulogy at the funeral of the slain civil rights leader.

Osise Davis and Ruby Dee have presided as vanguards of political activism. They have been tireless proponents of the civil rights movement in America as well as staunch op-ponents of the McCarthyism witch-hunts; the duo has unquestioningly worn the mantle of public defenders for the past several decades. They helped organize and then graced the dais of the first fundraising dinner held by the Congressional Black Caucus and gave us, in Osise’s speech, the direction we have since sought to follow. Osise told us that “It’s not the man, it’s the plan,” and that admonition has sustained us and created an institution that has grown and prospered through many changes in leadership over the years.

I am personally indebted to Osise and Ruby for their many contributions to my own Harlem community, including Osise’s service as chair-man emeritus of the Board of the Apollo Thea-ter Foundation. Without their efforts, there is no question that our Nation would be less committed to the great moral challenges of our lifetime. The African-American community, as well as the country as a whole, owes them both a debt of gratitude.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JACK QUINN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Congressman Jack Quinn of Hamburg, New York, as he retires from the U.S. House of Rep-re sentatives after 12 years of exemplary public service.

Throughout his time in the U.S. House of Representatives, Jack represented both his constituents and the institution with grace and integrity. He loved his country, his community...
and his family, never straying from the strong values he was raised on.

Throughout his entire career, Jack always acted with the best interests of New Yorkers in mind. As the chairman of the House Republican Working Group on Labor, Jack was the “go-to guy” in our conference on a wide variety of labor-related issues. His positions on both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Veterans’ Affairs Committee allowed Jack to do important work on behalf of our Nation’s veteran community and passenger rail systems, employees and customers, issues that were of great importance to him.

While he distinguished himself as a Member of Congress and earned the respect of colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Jack was also notable for his esteemed academic career, his knowledge on a wide variety of issues, and his deep commitment to serving his constituents.

I salute Jack for all that he has done for western New York and New York State in his time in Congress. He has been a close personal friend of mine, and I am proud to have worked closely with him here in the House and back at home in western New York.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in thanking Congressman Jack Quinn of Hamburg, New York, for his years of service to western New York, New York State, and our Nation, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER TEAM

HON. JERROLD NADLER
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Martin Luther King High School Soccer Team, which has achieved a New York City Public School Athletic League record 5th consecutive title this year. Part of the oldest High School sports league in the nation, the MLK soccer team has battled many of the top teams in the City and has continually prevailed.

Having been nationally ranked the last 6 years and boasting an overall record over the last 9 years of 221 wins, 14 losses, and three ties, a 93 percent winning percentage, the MLK soccer team has once again reclaimed a championship they have held for 8 of the last 9 years. This is the all-time record for number of championships held by any New York City public school. The team is coached by Martin Jacobson, who has been with the team during the entirety of this its impressive run. In addition to being recognized and written about in a number of local newspapers, the team’s accomplishments have also been acknowledged by the Students Sports Soccer website, which ranked them 25th out of soccer teams in the country this year. Many players have not only been driven to succeed on the soccer field, but have gone on to renowned colleges around the country.

I am pleased to congratulate the Martin Luther King High School’s Soccer Team. The team’s Awards dinner, being held at the School on December 16th, will rightfully honor a group of talented people who I am proud to represent in the 8th Congressional District of New York. I wish them all a joyous celebratory dinner and many more successful seasons.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARITA HUNT-TEJADA

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who has dedicated her life to serving the people of her community. Mrs. Margarita Hunt-Tejada, District Manager for Community Board #4 in the Bronx, NY will be retiring after 40 years of service. In her role as District Manager for Community Board #4, Mrs. Hunt-Tejada oversees the delivery of city services to over 140,000 people. She assists in the development of long range strategies as well as plans for their implementation. Under her strong leadership many of the programs and projects advocated by the board are coming to fruition, such as the Bronx Community Court House, the High School for Law, Government and Justice and the East 153rd Street Bridge. In addition, Mrs. Hunt-Tejada can take great pride in the fact that she has helped to get the Bronx Terminal Market Project underway. This project will provide for a large scale shopping mall, a hotel and a much sought after conference center. More importantly, it will create hundreds of new jobs for Bronx community residents.

Prior to her role as District Manager for Bronx Community Board #4, Mrs. Hunt-Tejada served the people of the Bronx in various other leadership positions, including Director of Community Affairs at the Bethel Christian Church, Assistant Office Manager at M. Singer and Sons, located at the Bronx Terminal Market, and Associate District Manager for Bronx Community Board #4.

Believing that there can be no greater voca tion than caring for and serving the needs of others, Mrs. Hunt-Tejada has worked tirelessly to help improve the lives of people throughout the Bronx. As a result of her unyielding dedication and hard work over the past four decades, hundreds of thousands of people in her community have been able to enjoy a higher standard of living.

Mr. Speaker, for her many years of outstanding service, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this remarkable woman.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN REYNOLDS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin Reynolds of Independence, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the highest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 82, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Justin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF DR. HENRY T. KING, JR., CANADA’S FIRST HONORARY CONSUL IN CLEVELAND AND NORTHWEST OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Dr. Henry T. King, Jr., as Canada’s First Honorary Consul in Cleveland and Northwest OH, and of the opening of a Canadian consulate office in Cleveland.

