

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

136TH AIRLIFT WING, TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY READINESS TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated group of individuals who have devoted their time and energy to supporting our brave soldiers—136th Airlift Wing, Texas National Guard Family Readiness Team.

The Family Readiness Team's mission is to assist units as they support the families of members of the 136th Airlift Wing during peacetime and times of training or mobilization. The Team provides multiple levels of care and assistance. They send a personal greeting card to any member upon request; establish and facilitate ongoing communication, involvement, support, and recognition between National Guard families and the National Guard in a partnership that promotes the best in both; and provide all Air Force families assistance and support before, during and after times of local or national emergencies/disasters, mobilization, deployment/separation or evacuation. The Family Readiness Team has a Chaplain's Staff available to comfort and encourage hope for the families of our deployed troops as well as those troops providing home station sustainment.

My son was a member of the Texas Air National Guard, and I have found that working with the Family Readiness Team, located in Fort Worth, Texas, has been rewarding. There are opportunities for family members to assist their loved ones by attending meetings on base and promoting fellowship with other families. The Texas Air National Guard Family Readiness Team is part of a National Guard Family Program which works to connect people across America. I applaud the great work of the 136th Airlift Wing Family Readiness Team, and I look forward to continuing and supporting this organization in the years to come.

DELIVERING HIGH-QUALITY CARE
TO VETERANS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in praise of the White River Junction Veterans Administration Medical Center, which has received the Robert W. Carey Trophy Award for Organizational Excellence. This award, named after a former Secretary of Veterans Affairs, was presented to recognize the truly excellent care that the White River VA Center provides to veterans in Vermont and the Connecticut River Valley. This award is

the highest quality award the Department of Veterans Affairs can bestow.

In the two previous years, the White River VA Center was recognized for excellence for the quality of its care by winning back-to-back Carey Achievement Awards. This year it took the top award in the nation.

Under the leadership of Gary De Gasta, the staff at the center—doctors, nurses, health professionals, administrative support—are committed to providing the very best in health care. They are attentive to veterans and their needs; they offer state-of-the-art medical care; they honor the service of the brave men and women who answered, and answer, our nation's call decade after decade.

I am very proud of the excellent work done by those who work at the White River VA Center. They are deserving of this highest of commendations, and we in Vermont are very proud of them. We are equally proud that this high level of performance helps to deliver the very best in health care to our veterans.

INTRODUCING THE PARENTAL
CONSENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Parental Consent Act. This bill forbids Federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental-health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardians. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the Federal and State Governments work toward the implementation of a comprehensive system of mental-health screening for all Americans. This commission recommends that universal or mandatory mental-health screening first be implemented in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related mental-health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental-health screening. Federally-funded universal or mandatory mental health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Already, too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, there was a 300-percent increase in psychotropic drug use in two- to four-year-old children from 1991 to 1995.

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some

of the possible side effects include mania, violence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children.

Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a federally-funded mental-health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental-health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental-health diagnosis manuals admit that mental-health diagnoses are subjective and based on social constructions. Therefore, it is all too easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a federally-funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental-health screening program applies to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

Mr. Speaker, universal or mandatory mental-health screening threatens to undermine parents' right to raise their children as the parents see fit. Forced mental-health screening could also endanger the health of children by leading to more children being improperly placed on psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, or stigmatized as "mentally ill" or a risk of causing violence because they adhere to traditional values. Congress has a responsibility to the nation's parents and children to stop this from happening. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Parental Consent Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PRO USE
ACT"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the introduction of the "PRO USE Act." As we all know, copyrighted works not only provide entertainment and provide a positive trade balance for our country's economy but also are a window to this country's cultural heritage. In recognition of this, our copyright laws are designed to encourage the production, distribution, and preservation of copyrighted content. This legislation, which I am introducing with Representative HOWARD L. BERMAN, makes two important changes to the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

copyright law to make it easier to preserve these artifacts.

Title I is the "Preservation of Orphan Works Act." This important provision corrects an oversight in the copyright law that allows libraries and archives to reproduce and distribute up to three copies of musical works, movies, etc.—not sound recordings—of a copy they have to replace stolen/deteriorated copies or for preservation/security purposes. They also can make unlimited copies of other copyrighted works—items except musical works, movies, etc.—during the last 20 years of the copyright term. This bill would amend the law to say they can make unlimited copies of musical works, movies, etc. during the last 20 years of the term of the music or movies.

Title II is the "National Film Preservation Act of 2005." It reauthorizes the National Film Preservation Act of 1996. We all know that motion pictures are amongst this nation's cultural treasures, going beyond entertainment to represent American ideals and values to people across the world. Unfortunately, the films on which many motion pictures are created are easily susceptible to physical deterioration; in fact, over 50 percent of movies made before 1950 have deteriorated and over 90 percent of movies from before 1929 have disintegrated.

The 1996 Act was designed to ensure that we could protect the treasures we still have. It created the National Film Preservation Board and the National Film Preservation Foundation. The NFPB generates public awareness of a national film registry and reviews initiatives to ensure the preservation valued films. The NFPF issues grants to libraries and other institutions that can save films from degradation.

The program has received accolades from organizations such as the Directors Guild of America and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Noted filmmakers Martin Scorsese and Ken Burns also have praised the NFPB and the NFPF.

Unfortunately, the program officially expired October 11, 2003, and was not reauthorized. The legislation being introduced today would remedy that oversight by reauthorizing both the NFPB and the NFPF. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this valuable effort as we move it through the House.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF OFFICER PETER LAVERY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Officer Peter Lavery of the Newington Police Department in Connecticut, who was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty on December 30, 2004, as he responded to an emergency call.

It was a terrible day for the people of Connecticut as one of our finest public servants was cut down in the prime of his life. Officer Lavery was a dedicated 17-year veteran of the Newington Police Department, and had served his Nation proudly as a member of the Connecticut National Guard. He was known for his "big golden heart" and sense of humor, and so many of my constituents will never forget

the important role he played in their lives or in the communities he served. He leaves behind his wife, Pamela, and two children, Raymond and Samantha, to whom our hearts go out during this difficult time.

We struggle to understand why such a horrific act of violence was visited upon such a good and decent man who loved his family and served his community. In the end, there are no answers.

Today, as thousands of his neighbors and fellow officers gather in Newington to honor the life and service of Officer Lavery, we must remind ourselves of the thousands of brave, dedicated men and women that put their lives in danger each day to protect us and our families. Officer Lavery made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of this cause. He will not be forgotten.

May God bless him, his family and the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF MR. AND MRS.
JAMES "CLYDE" SHAHAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a couple, like so many others in our nation, which was truly American: Mr. and Mrs. James "Clyde" Shahan.

Mr. Shahan, known to his friends as Clyde, and his four brothers, all from Denton, Texas, served in the United States Army during World War II. Clyde served honorably in New Guinea and Luzon, receiving numerous citations and decorations including the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon, 1 Service Stripe and 4 Overseas Service Bars.

After his discharge, Mr. Shahan returned to the Denton area where he, along with his Aural, became active members at Lake Cities United Methodist Church in Lake Dallas, Texas. Aural and Clyde worked side by side at several school districts and serving their community.

Mr. and Mrs. Shahan had a son, Bobby Joe, who died as a three year old in a flu epidemic, but neither of them lost their faith or their commitment to education and their country. Remembered as a happy and funny man, Clyde often attended church in his finest Western suit and was always a joy at church functions.

Almost two years to the day of his wife's death, Clyde passed away in 2004. Today, I honor the memory of these two individuals who impacted a community with hope. I am pleased that their memories will not be lost as a special memorial is being established at Lake Cities United Methodist Church in their honor. Truly, Clyde and Aural were members of the "greatest generation" and will be remembered always for their commitment to Christ and America.

TEN YEARS OF STELLAR SERVICE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago the Howard Center for Human Services was established. It is a remarkable organization, one which provides essential services to the citizens of four counties in northern Vermont. Although its origins are in the nineteenth century, its earliest forebearer was a ladies' aid and relief society in 1873. Its willingness to join together several different NGOs in 1994, overriding several smaller portfolios in the interest of providing a broad umbrella of services to the community, is testimony to its commitment to serving the needs of Vermont.

The focus of its staff and programs is on developmental disabilities, those with mental problems, and on children, youth and families who face difficulties of many sorts. It serves those in crisis and those with ongoing problems. Altogether, the Howard Center serves over 15,000 Vermont residents each year through Howard Community Services, the Baird Center, and Adult Behavioral Health Services. It does so efficiently, dedicating almost 90 percent of its budget directly to programs and outreach for those thousands of Vermonters in need of the services it provides.

The Howard Center provides accredited services in the areas of mental health, alcohol and other drug additions programs, family services, and employment services. Its many programs range from crisis intervention and stabilization to outpatient treatment, case management services coordination, community housing, residential treatment, job development and supports, and criminal justice service case management. In addition to a dedicated staff and hundreds of contracted workers supporting individuals and families in their homes and in the community, 500 volunteers help the Howard Center meet the needs of our friends and neighbors in northern Vermont.

I could go on at length about the individual programs of the Howard Center, but in the interest of time I will mention just one, one that is representative of the remarkable commitment and innovation that the Howard Center brings to providing human services to northern Vermont. The Streetwork program provides daily assistance and support to people with psychiatric disabilities, and to those dealing with substance abuse, homelessness and other unmet social service needs; it provides those services on the main streets of downtown Burlington, by going out to people rather than waiting for them to come into offices or clinics.

In these difficult times, when the middle class is under siege and shrinking and low income families see the social safety net in shreds, when fringe benefits for many jobs axe disappearing and more people are medically uninsured, when low and moderate income housing is often unavailable, the Howard Center provides a bulwark and a refuge to those who are in need of social services. I congratulate them on the past ten years, and look forward to a new decade in which they continue to sustain tens of thousands of Vermonters.

INTRODUCING THE IDENTITY
THEFT PREVENTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Identity Theft Prevention Act. This act protects the American people from government-mandated uniform identifiers that facilitate private crime as well as the abuse of liberty. The major provision of the Identity Theft Prevention Act halts the practice of using the Social Security number as an identifier by requiring the Social Security Administration to issue all Americans new Social Security numbers within 5 years after the enactment of the bill. These new numbers will be the sole legal property of the recipient, and the Social Security administration shall be forbidden to divulge the numbers for any purposes not related to Social Security administration. Social Security numbers issued before implementation of this bill shall no longer be considered valid Federal identifiers. Of course, the Social Security Administration shall be able to use an individual's original Social Security number to ensure efficient administration of the Social Security system.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a moral responsibility to address this problem because it was Congress that transformed the Social Security number into a national identifier. Thanks to Congress, today no American can get a job, open a bank account, get a professional license, or even get a driver's license without presenting his Social Security number. So widespread has the use of the Social Security number become that a member of my staff had to produce a Social Security number in order to get a fishing license.

One of the most disturbing abuses of the Social Security number is the congressionally authorized rule forcing parents to get a Social Security number for their newborn children in order to claim the children as dependents. Forcing parents to register their children with the State is more like something out of the nightmares of George Orwell than the dreams of a free republic that inspired this Nation's Founders.

Congressionally mandated use of the Social Security number as an identifier facilitates the horrendous crime of identity theft. Thanks to Congress, an unscrupulous person may simply obtain someone's Social Security number in order to access that person's bank accounts, credit cards, and other financial assets. Many Americans have lost their life savings and had their credit destroyed as a result of identity theft. Yet the Federal Government continues to encourage such crimes by mandating use of the Social Security number as a uniform ID.

This act also forbids the Federal Government from creating national ID cards or establishing any identifiers for the purpose of investigating, monitoring, overseeing, or regulating private transactions among American citizens. At the very end of the 108th Congress, this body established a de facto national ID card with a provision buried in the "intelligence" reform bill mandating Federal standards for drivers' licenses, and mandating that Federal agents only accept a license that conforms to these standards as a valid ID.

Nationalizing standards for drivers' licenses and birth certificates creates a national ID system pure and simple. Proponents of the national ID understand that the public remains wary of the scheme, so proponents attempt to claim they are merely creating new standards for existing State IDs. However, the "intelligence" reform legislation imposed Federal standards in a Federal bill, thus creating a federalized ID regardless of whether the ID itself is still stamped with the name of your State. It is just a matter of time until those who refuse to carry the new licenses will be denied the ability to drive or board an airplane. Domestic travel restrictions are the hallmark of authoritarian States, not free republics.

The national ID will be used to track the movements of American citizens, not just terrorists. Subjecting every citizen to surveillance diverts resources away from tracking and apprehending terrorists in favor of needless snooping on innocent Americans. This is what happened with "suspicious activity reports" required by the Bank Secrecy Act. Thanks to BSA mandates, Federal officials are forced to waste countless hours snooping through the private financial transactions of innocent Americans merely because those transactions exceeded \$10,000.

The Identity Theft Prevention Act repeals those sections of Federal law creating the national ID, as well as those sections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 that require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a uniform standard health identifier—an identifier which could be used to create a national database containing the medical history of all Americans. As an OB/GYN with more than 30 years in private practice, I know the importance of preserving the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship. Oftentimes, effective treatment depends on a patient's ability to place absolute trust in his or her doctor. What will happen to that trust when patients know that any and all information given to their doctors will be placed in a government accessible database?

By putting an end to government-mandated uniform IDs, the Identity Theft Prevention Act will prevent millions of Americans from having their liberty, property, and privacy violated by private and public sector criminals.

In addition to forbidding the Federal Government from creating national identifiers, this legislation forbids the Federal Government from blackmailing States into adopting uniform standard identifiers by withholding Federal funds. One of the most onerous practices of Congress is the use of Federal funds illegitimately taken from the American people to bribe States into obeying Federal dictates.

Some Members of Congress will claim that the Federal Government needs the power to monitor Americans in order to allow the government to operate more efficiently. I would remind my colleagues that, in a constitutional republic, the people are never asked to sacrifice their liberties to make the jobs of government officials easier. We are here to protect the freedom of the American people, not to make privacy invasion more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, while I do not question the sincerity of those Members who suggest that Congress can ensure that citizens' rights are protected through legislation restricting access to personal information, the only effective privacy protection is to forbid the Federal Gov-

ernment from mandating national identifiers. Legislative "privacy protections" are inadequate to protect the liberty of Americans for a couple of reasons.

First, it is simply common sense that repealing those Federal laws that promote identity theft is more effective in protecting the public than expanding the power of the Federal police force. Federal punishment of identity thieves provides cold comfort to those who have suffered financial losses and the destruction of their good reputations as a result of identity theft.

Federal laws are not only ineffective in stopping private criminals, but these laws have not even stopped unscrupulous government officials from accessing personal information. After all, laws purporting to restrict the use of personal information did not stop the well-publicized violations of privacy by IRS officials or the FBI abuses of the Clinton and Nixon administrations.

In one of the most infamous cases of identity theft, thousands of active-duty soldiers and veterans had their personal information stolen, putting them at risk of identity theft. Imagine the dangers if thieves are able to obtain the universal identifier, and other personal information, of millions of Americans simply by breaking, or hacking, into one government facility or one government database?

Second, the Federal Government has been creating proprietary interests in private information for certain State-favored special interests. Perhaps the most outrageous example of phony privacy protection is the "medical privacy" regulation, that allows medical researchers, certain business interests, and law enforcement officials access to health care information, in complete disregard of the Fifth Amendment and the wishes of individual patients! Obviously, "privacy protection" laws have proven greatly inadequate to protect personal information when the government is the one seeking the information.

Any action short of repealing laws authorizing privacy violations is insufficient primarily because the Federal Government lacks constitutional authority to force citizens to adopt a universal identifier for health care, employment, or any other reason. Any Federal action that oversteps constitutional limitations violates liberty because it ratifies the principle that the Federal Government, not the Constitution, is the ultimate judge of its own jurisdiction over the people. The only effective protection of the rights of citizens is for Congress to follow Thomas Jefferson's advice and "bind (the Federal Government) down with the chains of the Constitution."

Mr. Speaker, those members who are not persuaded by the moral and constitutional reasons for embracing the Identity Theft Prevention Act should consider the American people's opposition to national identifiers. The numerous complaints over the ever-growing uses of the Social Security number show that Americans want Congress to stop invading their privacy. Furthermore, according to a survey by the Gallup company, 91 percent of the American people oppose forcing Americans to obtain a universal health ID.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I once again call on my colleagues to join me in putting an end to the Federal Government's unconstitutional use of national identifiers to monitor the actions of private citizens. National identifiers threaten all Americans by exposing them to

the threat of identity theft by private criminals and abuse of their liberties by public criminals, while diverting valuable law enforcement resources away from addressing real threats to public safety. In addition, national identifiers are incompatible with a limited, constitutional government. I, therefore, hope my colleagues will join my efforts to protect the freedom of their constituents by supporting the Identity Theft Prevention Act.

INTRODUCTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING THAT FOREIGN-BORN CITIZENS OF 20 YEARS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States that will enable all citizens of this country to be eligible to hold the Office of President. No citizen should be denied the opportunity to seek the Nation's highest office. The proposal that I am introducing will allow foreign-born individuals who have been citizens of this country for at least 20 years to be eligible for this office.

As you know, Article II of the Constitution of the United States provides that only natural-born citizens are entitled to hold the Office of President. I believe that this limitation contradicts the principles for which this country stands. This Nation prides itself on its diversity of culture, experience, and opinion. This quality is achieved only by welcoming immigrants to this country, allowing them to become citizens, and enabling them make full contributions to society.

For the most part, the United States treats its citizens, those natural-born and foreign-born, the same. However, when determining who is eligible for the Offices of President, this country unfairly distinguishes between the two. Allowing the United States to be a better country because of the contributions that foreign-born citizens make, and then not allowing them to fully participate in all aspects of society, is un-American.

As you may also know, some of our country's foreign-born citizens are our country's greatest public servants. There are also 700 foreign-born citizens who have received the Medal of Honor. It is unjust to deny citizens that have risked their lives for this country the chance to become President of the United States as well. A 2002 Pentagon study reports that more than 30,000 foreign-born citizens are currently serving in the U.S. military.

I realize that constitutional amendments are rare and that those proposed should be subject to great scrutiny. I truly respect one of the documents on which our country was founded, the Constitution of the United States. Therefore, it is after great consideration and with the utmost gravity, that I introduce this proposal today. I am hopeful that my fellow colleagues in Congress will properly consider the proposed amendment and realize that every citizen of the United States should be entitled to dream of becoming President.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA RITTER

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patricia Ritter, who passed away on December 10, 2004. Mrs. Ritter was one of Connecticut's most influential civil rights leaders and she leaves a legacy that will not soon be forgotten. Her passion for social justice was only matched by her passion for her family. She leaves behind her husband and five children, two of whom served in the Connecticut General Assembly. While I served as State Senate President Pro Tempore I had the privilege of working with her son Tom, who served as Speaker of the House. My deepest condolences go out to Tom and his family during this time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring the life of Patricia Ritter. I would also like to submit for the RECORD this editorial from the Hartford Courant which captures the essence of what made Mrs. Ritter such a special person.

[From the Hartford Courant, Dec. 14, 2004]

THE REMARKABLE PAT RITTER

She stood for something. She acted on her beliefs. She changed things.

Patricia Ritter, who died last week at the age of 84, was an activist, civil rights pioneer, internationalist and teacher as well as the wife and mother of three state legislators.

A woman of grace, good cheer and quiet intensity, Mrs. Ritter was exposed to, and appalled by, a segregated restaurant when she was a 16-year-old freshman at the University of Iowa. She organized a protest and then headed South with the first of the Freedom Riders—traveling in the odious "Colored Only" train cars, and refusing to move.

After marrying and moving to Connecticut, she was named to the state's Commission on Human Rights in 1950, the first woman so honored. Facing the problem of segregated housing, she and her husband George co-founded the Connecticut Housing Investment Fund, Inc. in 1968 to finance integrated and affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization projects throughout Connecticut.

This allowed racial minorities to buy homes in the suburbs, which sometimes brought threats of violence and, on at least one occasion, actual violence to Mrs. Ritter.

To date, CHIF has provided more than \$108 million to help individuals and organizations purchase, rehabilitate or build homes for low- and moderate-income families.

The wall between city and suburb was not the only one she helped tear down. After China opened its doors to the West in the 1970s, Mrs. Ritter founded China in Connecticut, one of the first educational links between this country and China.

A college teacher, she spent a decade teaching English at Chinese universities, and sponsored many of her Chinese students to study at U.S. colleges. Several of Mrs. Ritter's children followed her example and taught in China as well. The results of such work are incalculable. Mrs. Ritter's five children carried on her beliefs; as artists, writers, teachers, businessmen and legislators. Her husband and sons Thomas and John served in the General Assembly; Thomas was speaker of the House for three terms.

"Her integrity, her character, her work, her children—she was just a marvelous per-

son," said Judge Robert Satter, a longtime family friend. Mrs. Ritter's life affirms the proposition that, yes, one person can make a difference.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NOLAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the Nolan Catholic High School football team, The Vikings, on their State Championship for Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division 1 6A.

The Vikings shut out Houston St. Pius X high school for the championship with a 14–0 score at Floyd Casey Stadium, Baylor University, in Waco, TX, on Saturday November 27, 2004. The championship victory marked the 8th time this season the Vikings shut out their opponent. This is the first trip to the state final in nine years for the Vikings, who have never won a State crown.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Brother Richard Thompson, S.M., principal of Nolan Catholic High School, the coaches and especially to the team for their talent and dedication to excellence.

