

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THIS YEAR'S KQED'S LOCAL HERO AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we have just recently commemorated our national holiday recognizing the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and we are about to enter February, the month designated Black History Month. We as a nation recognize and celebrate the contributions of African Americans to our society. As part of that celebration, KQED Public Broadcasting has recognized six individuals and I rise today in order to pay tribute to these six, who have made significant contributions to the African American community.

KQED has provided the Bay Area with high quality noncommercial media since 1954. The station call letters represent an acronym for the Latin "quod erat demonstrandum" (which was to be demonstrated) a motto the station has continuously lived up to by airing programming that makes its listeners think, feel and explore new ideas. As part of its commitment to the public KQED recognizes and rewards those who work tirelessly, and sometimes thanklessly, to try and better the place they live with a "Local Hero Award". The Award spotlights the achievements in particular individuals and profiles them with KQED programming throughout the month.

This year KQED has chosen six extraordinary individuals who have dedicated their lives to improving their community. I would like to share a few words about each of these well deserving recipients.

Mr. Speaker, three of the recipients, Dr. Veronica Hunt, Dr. J. Alfred Smith Sr. and Terrance Kelly, have been tremendous examples in the field of education. Dr. Hunt has worked for the last 35 years to expand educational and job-training opportunities for the residents in her community. As the dean of the Southeast Campus of City College of San Francisco, she has expanded the school's curriculum and instituted new programs, including the Partnership to Achieve Academic Success, a wonderful mentoring program. She recently became involved in a program that moves incarcerated young people from the penal system to college.

Dr. Smith is the Senior Pastor at the Allen Temple Baptist Church as well as a professor at the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley, California. He has ranked among the 100 Most Influential Black Americans, and was named one of the Top 15 Greatest Black Preachers of 1993. Dr. Smith has authored 16 books, spoken throughout the world, and earned numerous awards, including the Greenlining Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Kelly provides guidance to many in the community through music. Terrance is the Artistic Director at the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, as well as the director of the Foothill

Community College Gospel Choir. He provides guidance to adults and children alike, as well as to stars like Linda Ronstadt and the Kronos Quartet. Terrance won an Emmy Award for the 1995 choral arrangement of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir's KGO-TV public service announcement.

Mr. Speaker, Mikael Wagner is a leader in the public health field. He has sought to empower those disenfranchised populations in the Bay Area, and has been instrumental in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention campaigns. He is also the founder and president of Promotions West, a public relations firm that helps local and national organizations implement community outreach strategies. He established a financial literacy training program called "MoneyWise", which has benefited thousands of people.

In the arts, Sally Joan Baker and Andre White are proven leaders capable of influencing their community on a grand scale. Ms. Baker has worked for the last 20 years trying to reach at-risk children through poetry. Sally is the Executive Producer and host of WEE POETS, a weekly television program where children ages 7 to 13 recite original poems on camera. She allows children to express themselves through poetry in front of a wide audience. She provides free television technician internships to unskilled, at-risk teens. The internships have led 95 percent of participants to major in broadcasting when they go to college.

Mr. Andre White is a renowned portrait painter. He was commissioned to paint the portrait of our friend and former colleague, Congressman Ron Dellums in 1996, which hangs in the House Armed Services Committee Room. Andre received a commission for the portrait of District Court Judge Vanessa Gilmore and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Andre's works are displayed in private and public collections across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of these extraordinary Bay Area residents. These activists are shaping the future of the next generation through the arts, in education and in the field of public health. Their contributions to the African American community are of the utmost importance and will be cherished for years to come.

HONORING BOY SCOUT TROOP 65 OF EXTON, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Boy Scout Troop 65 of Exton, Pennsylvania on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary.

Troop 65 is a tremendous group of young men that practices the policy of "boy-led and boy-run" in the development of team work,

leadership skills and personal responsibility. They develop the rules and standards to adhere to and work together to accomplish their many goals, and objectives. Interestingly, Troop 65 is also known locally as the "Cooking Troop." Troop 65's scouts have learned through the years to prepare and cook such delicious meals as chicken stir-fry, peach cobbler, and double chocolate cake.

Beyond the culinary arts, Troop 65 participates in many outdoor activities. The Troop camps one weekend a month in places throughout southeastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey. In addition to the traditional camping trips, Troop 65 also participates in such "High Adventures" as canoeing on the Shenandoah River. Also, each July, Troop 65 sends a contingent to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. This group is a select bunch who are elected to participate by peers and the Troop contributes half the fees for this trip.

Troop 65 is also actively involved in environmental stewardship. The Troop participates in the Adopt-a-Highway program on the Route 30 bypass in the area, which includes quarterly trips up and down the two mile stretch of road to collect litter.