Dr. King has been a long-time friend of Canada. As U.S. Director of the Canada-U.S. Law Institute, he has hosted the Institute’s annual law conference at Case Western Reserve University School of Law for the last 19 years. Dr. King is a member of the American Bar Association and former chairman of its Section on International Law and Foreign Relations. He is currently U.S. Chairman of the Joint ABA/CBA/Barras Mexicana Working Group on the Settlement of International Disputes.

Dr. King is a founder and co-chairman of the Greater Cleveland International Lawyers Group. He is also a member and former chairman of the Northern Ohio District Export Council. In addition, he is a member of the Corporate Counsel Committee of the American Arbitration Association and is an advisory board member of the Institute for International and Comparative Law of the Center for American and International Law, formerly the Southwestern Legal Foundation.

Dr. King’s strong interest in international law and justice goes back to his days as a young lawyer shortly after the Second World War when he joined with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson as a prosecutor at Nuremberg. This experience had a strong effect on his views of international law and relations, as is evident from his writings on global justice, international human rights, national and international security, sovereignty, and international courts.

Henry King is a graduate of Yale Law School and has an honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Laws from the University of Western Ontario. He was awarded lifetime membership in the Canadian Bar Association. He is a Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law and Of Counsel to the law firm of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly pleased that the people of Canada, in their wisdom, turned to Dr. Henry T. King, Jr., to be the Honorary Consul for Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. Canadians as well as the people of Greater Cleveland will be well represented in this most important international relationship.
HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, each year, about 33,000 Americans die from prostate cancer and 256,000 are diagnosed for the first time. Aside from lung cancer, the disease kills more men than any other form of cancer.

On November 8, 1999, Ed Rendell, one of the country’s most beloved baseball authorities, was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Early detection and the care of doctors like Nicholas Romas at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City saved Ed’s life.

In late 2002, Ed founded Bat for the Cure, a non-profit charity dedicated to the eradication of prostate cancer. With its prominent Board of Directors, including Bob Costas, Mario Cuomo, Len Elmore, Kathy Giusti and John Hennessy III, the charity has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to fight the disease.

The organization has also enlisted well-known sports stars who are joining in the fight, such as Dustin Baker, Frank Robinson, Tom McCraw, Bob Watson, Don Baylor, Dave Winfield, and Rafael Palmeiro. Many of these celebrities have personal experiences with the tragedy of cancer.

Fortunately, prostate cancer is one of the slowest growing cancers, so proper detection and treatment can save lives. With Bat for the Cure’s support, St. Luke’s-Roosevelt, the hospital that saved Ed Rendell’s life, is now helping many other cancer patients become survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to make prostate cancer research and early detection a national health care priority. Congress should act without delay to double prostate cancer research funding at the National Institute of Health, fully fund the National Cancer Institute, and save prostate cancer research at the Veterans’ Administration.

STATE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the State of the African American Male conference, a national initiative of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation to focus our Nation’s attention on solutions to the escalating crisis in the Black community.

This past Friday, December 3, I hosted this national initiative in Oakland. Included were a visit to a prison’s forensic baseball program, free health screenings at the conference and concurrent solutions-focused workshops. It was attended by nearly 400 people, more than 60 of whom were formerly incarcerated individuals.

The focus of the Oakland conference was on solutions for formerly incarcerated individuals and the challenges that prevent them from smoothly re-entering our communities. The Oakland Police Department reports that some 80 percent of the 114 homicides committed in Oakland in 2003 involved people on parole or probation. For that reason, I felt compelled to focus the conference in my district on the steps that we as a community and as Members of Congress can take to begin to reverse this alarming trend.

The Oakland Conference was an important opportunity for us to examine closely what were the factors associated with the failure of our correction systems. I wanted to look at the needs and solutions for successful re-entry to our communities.

On the morning before the afternoon conference, I invited my distinguished colleague from the Judiciary Committee, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, and members of the clergy to join me for a visit to San Quentin College. Offering an Associate of Arts degree, the college program at San Quentin prison is the only on-site, degree-granting college program in the entire California corrections system. It is one of only a few in the United States. It is an extension site of Patten University in Oakland, California. The curriculum at San Quentin includes courses such as American government, literature, ethics and communication.

Without the warden and without other prison officials present, we spent nearly an hour listening carefully to five prisoners who are serving indeterminate sentences. These gentlemen described the rewards of getting a college education while serving their sentences. Even a prisoner serving a life sentence described the positive influence it has had on his life and that he encourages other prisoners to get an education. Another prisoner told us how his bond with his school-age daughter was strengthened by their sharing each other’s homework. He talked of the pride he felt at being able to help her with her math for the first time. Yet, these prisoners reported that it is often difficult to maintain the motivation to make major life changes when it takes nearly two weeks for them to receive their mail from loved ones, and costs them $15 for a ten-minute telephone call.

When family and community ties are so essential to a successful transition, then why do we permit such barriers to be erected between prisoners and the people who care most about them?

The difficulties these prisoners face during the re-entry process are further exacerbated by the fact that since 1994, Pell grants have been denied to individuals who are incarcerated. Why do we permit such barriers to remain when it is clear that education and job training are essential to a successful transition to our communities?