VERMONT FOODBANK FIGHTS HUNGER

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, even though this is the richest and most productive nation in the history of the world, hunger is still a major problem in the United States. In my State of Vermont alone, 55,000 households are living in poverty. In Vermont, many of these people find that the existence of food shelves provides the final protection to keep them from sinking into malnutrition and even starvation. Of those who go to food shelves, almost one out of four is elderly and over half are families with children. Most of these are working families. It is a terrible fact that 21,000 children under the age of 12 either go hungry or are at risk of hunger in Vermont. The situation is so severe that nationwide, over 29 percent of households that received emergency food last year literally had to choose between paying for food or paying for medical care.

Clearly our Nation's governmental policies are entirely wrong, placing as they do tax breaks for the wealthy and corporate welfare as high priorities, and ignoring the need to feed the hungry, guarantee health care to all, support the construction of affordable housing, and make college available to those who wish to attend. We need to change our skewed priorities which, rather than making life better and more secure for the vast majority of Americans, lead to the increasing gap between rich and poor, and to ever-increasing economic pressures faced by the middle class.

But while we struggle to change the United States, to make it into a more just and equitable society, we also need to make sure that no American goes hungry.

I want to commend, today, the Vermont Foodbank for its years of exemplary service to fighting hunger. The Vermont Foodbank serves food shelves, community kitchens, homeless shelters, domestic abuse programs and programs which provide services for the elderly and children. Well over 100,000 people are served through Foodbank's network of 295 agencies each year. From its building in Barre, the Foodbank supplies agencies and NGOs all over Vermont with food for those who are hungry. It is greatly assisted in its work by hundreds of volunteers, who contributed over 23,000 hours—over 11 years of work weeks—in just the past year alone.

The Vermont Foodbank helps assure that none among us go hungry, that every community group and agency that seeks to combat hunger has a resource upon which it can call. It, together with our many community food banks, the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, the work of shelters, the Salvation Army, churches, and countless other groups, is doing essential, life-sustaining work in throughout our State.

INTRODUCING THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARY TAX REDUCTION ACT AND THE SENIOR CITIZENS' TAX ELIMINATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation to reduce taxes on senior citizens. The first bill, the Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act, repeals the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits. Repealing this increase on Social Security benefits is a good first step toward reducing the burden imposed by the federal government on senior citizens. However, imposing any tax on Social Security benefits is unfair and illogical. This is why I am also introducing the Senior Citizens' Tax Elimination Act, which repeals all taxes on Social Security benefits.

Since Social Security benefits are financed with tax dollars, taxing these benefits is yet another example of double taxation. Furthermore, "taxing" benefits paid by the government is merely an accounting trick, a shell game which allows members of Congress to reduce benefits by subterfuge. This allows Congress to continue using the Social Security trust fund as a means of financing other government programs, and masks the true size of the federal deficit.

Instead of imposing ridiculous taxes on senior citizens, Congress should ensure the integrity of the Social Security trust fund by ending the practice of using trust fund monies for other programs. In order to accomplish this goal I introduced the Social Security Preservation Act (H.R. 219), which ensures that all money in the Social Security trust fund is spent solely on Social Security. At a time when Congress' inability to control spending is once again threatening the Social Security trust fund, the need for this legislation has never been greater. When the government

taxes Americans to fund Social Security, it promises the American people that the money will be there for them when they retire. Congress has a moral obligation to keep that promise.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help free senior citizens from oppressive taxation by supporting my Senior Citizens' Tax Elimination Act and my Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act. I also urge my colleagues to ensure that moneys from the Social Security trust fund are used solely for Social Security benefits and not wasted on frivolous government programs.

REINTRODUCTION OF H.R. 40, COMMISSION TO STUDY REPARATIONS PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to re-introduce H.R. 40, the Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act, along with 22 original cosponsors. Since I first introduced H.R. 40 in 1989, we have made substantial progress in elevating this issue in the national consciousness. Through legislation, state and local resolutions, and litigation, we are moving closer to a full dialogue on the role of slavery in building this country.

Across the nation, three state legislatures: Louisiana, California and Florida, have passed resolutions supporting H.R. 40. Another three states: New Jersey, New York and Texas, have legislation pending. At the local level, the legislation has gained similar support, with 12 major cities having passed similar supporting resolutions.

However, despite this progress, the legacy of slavery lingers heavily in this nation. While we have focused on the social effects of slavery and segregation, its continuing economic implications have been largely ignored by mainstream analysis. These economic issues are the root cause of many critical issues in the African-American community today, such as education, healthcare, and crime. The call for reparations represents a commitment to entering a constructive dialogue on the role of slavery and racism in shaping present-day conditions in our community and American society.

H.R. 40 is designed to create a formal dialogue on the issue of reparations through the establishment of a national commission to examine the institution of slavery. The commission will study the impact of slavery and continuing discrimination against African-Americans, resulting directly and indirectly from slavery, during the apartheid of reconstruction, desegregation, and the present day. The commission would also make recommendations concerning any form of apology and compensation to begin the long delayed process of atonement.

The issue of reparations remains sensitive in many communities because of the basic question of money. Statements dismissing reparations on the grounds of payment issues, however, are completely premature, especially when we have not yet had a national dialogue

or study of the area. Economists have told us that the value of slave labor to the American economy and potential damages are greater than \$7 trillion. Such a staggering sum indicates that the discussion of reparations must be about something other than money.

However, I must stress that the reparations issue is not about a check to individuals. The call for reparations represents a commitment to entering a constructive dialogue on the role of slavery and racism in shaping American society. Everyone profited from the labor of the slaves, even later immigrants, because slave labor and the taxes from those enterprises built the infrastructure of this nation. The debt we talk about is not centuries old, but dates back only a few decades and is within our lifetimes because of Jim Crow.

This nation must make a commitment to understanding how the legacy of slavery and its vestiges contribute to present day societal and economic inequality. That is why I re-introduce H.R. 40 at the opening of every Congress and sponsor a forum on reparations during every Congressional Black Caucus legislative conference. We must be diligent in our efforts to educate this nation about its history. I hope that in this 109th Congress, we can schedule formal hearings on this legislation to begin the process of having our nation finally acknowledge its debt.

DENTON RANKS 1ST AMONG MOST-TECHNOLOGY-ADVANCED CITIES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Denton, Texas for being acknowledged as the No. 1 most technology-advanced city with a population of 75,000 to 124,999, by the Center for Digital Government. The ranking was based on the 2004 Digital Cities Survey that examines how city governments are using digital technology to become more efficient and communicate with residents.

The survey and ranking determined by the Center asked more than 600 mayors, managers and chief information officers to participate asking 24 questions focusing on implementation, adoption of online service delivery, planning and governance, and the network that allows cities to make the move to digital government.

A life-long resident of Denton County, I offer my congratulations to the city of Denton and to Mayor Euline Brock.

COMPANY THAT DOES IT RIGHT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to your attention a remarkable company, located in my home state of Vermont, that can and should serve as a model for corporate responsibility in this era so unfortunately marked by greed of CEO's, who last year paid themselves 301 times as much as the average worker in their companies.

The company I speak of is Chroma Technology Corporation of Rockingham, Vermont. It is completely employee owned. The firm has a flat pay scale, where no employee makes less than \$37,500 and no one more than \$75,000. Thus no top-level specialist makes more than twice what anyone on the shop floor earns.

Yet Chroma competes in the global marketplace, taking the risks that other corporations do. It is a global, high-tech manufacturer of optical filters for microscopes used by the world's top biologists. It is the major supplier to three of the four major microscope manufacturers in the world (Zeiss and Leica from Germany and Nikon from Japan). Chroma is also the second source for Olympus of Japan and was recently chosen as primary supplier to Motic, an emerging Chinese microscope company. Chroma is today a premier manufacturer of high-tech products, and expects sales of \$16 million in 2004.

While other companies practice outsourcing, Chroma remains locally rooted, with virtually all 68 employees living within a 50-mile radius of its facility in Rockingham.

So amazing is its story—and so important is its lesson to how American companies can not only survive but thrive in the international marketplace—that I want to tell that story to the American nation.

When it began, Chroma had a policy of paying everyone the same wage, a wage pegged to the local living wage. By the time the firm grew to 17 employees in the early 1990s, everyone was making an identical \$30,000 per year. "If we would have changed our wage structure at that point, we would have had a revolution," says Chroma's CEO, Paul Millman.

In 1996, Chroma instituted the policy that tenure would determine pay. "The criterion is longevity, rather than job description," Mr. Millman explains. Today the maximum salary of \$75,000 is the same for everyone, though new employees can start higher than the minimum of \$37,500.

The disadvantage of this flat pay structure, according to Mr. Millman, is that some people with graduate degrees or business experience won't work there, because they'll be paid the same as someone in production. The advantage, he counters, is the cooperative atmosphere, the self-direction, and the lack of a managerial class.

Chroma practices not just worker ownership, but worker democracy. At one time the company made decisions through a Quaker meeting format where consensus ruled, though that's being revisited now that there are more employees. Still, there are no designated managers at Chroma, and employees occupy all seats on the board of directors. More than 95 percent of company decisions are made on the shop floor. "We call it full exposure management," says Gabe Capy, a member of Chroma's shipping department who has been with the company eight years. "It is peer pressure that then encourages people to perform."

Nor does Chroma cut corners on environmental issues to cut costs. Chroma recently invested \$130,000 to make its new 28,000-square-foot factory energy-efficient. The company will recover those costs in less than two years through savings in electricity and propane costs. "They have gone far beyond the

efficiency measures associated with standard building practices," says Gabe Arnold, technical coordinator for Efficiency Vermont, a statewide energy efficiency utility. While most companies focus on lowering costs, he says, Chroma showed an innovative willingness to invest heavily up-front in efficiency.

Because employee-owners intend to pass this company on to future generations, it is virtually impossible for Chroma to be sold. After the founders leave, no single employee will own more than 5 percent; a super-majority is needed to sell the company.

Employee ownership, worker democracy, environmental stewardship—and an all-American work force: instead of being liabilities, these practices help Chroma compete in its global, high-tech markets. The structures of employee ownership and involvement contribute significantly to the high quality products that are Chroma's trademark. "Other companies can build these filters quicker and cheaper," Mr. Millman concedes, but because Chroma has educated the biologists who actually use the microscopes about its optics, it has developed strong customer loyalty. "That adds to the romance of our product," he says. "We now have three Ph.D. biologists on our staff, and that is no happy accident. No other optical filter company can say that."

While competing internationally, Chroma defines itself by a different economics than that touted by most business schools. "I prefer the term 'sustainable economy,' or an economy that keeps us living. That's what Chroma is all about," says Mr. Millman, CEO of what has been the fastest growing technology company in Vermont for the past five years. He credits the business environment in Vermont for nurturing Chroma's value structure. "Vermont is the prototypical state for the creative economy," he said. "This was the first state to abolish slavery. Outcasts from the '60s and '70s came here and created communes. This is where Ben & Jerry's started."

Vermont, I should mention with pride, along with Ohio, boasts the greatest concentration of employee-owned companies.

At Chroma Technology, where committed employees lead naturally to loyal customers, being local goes hand-in-hand with being global. Chroma Technology shows us all that it's possible to make a mark in the global economy and do it in a way that is sustainable and humane.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PRESERVATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to protect the integrity of the Social Security trust fund by introducing the Social Security Preservation Act. The Social Security Preservation Act is a rather simple bill which states that all monies raised by the Social Security trust fund will be spent in payments to beneficiaries, with excess receipts invested in interest-bearing certificates of deposit. This will help keep Social Security trust fund monies from being diverted

to other programs, as well as allow the fund to grow by providing for investment in interest-bearing instruments.

The Social Security Preservation Act ensures that the government will keep its promises to America's seniors that taxes collected for Social Security will be used for Social Security. When the government taxes Americans to fund Social Security, it promises the American people that the money will be there for them when they retire. Congress has a moral obligation to keep that promise.

With federal deficits reaching historic levels the pressure from special interests for massive new raids on the trust fund is greater than ever. Thus it is vital that Congress act now to protect the trust fund from big spending, pork-barrel politics. Social Security reform will be one of the major issues discussed in this Congress and many of my colleagues have different ideas regarding how to best preserve the long-term solvency of the program. However, as a medical doctor, I know the first step in treatment is to stop the bleeding, and the Social Security Preservation Act stops the bleeding of the Social Security trust fund. I therefore call upon all my colleagues, regardless of which proposal for long-term Social Security reform they support, to stand up for America's seniors by cosponsoring the Social Security Preservation Act.

FLOWER MOUND RANKS 7TH
AMONG MOST-TECHNOLOGY-ADVANCED CITIES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Flower Mound, TX, for being acknowledged as the 7th most technology-advanced city with a population of 30,000 to 74,999, by the Center for Digital Government. The ranking was based on the 2004 Digital Cities Survey that examines how city governments are using digital technology to become more efficient and communicate with residents.

The survey and ranking determined by the Center asked more than 600 mayors, managers and chief information officers to participate asking 24 questions focusing on implementation, adoption of online service delivery, planning and governance, and the network that allows cities to make the move to digital government.

Flower Mound plans to continue on its track of providing excellent government services electronically by installing a new data delivery system; implementing a voiceover internet tool; and adding mobile computer systems into the Flower Mound Police Department squad cars. All of these improvements show an amazing commitment to the future of technology and government.

I am proud to say that I am a resident of Flower Mound, and I would like to offer my congratulations to the Town of Flower Mound, Chief Information Officer Dustin Malcolm and Mayor Jody Smith.

ORGANIC FARMING IS ALIVE AND
THRIVING IN VERMONT**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this body, and the Nation, the wonderful work that has been done by the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), and in particular the wonderful work its affiliate does in Vermont.

In a time when the family farm is under great destructive pressures, in a time when agribusiness blindly ignores the potential for damage that accompanies chemical pesticides and GMOs, in a time when corporate agriculture ignores the need to sustain and replenish the soil that sustains life, there are those who fight to maintain a good, healthy, ongoing source of food for all of us.

NOFA Vermont has been fighting, and continues to fight, for family farms, for responsible husbandry of the soil, for a secure and healthful food supply.

NOFA Vermont has been in existence for over 30 years, and is one of the oldest organic farming associations in the entire United States. The Vermont chapter, one of seven state chapters in the northeastern region of the United States, currently has over 1,000 members. It has been a sustaining force for the 333 certified organic growers and producers in our New England state. They sell their produce and products in 52 farmers markets in Vermont, to local groceries and food stores, to grocery chains operating in Vermont, and indeed to distributors nationwide. In an especially noteworthy development, they have forged new relations with local buyers, and new distribution networks, through the formation of 42 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms which provide food directly to consumers on an ongoing and regular basis.

NOFA Vermont's dual commitment is to local agriculture and to organic agriculture. It strives to be a steward of the soil, a preserver of the ongoing vitality of the environment, a proponent for healthy and nutritious foods. Through education, organic certification and technical assistance it strengthens the agricultural community in Vermont. Through its efforts to sustain community food security, and to promote both the marketing of organic products and the development of new markets, like the farmers markets and CSAs I mentioned a few minutes ago, it builds a stronger presence for healthful foods in Vermont.

It is important that we take time to recognize the individuals and organizations which not only nourish—in every way—our present, but look forward with vision to creating a strong and sustainable world for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. NOFA Vermont, and its hundreds of members, nourish us and show us the shape of a vital, vibrant and human-centered future.

HONORING PACIFIC NORTHWEST
NATIONAL LABORATORY**HON. DOC HASTINGS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on January 4, 1965, Battelle was selected by the federal government to manage and operate what was then called the Hanford Laboratories, and is now called the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. I congratulate PNNL as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. PNNL is a unique asset to my congressional district, to Washington State, to the Pacific Northwest and to the entire nation.

In 1965, Battelle committed to create a robust research operation in the State of Washington. It has absolutely delivered on its commitment. In the last 40 years, the number of staff at the lab has tripled, and business has increased from \$20 million in 1965 to more than \$600 million in 2004. As a leader in innovation, PNNL is an enduring asset in the Tri-Cities with many spinoff companies and technologies. As such, the laboratory continues to build collaborations with the region's colleges and universities and other scientific enterprises.

With major contributions to national science and technology programs, especially in recent years on homeland and national security, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is a valuable national asset and a vital part of regional efforts to create better jobs and strengthen our economy.

Since 1965, Battelle has contributed more than \$13 million to not-for-profit organizations in the region. Battelle has also invested more than \$125 million in facilities and equipment at its campus in Richland. And as testimony to its excellent stewardship of the lab, PNNL continues to receive "Outstanding" ratings for management of the lab by the Department of Energy. It recently received its seventh consecutive Outstanding rating.

As we look back on this exceptional record, we can also look forward with anticipation to Battelle's continued leadership at PNNL. With the world class staff and resources at the lab, and Battelle's excellent management, there is no limit to what can be done.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by sharing the strong feelings that all of us have in the Tri-Cities and the State of Washington—Battelle is a great employer, a great corporate citizen, and we look forward to many more years of its presence and commitment to a better Washington, a prosperous Pacific Northwest, and a safer world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COACH G.A.
MOORE ON RETIRING AS TEXAS'
ALL-TIME MOST WINNING COACH**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach G.A. Moore, Texas' all-time winningest high school football coach, on his retirement.

Coach Moore won over 412 victories and 8 state championships in 42 seasons. Moore

coached 39 of his 42 seasons at two places, Pilot Point, Texas, in my district and his alma mater, and in Celina, Texas. Mr. Moore also ranks an impressive 3rd on the nation's all-time wins list, and most recently led Pilot Point to an 8–3 record this season.

I congratulate Dr. Boothe for his lasting dedication to the honored Texas tradition of high school football. Best wishes to Coach Moore on his retirement.

JUSTICE AND EQUITY FOR MEMBERS
OF THE UNITED STATES
MERCHANT MARINE**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to correct an injustice that has been inflicted upon a group of World War II veterans, the World War II United States Merchant Mariners.

World War II Merchant Mariners suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the branches of service while they delivered troops, tanks, food, airplanes, fuel and other needed supplies to every theater of the war.

Compared to the large number of men and women serving in World War II, the numbers of the Merchant Mariners were small, but their chance of dying during service was extremely high. Enemy forces sank over 800 ships between 1941 and 1944 alone.

Unfortunately, this group of brave men were denied their rights under the G.I. Bill of Rights that Congress enacted in 1945. All those who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard were recipients of benefits under the G.I. Bill. The United States Merchant Marine was not included.

The Merchant Marine became the forgotten service. For four decades, no effort was made to recognize the contribution made by this branch of the Armed Services. The fact that Merchant Seamen had borne arms during wartime in the defense of their country seemed not to matter.

No legislation to benefit merchant seamen was passed by Congress until 1988 when the Seaman Acts of 1988 finally granted them the a "watered down" G.I. Bill of Rights. Some portions of the G.I. Bill have never been made available to veterans of the Merchant Marine.

In addition, they still have not received proper recognition as veterans for Social Security purposes. If they had the "veteran" designation, their Social Security would be calculated as if they had earned \$160 more a month than they did earn during their time in service in the Merchant Marines. Of course, what this means is a smaller Social Security check, now that they are retired.

While it is impossible to make up for over 40 years of unpaid benefits, I propose a bill that will acknowledge the service of the veterans of the Merchant Marine and offer compensation for years and years of lost benefits. H.R. 23, the "Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2004", will pay each eligible veteran a monthly benefit of \$1000, and that payment would also go to their surviving spouses. It will also give them the Social Security that they are due by providing them with the status of "veteran" under the Social Security Act.

The average age of Merchant Marine veterans is now 81. Many have outlived their savings. An increase in their Social Security and a monthly benefit to compensate for the loss of nearly a lifetime of ineligibility for the GI Bill would be of comfort and would provide some measure of security for veterans of the Merchant Marine.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Ian Allison of Santa Rosa, California and Henry Van Gemert of Palmetto, Florida who are Co-Chairs of the Just Compensation Committee of the U.S. Merchant Marine Combat Veterans, and to Ted Metula of Lemon Grove, California for bringing this issue to my attention.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting and cosponsoring this legislation. We can fix the injustices endured by our Nation's Merchant Marines by passing H.R. 23 as quickly as possible!

HONORING RAY STRONG ON HIS
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the artistic contributions of Ray Strong, on the occasion of his 100th Birthday.

Ray Strong has contributed to the Santa Barbara community not only through his art, but also through his passion and commitment to education and his dedication to the preservation of our environment. His generosity has touched many, including those young artists fortunate enough to paint with Ray as part of the Oak Group. Ray Strong has assisted in raising money for a number of environmental causes and has brought awareness to many conservation issues through his work.

In addition to exhibiting throughout the United States, Ray Strong's work is held in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution. I am fortunate to have had some of Ray's pieces grace the walls of all three of my Congressional district offices. Locally, Ray has been honored by Santa Barbara Beautiful and is revered by many in this community for his generosity, spectacular talent and his passion for our physical environment.

Ray Strong's enthusiastic dedication to recording the landscape around us reminds me just how precious our natural surroundings are. His commitment to environmental causes and his contributions to the American realist tradition are commendable. Ray Strong is a talented artist, generous teacher and role model to many. I am privileged to know Ray and I continue to be awed by his many talents.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN D.W.
REILEY

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John D.W. Reiley and to recognize the many contributions he has made to the city of Pottsville, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

and the world. He knows no limits in his service and commitment to the people and communities he has touched over the years.