In addition, Troop 65 has the distinguished honor of having graduated over 50 Eagle Scouts. The Eagle Scouts from Troop 65 have participated in numerous Eagle service projects across the region, including such locations as the Brandywine Valley Association, Okehocking Nature Preserve, West Chester Presbyterian Church, Uwchlan Friends Meeting House, and the Exton Community Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the scouts, great leaders, and scout parents of Troop 65 past and present for the outstanding contributions they have made in their community and for the positive development of the moral, physical, and emotional well-being of the young men who have participated in the Troop over the past 50 years.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF JUDGE JOHN V. CORRIGAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Judge John V. Corrigan, retired Ohio Appellate Judge, United States Veteran, beloved husband, father, friend and mentor to many. His brilliant legacy is reflected in the courtroom and throughout our community, where he was admired and respected for his insight, integrity and sincere concern for the people of Cleveland.

Judge Corrigan's steadfast work ethic and strong sense of service to others were inextricable facets of who he was and characterized how he lived his life. He grew up in

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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.

Cleveland, graduated from St. Ignatius High School, then worked his way through John Carroll University, where he graduated in 1943. Shortly thereafter, Judge Corrigan enlisted in the Army, where he participated in five European campaigns as a surgical technician during World War II.

After the war, he earned a law degree from the Western Reserve University School of Law, and began a private law practice. Judge Corrigan served on the Cleveland Municipal Court from 1953 until 1956. He was elected to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas in 1956, where he served until 1973. In 1991, Judge Corrigan retired after serving three terms on the 8th Ohio District Court of Appeals. His unequalled work ethic, keen legal mind, and uncompromising professional integrity continuously garnered the respect and admiration of all members of the court. While Chairman of the Civil Rules Committee, Judge Corrigan was a leader in the successful effort to streamline and unify the court process regarding civil cases. His dedication on behalf of the public good was present throughout his work, and served to uplift our entire judicial system.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Judge John V Corrigan. Courage, vision and integrity defined his life, and he will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him well. I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Eileen; to his children, Clare, Kate, Mary Ann, Eileen, Tom, Dan and Jack; and to his beloved grandchildren, extended family and many friends. Judge Corrigan's life was one of joy, energy and unwavering service to others. His faith in our system of justice will continue to serve as a guiding force and brilliant example of truth, fairness and equity for all.

THE FAMILY EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Family Education Freedom Act, a bill to empower millions of working and middle-class Americans to choose a non-public education for their children, as well as making it easier for parents to actively participate in improving public schools. The Family Education Freedom Act accomplishes its goals by allowing American parents a tax credit of up to \$3,000 for the expenses incurred in sending their child to private, public, parochial, other religious school, or for home schooling their children.

The Family Education Freedom Act returns the fundamental principle of a truly free economy to America's education system: what the great economist Ludwig von Mises called "consumer sovereignty." Consumer sovereignty simply means consumers decide who succeeds or fails in the market. Businesses that best satisfy consumer demand will be the most successful. Consumer sovereignty is the means by which the free market maximizes human happiness.

Currently, consumers are less than sovereign in the education "market." Funding decisions are increasingly controlled by the fed-

eral government. Because "he who pays the piper calls the tune," public, and even private schools, are paying greater attention to the dictates of federal "educrats" while ignoring the wishes of the parents to an ever greater degree. As such, the lack of consumer sovereignty in education is destroying parental control of education and replacing it with state control. Loss of control is a key reason why so many of America's parents express dissatisfaction with the educational system.

According to a June 2001 poll by McLaughlin and Associates, two-thirds of Americans believe education tax credits would have a positive effect on American education. This poll also found strong support for education tax credits among liberals, moderates, conservatives, low-income individuals, and African-Americans. This is just one of numerous studies and public opinion polls showing that Americans want Congress to get the federal bureaucracy out of the schoolroom and give parents more control over their children's education.

Today, Congress can fulfill the wishes of the American people for greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective only of the values and priorities of Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The \$3,000 tax credit will make a better education affordable for millions of parents.

Mr. Speaker, many parents who would choose to send their children to private, religious, or parochial schools are unable to afford the tuition, in large part because of the enormous tax burden imposed on the American family by Washington.

The Family Education Freedom Act also benefits parents who choose to send their children to public schools. Parents of children in public schools may use this credit to help improve their local schools by helping finance the purchase of educational tools such as computers or to ensure their local schools can offer enriching extracurricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services, such as tutoring, for their children.

Increasing parental control of education is superior to funneling more federal tax dollars, followed by greater federal control, into the schools. According to a Manhattan Institute study of the effects of state policies promoting parental control over education, a minimal increase in parental control boosts students' average SAT verbal score by 21 points and students' SAT math score by 22 points! The Manhattan Institute study also found that increasing parental control of education is the best way to improve student performance on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests.