These funding cuts are part of a broader trend that began in 1977, when the California Department of Corrections eliminated rehabilitation from its mission and since then its mission has been reversed. When I was in the California Assembly, my colleagues and I attempted to correct this, but were prevented by a prevailing, but ill-informed “tough on crime” ideology. It is outrageous and immoral and in my district in the City of Oakland, we saw the consequences in 2003 in the 114 homicides.

Cost benefit analyses demonstrating the value of college over prisons are well known and well documented. When it is clear that college is better than prison, why do we continue to incarcerate more black males than we educate?

At the Oakland conference, education was just one area of the re-entry process that we examined. In addition, health screenings were provided in the areas of HIV, prostate cancer, hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol, and all tests were free and open to the public. Provided by National Black Nurses Association, Kaiser Permanente, the Ethnic Health Institute and California Prevention and Education Project this component addressed basic health concerns of Black men.

Congressman DANNY DAVIS, who began the State of the African American Male initiative, joined Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE and me for the Conference. Solutions Conferences held around the United States in order to create a clearinghouse of best practices. In the Oakland Conference in my district, Topics for the concurrent Solutions Workshops included: Re-Entry Programs; Record Expungement; Sentencing Alternatives; Employment and Training; Health; Housing; Education; and Funding Sources. When the workshop moderators reported out their solutions, it was abundantly clear that the expertise and assistance and innovative programs exist.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to announce at the Oakland Conference that one Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Scholarship per year in my district will be designated for a formerly incarcerated person. I was also proud to announce that a second event will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2005 where I will bring together 60 attorneys from the Charles Houston Bar Association and the San Francisco Bar Association to provide record expungement assistance to formerly incarcerated individuals. This will be an opportunity for several hundred people to get a clean slate.

What is needed, Mr. Speaker is for such programs to become a national priority. Rather than setting up people in the correction system for failure by offering them little means of turning their lives around, we must restore Pell grants to incarcerated individuals. One of the programs in Oakland—Project Choice—provides support services to prisoners before they get out and stays with them. But Project Choice only has funding to support 40 of the 3,000 people paroled each year to Oakland.

Without programs like San Quentin College, Project Choice and others, without the support of their families and communities, these prisoners will return to the life that led them to prison in the first place. As a nation, we must provide alternatives. This is not only a matter of public safety, but is truly our moral responsibility. It is our obligation as members of the human race.

HONORING HERITAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, THOMPSON’S STATION, TENNESSEE

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, Tennessee is known as the “Volunteer State” because we have a proud tradition of giving back to our community and our country. Today the students at Heritage Elementary School in Thompson’s Station, Tennessee are reaffirming our state’s reputation for volunteerism by working to support America’s military families.
Our men and women in uniform have sacrificed for our security, and their families bear a burden each and every day. The students at Heritage Elementary have made it their mission to give all they can to Operation Stork Support, a program that presents gift baskets to Operation Stork Support, a program that presents gift baskets to Operation Stork Support, a program that presents gift baskets to Operation Stork Support, a program that presents gift baskets to Operation Stork Support. These mom-to-be are separated from their loved ones by war, but we can help lessen their burden and show them how much we care. The Heritage Elementary students have raised $740 in pennies—that’s 74,000 pennies—for Operation Stork Support. I thank them for their contribution, their concern, and not least, their love for our military families.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM AND DEFENDING FREEDOM—LIFT THE DE FACTO GAG ORDER ON NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE SHIRIN EBADI

HON. RUSH D. HOLT
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it was religious freedom that brought the Pilgrims to America’s shores. In our beloved Constitution and Bill of Rights, we affirm our steadfast commitment to freedom of expression and freedom of the press as pillars of our democracy. Consequently, it pains and embarrasses me, as an American that the executive branch of our government continues to betray our democratic values and preclude Ms. Shirin Ebadi, the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and other distinguished Muslims from publishing their views for all Americans to read.

Ms. Shirin Ebadi is the first Iranian and the first Muslim woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She is a distinguished lawyer, scholar, and teacher. President Bush has praised her tireless work as a champion of democracy and human rights. She represents Reformed Islam, and argues for an interpretation of Islamic law which promotes international respect for universal human rights. She is immediate opposed to terrorism, and to the extent of risking her own life, for example, to defend the rights of other faiths inside Iran. In short, she personifies precisely the type of Islamic voice of faith and scholarship with whom our nation should be in dialogue.

Why then is our government, through self-defeating U.S. Treasury Department Regulations, imposing a gag order on Ms. Ebadi? Why are Americans who attempt to help Ms. Ebadi publish her writings now being threatened with severe fines and lengthy prison sentences?

The current over-reaching Treasury Department regulations are demonstrably short-sighted, counterproductive, and unrepresentative of American ideals. That is why I have written to President Bush urging him to reverse this policy to demonstrate America’s commitment to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the free flow of ideas. I ask unanimous consent that my self-explanatory letter be reprinted in its entirety at the conclusion of my statement. The intent of the regulations, I presume, is to prevent giving beneficial trade revenue to governments that support terrorism, but preventing the publication of ideas is a clumsy, foolish way to try to protect Americans.

Ms. Ebadi’s views are the antithesis of those of Osama bin Laden. She is in the same tradition as Solzhenitsyn, Sakharov, Shansky, Walesa, and Havel—all of whom risked their lives to condemn Soviet repression, thus helping give hope to their oppressed compatriots and women and end the Cold War. America should extend Ms. Ebadi and others like her the same support. That would be in keeping with the democratic values and ideals of the American people that have been championed by Democratic and Republican Presidents alike since from the founding of our nation.