John D.W. Reiley was born and raised in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, where he still resides today. He is a graduate of Pottsville Catholic High School and Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia.

After serving with the United States Army in the U.S. and Germany, he was associated with Reiley's Stores, Inc. in Pottsville. In May 1976, he was named Secretary of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, and he served in that capacity to the present time.

As a lifelong resident of Pottsville, Mr. Reiley has been active in the Greater Pottsville Winter Carnival, serving as its first president. A member of the Pottsville Lions, he is a past President and past District Governor. He is currently Co-Chairman of Pottsville Cruise Night and is a Director of the Union Bank and Trust Company, UBT Realty, and the Schuylkill County Motor Club, the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities, and Penn Prime Insurance.

In 1969, he was appointed to Pottsville City Council. He was re-elected later that year and again in 1973.

He is also a member of Robert R. Wodbury Post #67 American Legion; Ancient Order of Hibernians, JFK Division (#2); Catholic War Veterans Post No. 1051; Knights of Columbus Council No. 431; Schuylkill Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame; and the Yorkville Hose & Fire Company.

Mr. Reiley is a past President of the Pottsville Merchants Association and past member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Retailers Association and the Pottsville Library.

In March 2000, he was appointed Mayor of Pottsville, completing the term of his son Terence, who lost a five-year battle with leukemia while in office. In November 2001, John was re-elected to a full term.

He is married to the former Agnes McGowan, and is the father of Hugh Reiley and the late Terry Reiley.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST.
FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC
CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church as they join together in the celebration of their 75th anniversary. The festivities will begin on Saturday, January 8, 2005. The parish community of St. Francis will also host a variety of activities throughout the entire year of 2005.

In 1882 there were two churches, Catholic and Methodist that existed in Lake Station, Indiana. The first Catholic Church was located at a Way Station on the Stage Line that operated between Michigan and Joliet. It stood on the identical spot which the present church now occupies. The Way Station was listed on railroad bulletins as Lake Station. The Michigan Central Railroad was built from Detroit to Chicago in 1852, and at this time the structure

was not known as a parish church but as a chapel. This building was in existence before the railroad. The original bell from the structure was stored when the building was razed and is now still in use at the present church.

Father Francis Xavier Guerre was the pastor of St. Mary of the Lake in Miller, Indiana. He was persuaded to start a mission parish in East Gary. Father Guerre founded the mission parish of St. Francis Xavier in 1930, and Bishop John F. Noll dedicated the church in 1931. The name St. Francis Xavier was in honor of Father Guerre's patron saint. The parish continued as a mission until 1941, when Bishop appointed Father Francis Quinn as its resident pastor.

In 1950 Father Koors planned for the enlargement of the existing church and the erection of a Parochial School. However, Father Koors needed a written guarantee that nuns would be available to teach in the school. Six orders of nuns were contacted before a written guarantee was received from Mother Emily of the Poor Sisters of St. Francis of Seraph. Mother Emily persuaded her Council to give the necessary written guarantee for the Sisters to teach at St. Francis Xavier. On September 5, 1956, the St. Francis Xavier School was officially opened for classes. The School was dedicated and blessed on November 11, 1956 by Bishop Pursley.

In 1984, Father Robert Evers became the Pastor of the St. Francis. Father Evers reopened the "Center" and procured the help of the Jesuits to service the Spanish community with week-end and daily masses. When the Jesuits left, liturgies were again celebrated in the main church. Father Evers retired in June 2004 after serving the parish for 20 years. The proud parishioners are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he and the previous pastors have provided during the years.

The present church's beautiful interior features sculptured statues of the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, the Infant of Prague, and St. Theresa. The beautiful, dimly-lit interior is illuminated by sunlight through the stained-glass window and dozens of votive candles flicker through ruby and sapphire tinted globes. The present pastor, Reverend J. Anthony Valtierra and his congregation continue to serve the needs of the citizens of Northwest Indiana. By offering service and guidance to others, the members of St. Francis Xavier Church have proven their sincere dedication and motivation for assisting others in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating St. Francis Xavier Church on their 75th anniversary. They have provided support and guidance for all those in the community. Their constant dedication and commitment is worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF WASHINGTON HOSPITAL'S
SERVICE LEAGUE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 50th anniversary of Washington Hospital's Service League. Washington Hospital, located in Fremont, CA, will mark the anniversary at a celebration on February 7, 2005.

At 11:30 a.m., on March 6, 1955, ground was broken for the construction of Washington Hospital. During this same month, 14 civic-minded women in the community came together to plan a volunteer organization that would work in and for the hospital.

As a result of their commitment, the Washington Hospital Service League became a reality in 1956; the hospital opened on November 24, 1958. The Service League's goal was—and still is—to support the hospital by purchasing much needed equipment and to assist patients, visitors and staff.

Over the years, the Service League has raised more than \$1.79 million for equipment in almost every department at Washington Hospital, enabling community members to obtain state-of-the-art health care in their own community. Seed money donated by the Service League helped bring to fruition Washington Hospital Healthcare Foundation, Washington-Stanford Radiation Oncology Center and the Community Health Resource Library.

One of the Service League's activities that has continued to change the lives of so many in the community was the establishment of a scholarship program in 1961. Since the first nursing scholarship in the amount of \$150 was awarded to a nursing student at Highland Hospital, the volunteers have given more than \$150,000 to students seeking a career in health care.

The Service League volunteers also bring a human touch—freely offering a cheerful smile, a friendly attitude and thousands of hours of service to the hospital's patients, visitors and staff.

I join in congratulating all the volunteers who have contributed to the success of the Washington Hospital Service League over the past 50 years, and the present-day volunteers who continue to make a positive difference by giving back to the community.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE
ROPPE CORPORATION ON THE
OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to a special company in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. This year, the Roppe Corporation of Fostoria, OH, will celebrate 50 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, the Roppe Corporation is one of the nation's leading suppliers of rubber and vinyl flooring products and accessories. The Roppe Rubber Corporation was founded in 1955, by Thony Roppe and production began in 1956. With only seven employees, the Roppe Rubber Corporation focused exclusively on rubber products.

Through the expansion of its trucking fleet and an increased customer base, Roppe has grown and flourished since its beginning. Due to the expansion of products and services that Roppe Rubber offered, it officially changed its name, in 1990, to the Roppe Corporation.

In 1993, the Miller family purchased the Roppe Corporation where Donald Miller continues to serve as chairman of the board, nearly 47 years after beginning his service at

Roppe. With expanded facilities and dedicated leadership, the Roppe Corporation has become a premier employer in the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio. By maintaining its factory in Fostoria, OH, Roppe has become a permanent fixture in the community.

Today, Roppe has become the world's largest rubber wall base manufacturer. Roppe has over 45 distributors with 105 locations in the United States and exports products worldwide. The Roppe Corporation has grown in annual sales to \$60,000,000 and now owns ATECO, Tri County Broadcasting, Seneca Millwork, Custom Corner, The Fostoria Focus, and Flexco.

Mr. Speaker, the real success of the Roppe Corporation comes not only from its products, but from its people. The employees of the Roppe Corporation provide customers with the service and dependability that are expected of a first-class company. Beyond the walls of Roppe, its employees are model citizens by providing for and leading their community. In all but 1 of the past 20 years, Roppe employees were the highest per capita givers to the Fostoria United Way campaign. Each year, we can count on the employees of Roppe to give of their time and their means to the community of Fostoria, OH.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the employees and the legacy of the Roppe Corporation. As all who benefit from this fine company gather to celebrate its 50th anniversary of service, I am confident that the good people of Fostoria, OH, will continue the successes of the Roppe Corporation into the future.

HONORING DR. JIM KING OF WVXU
IN CINCINNATI UPON HIS
RETIREMENT

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jim King, who is Director of Broadcasting and General Manager of WVXU, Xavier University's public radio station in Cincinnati. He retired December 31, 2004 after 28 years of dedicated service to our community, and will return to a full time Xavier faculty position.

A native of Cheboygan, MI, Jim had an early interest in music. He began his interest in broadcasting while still a youngster with his own "pirate" radio station, and even then, he knew he wanted a career in radio. Later, he gained his first full time job in radio as a high school sophomore. At Western Michigan University, Jim earned a B.A. in English Literature and an M.A. in English Literature and Ancient History. Happily, he also met his wife of 37 years, Kathy, there. In 1969, Jim and Kathy moved to Ann Arbor and in 1973, Dr. King earned a Ph.D in Radio, TV and Film from the University of Michigan.

In 1976, Jim joined Xavier University as its full time professional manager of WVXU, which was then a small 10 watt FM station. Jim also serves as Professor of Communication Arts at Xavier.

Over the years, WVXU has increased its power several times, and today, the station is 26,000 watts. Under Jim's visionary leader-

ship, the station became a member of a regional network of seven stations in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. WVXU is now housed in a 12,000 square foot broadcasting complex on the Xavier University campus, employs 25 radio professionals, and has won almost every honor in broadcasting, including the George Foster Peabody Award, the industry's most prestigious award.

Simply put, Jim has improved the quality of life for all of us in the community by treating us to WVXU's mix of vintage radio shows; award-winning news programs; financial information; and a beloved variety of music.

All of us congratulate Jim on his retirement and wish him luck in the new challenges to come.

HONORING JOSEPH HILLS AS VIRGINIA'S
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Hills, Virginia's 2005 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Hills, a social studies teacher at Lake Braddock Secondary School, was named Virginia's 2005 Teacher of the Year and will represent Virginia in the National Teacher of the Year program. He was also awarded Fairfax County Public Schools 2004 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Hills received a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, and a Master of Arts degree in Education from the College of St. Thomas, Minnesota. He began his career with Fairfax County Public Schools in 1960 as a history teacher at Fairfax High School. He then moved to Marshall High School and later to Langley High School, where he worked as a teacher and social studies department chair. In 1973, Mr. Hills came to Lake Braddock Secondary School where he still serves.

He is a member of numerous education associations including the National Council of Social Studies, the Virginia Council of Social Studies, and is active in various Parent Teacher Associations. Mr. Hills has received the Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award, as well as outstanding teacher awards from the University of Chicago and Smith College.

Colleagues describe Mr. Hills as "the embodiment of a dedicated teacher who is energized by his students and at the same time energizes those in his classroom." Former students praise Mr. Hills for making history come alive by telling stories and inspiring them to become teachers or earn graduate degrees in history. He is known for his use of the Socratic Method, spurring students to "think deeply and differently."

Our students are our number one resource. Mr. Hills has dedicated his life to ensuring that they are given the opportunity to achieve success. Over the past 44 years, he has made a lasting impact on thousands of students.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Joseph Hills and congratulating him on this distinguished achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANALOG DEVICES, INC.

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Analog Devices, Inc., ADI, a Fortune 1000 and S&P500 Company with global headquarters in the 9th Congressional District, in the town of Norwood, MA, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary January 18, 2005.

ADI, which is a world leader in the design, manufacture and marketing of semiconductors with a specialty in high-performance analog, mixed-signal and digital signal processing integrated circuits, was founded in 1965 in Cambridge, MA, by Ray Stata and Matthew Lorber, both graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

During the intervening four decades, Analog Devices has grown to become the world's largest supplier of analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog data converters, and is the world's largest supplier of analog amplifiers, which are used in every conceivable manner of electronic communications, consumer, industrial, automotive, medical, military and aerospace product. The company today has manufacturing and/or technology design centers in 12 countries and 10 States, including Arizona, California, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

ADI has played a significant role in the sustained development of Massachusetts as a world-class technology region and is a significant economic growth engine within the Massachusetts economy. Analog Devices is:

One of the 20 largest employers among Massachusetts' publicly traded companies;

Among the Top 20 companies in the State measured by annual revenue;

One of the Top 10 companies in the State measured by net earnings.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add my own personal congratulations to Analog Devices on the significant milestone of its 40th year and thank the company for the technological and economic contributions it has made to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and beyond.

INTRODUCING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION ACT

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today, I will be reintroducing the Southern California Groundwater Remediation Act. This legislation is a long-term solution to help cities in Southern California remove perchlorate from their drinking water.

Formerly H.R. 4606, this legislation passed the House of Representatives in September of 2004. Today, I pick up the fight to clean up perchlorate groundwater contamination and protect the health of Southern Californians. Perchlorate groundwater contamination remains a crisis in Southern California. This includes my hometown of Rialto, California.

Perchlorate is a main ingredient in rocket fuel. It has been found in drinking water supplies in 40 states, including California. It has been linked to thyroid damage, and may be especially harmful to infants and developing fetuses, and the 1.2 million women of child-bearing age in San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties. It could also be harmful to those with weak immune systems, such as seniors and AIDS patients.

There is a legal and moral obligation to provide safe and healthy water. Today, these obligations are in jeopardy. The hardworking families in these areas are not at fault and should not have to pay for this problem. We must protect these consumers.

Southern California, and particularly the Inland Empire, has been greatly impacted by perchlorate. Perchlorate has been detected in 184 sources in the counties served by the Santa Ana River watershed. There is a perchlorate plume in the Inland Empire in California that is seven miles long and growing every day. It has affected 82 wells in San Bernardino County, and jeopardized the water supplies of 500,000 residents who rely on the Colorado River.

The economic burden on these communities is almost as much of a concern as the potential health effects. The bill authorizes \$50 million in much-needed assistance. It is modeled after a successful program in the San Gabriel Basin in Southern California that has also suffered from perchlorate-polluted water. And it is similar to H.R. 4459, a bill introduced by Richard Pombo in the 108th Congress that deals with perchlorate in Northern California, and passed the House last September.

I urge my colleagues to support this urgent bill for Southern California, so we can tell these communities that help is on the way. I would like to thank Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congressman KEN CALVERT and Congressman GARY MILLER for their support of this crucial bill to the health of Southern Californians.

TRIBAL PARITY ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Tribal Parity Act today. This bill would fully compensate the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in South Dakota for the lands that they lost in the last century as a result of the federal government's construction of the massive dams on the main stem of the Missouri River.

The 1944 Flood Control Act cost these tribes much in terms of lost land. It also took an enormous toll on the people of both tribes and their economies. It is critically important that we seek to fully reimburse these tribes for the lands they lost.

The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe are both constituent bands of the Great Sioux Nation. Both border on the Missouri River in central South Dakota and are connected by the Big Bend Dam.

Congress created a trust fund for the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in 1996, and a separate trust fund for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe in 1997. These trust funds sought to compensate

the tribes for the value of their land that is now permanently inundated as a result of the construction of the Big Bend Dam. Unfortunately, the formula that the General Accounting Office used to calculate amount of compensation for both tribes was substantially different than the formulas that it has used to calculate damages for many other similarly situated tribes. The result was unfair and inadequate compensation trust funds for these tribes.

Parity for these tribes would mean an ability to actively work for the betterment of their communities. It would mean adequate roads and improved community facilities. It would mean better health care and newer schools. It would mean attracting commercial business and improving the local economy. Most importantly, it would mean a real chance for these tribes to provide future generations with the tools that so many of us take for granted.

I would ask all of my distinguished colleagues to support the Tribal Parity Act and work with me to enact legislation that would fairly and appropriately compensate members of the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes. I ask you to do it because of the tremendous positive difference it would make in the lives of those affected—and because it is the right and fair thing to do.

THE WORKER REEMPLOYMENT ACCOUNTS ACT OF 2005

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor the Worker Reemployment Accounts Act of 2005. This important legislation will help thousands of unemployed Americans seeking to return to work by providing them with a Personal Reemployment Account.

The American economy is the fastest growing economy of any industrialized nation in the world. Nationwide, more than 2.4 million jobs have been added since August 2003. The national unemployment rate has declined to 5.4 percent, lower than the average rate during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. In my own state of Nevada, unemployment has fallen to 3.7 percent. Clearly, the Republican tax relief and growth package has helped to drive the strong recovery in our economy. But we still have more work to do.

As the economy is adding thousands of new jobs and the unemployment rate is dropping across the country, the assistance provided by this bill is critical because we want to ensure that every job seeker has the resources they need to find a good job. That is what this bill is all about—helping Americans find careers.

As President Bush proposed in his 2005 budget, the Worker Reemployment Accounts Act permits the Secretary of Labor to use demonstration funding under the Workforce Investment Act to provide Personal Reemployment Accounts to those with the greatest challenges in returning to work quickly.

Through competitive grants, the local One-Stop Career Center system, where the unemployed already seek assistance in obtaining employment, will offer this important new benefit to unemployed workers, in addition to an array of employment services they already provide.

Under the bill, states and local workforce investment areas will be able to offer unemployed individuals who are most in need of help a reemployment account of up to \$3,000. With these accounts, unemployed workers may purchase a variety of different services to help them find a good job, including job training, child care, transportation, housing assistance, short-term classes to upgrade skills, and employment counseling.

One of the important features of the bill is that it provides individuals with significant new flexibility to design a package of services tailored to meet their needs. By taking into account the needs of the unemployed on an individual basis, our local, State, and federal governments will better equip these individuals with the tools they require to secure long-term, meaningful employment.

In addition, recipients will be able to keep the balance of the account as a cash reemployment bonus if they become reemployed within 13 weeks and stay employed for six months.

These new Personal Reemployment Accounts and the current job training services already administered under the Workforce Investment Act are both essential in helping displaced workers in areas of the country facing skill shortages and enhancing the workforce for our increasingly knowledge-based economy.

The Secretary of Labor already has begun the process of testing the PRA concept through a very limited pilot program. However, the authority of this bill would allow the Secretary to test the concept in more areas, either within the seven states already participating or in additional states. The lessons learned through this demonstration program will help inform Congress regarding the best way to serve the unemployed and ultimately will result in better reemployment and training services for all workers.

Over the past two years, Republicans have taken numerous steps to help unemployed workers. I am also proud to join 21st Century Competitiveness Subcommittee Chairman MCKEON and Chairman BOEHNER of the Education and the Workforce Committee in introducing the Job Training Improvement Act of 2005. This bill will reauthorize and enhance the services provided through the Workforce Investment Act and the nation's one-stop delivery system for workforce development. I am pleased that the provisions of the Worker Reemployment Accounts Act are included in this broader reauthorization package.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve job training opportunities for all Americans and offer this new innovative option to help workers as quickly as possible. The choice and flexibility available through a Personal Reemployment Account is the additional assistance American families need to get back into high-wage, steady employment. By providing this enhanced assistance, we can ensure that Americans are able to meet the challenges of the ever-changing economy that they face.

I was proud to see similar legislation pass in the House of Representatives in the 108th Congress, and am excited to see it become law in the 109th Congress. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE 21ST CENTURY WATER COMMIS- SION ACT

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduced my proposal, the "21st Century Water Commission Act." This proposal, which was approved by the House on November 21, 2003, but unfortunately not considered by the other body before the 108th Congress adjourned, will bring together our nation's premier water experts to recommend strategies for meeting our water challenges in the 21st century.

Some highlights of my 21st Century Water Commission legislation are as follows:

The commission will look for ways to ensure fresh water for U.S. citizens for the next 50 years;

The commission will be composed of nine members appointed by the President, and key leaders in the House and Senate;

The commission will look for ways to eliminate duplication and conflict among federal governmental agencies;

The commission will consider all available technologies and other methods to optimize water supply reliability, availability, and quality, while safeguarding the environment;

The commission will hold hearings in distinct geographical regions of the United States, and in Washington, D.C., to seek a diversity of views, comments, and input; and

A final report will be due within three years of the commission's inception. The report will include a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the commission, as well as recommendations for legislation and other policies.

I want to be clear that this bill does not give the federal government more direct authority or control over water. Rather, this commission will make recommendations on how we can coordinate water management efforts on all levels so that localities, states, and the Federal government can work together to enact a comprehensive water policy to avoid future water shortages.

As Benjamin Franklin noted in 1746, "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." Nothing could be truer, and many states across the country that are currently facing a water crisis, or have in the last few years, understand the wisdom of these words.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House in moving this bill forward promptly. The U.S. cannot afford to reevaluate its water policies every time a crisis hits. Now is the time to get ahead of this issue, and I believe that the 21st Century Water Commission can serve as a channel for sharing the successful strategies and ideas that will allow us to do so.

TRIBUTE TO JACK HALPERN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Jack Halpern, a highly ac-

complished Jewish American who will be honored on January 27, 2005, at the Annual Northeast Regional Tribute of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Jack, a resident of Manhattan, lives with his wife Lieba and their two wonderful children. He is a managing member of Atlantic Realty, which develops residential and commercial real estate in New Jersey, New York and Israel.

In addition to his duties with Atlantic Realty, Jack somehow finds the time to work as an activist. Following in the footsteps of his father Sam, who founded the family business after surviving the Holocaust, Jack has become an active supporter of numerous Jewish causes. As a member of AIPAC's National Executive Committee, Jack has been a leader in strengthening ties between the U.S. and Israel for many years.

In 2002, Jack founded the Energy Independence Task Force at the American Jewish Congress, where he currently serves on the Governing Council and Executive Committee. This important task force continues to work for fuel efficiency standards in trucks and SUVs. In addition they have met with many key Congressional and Administration officials in order to deliver the message that a long-term national energy policy focusing on reducing the United States' dependency on Middle East oil is a national security imperative.

Jack's long-time associations also include State of Israel Bonds, the Jewish Community Center of Manhattan, the Holocaust Resource Foundation, the Technion Institute and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Halpern is a model American citizen worthy of the award which will be bestowed upon him. His efforts have not only helped to strengthen the two countries he cares most deeply for (America and Israel) but have also helped to strengthen their special relationship.

For his continued service on AIPAC's Executive Committee and his work on improving U.S.-Israeli relations, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Jack Halpern.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL OCE- ANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN- ISTRATION ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act. Better known as NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was created by Executive Order in 1970. It is the nation's lead civilian agency for oceans and atmosphere, yet Congress has never passed an overarching organic act describing the mission and functions of the agency. Instead, over the past 34 years Congress has defined the mission of the agency in a piecemeal manner with legislation focused on specific issues. The bill I am introducing today, which passed the Environment, Technology and Standards Subcommittee in the 108th Congress, is a first step toward Congressional passage of comprehensive legislation for NOAA.

Last year, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released its long awaited report with

recommendations for a coordinated national ocean policy. One of its key recommendations is that Congress should pass an organic act for NOAA. In his response to the Ocean Commission report, President Bush supported this recommendation. The time is right for Congress to consider, and pass, this organic act for NOAA.

My bill establishes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the Department of Commerce. It defines the mission of NOAA as "to understand and predict changes in the Earth's oceans and atmosphere and the effects of such changes on the land environment, to conserve and manage coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes ecosystems, and to educate the public about these topics." The recent Indian Ocean tsunami is just the latest evidence of the need for NOAA's research and services. My bill maintains the current leadership structure at NOAA, but adds a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology to serve as the point person for the agency to coordinate the research and science activities of NOAA across the agency.

This bill also describes the functions of NOAA, which are divided into three broad groups to improve cooperation among NOAA's programs, as recommended by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. First is the National Weather Service, which provides weather, water and climate forecasts and warnings to the nation. The second group is operations and services, which includes all of NOAA's satellites services and its mapping and charting services. The third category of functions is research and education.

The bill focuses on pieces of NOAA under Science Committee jurisdiction, and does not currently include any references to NOAA's fisheries or resource management, which are under the jurisdiction of the Resources Committee here in the House. I am hopeful that we can work with other committees in the House and our colleagues in the Senate to pass a truly comprehensive organic act for NOAA, but for now we must start with this legislation.

I believe it is critical for NOAA's mission to be clearly defined so it can better fulfill its role in observing, managing, and protecting our nation's coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources. I look forward to working with my colleagues in a bipartisan fashion to pass this bill into law this year. This will not be an easy task, but it is so important to our environment, our economy, and our children's and grandchildren's future, that we must succeed.

INTRODUCING THE CONYERS-SHERMAN
SHERMAN CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, in introducing the Conyers-Sherman Presidential Eligibility Constitutional Amendment. This Amendment will allow any foreign-born person who has been a United States citizen for 20 years or longer to qualify to run for President of the United States. Once enacted and ratified, this amendment will allow

millions of well qualified Americans to aspire to our nation's highest office.

This bill is not about the election prospects of any one man or woman. It is about the dreams of all Americans. Every year I visit high schools in the San Fernando Valley. I tell those students that America is a great country, a land of opportunity. I want to tell them that it is also a country where any child can grow up to be President of the United States. Unfortunately, for many high school students in my district, the fact that they were born in another country is a complete and unequivocal bar to the Presidency.

All American children regardless of where they are born should have all the rights and responsibilities of native born Americans. All American children should be able to aspire to rise as far as their talent, energy and ability allow them, including our nation's highest office. There is no good reason to exclude Americans who will grow up to attend our colleges and universities, who will protect America in our armed forces, or who will work hard and pay their taxes, from our nation's highest office. When this Constitutional Amendment is passed and ratified each of them will have that opportunity.

The exact reasons for including the natural born citizen language in the Constitution are lost to history. The meticulous record of the Constitutional Convention, kept by James Madison, hardly gives it a mention. Regardless of that lost reasoning, America is now a nation of immigrants. We are a nation that should encourage those who come here to aspire to their highest goals and loftiest dreams. Mr. Speaker, the Constitutional Amendment Mr. CONYERS and I introduce today will make some of those dreams a possible reality for the first time in our history.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HILLIARD LYONS

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hilliard Lyons' 150th anniversary. During 2004 this respected investment firm completed its 150th year of doing business in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Hilliard Lyons story began in 1854 with the creation of the firm Quigley and Lyons. The Civil War split the partnership but Henry J. Lyons continued the business. The business grew and Lyons bought a seat on the New York Stock Exchange in 1878. During the same time period, John James Byron Hilliard entered the banking business under the name J.J.B. Hilliard & Son.

As Louisville and Kentucky grew, so did Hilliard Lyons. When Kentucky sought to link itself to important markets, Hilliard Lyons helped finance the first bridge across the Ohio River at Louisville. Furthermore, as technology changed, Hilliard Lyons was on the cutting edge of business innovation. Moving from ticker tape to keypunch machines in its early days, the firm has been eager to embrace technology. In fact, Hilliard Lyons was the first brokerage firm outside New York to automate the processing of stock trades.

In 1972, the firm replaced its partnership business model with a corporation. Further

changes came in 1998 when PNC Financial Services Group purchased Hilliard Lyons.

Hilliard Lyons is a proud resident of downtown Louisville. The firm's headquarters are located in the former Stewart's Dry Goods department store on Muhammad Ali Boulevard in downtown Louisville. Hilliard Lyons has occupied this location since 1986.

Today, Hilliard Lyons is a full-service investment operating 80 branch offices in 13 states. Hilliard Lyons employs 1,300 people who serve 250,000 customers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Hilliard Lyons after 150 years of service to Kentucky and the Nation. The citizens of Louisville are proud of Hilliard Lyons and we congratulate them on this historic milestone.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF ROB DAHLMAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great public servant upon his retirement from his noble profession.

Fire Chief Rob Dahلمان served the citizens of Wayne Michigan since he began his career with the Wayne Fire Department in May 1976 and continued his employment with the city for the next twenty-nine years. Rob was first promoted to Lieutenant in January 1990. Four years later, he was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Marshal. Finally, he was promoted to Fire Chief in 1999.

His education includes a degree in Fire Science Technology from Henry Ford Community College cumulating with a State of Michigan certified specialist license, the first City of Wayne Fire Chief to achieve this status.

Fire Chief Dahلمان's past affiliations and titles are vast and varied. He is a Certified Fire Inspector with the Michigan State Fire Marshal Office, and active member of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Metropolitan Detroit Fire Inspectors and the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society. Rob has been the Emergency Program Manager of the City of Wayne and was instrumental in instituting and effective emergency operations plan.

Under Fire Chief Dahلمان's administration, the Wayne Fire Department achieved its goal of building a state-of-the-art fire department. In 2003, the force moved into a new facility which has set a high standard for neighboring fire departments to follow. He has also expanded the services the department provides by adding two new rescue units and helped secure funding to provide several other life saving pieces of equipment.

Fire Chief Dahلمان once said, "I am not a hero, but I am an individual who is constantly concerned about the well being of others." Rob's career has echoed this sentiment, which can be attested to by his long list of accomplishments and praise he has constantly received throughout his professional life as a firefighter.

His wife Robin, sons Ryan and Randy, daughter-in-law Kelly, and grandson Brandon should be extremely proud of the undeniable mark he has left on the community. We at home will remember and always benefit from his dedication and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of us all, I extend my sincere appreciation to Fire Chief Rob Dahlman for his fine service to our community and our country.

IN HONOR OF DICK BARELLI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dean Richard (Dick) Barelli, a dedicated public servant who passed away on October 1st, 2004. He was a valuable member of the Monterey Bay community and will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Dick Barelli was born in Hammond, Indiana on February 25, 1937 to Dean and Anne Barelli. After graduating from Notre Dame University, Dick served as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Army at Monterey County's own Fort Ord. Dick then earned his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law, and in 1970 moved to Monterey to become one of the first Monterey County Assistant Public Defenders. He went into private practice, and was a founding member of the Monterey College of Law in 1972. Dick was appointed Superior Court Judge of Monterey County in 1977, where he served for five years. Although Dick retired in 1982 he has served as Deputy County Counsel for the past nine years, and was actively involved in the Monterey County Bar Association, where he served as President.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dean Barelli's many accomplishments, and I commend him for his lifelong dedication to his community and friends. I knew Dean Barelli during my time as a Monterey County supervisor, and was deeply saddened to hear of his passing. I join the Monterey Bay community, his friends and his family in honoring this truly admirable man for all of his lifelong achievements.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL
SECURITY LANGUAGE ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, we can no longer keep our nation safe if we do not commit ourselves to learning the languages and cultures of critical areas around the world. The security of our troops overseas and the American people here at home demand that we act quickly to eliminate the severe shortage of critical need language professionals in this country. While the last Congress has taken some steps, we have not done enough.

That's why I rise today to introduce legislation, the National Security Language Act, which would significantly expand our investment in foreign language education on the primary, secondary, and post-secondary level.

Al Qaeda operates in over 75 countries, where hundreds of languages and dialects are spoken. However, 99 percent of American high school, college and university programs concentrate on a dozen (mostly European)

languages. In fact, more college students currently study Ancient Greek (20,858) than Arabic (10,596), Korean (5,211), Persian (1,117), and Pashto (14) put together. We need to do more to make sure that America has the language professionals necessary to defend our national security. This cannot be done overnight. We are already years overdue.

The 911 Congressional Joint Inquiry reports our intelligence community is at 30 percent readiness in languages critical to national security. Despite this alarming statistic, we do not appear to be taking the necessary aggressive action to address this problem. Various agencies are making efforts to hire more linguists. When I asked a panel of intelligence experts at a recent Intelligence hearing what the federal government is doing to increase the pool of critical need language professionals from which they hire these linguists, they answered with silence. Two years after the events of September 11, we are still failing to address one of the most fundamental security problems facing this nation.

Changing our recruiting methods alone will not solve the problem. To meet new security needs, we need to create a new domestic pool of foreign language experts and we can only do that by investing in the classroom.

The National Security Language Act would expand federal investment in education in foreign languages of critical need, such as Arabic, Persian, Korean, Pashto, and Chinese. Specifically, my bill would provide loan forgiveness of up to \$10,000 for university students who major in a critical need foreign language and then take a job either in the federal workforce or as a language teacher. It would provide new grants to American universities to establish intensive in-country language study programs and to develop programs that encourage students to pursue advanced science and technology studies in a foreign language.

My bill would also establish grants for foreign language partnerships between local school districts and foreign language departments at institutions of higher education. And it would authorize a national study to identify heritage communities here in the United States with native speakers of critical foreign languages and make them targets of a federal marketing campaign encouraging students to pursue degrees in those languages.

Just as the National Defense Education Act of 1958 created a generation of scientists, engineers, and Russian linguists to confront the enemy of that time, the National Security Language Act will give us a generation of Americans able to confront the new threats we face today.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOE
GOVERNALE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great gentleman who has devoted a majority of his life to civil service—Joe Governale, who is retiring as Postmaster of Covina.

Born in Chicago, Mr. Governale received a Masters Degree in Psychology from Cal State Fullerton. Married to wife Judy, and proud fa-

ther of two children, Mr. Governale was first employed in the Postal Service in 1964.

While on leave from the Postal Service, Mr. Governale was in the U.S. Navy as a Corpsman from 1966 to 1970. Mr. Governale served on the cruiser USS Canabera and then with the Marines during the Vietnam War.

After returning from Vietnam to his clerk job at the Covina Post Office, Mr. Governale found a new post office had been built while he was gone and within it, he found a new home. Within two years, Mr. Governale moved into management and was appointed to the position of Director of Human Resources in 1982. Mr. Governale was selected as the Postmaster of Baldwin Park in 1986, and is the longest serving Postmaster in the history of Covina. Mr. Governale also received his teaching credentials and has taught postal operations for many years to new supervisors.

Mr. Governale is a fan of the Chicago Bears and the White Sox, and his hobbies include video poker and reading. Mr. Governale plans to retire in Laughlin, Nevada, so he can enjoy time with his family.

Mr. Governale is a wonderful example of a person who dedicated his life to civil service. I am proud to recognize Mr. Joe Governale and his many years of work as a civil servant as he retires as Postmaster of Covina.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MRS.
MABEL YAP

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that I rise to pay this tribute to the late Mrs. Mabel Yap. She was one of Miami-Dade County's matriarchs who contributed immense good to our community.

Mrs. Yap's passing on December 27, 2004 leaves a deep void, especially for those of us who have known her quiet and dignified spirit in urging her children and grandchildren to advance the common good of our beloved community in an unselfish manner. The funeral Mass to celebrate her life is being held today, Tuesday, January 4, 2005, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at St. Louis Catholic Church, and will be followed by her interment at Woodlawn Cemetery in South Miami.

She was the loving and devoted wife of Mr. Patrick Yap and the mother of eight children, 21 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Yap symbolized the dutiful mother whose home offered sanctuary and solace to all those who sought her help. Her nurturing spirit and perseverance amidst overwhelming odds transformed her into a matron of love and caring for all those who came to her seeking her advice on a myriad of things. Buttressed by her unflinching faith and her willingness to pay the price, she went about doing good, especially on behalf of the less fortunate.

Though a highly private individual, the late Mabel Yap consecrated her life to raising a family of achievers, and has been a resilient voice in articulating the need for responding to the plight of our community's immigrants. In so doing she symbolized all that is good and noble about the American spirit of idealism and optimism, and she worked long and hard in hopes that our nation truly become a land of opportunity for all.

This is the legacy Mrs. Mabel Yap bequeathed to us. Indeed, I am privileged to have been touched by the magnificent contributions she has made to our community through her family. I now join our community in thanks for her grace and for her noble and giving presence during her time with us.

THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the past several months have seen an almost unprecedented focus in this body on the extremely important issue of homeland security. Just a few weeks ago, we passed the National Intelligence Reform Act, a landmark piece of legislation to overhaul our intelligence agencies. But, as I noted at that time, the bill unfortunately did not go far enough in addressing the major security vulnerability presented by the porous nature of our borders.

So as we continue to address the issue of border security, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of Chairman SENSENBRENNER's legislation to complete the San Diego border fence, and ensure that illegal immigrants are unable to receive drivers' licenses, something, I might add, already prohibited in my home state of California.

But in addition to these important steps that will soon be taken, I rise to ask for the support of my colleagues for an illegal immigration control plan that I am pleased to introduce today. The plan is the brainchild of T.J. Bonner, the President of the National Border Patrol Council, and a 26-year veteran of the Border Patrol who still serves with them today. T.J. believes that our proposal will eliminate up to 98 percent of the illegal border crossings into the United States.

T.J. and I share the belief that for any proposal to stop illegal immigration to be successful, it must get at the root cause of what attracts illegal immigrants to our country—and that is the lure of economic opportunity and the ease with which illegal workers can find jobs. Under the Bonner Plan, we will dramatically increase the enforcement of laws which prohibit American businesses from employing illegal immigrants. Regrettably, too many employers have been unwilling to comply with the law. The growing availability of counterfeit identity documents has also undermined the current system because employers are increasingly unable to establish the authenticity of documents presented by job applicants.

Our legislation adds new features to the Social Security card to deter counterfeiting and make it easier for employers to determine whether a card is genuine by including a digitized photo of the cardholder on the card. The improved Social Security card will also be encoded with a unique electronic encryption code to allow employers to verify each prospective applicant's work eligibility status prior to hiring, through either an electronic card-reader or a toll-free telephone number. Employers will face stiff federal fines of \$50,000 and up to 5 years in prison if they hire an illegal immigrant or choose not to verify a pro-

spective employee's work eligibility. The employer would also be required to reimburse the government for the cost of deporting the illegal immigrant.

With the improved Social Security card and national verification system, employers will have no excuse for hiring illegal immigrants. By eliminating the supply of jobs for illegal workers, we will end the incentive for illegal immigrants to enter the United States because they will know that they will be unable to make a living here.

Legal workers will only need to update their Social Security card once, to have their photo placed on the card and for other long-overdue anti-fraud measures to be applied. A worker would only need the updated Social Security card when applying for a new job. I want to make it very, very clear that this proposal does not represent the creation of a national identification card. This bill strictly prohibits the use of the Social Security card as a national ID card, and stipulates that the card not be required to be routinely carried on one's person. Social Security cards are often already required to be provided to new employers; the changes we are proposing to the Social Security card take us no further down the road of creating a national ID card.

Finally, the Bonner Plan also puts teeth into the new enforcement procedures by calling for the addition of 10,000 new Homeland Security officers whose sole responsibility will be to enforce employer compliance with the law. These new agents will free up the rest of the Border Patrol to exclusively focus on border enforcement and terrorism prevention.

Mr. Speaker, I do not stand here today to tell the rest of the world that we intend to limit opportunities for the American dream to be fulfilled. But if foreign nationals wish to come to the United States, they must, as Governor Schwarzenegger said, "play by the rules," and we must make clear that there will be no economic opportunity for anyone who enters this country illegally. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in this effort, and hope they will consider joining me as we take action on this vital national security priority.

ENSURING COLLEGE ACCESS FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, since 1973, the Pell Grant program has been the backbone of making higher education affordable in the United States, with more than five million students receiving nearly 13 billion dollars in aid this year alone. Unfortunately, President Bush recently made a change to student aid policy that will cut more than \$300 million in federal scholarships to low- and moderate-income college students for the 2005-06 school year. As a result, 1.3 million students will have their Pell Grant scholarships either reduced or eliminated.

Current law allows students and their families to deduct state and local taxes when calculating how much income they have available to pay for the cost of higher education. This recent Bush update changes the way families calculate these deductions, and as a result,

1.3 million students will have their Pell scholarships reduced or eliminated. In essence, the change would make it appear that families have more money available to pay for tuition, decreasing the amount of Federal student aid, as well as other need-based aid for which families are eligible.

This is why I am introducing legislation along with Representative TIM BISHOP to reverse the \$300 million Pell scholarship cut. Specifically, our bill would prevent any student from having his or her federal Pell Grant eligibility amount reduced as a result of the recent changes to student aid. This would enable the Department of Education to fine tune the eligibility calculation without hurting students and families who rely on these scholarships to pay for college.

Today, education is more important than ever to solving the most pressing problems of our communities and the country. We must do everything possible to help American students attend college.

RECOGNIZING THE ACTIVITIES OF MRS. RUTH WILLNER

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an extremely active and dedicated woman, Mrs. Ruth Willner for her contributions to the Monterey Park Democratic Club. In addition to working and raising two children, Mrs. Willner has still found the time to be very involved in her community.

Many groups in the Los Angeles area are fortunate to count Mrs. Willner as one of their members. However, the time that she has contributed to the Monterey Park Democratic Club is especially remarkable. Mrs. Willner has been a Monterey Park Democratic Club member for nearly 40 years.

In addition to being a member she also assumed the role of the club's Newsletter Editor and has held that position for the past 20 years. For the past two decades, she has served as the newsletter's only reporter, writer and editor. Her work played an integral role in keeping members up to date and in touch.

In December, Mrs. Willner produced her last newsletter for the club and retired as the Newsletter Editor. Although she will relinquish her position, her hard work and devotion will not be forgotten. Her commitment and drive is an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO RAMON BUTLER AND COREY JONES

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a pair of heroes whose courage has served as an inspiration to many in South Florida during this past holiday season.

Shortly after 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2004, an unattended candle sparked a flame that engulfed a home in the City of Miami Gardens, FL; fourteen-year-old Ramon

Butler who lives next door immediately responded to cries for help. Ramon entered the burning home without regard to his own personal safety, located and rescued a one-year-old child and then reentered the home in an attempt to locate the baby's five-month-old sister. Unfortunately, the roof began to collapse and he could not proceed any further and exited the home.

At this point, City of Miami Gardens Police Officer Corey Jones arrived on the scene. Aware that the baby was still inside and told which room she was in, Officer Jones rushed back to the home, pulled hurricane shutters open, cranked the window open and leaped inside. Though the flames were intense and smoke filled the home, Officer Jones was successful in locating the infant and bringing her out to safety.

The Miami-Dade County Police Department recently presented its highest civilian honor, the Silver Medal of Valor, to Ramon Butler, and both he and Officer Jones have been acknowledged by Miami Gardens Mayor Shirley Gibson for their acts of bravery. It is with great pride that I too pay tribute to the efforts of these two community heroes and extend my congratulations to each of them for a job well done.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND RESULTS ACT

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce important legislation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our Federal government—the Program Assessment and Results Act, or PAR Act, which establishes a statutory requirement that the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, working with agencies, review and assess the effectiveness of each federal program at least once every five years. As elected representatives of the people, we have a responsibility to use taxpayer dollars in the most effective way possible. As Congress formulates its budget each year, we must have the best information available to us on which to base our spending decisions.

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

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

Prior efforts to make the federal government more effective—the Hoover Commission, Zero-Based Budgeting, the Planning-Programming-Budgeting System, Reinventing Government—have come and gone with little lasting effect. Federal managers have learned that if

they wait, each new administration is likely to attempt yet another broad based reform. From a management standpoint, it is difficult in that type of environment to make long-range plans; and it's next to impossible to achieve the kind of cultural shift needed to reform the management of the federal government.

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

GPRA requires that agencies focus attention on program evaluation as one of six aspects of their strategic plans. Unfortunately, according to a 2004 report from the Government Accountability Office, program evaluation is the one area where departments consistently come up short. Not only have agencies failed to comply with this requirement, the valuable information that stands to be gained from these evaluations is not culled, coordinated, or presented in a useful way.