Instead, unbeknownst to many Americans, the Bush Administration continues to enforce unreasonable regulations that silence Ms. Ebadi’s voice in America just as effectively as if the Iranian mullahs imprisoned and silenced her, as they have on numerous occasions in the past.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HON. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. President: I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to defend America’s commitment to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the free flow of ideas. Specifically, I ask you to overturn existing regulations of the U.S. Treasury Department and substitute new regulations that will allow Ms. Shirin Ebadi from Iran to be heard and published as widely as possible in the U.S. and abroad.

More generally, the regulations should be changed to allow public speech and communications around the world. Ms. Ebadi, a distinguished Muslim jurist, lawyer, scholar, and teacher, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003. You have praised her tireless work as a champion of democracy and human rights. She represents Reformed Islam, and argues for an interpretation of Islamic law which promotes international respect for universal human rights. She is devoted to religious freedom, even to the extent of risking her own life, for example, to defend the rights of other faiths inside Iran. In short, she personifies precisely the type of Islamic voice of faith and scholarship with whom our nation should be in dialogue.

Yet, Ms. Ebadi is now prohibited by U.S. Treasury Department Regulations from writing and working with American editors to publish her memoirs in the U.S. These regulations are counterproductive for multiple reasons:

They silence Islamic proponents of freedom, democracy, reform, tolerance, and universal human rights.

They prohibit Americans from contracting or collaborating with Ms. Ebadi and authors from other restricted countries to create or revise new books for Americans to read, or pay them in advance.

They prohibit American editors, publishers, and agents from working professionally on new or existing books with Ms. Ebadi and other distinguished authors in restricted countries.

Under threat of severe fines and lengthy prison sentences, they prohibit American publishers, editors, and agents from marketing or promoting Ms. Ebadi’s writing and those of other pro-democracy authors from restricted countries in the Islamic world and elsewhere.

The practical consequence of these regulations is that American publishers simply cannot publish books by Ms. Ebadi and other authors like her and cannot publish their books. Furthermore, Americans who want to receive more information and learn more about society and culture in Iran, Sudan, and Cuba are limited now to reading what has already been written in such restricted countries. These regulations are inappropriate, irresponsible, or even embarrassing to a government that is fighting for America to set than for you to take whatever action is necessary, as a matter of urgency, to enable Ms. Ebadi to publish her writings in America.

Sincerely yours,
RUSH HOLT,
Member of Congress.

DIRECTING CLERK OF THE HOUSE TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 4818

HON. JANICE D. SCHRACKOWSKY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, December 6, 2004

Ms. SCHARKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday’s vote on H. Con. Res. 528 is about much more than just eliminating a provision that Republican sneaked into the Omnibus Appropriations bill. While that provision would have eroded existing privacy protections of American taxpayers, today’s vote also highlights the growing abuse of legislative power and abuse of the public trust by the Republican leadership. It is also about priorities and meeting our nation’s needs.

I opposed the massive spending bill when it was considered on the House floor on November 20, 2004, because I was certain that, without carefully examining it, I might be voting for inappropriate, irresponsible, or even embarrassing to a government that is fighting for America to set than for you to take whatever action is necessary, as a matter of urgency, to enable Ms. Ebadi to publish her writings in America.
“sneak and peak” at taxpayers’ confidential tax filings, and, which H. Con. Res. 528 corrects, is just one example of the controversial changes and omissions included in the 3,000-page Omnibus package.

The Omnibus Appropriations bill includes another insert that to taxpayers’ privacy, one that we are not fixing today. Behind closed doors, the Republicans stripped from the massive bill a House-passed amendment which would have prohibited the Internal Revenue Service from using private bounty-hunters to collect back taxes. That provision, which enjoyed strong-bipartisan support, would have prevented 2.6 million tax returns a year from being turned over to private debt collectors with personal financial stakes—receiving 25 cents on every dollar in making people “pay up.” This policy all but openly condones strong-arm collection tactics. Additionally, while IRS employees must respect taxpayer privacy or be liable, the bounty hunters will have no such restrictions. They are free to do as they please, and we have no reason to believe that they will not abuse the power the Republicans give them in order to increase their profits at the expense of taxpayer privacy.

Furthermore, 6 million employees are in danger of seeing the 40-hour work week eroded by the law by inserting an overtime exemption into the Omnibus Appropriations bill. In a blow to America’s workers, the Omnibus fails to include the Obey-Miller amendment to the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill that passed the House. That bipartisan provision, which also passed the Senate, would have ensured that the Administration’s new overtime rules do not harm Americans who depend on overtime to make ends meet, instead keeping in place a vital protection and keeping them from having to work longer hours for less pay.

There are also provisions included in—or excluded from—the bill that would undermine a woman’s right to choose, undercut environmental protections, and put workers’ retirement security in jeopardy if their employers chose to convert from defined benefit to cash balance plans. But, unfortunately, it is not only the payers and omissions that are harmful to millions within our country. The funding levels of too many vital programs are shameful to millions and will cut. Community Development Block Grants, for instance, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program, which has helped put thousands of police officers on our streets, is cut by roughly 20 percent. The Small Business Administration’s budget is reduced by 18 percent. There is no funding for the 7(a) loan program, which is the SBA’s flagship program for helping small businesses get access to capital. Although we are bringing home new veterans every day, the funding level for veterans’ health care is at least $1.3 billion less than what the bipartisan Veterans Affairs Committee says is needed just to maintain the current level of services. The President’s own No Child Left Behind Act is under-funded by $9.6 billion. Many key housing programs are slashed. Housing for the elderly was cut by $27 million, and housing for people with disabilities was cut by $9 million. Assistance for the homeless also saw a $9 million cut. Community Development Block Grants are funded at $212 million less than current levels. Contrary to Congress’s call in 2002 to double the National Science Foundation’s budget over the next five years, the omnibus cuts NSF’s funding by $61 million below Fiscal Year 2004’s level. While those cuts may seem small, they could truly decimate those programs, many which were already severely under-funded. At the same time that millionaires are not being asked to give up one penny of their tax cuts, investments that will make our country stronger are being cut.

Despite its containing controversial changes to the law and gross underfunding of essential government services, facts only known to a handful of powerful Republicans, my colleagues and I were given only a few hours to read the bill which funds government departments, dozens of domestic agencies, and is one of the largest government funding bills to come before Congress. Not even the most accomplished speed-reader could have gotten through the bill in time, which is exactly what its authors were counting on when they rammed the bill through in one day. Such treatment of a bill of such importance is a dis-cred to the institution of Congress and a seri-ous disservice to our country. One resolution fixing one issue cannot make up for the abuse of power and the abuse of the American taxpayer, employee, student, senior, and family that H.R. 4818 embodies.

DIRECTING CLERK OF THE HOUSE TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 4818

SPEECH OF
HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I support this provision to fix the misguided inser-tion in the Omnibus Appropriations bill allowing Congressional staff to view individual tax returns. However, I protest the process through which that insertion, and others in the bill, were inserted into a 3,000-plus page spending bill without the knowledge of most members and without an opportunity to correct all of them.

One such additional insertion is a provision which effectively eliminates one of our most effective tools to fight crime—the Federal Pris-on Industries program. Study after study—some of them covering as much as 16 years of follow-up data—have shown that inmates who participate in the Federal Prison Industries program are more likely to be employed and less likely to commit crimes than those who do not take part. And corrections officials tell us that Federal Prison Industries are crit-ical to their maintaining safety and security in the prisons by giving inmates something pro-ductive to do with their time. Crime victims and the inmates’ dependents benefit, as well. Last year alone, inmate workers paid more than $3 million from their wages in the form of restitution to victims and support payments to dependents.

Inserting provisions in a 3,000-plus page bill with no opportunity to know about them or re-view them prior to voting on them, not only violates House rules against legislating on an appropiations measure, but violates principles of transparency and regular order in legis-lating, as well.
to bring donated toys to RFK Stadium and receive a free set of signed player cards. The toy drive is just one of the United’s four community outreach programs. Kicks for Kids provides 10,000 disadvantaged youth with free game tickets, meal vouchers and promotional items; United provides the capital with eco-friendly youth soccer equipment and school supplies to area non-profit organizations; and team coaches and players run six free children’s soccer clinics each year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Congress to recognize D.C. United for its spirit and excellence on and off the field, as the nation’s capital celebrates the Major League Soccer Champions.

COMMEMORATING THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN AT KANSAS CITY

HON. KAREN McCARTHY
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the services of the Consulate General of Japan at Kansas City to the six-state region of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota and to note, with sadness, the closing of the Consulate as of December 31, 2004.

Since the Japanese Pavilion at the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair first intrigued and delighted tens of thousands of visitors, the links between Japan and the heart of the American Midwest have grown in strength and diversity. As investment, trade and educational exchanges have increased over the last 50 years, so too have the number and scope of contacts and contracts between these six states and Japan.

The Japanese government has been proud to host Governors from the six-state region as honored guests, along with United States Senators and Representatives, business leaders and leading scholars. In return, Ambassadors, Diet members, and even the Emperor and Empress of Japan have visited the heart of America. But there is much more to the relationship than VIP visits and official statements. The Consulate General of Japan at Kansas City has served the six-state region for 25 years in promoting economic development, fostering cultural exchange and understanding, and in providing consular services to the Japanese citizens and U.S. citizens in this region.

More than one hundred Japanese companies have operations within the region and the Consulate has been a significant factor in facilitating and encouraging such investments to the economic benefit of the region through increased employment and economic activity. These companies employ over six thousand Americans. Exports out of the region to Japan exceed $900 million per year.

The Consulate has actively promoted and sponsored cultural fairs and activities throughout the region to foster better cultural understanding and exchange. Examples of cultural activities are the Annual St. Louis Japanese Festival and the Greater Kansas City Japan Festival. The Consulate has assisted almost three hundred regional educators to experience Japan first hand through the Fulbright Memorial Teachers Program. Over eight hundred Americans have participated in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. Nearly 100 university and graduate students have participated in scholarship programs provided by the Ministry of Education of Japan. Currently, almost 2,000 Japanese university students are enrolled in public and private universities throughout the 6-state region. In addition, the Consulate has coordinated cultural gifts in the form of gardens, gateways, and statuary to numerous local communities. The Consulate has supported and promoted 28 different sister cities and sister state relationships.

The Consulate General of Japan at Kansas City has served the six-state region for 25 years. The Consulate has issued more than 30,000 visas for BSE exposure.