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

By creating and using the Program Assessment Rating Tool, or PART, this Administration has gone a step beyond the strategic plans required by GPRA and implemented a system for evaluating the performance and results of federal programs. The next logical step is to codify the requirement for a coordinated evidence-based review of programs.

The PAR Act does not seek to codify the use of the PART specifically. Rather, this bill amends GPRA by establishing a requirement for program reviews. Specifically, the Office of Management and Budget, working with agency heads, would be required under the Act to review each program activity at least once every five years. By requiring OMB to coordinate this effort with the agencies we will take a great step forward in making the federal government more efficient and results oriented.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO DETERMINE ADDITIONAL ABUSES OF PRISONERS AND DETAINEES IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it has been my privilege since the terrorist attacks of September 11th to visit our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Just a few days ago, I also traveled to Guantanamo Bay with my colleagues, U.S. Senator JON CORZINE and U.S. Representative ROBERT MENENDEZ, to investigate conditions at this key installation and visit with our soldiers on duty there, many of whom are members of the National Guard from our home state of New Jersey. Every visit I've made with our troops has added to the profound admiration and deep respect I have for the brave men and women who serve in our nation's armed forces and who are prosecuting this very difficult global war on terrorism.

At the same time, we do not honor the soldiers when we fail to investigate and call to account all of those up and down the chain of U.S. military command who are directly or indirectly responsible for abusing detainees under U.S. control. This grim reality is made all the clearer in an open letter delivered today to members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee from a dozen top-ranking retired military officers in the U.S. armed services. They underscore that current U.S. detention and interrogation operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, and elsewhere have undermined our intelligence gathering efforts, and added to the risks facing our troops serving around the world.

Last year, three reports that were compiled by U.S. Army officers and the bipartisan investigative commission appointed by U.S. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld documented in horrifying detail the egregious human rights abuses that occurred at Abu Ghraib Prison and other detention facilities under U.S. military control. Yet, the Congress failed to do our job, doggedly investigate how and why these abuses occurred, and put in place new safeguards for interrogations in U.S. military detention facilities and unfettered, independent investigations of prisoner treatment. As a result, more abuses have occurred.

In recent weeks, more credible disclosures of prisoner abuses at Guantanamo and other sites where detainees are being held have come to light because of reports from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the NYU Center for Human Rights and Global Justice and the Association of the American Bar of the City of New York. It is increasingly difficult for anybody to argue that the abusive behavior came from a few aberrant soldiers. Broader systemic problems need to be probed by this new Congress. Certainly, we all must concede that the on-going stream of new disclosures continues to hurt American standing in the global community of nations and the costs of these recurring, self-inflicted wounds and related risks to the safety of our soldiers continue to mount.

That is why I am today re-introducing legislation I first sponsored last July H.R. 4951 in the 108th Congress. It is designed to help prevent the kinds of abuses that occurred at Abu

Ghraib and elsewhere at DoD-controlled prisons.

My bill has three main provisions.

First, it would require videotaping of interrogations and other pertinent interactions between U.S. personnel and/or contractors, and detainees arrested and held in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, and elsewhere, pursuant to the war on terrorism, as recommended by the Army Inspector General. The tapes would be kept at the appropriate level of classification.

Second, it would ensure unfettered access to prisoners and detainees by representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture for independent monitoring of detainee conditions and treatment.

Third, it would require the Judge Advocate General, pursuant to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, to develop guidelines designed to ensure that the required videotaping is sufficiently expansive to prevent abuses of the fundamental human rights of detainees and prisoners and violations of the U.S. Constitution, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and other bedrock U.S. and international laws.

I am gratified that my bill has already been enthusiastically endorsed by Amnesty International Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, and the American Civil Liberties Union. Their self explanatory letters of support follow this statement. I am also encouraged that the U.S. Army Inspector General has expressed support for videotaping prisoner interrogations, in principle, in order to better protect the fundamental human rights of detainees and U.S. soldiers from false charges at the same time.

The abuses that occurred at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere never should have happened. They have indelibly stained the honor of our country and the overwhelming majority of U.S. troops who are defending our freedom with courage and personal responsibility. To whatever extent they continue, they aid and abet our enemies in the war on terrorism. I intend to press hard for enactment of this legislation during the 109th Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY ON ITS 5TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy on its 5th Anniversary and the completion of its first major acquisition along the San Gabriel River.

I have had the privilege of working with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy since I authored the legislation that created the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy during my tenure in the California State Senate. The Conservancy has brought opportunities for preservation of open space and habitat, low-impact recreation, education and watershed improvements to our very urban community. In the last five years diverse groups have come together

for a common goal—improving the urban environment and providing safe recreational places for our families and children.

I would also like to congratulate the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for completion of its first major acquisition along the San Gabriel River. This 57 acre property fronting two miles of the San Gabriel River was a duck farm for nearly 51 years. Now, the community will be able to enjoy conservation, water quality projects, and recreation—including a local trailhead connecting a bike and equestrian path from the Angeles National Forest to the Pacific Ocean.

I wish to offer the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy my sincerest congratulations on its five year anniversary and the dedication of the Duck Farm. I am looking forward to many more projects in the future so the children and families in the San Gabriel Valley can have safe places to play and enjoy the outdoors.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO MS.
SAMAKI VARIETY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Miami's unsung heroines, the late Ms. Samaki Variety, who we recently lost at the very young age of 47. Her passing on Sunday, December 19, 2004 leaves a deep void in our community.

Throughout her life, Samaki raised a brave voice to the struggles of the poor and the homeless, especially those afflicted with the deadly virus of HIV-AIDS across our community and beyond. She also portrayed the unjust and inhumane treatment of newly arrived immigrants, particularly the Haitians, against the backdrop of policies and regulations that continue to negatively impact their lives to this very day. Samaki worked as a Community Outreach Coordinator to my mother, former Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, where she was noted and loved for her dedication, effectiveness, positive attitude and happy spirit. I reserve to her the highest respect and admiration for her insatiable quest for simple justice and fairness for the less fortunate among us, particularly the children and the youth.

Ms. Samaki Variety symbolized the resilient and unyielding voice for those who were disenfranchised and who bore the brunt of inequality of opportunity. She was a loving mother, an indefatigable community-builder and a catalyst par excellence who was completely unselfish in her endeavors. The authenticity of her stewardship on our behalf was defined by her utmost consecration to her calling as God's faithful servant, bringing laughter, hope and optimism to hundreds of ordinary folks and countless teenagers whose lives she deeply touched, never holding anyone at arm's length.

This remarkable lady was our community's friend and confidante. She will be an indelible reminder of the noble commitment and awesome power of community service on behalf of the less fortunate. Her faith was deep and genuine, and her love for us was real and unforgettable. No one who knew Samaki—and having been struck by her sunny disposition and unflinching optimism—went away un-

changed. She was truly a caring and passionate person who brightened the lives of all who knew her.

We will truly miss her, and we will never forget her.

I ask that the following article from the Miami Herald be included in the RECORD:

[From the Miami Herald, Dec. 23, 2004]

FORMER OUTREACH CHIEF RAISED AIDS AWARENESS; SAMAKI VARIETY

(By Monica Hatcher)

Samaki Variety, admired for her work within South Florida's HIV/AIDS community, died Sunday in Atlanta of pneumonia. She was 47.

Variety, the former community outreach director for Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, spearheaded several city-sponsored AIDS events, including the Tree Lighting Ceremony commemorating World AIDS Day and the Youth March for Life, which brought thousands of school-age children marching through downtown last year to raise AIDS awareness.

"Her passion for HIV education may have had a great deal to do with the amount of HIV we see in the black community here," said Alex Paulmer, who worked with Variety on AIDS-related projects. Variety was born in San Francisco and studied psychology and social science at Fort Valley State University. After college, she met Lee Variety. The couple married and moved to Miami in the mid-1970s. The couple worked as entertainers and owned Boo-key Productions, which booked and promoted acts.

"She had a gift for singing, dancing and acting, but God also gave her a gift for helping people," recalled her mother, Annie Lacy. In the late 1980s, Variety used her talents and her own money to host a Saturday radio youth talk show on 1490 WMBM called "What's on Your Mind." The call-in program, aimed at teenagers, tackled such issues as pregnancy and child abuse. Samaki and Lee Variety had two children together, Leronce and Dom'Unique. The couple later divorced.

"She had a high spirit and was a positive thinker," said Dom'Unique, 14. "She was dedicated to her job and loved to help people and she pushed people to be the best they can be."

Variety worked in the public sector as an aide to Congresswoman Carrie Meek for five years. "She was a rare combination of talent, intelligence and ability," said U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, who knew Samaki when she worked with his mother. Variety worked for a time in the Miami-Dade County School System and with former County Commissioner Charles Dusseau.

In 2002, she joined Diaz's office of Faith-Based Initiatives and Community Outreach. "Samaki will be deeply missed by all of the people she encountered and the many, many lives she touched," Diaz said in a statement. Variety left the mayor's office in October to care for her mother in Georgia.

In addition to her mother and children, Variety is survived by a grandmother, Nazaree Foster; brothers, Roland and Wayman Hindsman; and sisters Jaqueline Shire, Jakki Kidd and Betty Wallace, as well as three grandchildren.

IN HONOR OF REGGIE WHITE

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, Americans are mourning the loss of Reggie

White. He was a great player—a magnificent player. Without him, my Packers would not have won Super Bowl XXXI. But, athletes come and go—even great ones. My friend, Reggie White, will be long remembered because he was so much more. He may have left the playing fields, but he never left his fans, and he never stopped caring for the needs of his neighbors. Reggie and his wife Sara launched Urban Hope in Green Bay—a program that helped start some 400 small businesses and create 1,100 jobs. Reggie believed in active faith—in putting his values and talents to work on the field and in the streets. We have lost a great player, but we have lost a greater man.

HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY AND FAIRNESS ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today, education—and higher education in particular—is more important than ever to solving the most pressing problems of our communities and the country.

Let me give you some sobering statistics:

According to Nellie Mae, the average undergraduate student loan debt has increased the last 5 years from \$11,400 to \$18,900.

Today, 70 percent of federal student aid is made in loans; Grants account for only 22 percent of aid. Thirty years ago, student loans accounted for about 25 percent and grants about 70 percent of all federal student aid.

Seventy-five percent of full-time students now work to help cover their college expenses. Twenty percent of working students work 35 or more hours a week while enrolled in school full-time.

In 1975–76 the maximum Pell Grant award covered eighty-four percent of an average tuition at a state school; today it covers forty percent.

The generation often referred to as the “baby boom echo” will soon enter American institutions of higher education, resulting in record enrollments that will further strain the ability of colleges and universities to deliver a quality education to their students.

That is why I am introducing the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act.

It would make college tuition deductible, in conjunction with existing tax benefits for higher education. The proposal would further allow a family to deduct up to \$10,000 in tuition expenses. A family would be capped at deducting a total of \$15,000 in tuition expenses in one year if they have more than one child in college. In addition, if a family was ineligible for the Hope Scholarship (due to its income limitations), they would be able to deduct \$5,000 of tuition costs.

The bill would raise the income limits for eligibility for Hope Scholarships. Currently, the income phase-out on the HOPE tax credit is \$40,000 to \$50,000 for singles and \$80,000 to \$100,000 for couples. The proposal would raise the phase-out ranges to \$50,000 to \$60,000 for singles and \$100,000 to \$120,000 for couples, allowing more families to benefit.

In order to ensure that savings go to the intended beneficiaries, the bill directs the In-

spector General of the Department of Education to conduct an annual study to examine whether the federal income tax incentives to provide education assistance affect higher education tuition rates.

Access to an affordable, quality education is inseparable from our economic prosperity, national security, and civic health. We must do everything possible to support this and that is why I have introduced the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act.

RECOGNIZING MR. FELIX GALAVIZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the contributions of Mr. Felix Galaviz. Mr. Galaviz retired in June of 2004 after serving tirelessly for 30 years in the field of education.

Mr. Galaviz co-founded the Puente Project and is retiring as its Executive Director. Under his leadership, the Puente Project has been recognized by numerous organizations throughout the Nation as a model academic preparedness program.

After beginning in 1981 at Chabot College, the Puente Project has flourished and grown. Today it is conducted in over 50 community colleges and 35 high schools across the State of California. Under the leadership of Mr. Galaviz, the Puente Project has shown consistent results and helped students achieve their higher education goals.

Mr. Galaviz has used his wonderful ability to educate and counsel Latino youth to work throughout his career. Furthermore, he has strived to share that gift with others, often conducting presentations to help others learn how to counsel and mentor Latino youth.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Galaviz on his inspirational work. He was a priceless asset in the field of education. I know him personally and am very familiar with his work. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Chisholm charted a whole new course for black Americans. She was the first black woman elected to Congress and paved the way for dozens who came after her, including my mother, former U.S. Rep. Carrie P. Meek. Shirley Chisholm was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, a pioneer in civil and women's rights issues, and was the first black of either gender to run for President of the United States.

Her determination and passion for the issues she believed in was always perfectly packaged by her charm and eloquence. The daughter of Caribbean immigrants, she never ceased to push for a better country for all Americans.

Congresswoman Chisholm is an inspiration to me and every Member of Congress. Her

legacy will never be forgotten, and I will always consider her path-breaking career as a motivation to serve the people of Florida's 17th Congressional District as best I can.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF COL THOMAS W. SHUBERT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to take this opportunity to honor Col “Tom” Shubert for his 30 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment he served as the Chief, Congressional Inquiries Division, Office of Legislative Liaison. He managed, on behalf of the Department of the Air Force, all constituent inquiries from the White House, Office of the Vice President, Members of Congress and state and local governments.

Colonel Shubert began his illustrious Air Force career as a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officers Training Corps at East Carolina University and was commissioned in 1974. Following graduation from Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1975, his operational assignments included piloting B-52 strategic bombers and T-39 airlift support mission aircraft both in the United States and in the Far East.

From April 1986 to April 1989, Colonel Shubert served as a Political-Military Affairs Officer on the Joint Staff at Headquarters, United States Pacific Command. He then served as the Assistant Air Attaché for Operations at the American Embassy in Canberra, Australia until June of 1993. Colonel Shubert was then assigned as a Congressional Inquires Liaison in the Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of the Air Force.

In June 1995, Colonel Shubert entered Danish language training and then served as the Air Attaché at the American Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark from December 1995 to July 1998. He then returned to the Pentagon, where he served as the Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, until October 2000.

From October 2000 to June 2002, Colonel Shubert headed the Assessments Branch, Policy Division, Defense Technology Security Administration, which reviewed both Munitions and Dual-Use export license applications.

In July 2003, Colonel Shubert assumed duties as the Chief of the Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force. During this time, Colonel Shubert escorted scores of Members of Congress on more than twenty Congressional Delegations, in furtherance of Members' oversight responsibilities.

Colonel Shubert assisted me and Members of the Committee on Agriculture during trips to Afghanistan, Iraq, and, last year, to Africa. He upheld the highest standards of professional conduct and his thorough and efficient planning assured that these trips were a complete success. He will be missed.

Colonel Shubert holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Honor Graduate) from East

Carolina University, a Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Arts Degree in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my Colleagues join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to COL Tom Shubert for his outstanding service to both the Legislative and Executive Branches and to the United States Air Force.

I wish him, his wife Kathy, and their daughters Victoria and Joanna, the very best as they face new challenges in the coming years. I will miss his unflinching good humor and hard work. Colonel Shubert has consistently conducted himself in a professional manner and therefore brings great credit to the United States Air Force.

REINTRODUCTION OF
LEGISLATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased on this first day of the 109th Congress to introduce several pieces of legislation that I have been pursuing over the years, and for which I will continue to advocate these next two years.

First, I am excited to again introduce legislation to help all American savers. My legislation, the Simple Savings Tax Relief Act of 2005, simply eliminates the taxation of interest earned in savings accounts, such as passbook savings accounts or bank certificates of deposit. I think at least some of this interest should be tax-free, as we have been working towards for other forms of non-earned income. This legislation would end a punitive tax, especially assist low and middle-income earners, and ultimately contribute toward the goal of encouraging individual responsibility and taking charge of one's own financial destiny.

Next, for years I have authored legislation to repeal the 2 percent excise tax on private foundations. The United States is blessed with a deep spirit of philanthropy, and charitable organizations serve the interest of both the individual and the community. Under current law, however, not-for-profit private foundations generally must pay to the IRS a 2 percent excise tax on their net investment income, which diverts from the purposes for which these foundations were founded. Optimistically, this body passed a reduction of this charitable impediment to 1 percent in the 108th (H.R. 7), but as it failed to become law, I am reintroducing this legislation and we shall try again.

Next, I am pleased to again sponsor the Health Care Tax Deduction Act of 2005. This would allow deductions for amounts paid for health insurance premiums and unreimbursed prescription drugs. This would provide much-needed relief to individuals struggling with the high cost of health insurance and prescription drugs through a tax deduction, and tax parity with those of us who have employer-provided tax-deductible health insurance. Expansively, this benefit extends to all IRS-defined health insurance premiums such as an HMO, PPO, a traditional indemnity plan, a new HSA, and also long-term care premiums. Right now, under the current tax code, in order to claim health care expenses individuals must file an

itemized tax return. My bill would simplify and extend this tax preference for all filers.

I also am reintroducing the Allied Health Reinvestment Act of 2005, along with my friend Dr. Strickland from Ohio. This important legislation offers incentives via scholarships and loans to encourage students and faculty to enter the essential but undersupplied allied health professions, such as physical, occupational, and speech rehabilitation, and medical and radiological technologists to name a few.

Also, with an eye towards the value of human life, I reintroduce my Human Cloning Research Prohibition Act, which restricts federal funding and encourages other nations to do so as well.

Finally, I am pleased to reintroduce a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of establishing a Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) awareness month. I do this again with my friend Mr. Lewis of Georgia. In past Congresses, this bill has had tremendous support from Members and from the U.S. COPD Coalition, which comprises the patient and provider community. The House passed this legislation in the summer of 2003, and we started a bicameral Caucus in the winter of 2004 to advance our efforts. COPD is an umbrella term used to describe the airflow obstruction associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis. This is a debilitating disease, that is currently the nation's fourth leading cause of death, and I am proud to bring awareness to COPD.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on all these important pieces of business for the nation.

HONORING ALBERT ASHBROOK
FOR HIS SERVICE AS LICKING
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, Mr. NEY and I wish to join many of our constituents in Licking County, Ohio in congratulating Albert Ashbrook, who is retiring after more than 16 years of service as a county commissioner.

Albert's work was summed up best recently by a former colleague, who noted that Albert never shied away from the tough issues and was always looking out for the best interests of the people and county government. We would add that he did so not only with a plain spoken dedication to duty, but also a tremendous sense of humor.

Licking County has grown and changed for the better during Albert's tenure. He's helped with the creation of a Domestic Relations Court, a one-stop employment service and improved auto licensing and titling facilities, just to name a few of the projects in which he has had a hand. At the same time, he's always made fiscal responsibility a top priority.

Public service has been a way of life for Albert. Prior to his work as a commissioner, he served in various capacities with the Soil and Water Conservation District, and is a member of the District Hall of Fame.

Although he's leaving the commissioners' office, Albert is hoping to continue his community involvement as a member of the Licking County Planning Commission. In any event,

we know he'll still be there to offer guidance and advice to anyone with the good sense to seek it.

We are honored to have this opportunity to thank Albert for all his hard work, and wish him and his wife Shirley many more active years together.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS LONGHORNS ROSE BOWL
CHAMPIONS

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the University of Texas Longhorns, playing in the Rose Bowl for the first time in the team's 110-year history, made the New Year's Day game a memorable one.

Twice the Longhorns came from behind the Michigan Wolverines to win 38–37 as the clock ran out in what many contend was the most exciting Rose Bowl ever. UT Quarterback Vince Young rushed for 192 yards and four touchdowns, a Rose Bowl record. He also threw for 180 yards and a touchdown. This capped a 10–1 regular season record.

The University of Texas has a great football team, coached by Mack Brown. But it has a great academic reputation, too.

Led by President Larry Faulkner, UT recently was ranked as the 15th best university in the world by the Times of London newspaper. Among U.S. public universities, only the University of California at Berkeley was listed ahead of UT.

It's a pleasure to cite the strengths of UT. It's also a pleasure to represent such a premiere University in Congress.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF THE MINNESOTA STATE
CAPITOL

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor the 100th birthday of the Minnesota State Capitol. The Capitol first opened its doors on January 2, 1905 and on January 2, 2005, over 6,000 people attended the first of a full year's worth of birthday celebrations.

The Minnesota State Legislature first met in a log hotel when Minnesota was declared a territory in 1849. The first Capitol building was built in 1853, but burned in 1881. The second, built in 1882, was erected on the same downtown St. Paul site as the first. As Minnesota's population grew, officials realized that the building would soon be too small to house the Legislators and a new building would be needed. In 1895, Cass Gilbert from St. Paul was selected to design the new building. It took nine years and \$4.5 million to complete construction of the new capitol, which is still in use today.

Today, the Minnesota State Capitol building is more than just a place for the Legislature. It is a museum dedicated to preserving Minnesota's history. Its many priceless artifacts

detailing Minnesota's past include flags that were carried by Minnesotans who served in the Civil War and statues of influential Minnesota political figures.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 100 years the Minnesota State Capitol has served as a place of government, history and learning. As a fourth generation Minnesotan whose ancestors were well established in the state when this capitol was built, I am pleased to be able to help honor it today as a lasting symbol of the spirit of Minnesota.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
GREGORY PAUL RUND

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret and heartfelt admiration that I rise today to honor a fallen Marine from my district, Lance Corporal Gregory Paul Rund of Littleton. Sadly, Lance Corporal Rund was killed in the line of duty during combat operations on December 11 in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Lance Corporal Rund was with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division based in Camp Pendleton, California.

He was just 21 years old.

Greg was a 2002 graduate of Columbine High School in Jefferson County, where he played football and later made the decision to serve his country by joining the Marines. Greg was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed. He made an indelible impression on all who knew him, and will be remembered as a dedicated, energetic and warm person who had a great sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Lance Corporal Rund. He served his country honorably and with distinction, making the ultimate sacrifice fighting for freedom and democracy in defense of a grateful nation. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Americans owe him a great debt of gratitude. His dedication and bravery will not be forgotten.

THE STOP COUNTERFEITING IN
MANUFACTURED GOODS ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation—the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act. This bipartisan bill addresses the problem of counterfeit manufactured goods. I hope my colleagues will join me in passing this bill at the earliest opportunity.

The problem of counterfeit manufactured goods is a growing problem around the world that threatens public safety and harms our economy here at home. Too often, counterfeit goods steal sales from legitimate American manufacturers and cost Americans high-paying manufacturing jobs. In fact, according to

the U.S. Customs Service and Border Protection, counterfeiting costs the U.S. an estimated \$200 billion annually.

Manufacturers in this country are the most efficient and technologically advanced in the world, but they face many challenges. The biggest challenges are the costs they directly cannot control. We need to focus on measures that alleviate these costs, and crack down on those criminals that break the rules and drive up costs, thereby stealing manufacturing companies of what is rightfully theirs.

Counterfeiting is not just about lost sales and jobs, however. It is a means by which the most nefarious organizations finance their activities. Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble has stated that “we know that al-Qaeda supporters have been found with commercial size volume of counterfeit goods.”

It is my belief, and that of a broad coalition backing this legislation, that to address the scourge of counterfeiting, the U.S. Government must possess additional tools. That is exactly what my bill provides.

The Stop Counterfeit in Manufactured Goods Act strengthens the federal trademark law used to prosecute counterfeiters with two key provisions.

First, the bill provides for the mandatory destruction of the equipment used to manufacture and package counterfeit goods. Under current law, counterfeiters can have their illegal goods seized, but retain the equipment they used to make them. We should not leave counterfeiters in business, and this provision will help us dig up the roots of counterfeiting networks.

The bill also clarifies that Title 18, Section 2320, prohibits trafficking in counterfeit labels, patches, and medallions that are unattached to any goods. Sophisticated counterfeiters have sold counterfeit versions of the trademarks themselves in the form of patch sets or medallions that can later be attached to generic merchandises and given the appearance of a genuine product. This is counterfeiting and should not stand.

The Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act will have a positive impact here in the United States and end the merciless stealing of American jobs and sales. In fact, the Department of Justice's Task Force on Intellectual Property cites this bill as a measure that would increase the effectiveness of intellectual property enforcement.

The bill's reach will also be global. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is currently engaged in a variety of bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations. However, USTR cannot readily negotiate criminal anti-counterfeiting standards above the levels found in the United States. By passing this bill into law, we will empower our negotiators to press for stronger anti-counterfeiting measures from our trading partners. The U.S. must lead by example in intellectual property rights enforcement and this is a critical step we must take. Clearly, the passage of the Stop Counterfeit of Manufactured Goods Act is long overdue.

I thank the bipartisan group of Members for joining as original cosponsors of this legislation. I encourage all my colleagues to join us in cracking down on the counterfeit goods that threaten public safety, steal sales from legitimate manufacturers, and cost American jobs.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to expeditiously pass this legislation into law.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter on this issue for the RECORD:

AMERICAN APPAREL & FOOTWEAR ASSOCIATION, AUTOMOTIVE AFTER-MARKET INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, GAS APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, GROCERY MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA, INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COUNTERFEITING COALITION, INTERNATIONAL TRADE-MARK ASSOCIATION, MOTOR & EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS, NATIONAL ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL MARINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION, SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT MARKET ASSOCIATION, UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 3, 2005.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN KNOLLENBERG: The organizations listed above write in support of your legislation to strengthen the criminal statute against trafficking in counterfeited goods. This bill would amend the U.S. Code, 18 U.S.C. 2320, by closing existing loopholes that can allow counterfeiters to avoid prosecution, maintain control of assets for criminal enterprises, and unjustly profit from their illegal activities. This legislation would grant trademark owners remedies similar to those already provided to copy-right and trade secret owners.

Acts of counterfeiting result in significant economic harm in the form of lost profits, diminished reputation among consumers, and decreased tax revenue. The FBI estimates that counterfeiting costs U.S. businesses \$200 billion to \$250 billion annually and is increasing rapidly. New York City estimates that in 2003 alone, the theft of intellectual property cost the city over \$1 billion in lost tax revenue. Another frightening trend relates to the rising occurrence of substandard and dangerous counterfeit goods that present severe public health and safety risks. Numerous deaths and injuries have already been attributed to counterfeit products. Finally, and perhaps most alarmingly, there is strong evidence suggesting that organized criminal groups and terrorist organizations are increasingly involved in criminal counterfeiting schemes.

Existing domestic laws should be bolstered to effectively address this problem. Your bill would strengthen those laws by prohibiting the trafficking in counterfeit labels, patches, stickers, hangtags, or medallions that are unattached to goods. In addition, the bill would make mandatory the forfeiture and destruction of counterfeit goods, as well as the assets used to produce, package, and distribute counterfeit goods, and requires the forfeiture of property and assets derived from counterfeiting.

Internationally, the World Customs Organization and Interpol estimate that the annual global trade in illegitimate goods has increased from \$5.5 billion in 1982 to roughly \$600 billion today and it continues to grow. Ambassador Zoellick, the U.S. Trade Representative, recently characterized trademark counterfeiting, along with copyright piracy, as a “scourge on the global economy.”

Immediate passage of this legislation is necessary to more effectively combat counterfeiting abroad. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative advises that it will not negotiate criminal anti-counterfeiting standards above the levels found in current

U.S. law. With a number of free trade agreements currently being negotiated, it is imperative that the current deficiencies in domestic law are not codified in these international agreements. We should seize the opportunity represented by new trade agreements to obtain stronger enforcement obligations from our trading partners against counterfeiting.

The groups listed above represent thousands of trademark owners whose intellectual property assets are targets of counterfeiters in the U.S. and abroad. We would like to thank you for your excellent leadership on this issue and we commit to working with you to ensure that the U.S. House of Representatives acts quickly to consider and pass this important legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the interested associations directly, or Tim Trainer (ttrainer@iacc.org) of the International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition, telephone (202) 223-6667.

A TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARY
BURNS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my Congressional District, and wish her the best as she begins a new chapter of her life. Sister Mary Burns has spent more than a decade honoring the lives of Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Maryknoll Sisters who were killed in 1980 while working to assist the poor in El Salvador. I am pleased to take this opportunity to honor her and her own work on behalf of economically disadvantaged women.

In 1993, Sister Mary Burns founded the Maura Clarke-Ita Ford Center (MCIF) in one of New York City's most impoverished communities, the Bushwick neighborhood in Brooklyn. The center provides education and training to low-income, mainly Hispanic, women. Under the leadership of Sister Mary Burns, MCIF has thrived—providing personal development, education and economic independence, and empowering women to break the cycle of poverty.

Like many Irish women who grew up in South Boston, Sister Mary Burns is strong and resilient, a person with deep faith and a wicked sense of humor. She is generous of heart and giving to her core. And her work on behalf of disadvantaged women is as impassioned as it is pioneering.

Bushwick was devastated during the riots of the late 1970s, and severe poverty and unemployment continues to plague the neighborhood. MCIF offers residents literacy classes, GED instruction, and job training. Recognizing the desperate need for entry level jobs in the Bushwick area, MCIF initiated an innovative program to create a small clothing factory in the neighborhood to offer low income women employment earning a livable wage, day care services, and the opportunity to attain business development and leadership skills.

MCIF also has a kitchen incubator to help new entrepreneurs develop the skills and experience necessary to launch successful small businesses in the food industry. Similarly, the center is home to a bakery program where local women put their skills to work baking cookies. Sales from these cookies, which on

their own are well worth a trip to Bushwick, are used to support the program and compensate the bakers for their hard work—providing a path to economic independence.

These programs serve as an important model on how to strengthen communities one person and one family at a time. And its through the dedication and drive of Sister Mary Burns that the women who enter the doors of MCIF leave believing in themselves, envisioning promising futures, and chartering successful lives for their families.

I am honored to have worked with Sister Mary Burns over the years in advancing the mission of MCIF. Under her guidance, the center has become a critical resource for some, a sanctuary for others, and a source of inspiration for all who witness its extraordinary work. I, along with so many residents of the community, will miss her dearly. But her principles of loving acceptance, unwavering encouragement, and enduring faith are now firmly embedded in the spirit of the community—and families from Bushwick will benefit from her work for generations to come. It is in this light Mr. Speaker, that I ask my House colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable contributions of Sister Mary Burns and wishing her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCING H.R. 240, WELFARE
REFORM REAUTHORIZATION BILL

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in introducing H.R. 240, the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2005. This legislation reauthorizes and strengthens the successful welfare reforms begun in the 1996 welfare reform law (P.L. 104-193). Joining me introducing this legislation are Representatives PRYCE, THOMAS, BOEHNER, BARTON, GOODLATTE, MCKEON, BILIRAKIS, DELAY, SHAW, CANTOR, ENGLISH, CAMP, NANCY JOHNSON, WELLER, NORWOOD, JOE WILSON and KLINE.

Welfare reform has been a great success in promoting work, ending dependence, and reducing poverty. Millions more low-income parents are working today instead of depending on welfare, offering brighter prospects for their family's future. Since the implementation of welfare reform in 1996, welfare caseloads dropped by more than 50 percent nationwide—leading more than two million families and seven million former recipients to rely on themselves, rather than depend on a check from the government. More than 1 million children have been lifted out of poverty since reform, and poverty rates for black children and children living with single mothers reached—and despite the 2001 recession still remain near—all time lows. Recent reports linked work-based welfare reforms with reduced parental substance abuse (<http://www.affiliatedsystems.com/newest.htm>) and child poverty (http://www.manhattaninstitute.org/html/cr_44.htm).

Still, despite this success nearly 2 million families remain dependent on welfare for support, and relatively few of those parents are working or getting training in skills needed to lift their families out of poverty. That needs to

improve. Plus too many families break up or never form, leaving millions of children and parents at risk of welfare dependence in the future.

H.R. 240 as introduced today will help even more low-income parents and families support themselves, including through stepped up efforts to strengthen families and support healthy marriages that are the best environment for raising children. H.R. 240 would extend TANF and related programs through fiscal year 2010, and makes selected changes to promote more work and stronger families, including healthy marriages.

In 2002 and 2003, the U.S. House passed earlier versions of this legislation. However, since the U.S. Senate failed to pass companion legislation, comprehensive welfare reauthorization legislation was not signed into law. Instead, the President signed eight short extensions of current law, the most recent of which expires on March 31, 2005. H.R. 240 as introduced today is an updated version of legislation the House passed in 2002 and 2003, which will serve as the basis for hearings and other consideration during the early days of the 109th Congress.

I look forward to working together with my Republican and Democrat colleagues to craft the best possible welfare reauthorization policy, building on the foundation of the current system and the proposals the House passed in recent years. We will hold hearings to examine features of today's welfare policy that are working, and those that are in need of improvement. In tight budget times, it will take all of our efforts to ensure that welfare reform continues to be successful. As the 1996 reforms have proven, however, we can help more parents work, reduce dependence on government benefits, cut poverty, and still protect taxpayers' interests at the same time. Before 1996, hardly anyone thought we could do all that, and now we have a track record of getting it done. We need to build on that successful record, which H.R. 240 would do.

I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BEA WEISBROD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to pay tribute today to one of the most respected community leaders in Dallas, Texas: Bea Weisbrod.

The name Bea Weisbrod has long been associated with excellence and one of our highest standards of civic pride. Bea Weisbrod, on December 5, 2004 received the Bnai Zion's Lifetime service award. Bea is founding member of Bnai Zion-Texas Region and a long-time member of Congregation Shearith Israel. Her many years of community service and dedication to making a difference in the lives of people in our community, as well, as in Israel are truly deserving of our appreciation and praise.

In addition to her professional associations, Bea Weisbrod selflessly devotes her personal time to numerous organizations including the

Hadassah where she serves on the regional board.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bnai Zion Foundation on its excellent selection of Bea Weisbrod for its lifetime service award, and I wish her sons Les, Carl, and their loving family continued success in all of their endeavors.

I know that Bea Weisbrod will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and that America will continue to benefit from her dedication, service and hard work.

HONORING HOMER CADDELL
"CAL" HENDERSON, JR.

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Homer Caddell "Cal" Henderson Jr., who is retiring today after 12 years of loyal service as Sheriff of Hillsborough County, Florida.

Cal dedicated his life to keeping our community safe. At 21, Cal began his law enforcement career in the Tampa Police Department, and he went on to serve the U.S. Border Patrol and the CIA as a national police trainer in Vietnam. In 1969, when Cal returned home to Tampa, he joined the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

During his 35 years in the Sheriff's Office, Cal Henderson experienced a period of enormous growth and development in Hillsborough County. The year Cal joined the force, the Sheriff's Office employed 157 deputies serving a mostly rural area. In fact, at that time, Cal was the only deputy working in his region of eastern Hillsborough. Today, as Sheriff Henderson retires, his office employs 1,200 deputies, 950 sworn detention officers and 1,000 civilians, and the territory that he once patrolled alone is now served by as many as 12 deputies.

Cal Henderson worked his way through the ranks of the Sheriff's office, and he was able to do it while adapting to colossal changes in the needs of our community. Following the September 11 tragedies, Sheriff Henderson recognized the need to coordinate the efforts of our region's first responders, and he spearheaded the Tampa Bay Regional Domestic Security Task Force. A model for communities nationwide, the task force brings together fire fighters, EMS, hospital, port, police and sheriff and other officers to streamline efforts to keep our region safe.

Fortunately for the people of Hillsborough County, Sheriff Henderson is leaving us well equipped for the transition to new leadership under incoming Sheriff David Gee. And while Cal may be hanging up his Sheriff's badge, we can rest assured that he will continue his service to our community. Cal has already indicated that while taking advantage of some well deserved rest in retirement, he is also planning to assist the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention on issues pertaining to missing and exploited children.

Hillsborough County has truly been blessed to have Sheriff Cal Henderson as a faithful public servant. Cal has served with honor and integrity and has always shown the highest re-

spect for those he serves. On behalf of our community, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation for his commitment and my best wishes for his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAIL AND
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act, which would force the federal government to finally get serious about protecting our nation's transit and intercity rail passengers.

This bill addresses the tremendous disparity between what we spend on security for each airline passenger and what we spend for each bus and train passenger, who are no less vulnerable than those who fly. In fact, data from the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism shows that public transportation passengers are in far more danger worldwide than airline passengers. Since 9/11, there have been over five times as many attacks on public transportation targets around the world than on aviation targets, with nearly ten times the number of fatalities.

The recent attacks in Spain, and intelligence that terrorists may strike the rail and transit systems here in America, dictate that we now broaden our attention to also include rail and transit security. Each year, approximately 24 million intercity rail passengers ride Amtrak, and 9.6 billion people travel by transit. Every day, 32 million commuters, students, and tourists depend on our public transportation system. One of the ripple effects of 9/11 was that the aviation industry was shut down for several days. Imagine the social and economic dislocation that would occur if a major attack destroyed people's confidence in our transit system, or made it grind to a halt. The economic impact would be far greater than 9/11.

Our nation's rail and transit systems are highly vulnerable, and require at least \$5.2 billion in capital equipment and \$800 million in annual operating expenses to adequately meet security needs, according to the American Public Transportation Association. This legislation provides that funding, and just as importantly, it allows operating expense grant money to be used for the best security device of all: more police officers.

Giving our transit agencies money for fences, cameras and explosive detection equipment is necessary, but only a half-measure unless we also give them money for the cops and security officers that make all that equipment work. This bill allows money to be used for hiring new cops and security officers, pay them overtime when necessary, deploy additional K-9 units, conduct helicopter patrols, and more. In short, it unties the hands of our transit agencies and lets them spend the money where they need it.

This legislation also provides badly needed security and safety funding for Amtrak, including \$670 million for safety upgrades to the tunnels that run underneath New York, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. These tunnels are simply not properly equipped for rescue oper-

ations or evacuation should either be necessary. An additional \$62 million for Amtrak to put towards security expenses, including the hiring of additional police officers, is also provided.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize new research and development grants to help develop new technologies for both passenger and freight rail that can help reduce the threat of terrorist attacks. And since rail security involves more than just deterring terrorist attacks, the legislation would establish new inspection procedures for rail track, and set new standards for tank cars, to make sure their hazardous cargo isn't released in the event of an accident.

I believe this bill is already long overdue. I urge my colleagues to imagine what we would have done, what action we would have taken, if the Madrid train bombings had occurred in our homeland, on our soil. What immediate investments would we have been ready to make? What urgent action would we have been willing to take?

Well, we can do it now. Let's make that investment and take those actions now. Let's take what steps we can to reduce the risk to our nation's transit. We don't need commissions and studies after a tragedy in order to act, so let's not get mired in that now. Nearly three years of needs assessment and analysis have occurred, and we have the data to put a program in place. All it takes is Congress having the gumption to act before a tragedy on the rails takes place in this country.

HONORING METROPOLITAN
ANTHONY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, Metropolitan Anthony, who recently passed away.

Metropolitan Anthony ascended to great heights from very modest beginnings. He was born on the Greek island of Crete, one of six children struggling to grow up under the brutal Nazi occupation of the island. He became the first member of his family to leave his village, ultimately graduating in 1960 from the prestigious Halki Theological School of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. He came to the United States after his ordination to the priesthood to serve the Church in this country.

Metropolitan Anthony was elected Bishop of San Francisco in 1979. He served as Bishop and later Metropolitan of the Diocese of San Francisco, which covers seven western states, for more than 25 years. He was responsible for a significant expansion of ministries and programs during his tenure. He oversaw the founding of more than 25 new parishes and missions, as well as the establishment of three monasteries. He also developed the annual Metropolis Folk Dance Festival, the largest exhibition of authentic Greek folk dance, costume, and music in the world. In addition, he established a multi-million dollar endowment fund to provide scholarships for seminarians and theological students to attend holy school.

Mr. Speaker, Metropolitan Anthony inspired many because he was a great leader and devout man of faith. He challenged the faithful

not only to dream great dreams but to make them a reality. I hope our colleagues will join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to his family, his followers, and to future generations who will be enriched by his legacy.

HONORING RITA CANNING

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Chicago resident, Rita Canning. Rita has worked tirelessly for the rights of women and families in Chicago. Her advocacy and contribution to public service deserve the recognition and thanks of this Congress.

Rita currently serves as President of WINGS, Women In Need of Growing Stronger. This transitional shelter offers support to homeless and abused women and children in Chicago through training programs as well as job placement services to women in need. Under Rita's leadership, WINGS helps marginalized women re-enter the workforce with greater job skills and with the resources necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Rita also founded the Palatine Home of the Sparrow, a shelter for women and children in Chicago, and she is in the process of establishing the first domestic violence shelter in Chicago's northwest suburbs.

In addition to her work with the homeless, Rita does great things for education in our community through her work with the Canning Foundation. She serves as Vice-President of this foundation, which awards over 100 private school scholarships annually to inner-city children.

Rita is also a member of the Women's Board of Northwestern University, the Women's Board of the Field Museum, and is a Director of Harris Bank. Her husband, John A. Canning, Jr., is the Director of the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago and shares Rita's passion of giving back to the community by pursuing several philanthropic endeavors.

Rita's tremendous dedication to public service has been recognized with various awards of excellence. In 2001, for example, Rita received the Sears Distinguished Leader Award for exemplary volunteer work and contributions. She also recently received the Illinois state treasurer's "Woman to Woman Making a Difference Award."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call Rita Canning a good friend and to recognize her invaluable contributions to public service. On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District and indeed all of Chicago, I thank her for her selfless dedication and hard work on behalf of women and families in our community.

THE PRESERVING ACCESS TO
AFFORDABLE DRUGS ACT

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be introducing the Preserving Access

to Affordable Drugs Act to preserve the drug benefits that millions of seniors in our country currently enjoy. Unfortunately, the misguided Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 threatens to reduce or eliminate the prescription drug benefits that millions of seniors across the country already have. Based on these and other detrimental provisions in the new law, which seniors continue to oppose vehemently, we should simply repeal the entire bill outright. But in the meantime, the bill I'm introducing today highlights the most egregious loss of benefits that seniors will suffer under the new law, and provides mechanisms to "hold harmless" those seniors who already have good drug coverage.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that as many as 1.7 million retirees could lose their employer-based prescription drug benefits as a result of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. Also as a result of the new law, hundreds of thousands of seniors currently enrolled in state pharmacy assistance programs (SPAPs) will be forced out of those programs and into a private Medicare drug plan. Approximately six million seniors who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid will lose access to their Medicaid prescription drug benefits, which is more generous and has greater access to a variety of drugs. And, despite the fact that the new Medicare law has huge gaps in coverage, seniors who choose to enroll in the new drug benefit will be prohibited from purchasing Medigap coverage to pay for prescription drugs not covered by the new Medicare benefit.