Since arriving in Kansas City in July 2002, Consul General Takao Shibata and his lovely wife Mieko Shibata have become a valuable part of our community. They will be missed by me and thousands of Missouri’s Fifth Congressional District.

The people of Kansas City and the six-state region regret the closing of the Consulate, but we look forward to a continuation of our close relationship with Japan, and the provision of consular services by the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago.

STAKES IN THE UKRAINIAN ELECTION

HON. JAMES A. LEACH
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, history unfolds at an unpredictable pace. While we’ve been preoccupied with “Iraq and our own elections at home, democracy” is shaking Ukraine for the past fortnight. They must not be overlooked or their implications misunderstood.

Once again in the former Soviet empire, we are witnessing the courage of the human soul and the lengths to which oppressed people will go to seize freedom. In Ukraine, a country besieged in the last century by two of mankind’s greatest ‘isms’ of hate—fascism and communism—a populace has risen against another kind of ‘ism’—corruption. We are now witness to the new spirit of respect the individual standing up against forces of injustice and oppression. We are also witness to the continuing saga of a people aspiring to shape its own destiny, clear of the shadows cast for centuries by powerful neighbors.

At issue is the question of freedom and its transforming effects. Democracy implies more than elections. It implies integrity of process, and when that integrity is lacking, the charade of stolen elections can be more debilitating than unabashed authoritarian rule.

There are geopolitical as well as philosophical dimensions to the Ukraine situation that need to be understood in the broad context of the region and its history.

Geopolitically, Ukraine is a large expanse about the size of Texas, with a population of nearly 48 million people, stretching from the wheat fields along a line between Warsaw and Moscow to the palm trees of Yalta, on the Black Sea. The Ukraine was the breadbasket of the former Soviet Union and an economic and political hinge between the European Union and NATO on the one hand, and the Russian Federation and the Asian landmass, on the other. The western, Ukrainian-speaking half of the country looks to Warsaw and Berlin, Paris and eastern Ukraine, with its Russian-speaking population, looks more to Moscow. Language creates cultural divisions, but the forces of political cohesion are strong. Both population groups are committed to independence and undiluted Ukrainian sovereignty.

So, in addition to democracy, at issue is Russian imperialism. Instability in Ukraine can only strengthen the hand of an increasingly authoritarian Kremlin. By contrast, a genuinely democratic Ukraine enhances national solidarity but encourage democratic forces in the rest of the former Soviet Union, not least within Russia itself.

Those committed to democracy anywhere in the world should not fail to identify with aspirations of the Ukrainian people. Ukraine may be on the distant side of Europe from the United States, but our countries are bound by a common heritage and an inalienable urge for freedom. As Taras Shevchenko, the 19th century Ukrainian poet, wrote: “It makes no difference to me / If I shall live or not in Kiev / Or whether any one shall think / Of me m’di’ foreign snow and rain / It makes no difference to me . . . It makes great difference to me / That evil folk and wicked men / Attack our Ukraine, once so free / And rob and plunder at will / That makes great difference to me.”

So far courageous Ukrainians have succeeded in halting a fraudulent election. Sensing political winds blowing from a new direction, the once docile supreme court has, startlingly, done an honest job, erasing an injustice and calling for a new election. But the outcome is still in doubt. There is plenty of opportunity before the court-ordered runoff for status quo authorities to attempt, once more, to subvert the democratic process. It will be little doubt they will try to do so. For the KGB authorities to attempt, once more, to subvert a democratic process is a threat to their power and wealth and, for some, to their dream of restoring the Russian empire.

No one wishes to poison relations with Russia, but free elections are not an issue on which the United States should or, indeed, can compromise without sullying its principles. Nor are the western, Ukrainian-speaking parts of Ukraine who are so fearful of losing power that they hint of promoting a division of Ukraine into western and eastern parts. Separatism mis-serves the Ukrainian people. It is a threat to their power and wealth and, for some, to their dream of restoring the Russian empire.

Differing with Russia may be politically awkward, but once the flame of freedom is ignited, the U.S. and other western democracies have no ethical choice except to stand up in support of the people of Ukraine. The march to freedom in Poland, Czechoslovakia and other former communist-bloc countries has shown that the risk of an outbreak of destabilizing violence is far greater in situations where the
needs a larger, important vision to work on, and my proposals always had this concern in mind. We need to continue seeing a growth in civilian space exploration and research. Such activity has the exciting potential of increasing our advances in medicine, technology, education, and the overall positive growth of our great nation. We must continue to invest in research and development of science and mathematics, and I can think of no better way to achieve this than through our future in space.

Child safety legislation has also been a top priority from my first days in Congress. My biggest success was the creation of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, which I founded following the tragic death of a young girl, Laura Kate Smither, in the Friendswood part of the 9th Congressional District. We passed legislation that created the Cyberspace Crime Center, passed many bills like the Amber Alert program, and introduced the Bring Our Children Home Act in the 106th and 107th Congresses, and this year that bill received a hearing by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee. I’m very proud of our efforts to reach out to countries around the world for children of parents of dual nationalities. I wrote and delivered a resolution regarding the development of a best practices guide on the prevention of International Child Abduction, which was a further step in encouraging compliance with international treaties and alliances. One of the most important accomplishments of the Caucus is raising awareness with law enforcement and communities around the country to help ensure child safety and Internet safety. I hope to see this good work continue in future Congresses, as the bipartisan cooperation and spirit with the Caucus always led me to believe that Members of both parties can find common ground on many problems facing our country. With last year’s creation of the Senate caucus on child safety, I know this issue will continue to receive that important attention even after my last day here.