In my home state of New Jersey, alone, 94,000 retirees will lose their employer-based prescription drug benefits. More than 150,000 low-income seniors in New Jersey who are dually eligible for, and enrolled in, both Medicare and Medicaid will lose access to the Medicaid drug benefits they currently rely on. And 220,000 New Jersey seniors who are currently enrolled in Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and Senior Gold, the state's pharmacy assistance programs for the aged and disabled, will face disruption in coverage and will likely receive less drug coverage than they currently receive.

It is my view—and based on what I have heard in town hall meetings in my district, the view of an overwhelming majority of seniors in this country—that no senior should be made worse off by the new Medicare law.

The legislation I'm introducing today will:

Preserve employer-based retiree prescription drug coverage by allowing employer expenditures on drug costs to count toward the out-of-pocket threshold of \$3600. By not counting toward the catastrophic cap any costs covered by employer-provided retiree benefits, those employers that maintain their retiree health benefits would see their retirees receive less of a Medicare subsidy than a beneficiary without employer-provided benefits. Without this fix, approximately 94,000 New Jersey seniors and 1.7 million retirees nationwide will likely lose their employer-based drug coverage.

Enable states, if they choose, to administer the Medicare prescription drug benefit through their existing state pharmacy assistance program. This means that my home state of New Jersey could continue to provide prescription drug benefits to seniors through the very suc-

cessful and popular existing PAAD and Senior Gold programs. As a result, these seniors will not have to enroll in the less-generous Medicare drug program, will be able to remain in PAAD and Senior Gold, and will experience no disruption in coverage.

Ensure that States can provide supplemental Medicaid prescription drug coverage to complement the Medicare drug benefit to seniors who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Currently in New Jersey, 152,000 low-income seniors and disabled individuals who are Medicare eligible receive 100% of their drug coverage through the state Medicaid program. The Medicare bill replaces Medicaid coverage with more limited drug coverage and prohibits states from wrapping around the Medicare benefit with Medicaid coverage. This bill will enable states to completely wrap around through the Medicaid program.

Restore Medicare beneficiaries' ability to purchase supplemental drug coverage through the Medigap program. Under the new law, those who participate in the new Part D drug benefit are prohibited from purchasing supplemental drug coverage through the Medigap program.

Eliminate the premium support (Medicare privatization) demonstration program. This is particularly important for Gloucester, Camden, Burlington and Salem counties in southern New Jersey, which currently meet the qualifications to be selected to participate in this program.

Simply stated, a Medicare prescription drug benefit that chips away at the generous drug coverage that some seniors already enjoy is hardly a benefit at all. The new Medicare law is bad for seniors and should be repealed; but in the meantime, at the very least, we must do no harm.

That's exactly what this bill intends to do.

TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN SOLDIER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from the Ninth Congressional District of Florida. Lance Corporal James Phillips, from Plant City, Florida, was shot and killed as Marines were clearing houses in Fallujah, Iraq on December 23, 2004.

James' decision to join the Marines demonstrates his dedication and service to this Nation. Following high school, our young people have many opportunities and wide open doors to pursue their dreams. James chose the path of the Marines because he believed that it was his honor and duty to serve his Nation and protect our freedom. He did not choose this path because he thought that he would one day become a war hero or that this career would provide him a lucrative and extravagant life.

I know it has been a very hard and difficult time for James' family and friends, especially to lose him so close to the Christmas holidays. I hope they know that the Nation thanks him for his service and we appreciate the sacrifices they had to make for us as well.

Let freedom ring where all can hear it and let Lance Corporal James Phillip's memory be eternal.

HONORING THE 933RD MILITARY
POLICE COMPANY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress convenes, I am proud to rise in honor of the brave men and women of the Illinois Army National Guard's 933rd Military Police Company. I was honored to be invited to attend this unit's holiday ball on the evening of Saturday, December 11, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois.

While serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom, members of the 933rd MP Company were assigned to the 504th Military Police Battalion—the active component based in Fort Lewis, Washington. The 504th MP Battalion was assigned to the 220th Military Police Brigade of the U.S. Army Reserve—the theater military police brigade that is assigned to the 377th Theater Support Command, which supports the entire theater of operations.

I want to thank all soldiers and the families of those who served in the 933rd MP Company for the strength and courage they have demonstrated since Operation Iraqi Freedom was launched. We are very proud of their impeccable service record as well as their skill, bravery and professionalism, each of which have directly resulted in saving the lives of innumerable U.S. soldiers, Coalition troops, and Iraqi civilians. The 933rd is a credit to the Military Police Corps.

It is fitting that my first statement in this new Congress recognizes the brave men and women of the 933rd MP Company. Accordingly, we in Congress will endeavor to measure up to the valor of the soldiers of the 933rd, who make the city of Chicago and indeed the entire state of Illinois so very proud. We shall strive to make sure that maximum production and surplus equipment is provided to our troops to safeguard their lives as they carry out the crucial mission of maintaining the peace across Iraq.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
HONORING CELIA CRUZ BY
AWARDING HER THE CONGRES-
SIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer legislation to honor my great friend, the music icon, Celia Cruz, who lost her courageous battle with cancer on July 17, 2003.

Today, in the People's House, I am joined by my colleague, Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, to introduce legislation that will posthumously award Celia Cruz the Congressional Gold Medal.

Celia de la Caridad Cruz Alonso was born on October 21, 1924, in Havana, Cuba. Her career blossomed when she left Cuba for the United States in 1960, where she eventually made Fort Lee, New Jersey her home.

Over a five-decade career as an entertainer, Celia Cruz became known as the "Queen of Salsa," and claimed the calling card cry of "Azucucar!" Celia's passion, boundless en-

ergy, and charisma transfixed generations of salsa fans and musicians. She recorded more than 70 albums and her collaborative efforts with other performers including the legendary salsa artist Tito Puente, pop star David Byrne, and hip-hop producer Wyclef Jean helped break down ethnic and cultural barriers. She was one of the few bridges that crossed cultural and racial divides.

Celia's musical talent earned her hundreds of awards worldwide, including five Grammy's, two Latin Grammy's, and the National Medal of Arts, the highest honor bestowed on an artist in the United States. She was a Hispanic Heritage Awards Lifetime Achievement recipient, and has a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. Her music was a unifying force, and her passion for a free Cuba was evidenced in both her music and her words.

Celia touched the lives of millions. More than 100,000 individuals mourned her loss at her wake in Miami, Florida and 75,000 people lined the streets of Manhattan to pay their respects as her funeral procession made its way through the streets of New York City.

Celia Cruz made countless contributions to American society and the world as an entertainer, and she was an ambassador of Latino culture and a voice of freedom. Her music, her words, and her love of freedom live on. This legislation would make Celia the first Latina to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge the leadership to bring it swiftly to the Floor for a vote.

PREPARING FOR THE
PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I support passage of S. Con. Res. 2, which would re-establish the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies to continue preparations for the presidential inauguration at the U.S. Capitol on January 20, 2005 and authorizes the use of the Capitol Rotunda for the proceedings.

This non-partisan joint committee was originally created last year by concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 94, to begin its work, but since resolutions do not carry over from one Congress to the next, it expired automatically on January 3, 2005, along with the 108th Congress. That is why this routine action is necessary today.

Congress passes this concurrent resolution every four years. The Speaker, Majority Leader and Minority Leader were originally appointed to represent the House on the joint committee and will be re-appointed to continue in those roles.

As for the use of the Rotunda authorized by Section 2 of S. Con. Res. 2, we traditionally pass this measure at the beginning of any Congress following a presidential election in order to accommodate security planning and rehearsal for the inaugural, since the Rotunda is routinely used for ceremonial purposes during the inauguration and could host the event itself, depending on the weather at that time. A similar concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 93) was also passed last year during the

108th Congress to allow early planning for the inaugural to begin, but, like any resolution, it expired on January 3. That is why this action renewing the authority is necessary today. Therefore, I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution so that we can move forward with Inaugural ceremonies.

SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT OF
2005

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Safe Drinking Water for Healthy Communities Act of 2005. This legislation will require the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a national primary standard for drinking water for perchlorate, a component of rocket fuel used heavily by the military and its defense contractors.

Communities across the country are finding perchlorate in their drinking water, groundwater, irrigation water, soil and food. Perchlorate has been linked to disruption of the thyroid, resulting in behavior changes and delayed development in children and thyroid tumors in adults. Today more than 120 wells in Los Angeles County have been found to be contaminated with varying levels of perchlorate and my community alone faces costs of at least \$200 million over the next 15 years to manage and contain perchlorate.

Perchlorate removes valuable water supplies from service and can contaminate our food supply. Yet there exists no enforceable public health standard to ensure our drinking water is safe and to prevent further contamination. At the current rate the Environmental Protection Agency has stated it could not begin to promulgate a public health standard for perchlorate until 2007, if it chooses to do so. Ultimately it is the responsibility of Congress to make sure that the public can trust its water supply, that water providers have guidance, and that those responsible for contamination know that contaminating the water supply and threatening public health is not acceptable.

This bill requires the EPA to establish an enforceable national primary drinking water standard by July, 2007. Without this, there is no requirement for water to have safe levels of perchlorate and water providers will continue to struggle with guaranteeing long term reliability of safe water sources. Inaction poses an unreasonable risk to both our valuable water supply and our health.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
DEMOCRACY DAY ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Democracy Day Act of 2005, legislation that would establish each Tuesday,

after the first Monday in November (in even-numbered years), as a legal public holiday.

The Democracy Day Act of 2005 is designed to respond to the alarming trend of voters being unable to cast their vote due to work or other important commitments. According to a recent Census Bureau study, nearly 25 percent of eligible voters cited time constraints or busy work and school schedules as the primary reason for failing to vote in the past 2000 presidential election. The creation of a federal election holiday would help address this problem by providing many hardworking Americans with the necessary time off from work so they can vote. Furthermore, the bill would have the added benefit of: Increasing the number of available election day judges, poll workers and suitable polling places; decreasing long lines and the overcrowding that occurs during peak times on election day; and reinforcing the notion that voting is an important civic duty.

This Congress must ensure that every American has an equal opportunity to participate in the voting process. Enacting the "Democracy Day Act of 2005" would be a crucial first step towards achieving that objective.

The legislation is strongly supported by a wide array of voting rights and labor organizations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH
IMPROVEMENT AND PROFES-
SIONALS ACT OF 2005

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is well documented that many states, including my home state of California, are currently suffering from a nursing shortage that, if left unchecked, will quickly reach epidemic proportions. More than 126,000 nursing positions in hospitals around the country are unfilled, according to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. In addition, the workforce is shrinking, because it's aging (and retiring) at twice the rate of other occupations. While the problem of nursing shortages will require a multifaceted solution, I was shocked to learn recently that entry into the United States by many qualified nurses was being delayed entry because of an easily correctable bureaucratic regulation. We cannot simply stand by and allow the nursing shortage to ensnarl the quality of American health care, and that is why I am introducing the Health Improvement and Professionals Act (HIPA) of 2005.

Due to a change in procedures by the Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) of the Department of Homeland Security, the federal agency responsible for processing citizenship and immigration applications, it became necessary to impose a cut-off date in order to process a backlog of work-related immigration applications. As a result, CIS recently announced that it would no longer consider employment-based visa applications from the Philippines, India or China that were filed after January 1, 2002. Due to the unfortunate shortage of American nurses, many of our nation's hospitals are dependent on filling their nursing ranks with new workers from these countries. My legislation, the Health Improvement and

Professionals Act of 2005, would provide a common-sense, short-term solution to the problems caused by the CIS policy change, while still allowing the agency to do the necessary and important work of processing its backlog.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation simply allows CIS to recapture unused work-based immigration quota numbers from countries that have undersubscribed their own allowable visa numbers. By reassigning unused quota allotments from previous years, we would allow more qualified nurses to come to this country, bringing their crucially needed skills with them. Let me be clear, the HIPA Act of 2005 does not increase the number of immigrants allowed into our country. Instead, my legislation ensures that we are putting to full use the number of workers' visas currently allowed by law, in order to fulfill a crucial and exponentially increasing worker shortage.

The HIPA Act is modeled directly on the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-First Century Act, which Congress passed, and President Clinton signed into law nearly five years ago, in response to the shortage of highly skilled computer programmers and information technology workers needed to fuel the Internet boom of the late 1990's. Like the HIPA Act of 2005, that law allowed for the recapture of unused employment-based visas to fill a necessary labor shortage.

The growth of the nursing shortage is easily traceable—one only has to look to the fact that in 2002, 30 states were reportedly experiencing some level of nursing shortages. This number is expected to rise to 45 states by 2012. The scope of this problem is compounded by the fact that many of today's nurses are nearing retirement, and so our country is facing the compounded problem of increased retirements coupled with increased demand. This problem is well known to the federal government, as the Department of Labor has noted that one million new nurses will be needed by 2012 to meet the growing health needs of our country.

Some may criticize my legislation for bringing nurses into the country instead of training American men and women to do the job. Unfortunately, enrollments in baccalaureate nursing programs at colleges and universities across the United States have declined for five consecutive years. Even in states where the programs are full, as in my state of California, nearly 70% of all nurses are trained by community colleges. Many of the programs at these schools in California are full, and some even have substantial waiting lists of eager students ready to learn about the exciting and rewarding profession of nursing. I will continue to work to expand the capacity of nurse training programs in our country to help relieve this shortage. However, the shortage in California is so severe that even if all of the nursing programs in the state were to double their enrollments, California would still not be able to meet her nursing needs in the year 2010.

Mr. Speaker, the lack of nurses in our hospitals has a direct effect on the quality of the health care these facilities can provide. The shortages currently experienced in 30 states affects all patients, from those in operating rooms and intensive care units to those who treat children and cancer patients. In fact, according to a study conducted by the Harvard School of Health and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, over 50% of physicians

surveyed believed that the nursing shortage is a leading cause of medical error. Additional studies and surveys published in the New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, and by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations all confirm that the shortage of RNs is influencing the delivery of health care in the United States and negatively affecting patient outcomes. It is completely unacceptable in 21st century America that these preventable deaths are occurring. I hope my colleagues are as appalled about this as I am and that they will join me in supporting this common sense and critically important legislation. While we search for a longer-term solution to the problems as well as the causes of this nursing shortage crisis, the Health Improvement and Professionals Act of 2005 will provide a desperately needed injection of health care professionals into this country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRAD
ROWSE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, Mr. HAYES, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. KIND, Mr. PUTNAM and all the Members of the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus received tragic news that Brad Rowse, Manager of Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation's (CSF) State Caucus program and the new National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses died of an aneurysm on Monday, December 27, 2004. He was 26 years old.

Brad was a dedicated and highly respected member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation joining the organization two years ago to help lead the early efforts to expand the sportsmen's caucus model to state legislatures. A native of upstate New York, Brad grew up hunting and fishing on his family's farm where he grew a passionate fondness for the outdoors. He used his undergraduate work at Cornell University and his Masters from SUNY Syracuse to focus on natural resource policy with the goal of adapting, improving and creating programs and policies to improve our fish and wildlife resources. Before coming to the CSF, he interned with The Wildlife Society and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Washington, DC.

The unique combination of skills that Brad had acquired served him well during his time with the CSF. As the CSF State Caucus Manager, he built the program from its early beginnings to the national network of state caucuses that was launched on December 5, 2004. Brad took primary responsibility for monitoring sportsmen's issues at the state level and for building relations with state legislators and sportsmen's groups to create a unified voice for sportsmen. Through Brad's leadership and dedication there are now 21 state sportsmen's caucuses and a new National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses to support their growth and success.

America's sportsmen and women will miss his leadership and commitment to protecting our natural resources and hunting and fishing heritage.

EMBRACING THE CONSTITUTION
FLAG

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, since September 11th, 2001, this nation has engaged in a debate over how best to balance national security with civil liberties. "They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty or security." Those words are as true today as they were when Ben Franklin said them at the dawn of American democracy.

It was in that spirit that a patriotic New Yorker named Bob Pergament designed the "Constitution Flag." The new symbol, an American Flag with the Constitution superimposed in the outline of the United States, reminds us never to undercut the freedoms guaranteed to each individual in the Constitution.

While nothing can ever replace our beloved "Old Glory," this new emblem is currently flying in homes, city and town halls, and law classrooms across the country. It is on display at the American Library Association's Chicago headquarters and the city of Mount Vernon, NY has officially adopted the flag as the city's symbol.

As we in Congress continue to struggle with ways to keep Americans safe, we should honor those who are working to highlight the civil liberties at the foundation of our democracy. I urge my colleagues to join me in embracing the Constitution Flag as an invaluable reminder of what keeps American strong.

FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
ENDORSES FREEDOM
FOR KHALISTAN—SOVEREIGNTY
WILL END OPPRESSION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on December 8, the Tribune newspaper out of Chandigarh, Punjab reported that a former Member of Parliament, Simranjit Singh Mann, had endorsed sovereignty for the Sikh homeland, Khalistan. His endorsement is part of a rising tide that includes the Punjab government declaring its sovereignty when it ended its water agreements with the other states in India.

I note that Mr. Mann said that the Sikhs are a separate nation and promised to lead a movement to liberate Khalistan. I hope that he keeps his promise. My friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan and an invaluable resource for information about South Asian affairs, has been saying the same things for several years. It seems that India's oppression that killed a quarter of a million Sikhs and keeps more than 52,000 of them as political prisoners has failed to dampen the desire and enthusiasm of the Sikhs for their own sovereign, independent country. I salute Mr. Mann's position. It is important for leaders in Punjab to speak out strongly for Khalistan. We can help from here, but the effort must be won in Punjab, Khalistan itself.

Mr. Speaker, all peoples are entitled to live in freedom. The Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan made their choice on October 7, 1987 when they declared their independence from India, calling their new country Khalistan. India, which proudly claims to be democratic, refuses even to hold a free and fair vote on the question, just as India has never kept its promise of 1948 to hold a plebiscite on the future of Kashmir. How can a country do these things and claim to be democratic? Self-determination is the essence of democracy.

A new Congress gives us a new opportunity to take a stand for freedom in South Asia and around the world. We should stop all U.S. aid to India until it allows full democratic rights and full human rights to all people living within its borders and we should strongly support a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Nagaland, in Kashmir, and wherever people seek their freedom on the question of independence. By promoting such a plebiscite, we promote democracy and human rights for all people in that troubled region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's press release on Mr. Mann's remarks into the RECORD at this time.

MANN REVERTS TO SUPPORTING KHALISTAN

WASHINGTON, DC, DECEMBER 10, 2004—Once again, former MP Simranjit Singh Mann, leader of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar), has staked out a position in support of a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Speaking in Ludhiana on December 7 at a meeting of his party, Mann said that the SAD (Amritsar) would launch a peaceful movement to achieve a separate and sovereign Sikh state, according to the December 8 issue of The Tribune (Chandigarh.) Mann claimed that his party had never given up this position.

Mann reminded his party that Sikhs are a separate nationality. He said that the foundation for an independent Khalistan was laid by Guru Gobind Singh and furthered by Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and that this dream "will be materialized one day." Guru Gobind Singh gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation ("In grieb Sikhin ko deon patshahi.") Sikhs are a separate nation. Sikhs ruled Punjab up to 1849 when the British conquered the subcontinent. Mann noted that it is in the interests of all the people in the region to have a buffer state between India and Pakistan to help ensure lasting peace in South Asia, given the deep hostility between "Hindu civilization and Muslim civilization."

Mann's remarks show that the desire for Khalistan remains strong in the Sikhs of Punjab, said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for independence. Dr. Aulakh also cited the actions taken by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, such as declaring Punjab's sovereignty in stopping all water agreements between Punjab and other states, as moving toward this goal. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan. The Council of Khalistan was established at that time to lead the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement to liberate Khalistan from Indian oppression.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Recently, the Punjab Legislative Assembly passed a bill annulling all water agreements with the Indian

government, preventing the government's daylight robbery of Punjab river water. Punjab needs its river water for its crops. In the bill, the Assembly explicitly stated the sovereignty of Punjab.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

"It is encouraging that Mr. Mann has comeback to demanding Khalistan," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "This is another step forward for the movement to liberate our homeland from Indian oppression."

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

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR MARVIN L. HILL

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major Marvin L. Hill of Memphis Tennessee, and the dedication and courage with which he has served our Nation.

A warrior and exemplary combat veteran, Command Sergeant Major Hill will be moving onto the 1st Army, under Lieutenant General Russel Honore, overseeing training and mobilization readiness for Army National Guard Units within its area of responsibility. Command Sergeant Major Hill's distinguished career is particularly noteworthy for his contributions to the legacy of the 101st Airborne Division, "Screaming Eagles," the post he is departing.

Command Sergeant Major Hill joined the Army on January 18, 1978. After completing Basic Combat Training at Ford Leonard Wood, Missouri and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Benning, Georgia, he became an

Infantryman in May 1978. Most recently, he served a rotation in Operation Iraqi Freedom, as Division Command Sergeant Major for the 101st Airborne.

Command Sergeant Major Hill has held a myriad of assignments which include: 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis Washington; 3rd Battalion, 5th Infantry, 193rd Infantry Brigade, Fort Kobbe, Panama; two tours with 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment and one with 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky; 4th Training Brigade and United States Army Non-commissioned Officer Academy and Drill Sergeant School, Fort Knox, Kentucky; United States Corps of Cadets, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York; 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hovey, Republic of Korea; Staff and Faculty, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas; Headquarters 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment and Headquarters 2nd Brigade, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Command Sergeant Major Hill has occupied a multitude of positions: Rifleman to Command Sergeant Major in infantry units, Scout Platoon Sergeant, Battalion Operations Sergeant, Tactical Noncommissioned Officer (USMA), Drill Sergeant, Drill Sergeant Instructor, and as a Faculty Advisor at the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas. He also served as Task Force CSM for TF 1-502 Infantry, Multinational Force and Observers, Sinai, Egypt.

Command Sergeant Major Hill's military and civilian education is comprised of the Primary Noncommissioned Officers Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, First Sergeant Course, Drill Sergeant School, Air Assault School, Rappel Master Course, Master Fitness Trainers Course, and Sniper School. He is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Class 48. Command Sergeant Major Hill also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts from St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, New York.

In recognition of his honorable service, Command Sergeant Major Hill has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (five Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Noncommissioned Officers Development Ribbon (Fourth Award), the Good Conduct Medal (Seventh Award), the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (Second Award), the NATO Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal and the Multinational Force and Observers Medal (Second Award). In addition, he holds the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Drill Sergeant Identification Badge.

Command Sergeant Major Hill is married to the former Sharon Patton. They have one son, Curtis, and one grandson, Camron.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor Command Sergeant Major Marvin L. Hill for his distinguished service to our nation. He has demonstrated a laudable degree of leadership, courage, and hard work.

INTRODUCTION OF THE H.R. 28, THE HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the High-Performance Computing—or HPC—Revitalization Act of 2005, which will ensure that America remains a leader in the development and use of supercomputers.

When we think of how computers affect our lives, we probably think of the work we do on our office desktop machines, or maybe the Internet surfing we do in our spare time. We don't normally think of the enormous contribution that supercomputers—also called high performance computers—make to the world around us.

These powerful machines are used in the development of pharmaceuticals, in modeling the earth's climate, in applications critical to ensuring our national and homeland security, and to strengthen our economic competitiveness. High-performance computers also are central to maintaining U.S. leadership in many scientific fields. Computational science complements theory and experimentation in fields such as plasma physics and fusion, astrophysics, nuclear physics, and genomics.

Mr. Speaker, dramatic scientific and commercial breakthroughs will require increasing computing power by a factor of a hundred, or in some cases, by a factor of a thousand. While attaining these increases may seem daunting, the history of computer development has taught us that with a sustained commitment to research, such gains are within our reach.

For nearly three years, Japan was home to the world's fastest supercomputer, the Earth Simulator. But during those years, the United States remained a leader in high performance computing as home to many of the world's fastest supercomputers. For example, a list of the world's fastest computers released last spring documented that 10 of the top 20 supercomputers were in the United States at that time.

Then, just two months ago, the United States regained the lead when IBM's Blue Gene/L supercomputer was recognized as the fastest computer in the world. IBM and the U.S. supercomputing industry are to be commended for their impressive accomplishments.

These are accomplishments upon which we must build if the United States is to retain its leading role in the development and use of supercomputers.

That's why my legislation updates an important law not revised since it passed in 1991. The HPC Revitalization Act of 2005 clarifies the federal government's role in supporting supercomputing research and development in the United States. More specifically, my bill does four things:

First, it requires that federal agencies provide the U.S. research community access to the most advanced high-performance computing systems, and technical support for their users.

Second, there's more to supercomputing than building big machines. That's why the bill requires federal agencies to support all as-

pects of high-performance computing for scientific and engineering applications, including: Software, algorithm and applications development; Development of technical standards; and Education and training.

Third, the bill requires the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to direct an interagency planning process to develop and maintain a research, development, and deployment roadmap for the provision of high-performance computing resources for the U.S. research community. This provision will help ensure an ongoing, robust planning process for our national high-performance computing efforts.

Finally, the bill clarifies the missions of each of the federal agencies that have a role in developing or using High Performance Computing.

Mr. Speaker, at a full committee hearing on May 13 of last year, Dr. John Marburger, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, communicated the Administration's support for this bill.

Dr. Marburger and the Bush Administration recognize that we can't have world-class science if we don't have world-class computers. We cannot imagine the kinds of problems that the supercomputers of tomorrow will be able to solve. But we can imagine the kind of problems we will have if we fail to provide researchers in the United States with the computing resources they need to remain world-class.

That's why the House passed this same bill in the 109th Congress. It will guide federal agencies in providing needed support to high-performance computing and its user communities. Our nation's scientific enterprise, and our economy, will be the stronger for it.

To conclude, I want to recognize the bill's cosponsors, Chairman SHERWOOD BOEHLERT and Congressman LINCOLN DAVIS, and thank them for their support. I hope the rest of my colleagues will again support this legislation when it comes to the floor for consideration in the 109th Congress. With your help, we will ensure that the United States maintains its distinction as home to the world's most powerful computer.

THE LIFE OF FATHER MAC

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and reflect the life of Monsignor Ignatius McDermott, who many called Father Mac, a Chicago Priest who helped thousands of people with drug and alcohol abuse.

Father Mac was born on Chicago's South Side in 1909 to an Irish Catholic family. He attended St. Gabriel Catholic School and then graduated from the former Visitation Catholic School. He was ordained in 1936 after studying at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and Mundelein's St. Mary of the Lake Seminary.

During his leave from the seminary in 1930, Father Mac traveled daily through "Skid Row" to get to his job at Arlington Park racetrack. From his daily encounters of seeing the despair of alcohol and substance abuse, he

began ministering to the homeless and alcoholics—the forgotten populations. Working toward a solution, Father Mac founded the Addiction Counseling Education Services in 1961, which provided counseling to alcoholics and other substance abusers who had no other means to get help. He would later expand his work to the Chicago schools system, where he developed an alcohol education curriculum and fostered Alternatives to Expulsion, a program to help teachers salvage addicted teenagers who were willing to give up drinking and drugs and resume their studies.

After serving as a parish priest and Chicago Archdiocese administrator, Father Mac devoted full time to helping those who could not help themselves and co-founded Haymarket Center. This Center is the largest drug abuse treatment center in Chicago serving an average of 18,000 clients annually. Haymarket truly changes individuals' lives with providing integrated treatment services, job training and serves as one of the few facilities that assist addicted mothers through pregnancy seeing the delivery of over 900 drug free babies. Haymarket Center serves as a model for other treatment programs throughout the Nation.

Ironically, on New Years Eve, as Haymarket Center celebrated its 29th year, Father Mac passed at the age of 95. Sadly, we lose a man of unwavering faith, deep compassion, and tireless devotion to helping those who are among the most desperate and needy.

The Chicago Sun-Times call him Chicago's Living Saint. Others call him the patron saint of the addicted. It is hard to find words to describe the care, love and compassion Father Mac had for all people—especially those that everyone else forgot about.

Last Congress, I introduced a resolution with my colleagues from Illinois, Speaker HASTERT, Congressman LAHOOD, and the former-Congressman Lipinski to honor Father Mac with the Congressional Gold Medal. I would like to thank my 114 colleagues who cosponsored this legislation. In memory of Father Mac, one of his favorite quotes read: "When you no longer burn with love, others will die of the cold." St. Vincent DePaul,

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS TO ALL VIETNAM VETERANS ACT

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this Congress, legislation that I am reintroducing today.

The Fairness to All Vietnam Veterans Act directs the Secretary of Defense to find an appropriate way to recognize and honor Vietnam Veterans who died in service to our nation but whose names are not listed on the wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

A family in my district, Mary and Tom Manley of Long Beach California, brought the need for this legislation to my attention.

Tom Manley is a survivor of the U.S.S. *Frank E. Evans*.

The *Evans* sailed from the Port of Long Beach for the last time in the spring of 1969.

After seeing serious combat off the coast of Vietnam, the U.S.S. *Evans* was sent to a brief training exercise called "Operation Sea Spirit." This training exercise involved ships of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

In the early morning hours of June 3, 1969, the crew of the U.S.S. *Frank E. Evans* awoke to the sounds of an Australian carrier splitting their vessel in half. The forward half, where all 74 deaths took place, sank in three minutes. There were 198 survivors.

Although the *Evans* was in the South China Sea, these sailors' names are not listed on the Vietnam Memorial wall because the U.S.S. *Evans* was just outside the designated combat zone, which determines inclusion on the wall.

Unfortunately, the case of the U.S.S. *Frank E. Evans* does not stand-alone.

There are many families across the United States, like the Manleys in Long Beach, who have loved ones and friends that have been excluded from proper recognition—maybe even in your district.

It is time for the Department of Defense to examine current policies for placement on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

This legislation also calls on the organizations and government agencies that originally constructed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to examine the feasibility of inscribing additional names.

Should there be no practical way to add these names, the bill seeks appropriate alternatives for recognizing these veterans.

I ask Members to join me in properly honoring those Veterans who have given their lives for their country.

With the ongoing conflict in Iraq we are all acutely aware of the sacrifices our men and women in the military have recently made to ensure our nation's safety, security and our freedom.

A Nation is judged on how well they treat their Veterans. Let us not forget those of a past generation who fought for the freedom that we all cherish today.

Join me and support The Fairness to All Vietnam Veterans Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURE DOMESTIC CONTAINER PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2005

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this Congress, legislation that I have introduced today—The Secure Domestic Container Partnership Act of 2005.

This legislation directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to create a pilot program that encourages shipping handlers to seal empty shipping containers after they have unpacked them.

Under this pilot program, the Secretary may authorize a shipper, cargo carrier, freight forwarder, terminal operator, port authority, or labor organization that is a qualified container handler to secure under a seal approved by the Secretary, a shipping container that is emptied by the person.

It is my strong belief that this program, when fully implemented, will do so much for securing our supply chain, reducing congestion around our ports and intermodal centers while offering our shippers the opportunity to actively participate in securing our home front, our economic supply chain, our transportation infrastructure and most importantly our communities.

Last year, in response to the 9/11 Commission Report the Maritime and Coast Guard subcommittee took testimony from panelists responding to the Commission's findings and directives.

A scenario, presented to our Committee that characterized "cargo containers as a poor man's missile," struck me as all too real. In Southern California, the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles imported 68,000 containers a week in 2003. Combine exports and imports for 2003 and you have 125,000 containers that come in, out and through the most populous region in the country with seventeen million residents and growing—and with many high risk targets. Our streets, our communities, our rail infrastructure at any time are supporting full and empty containers.

Containers are as common in Southern California as lawyers are in Washington, DC. Look around you and you will know what I mean.

Now, if a container were to be compromised, empty or full, it would call into question the integrity of all containers on our highways and railways that travel along our entire transportation infrastructure and throughout our communities.

Placing a seal on an empty container is a cost effective common sense solution that further strengthens the partnership between the shipping community and the Department of Homeland Security against the ongoing war on terrorism.

Specifically, I would recommend that the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism or C-TPAT administer this program.

This initiative, under the Customs and Border Protection Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security, has a proven track record of doing great things with securing our supply line.

Through the C-TPAT initiative, Customs has been working in partnership with companies and carriers involved in importing goods into the United States.

Companies are asked to assess the vulnerabilities of their supply chains and to work with Customs to address any vulnerability.

In short, the C-TPAT initiative is the equivalent to the trusted traveler program for goods that the FAA is currently implementing for passengers.

The C-TPAT initiative would be an excellent partner and I would encourage the Secretary to take my recommendation.

Like the C-TPAT initiative, the pilot program created by enactment of The Secure Domestic Container Partnership Act of 2005 would be purely voluntary on the part of shippers.

This is a win/win for businesses, our transportation system and our communities.

I ask my colleagues to strongly support the "The Secure Domestic Container Partnership Act of 2005."

MOURNING THE LOSS OF SHIRLEY
CHISHOLM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to mourn the passing of my predecessor and mentor, former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

As the first African-American woman elected to Congress and the first African-American to seriously run for the office of the Presidency, Shirley was a trailblazer who opened the doors of opportunity for generations of women and minority politicians.

Her advocacy for the education of the disadvantaged, Title IX, and early childhood education established her as one of the foremost education policymakers during her seven terms in Congress. But her legacy did not end there. Unmatched as a voice for social justice, Shirley fought for the interests of groups like veterans, Haitian refugees and day workers.

A gifted orator, Shirley's "unbought and unbossed" political style allowed her to make friends and political alliances on both sides of the aisle. She was truly one in a million and I am honored to have been part of her Brooklyn political circle and to have worked along side her throughout her political career. Anyone who came in contact with Shirley Chisholm was forever changed for the better; she is one soul on this earth who is truly irreplaceable and she will be sorely missed by all of those who knew and loved her.

REMEMBERING SHIRLEY
CHISHOLM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I'm filled with great sadness that on the eve of the 109th Congress we mourn the passing of my longtime friend and colleague, Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to Congress and the first of her race to seek a major party nomination for the Presidency. She died at her Ormond Beach, FL home on New Year's Day at the age of 80.

I commend to my colleagues the following article describing a time in the life of Shirley Chisholm written by Wil Haygood in the Washington Post on January 4, 2005.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 4, 2005]

A WOMAN OF THE PEOPLE

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM TOOK A BACK SEAT TO NO ONE

(By Wil Haygood)

There was something so plain and yet so defiant about her. Studious and yet a little jazzy, especially in front of those Brooklyn church ladies.

Shirley Chisholm, the former congresswoman who died New Year's Day in Florida at age 80, came along at a moment in the 1960s when there was a bubbling symmetry between the women's liberation movement and the civil rights movement. She was holding two candles in the wind.

At church podiums in Brooklyn, she'd talk about babies eating paint they had peeled

from the walls, and she'd talk about malnourished schoolchildren, and she'd raise her fist, and her big mound of cloudlike hair would bob, and she would start to crying, tears rolling from beneath those beatnik-era glasses. She would turn her back to the audience—as if she couldn't stand her own tears—and then turn around to face the folk in the pews, and they'd be stomping.

"I used to say to her, 'You should go into drama,' " recalls Edolphus Towns, a Democratic congressman from Brooklyn. "She could drop tears at any time."

Chisholm began her working life in 1950s Brooklyn. She was the director of a day-care center and worked as an educational consultant for the city. The tots had parents and she befriended them and got herself elected to the New York State Assembly in 1964. She was headed to Albany, the same place that launched the national political careers of Theodore Roosevelt, Thomas Dewey, Franklin D. Roosevelt and many others.

In the '60s, the talk in New York of black political figures focused on names such as Basil Patterson, Percy Sutton, Charlie Rangel. They were young lions who belonged to Harlem political clubs. (There was also Adam Clayton Powell, the once-powerful congressman who had crawled back to Congress in 1969 after an expulsion and scandalous headlines. But his day was now gone.)

But Patterson and Sutton and Rangel suddenly had to yank their heads and look across the bridge, to Brooklyn.

Shirley who?

"Shirley came out of Brooklyn, and that was one of the roughest political arenas you can come out of—even today," says Rep. Rangel (D), who knew Chisholm for decades. "For her to succeed, she had to be a little strange—and certainly extraordinary."

In addition to being a woman and from Brooklyn, Chisholm was also—unlike Powell, Sutton, Rangel and Patterson—dark-skinned. Given the history of skin color, she had an extra ladder to climb, and did so with relish, carrying herself with the insouciance of the world's most attractive woman.

So there she'd be, needing a ride to Albany and getting herself over to Harlem so that Sutton, who was also in the assembly, could pick her up.

"Shirley would meet us on the corner of 125th and Seventh—now Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard—and ride with us to Albany," says Sutton. "We did that for two years."

Sutton noted something about Chisholm on those rides. She was hungry for debate: "Even if she agreed with you, she'd want to debate you!"

With the '60s drawing to a close, Chisholm was swimming in the waters of history. "She had the imagination," says Rangel, "of being first—and tenacious."

So she announced in 1968 that she was running for Congress. There were howls of laughter, though not from the church ladies, who saw themselves in the reflection of her beatnik eyeglasses.

In 1968, she became the first black woman elected to Congress. She grinned and gave the peace sign. It wasn't black power. It was Shirley power. She wound up serving seven terms.

She pushed for antipoverty legislation and became a star. Ebony magazine wanted her, and so did Ms. magazine. She appeared with Reps. Barbara Jordan and Bella Abzug. She was known as honest and honorable. "Chisholm would not set up any kind of a side deal for her mother, brother, or cousin," says William Howard, who served as her financial adviser.

When Chisholm announced a run for the presidency in 1972, it seemed a little strange. She was the first black to conduct a large-scale presidential campaign within one of

the major parties. The Congressional Black Caucus hardly had the numbers then that it has now, but she rolled her eyes when its members asked why she hadn't discussed her presidential plans with them. "Shirley had a lot of self-confidence," says Rangel.

"I Am Woman" by Helen Reddy was humming on the jukebox that year.

"Black people needed somebody," says Sutton. "We had lost Martin and Malcolm." He raised the first \$25,000 for her presidential campaign.

At the Democratic National Convention in Miami Beach, she was smiling from the podium—those glasses, that hair, the dark skin. Simply getting there was a huge victory.

"The next time a woman runs," she wrote in her 1973 autobiography, "The Good Fight," "or a black, a Jew or anyone from a group that the country is 'not ready' to elect to its highest office, I believe he or she will be taken seriously from the start. The door is not open yet, but it is ajar."

And, in time, they came: Geraldine Ferraro, Jesse Jackson, Joseph Lieberman.

The last time William Howard saw Chisholm was a year and a half ago in Manhattan. She had wanted to go dancing. She was peering at him, through those beatnik glasses, out on the dance floor, imploring him to tell the band to play something jazzy.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
FORMER REPRESENTATIVE
SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the memory of former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who was a national role model.

I followed in the footsteps of Rep. Chisholm in several respects, having served both in the New York State Assembly and in the House of Representatives. To my knowledge, we are the only two Democratic women from New York State to have that distinction.

Shirley Chisholm was a tireless advocate for social justice, and for that legacy our country will be eternally grateful.

As the first black woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress and to run for president of the United States, Shirley Chisholm threw open the doors to greater opportunities for women and minorities.

Along with Congresswoman Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan—also great women's rights leaders—Shirley Chisholm founded the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971. She also helped found the Congressional Black Caucus. Both of these organizations have served an important role in increasing representation of women and minorities in Congress.

I think it is important to note her life-long passion for improving educational opportunities for our Nation's youth, carrying on this tradition after her years in Congress by serving as the Purington Professor at Mount Holyoke College.

She also promoted increased assistance for urban areas, land rights for Native Americans, fair treatment of Haitian refugees, and more help for working-class families trying to make ends meet.

I join together with our Nation in honoring her life's work. Along with my colleagues, I co-sponsored a Congressional resolution today

that would honor her life. This resolution will help ensure that her legacy and the positive momentum that she initiated through her work would continue, and I urge the House to bring this resolution up for a vote without delay.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE
SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay honor to Representative Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress and a candidate for the presidency in 1972, and who passed away on Saturday in Florida at the age of 80. Representative Chisholm was elected to Congress in 1968 and served until 1982. During her seven terms, she was an outspoken advocate for women and minorities and a riveting speaker who often called on Congress to be more responsive to the public.

During her first term in Congress, Representative Chisholm hired an all-female staff

and spoke out for civil rights, women's rights, the poor, and against the Vietnam War. Throughout her tenure, she was a sought-after public speaker. Representative Chisholm was a cofounder of the National Organization for Women, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the National Women's Political Caucus. She was also the first black person to conduct a large-scale campaign for the presidency within the two-party system. As a candidate for the Democratic nomination in 1972, Representative Chisholm won 152 delegates before withdrawing from the race. When her ideological opposite, George Wallace, was shot, she surprised many by visiting him in the hospital.

Representative Chisholm was born Shirley Hill in New York on November 20, 1924, the oldest of four daughters of a Guyanese father and a Barbadian mother, who scrimped to educate their children. Representative Chisholm lived on her maternal grandmother's farm in Barbados from age 3 to age 11, where she attended a British grammar school and picked up the clipped Caribbean accent that marked her speech. She went on to graduate cum laude from Brooklyn College and earn a master's degree from Columbia University. She began her career as the director of a day

care center, then moved on to be an educational consultant for the New York City Bureau of Child Welfare. A long-time political activist, she became involved in Democratic politics and was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1964. During her tenure in the legislature, she proposed a bill to provide State aid to day-care centers and voted to increase funding for schools on a per-pupil basis.

After leaving Congress, Representative Chisholm was named to the Purington Chair at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts and also served as a visiting scholar at Spelman College. She received many honorary degrees, and her awards include Alumna of the Year, Brooklyn College; Key Woman of the Year; Outstanding Work in the Field of Child Welfare; and Woman of Achievement. She is the author of two autobiographical works, *Unbought and Unbossed* (1970) and *The Good Fight* (1973). Representative Chisholm was a pioneer in her time and her life should serve as an example of what can be accomplished if we have the courage and the strength to stand and fight for what we believe in. Her wit, wisdom, and leadership will be sorely missed.