I also want to thank my hard-working staff both in Texas and Washington, who fought hard and effectively served the people of southeast Texas. These talented and diligent individuals supported me on every level, and the potential adverse impact on sports and commercial fishing activities, which impacts the livelihood of many southeast Texans.

We were also able to do a great deal of work to improve highways, airports and airways, waterways, and railways, all of which are important and have provided a better quality of life and economic development opportunities for my constituents. The salt water barrier on the Neches River, which allows for the deepening and widening of Sabine Neches Channel, will further strengthen our waterways while also protecting the Big Thicket National Preserve. These activities will allow us to further improve and strengthen the area’s petrochemical industry, an important part of both the southeast Texas and national economies, and an industry that provides thousands of good, solid jobs for hard-working Texans families.

I am also proud of my work on the House Science Committee, and to serve as the ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. My primary work was to promote development of space, and I also introduced the Space Exploration Act in the beginning of my tenure in Congress. The goals of this initiative were picked up by the President and set before this Nation as a national initiative, which gives me great deal of pride. NASA
TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF NILES, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the City of Niles, Michigan for the dedication of its downtown “streetscape” project. Over the past two years countless individuals tirelessly worked to bring this project to this remarkable pinnacle. With the addition of new streetlights, new planters, new patterned filled sidewalks, new drinking fountains, new benches, and new trash receptacles, the folks of Niles now have a tremendous downtown to be proud of. I had the great privilege of recently visiting the new streetscape and it is terrific.

The finishing of the “streetscape” couldn’t have come at a more appropriate or meaningful time as families and friends come together to celebrate the holidays. Volunteers have diligently worked stringing garlands along fences, threading strands of lights into the trees, and placing ribbons and wreaths on the new historic streetlights, all in an effort to make the downtown area special for its holiday celebration.

Southwest Michigan and especially the folks of Niles truly have a magnificent historic downtown to cherish for years to come. On behalf of the Sixth District of Michigan I would like to especially pay tribute and give thanks to everyone who volunteered and worked on preserving and beautifying this great city.

HONORING CIVIL AIR PATROL CADET 1LT BRIAN M. MOONEY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and contributions of Civil Air Patrol Cadet 1LT Brian M. Mooney. The Civil Air Patrol Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, is dedicated to educating the American public on air related topics and providing emergency services and disaster relief efforts.

During First Lieutenant Mooney’s extensive tenure as a Suffolk County Cadet, he exemplified what it means to be a dedicated and passionate member of the Civil Air Patrol. After originally joining the Air Patrol as a member of the COL F.S. Gabreski Squadron in 1998, Cadet Mooney worked hard to help that squadron earn a Unit Citation for 1999. In 2001, First Lieutenant Mooney became Commander of Suffolk County Cadet Squadron 5, where he served diligently until his 21st birthday.

Sadly, First Lieutenant Mooney passed away prematurely on October 16, 2004. First Lieutenant Mooney truly an individual respected by his community and he will continue to be remembered as someone who always had a kind word for friends and strangers alike. Mr. Mooney’s loving family, surrogate mother and all of his friends and compatriots in the Air Patrol will miss his dedication to life and to his duties as a Squadron Commander.

In a fitting and lasting tribute to the many contributions First Lieutenant Mooney made to the Air Patrol organization, I was pleased to learn about a recent decision to rename Squadron 5 after Brian M. Mooney. This will undoubtedly serve as a reminder to young cadets that their unit respects the outstanding works of former Squadron members.

In December of 2001, First Lieutenant Mooney received one of the Air Patrol’s highest honors by earning the illustrious General Billy Mitchell Award. Named for BG Billy Mitchell, this commendation represents a significant achievement requiring a strong work ethic and an exhaustive knowledge of aerospace issues.

First Lieutenant Mooney’s experience in the Civil Air Patrol could serve as a guide for all young cadets. Early in his tenure, Mooney was elected Vice-Chairperson for the Long Island Group Cadet Advisory Council and following his work there, was elected Chairperson for the LI Group and was named as a Member of the New York Wing Cadet Advisory Council.

First Lieutenant Mooney’s work as Commander shows the overwhelming pride that he had in his unit and in his fellow cadets. One year after becoming Commander, Mooney was named Long Island Group’s Cadet of Distinction 2002, and during the course of only two years of his service in the Air Patrol, Mooney was responsible for increasing recruitment for his squadron from five to forty-plus cadets.

I can think of few individuals more suitable for recognition by this body. First Lieutenant Mooney’s work with the Civil Air Patrol influenced numerous cadets on Long Island and the members of the Squadron now bearing his name will sorely miss him. First Lieutenant Mooney shows that selfless dedication to a cause and dogged pursuit of one’s goals reflect positively on the community as a whole.

First Lieutenant Mooney’s brief life was filled with extensive contributions to family and fellow cadets alike, and I appreciate the opportunity to commemorate his work in the Civil Air Patrol. I would also urge that the current cadets in the Brian M. Mooney Civil Air Patrol Squadron memorialize First Lieutenant Mooney’s achievements by continuing his good works.

A TRIBUTE TO KATHY TAVOURLASI ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Californian. Kathy Tavoularis is retiring from her position as the Executive Director of the Republican Party of Orange County, where she has directed the day-to-day operations of the county Republican Central Committee for over a decade.

Kathy began her involvement with the county party as a college intern in 1991, and was hired in 1993 as Office Director. Kathy represents so much of the diversity that makes Orange County such a lively and interesting place. She was born in Montreal, Quebec in 1970 to George and Maria, who had emigrated to Canada 10 years earlier from Greece. She grew up outside of Chicago, Illinois and became a life-long fan of the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago Bears. Kathy is fluent in Greek and conversational in Quebecois French from her days in Canada. She has also traveled extensively in Europe.

She graduated from California State University, Long Beach, earning a B.A. in Political Science, with an emphasis in Politics and Policy Formation. Kathy worked three jobs at once to pay her way through college and received her degree after only 3 years.

Kathy has been a dedicated member of the Orange County Republican Women, federated, the Orange County Republicans, an appointed Member of the California Republican Party, and has worked at the 1996, 2000 and 2004 Republican National Conventions.

Kathy regularly attends St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Anaheim, where she is active in Bible Study and Early Church History Classes.

On behalf of my colleagues, let me join the many friends, co-workers and admirers in wishing Kathy Tavoularis nothing but the best in her future endeavors. She has left an immeasurably positive legacy for the residents of Orange County, local community leaders, and in helping to make Orange County “the most Republican county in America.”

INTERNET TAX NONDISCRIMINATION

SPEECH OF
HON. CHRIS CANNON
OF UTAH
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to commend the House and Senate for passing the 3 year extension on the moratorium for Internet taxes and the President for signing the bill last Friday. I am pleased that we were able to extend the moratorium, I agree with the gentleman from Wisconsin, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, that the moratorium should be made permanent. I look forward to working with him and others next year to achieve this very important goal.

Second, for clarification purposes on the grandfather of states that tax Internet access, I wish to offer an explanation distinguishing the difference between the pre-October 1998 and pre-November 2003 dates as found in Section 1104.

While both sections use the term “Internet access,” Section 1104(a), the provision for pre-October 1998 taxes, applies only to the states that were lawfully taxing Internet access before the original enactment of the Internet Tax Freedom Act in 1998. The definition of “Internet access” that applies to the Section 1104(a) grandfather clause is the definition as set forth in the 1998 Internet Tax Freedom Act, as the amended definition does not take effect until November 1, 2003. Those states that were grandfathered under the Internet Tax Freedom Act from 1998 to 2003 will continue to be grandfathered under Section 1104(a).

Section 1104(b), the provision for pre-November 2003 taxes, applies only to those states that were taxing telecommunication services purchased, used, or sold by an Internet access provider to provide Internet access,
such as Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) access technology, if they were doing it lawfully prior to November 1, 2003. The amended definition of “Internet access” in the Internet Tax Freedom Act is effective November 1, 2003 and applies to section 1104(b). Section 1104(b) expires November 1, 2005 in order to eliminate any “tax on Internet access” (as defined in Section 1104(10)) regarding telecommunications services purchased, used or sold by an Internet access provider for the purpose of providing Internet access.

Finally, in making the Internet Tax Freedom Act technology neutral, this law now protects consumers from taxes on all Internet access technologies, including dial-up, DSL, cable modem, satellite and wireless. A consumer may even purchase Internet access from two Internet access providers without the threat of taxes. He may use one service to browse the Internet and the other service primarily for e-mail and content services. Both Internet access services are protected from state and local taxation under this law. This law is a significant accomplishment on behalf of all American consumers and maximizes consumer choice and access.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF RICHARD E. MEADE

HON. JIM NUSSLE
OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, the circle and legacy of service to the United States continues every year without end here in Congress.

Members of Congress and our professional staff arrive and depart, and because that departure may seem to go without notice, those who depart may wonder whether their service has in fact made a difference, and in some manner secured the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.

I cannot bear witness to all that I have encountered in this circle of service, but, I will try for the departure of one very special friend. Richard E. Meade has served me, the Congress, and the United States of America professionally, effectively, and unselfishly for over fifteen years.

He has served me as my Chief of Staff for both my Iowa Congressional office and the House Budget Committee.

During his tenure, his professional approach was one identified with integrity of purpose, quality of work product, and sincerity and honesty to every person he encountered, from the Speaker of the House to a citizen from Iowa.

One of the many beauties of America is that our freedom is more precious and important than any one person, and yet, without that “mere person” who is willing to serve freedom, respect freedom, and defend freedom, freedom could not exist.

Richard E. Meade is such a person who during his life has been willing to serve, respect and defend American freedom, and in doing so, has helped secure the blessings of liberty for all of us, and for his lovely wife Elizabeth and their precious daughter Constance.

Soon, memories of that service, like the memories of the service of so many others, may fade, and good people will step forward and continue in the legacy of quality service to the freedom we have all come to expect and too often take for granted. The circle of service continues.

My humble words of appreciation cannot, and will not, equal the quality and quantity of service you provided me and our country, but Rich, I offer them with my ultimate respect and sincere gratitude for your many years of dedication to me and our liberty. Mr. Speaker, I simply say, Rich Meade, thank you for my freedom!