Clearly, enactment of the Family Education Freedom Act is the best thing this Congress could do to improve public education. Furthermore, a greater reliance on parental expenditures rather than government tax dollars will help make the public schools into true community schools that reflect the wishes of parents and the interests of the students.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also aid those parents who choose to educate their children at home. Home schooling has be-

come an increasingly popular, and successful, method of educating children. Home schooled children out-perform their public school peers by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on nationally standardized achievement exams. Home schooling parents spend thousands of dollars annually, in addition to the wages forgone by the spouse who forgoes outside employment, in order to educate their children in the loving environment of the home.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, this bill is about freedom. Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No nation can remain free when the state has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family.

By moving to restore the primacy of parents to education, the Family Education Freedom Act will not only improve America's education, it will restore a parent's right to choose how best to educate one's own child, a fundamental freedom that has been eroded by the increase in federal education expenditures and the corresponding decrease in the ability of parents to provide for their children's education out of their own pockets. I call on all my colleagues to join me in allowing parents to devote more of their resources to their children's education and less to feed the wasteful Washington bureaucracy by supporting the Family Education Freedom Act.

INTRODUCTION OF ROCKY FLATS SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

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

The bill is similar to one I introduced in the 108th Congress. Like that bill, this one is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado, Mr. BEAUPREZ. I greatly appreciate his support.

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

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

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

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

That sounds like a reasonable requirement—and it would be appropriate for Rocky

Flats if we had adequate documentation of radiation exposures for the years when it was producing nuclear-weapons components as well as for the more recent time when DOE and its contractors have been working to clean it up and prepare it for closure.

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

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

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

My understanding of the need for this bill came from meeting with Rocky Flats workers and their representatives and from consulting experts.

I have particularly benefited from the great experience and expertise of Dr. Robert Bistline. Dr. Bistline has served as Program Manager of the Energy Department's Oversight of Radiation Protection Program at the Rocky Flats field office and has few if any peers in terms of his understanding of the problems addressed by the bill.

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

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

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

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

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

The model that has been used for dose reconstruction by NIOSH in determining whether Rocky Flats workers qualify for compensation

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

Some Rocky Flats workers, despite having worked with tons of plutonium and having known exposures leading to serious health effects, have been denied compensation under the Act as a result of potentially flawed calculations based on records that are incomplete or in error as well as the use of incorrect models.

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

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

That was the purpose of the compensation act. I am very proud that I was able to help achieve its enactment, but I am also aware that it is not perfect. Last year Congress made important changes that will remedy some of its shortcomings. This bill will make it better yet.

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

SECTION 1: SHORT TITLE, FINDINGS, AND PURPOSE

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

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

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

SECTION 2: DEFINITION OF MEMBER OF SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT

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

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

HONORING THE SERVICE OF PAUL KEARNS TO THE IDAHO NATIONAL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. Paul Kearns of Idaho Falls for his service as Laboratory Director of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL).

On February 1, Paul's tenure as Laboratory Director will come to an end and I want to thank Paul and his wife Lynn for their contribution to Idaho. Paul has guided the INEEL through a time of great change and challenge and he has been a true friend and champion of the lab and its employees.

When Paul took over as INEEL Laboratory Director, he reached out to employees, DOE and the Idaho congressional delegation to improve communication and understanding. That effort has helped the INEEL grow and prosper under Paul's leadership.

Under Dr. Kearns' guidance, the research and development programs of the INEEL have experienced significant growth and so has the recognition of the lab's accomplishments. The growth in R&D programs coupled with a sterling safety and performance record give the new Idaho National Laboratory a strong foundation for future growth and success.

Paul has been a respected leader in Idaho serving as a member of Governor Kempthorne's Science and Technology Advisory Council and a board member of the Idaho Nature Conservancy.

Paul and the Bechtel team have been very good for Idaho and the INEEL and while their association with the lab will soon end, we want to thank them for their efforts and support. I want to wish Paul and Lynn all the best as they embark on new challenges and opportunities.

REGARDING THE INTRODUCTON OF SPIRIT CORRIDOR LEGISLATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to introduce companion legislation to a bill being introduced by Senator BINGAMAN of New Mexico in the Senate. The Senator and I also introduced this legislation during the 108th Congress and I am hopeful that we will make further progress on this issue during this session.

I am also very pleased to be joined once again by my colleagues Mr. JERRY MORAN of Kansas, Mr. FRANK LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. MAC THORNBERRY, Mr. SILVESTRE REYES and Mr. RANDY NEUGEBAUER of Texas, and Mr. STEVE PEARCE, one of my colleagues in the New Mexico delegation, in introducing this legislation. Each of these Members were cosponsors last Congress and are demonstrating their commitment to achieving this corridor designation by joining me again.

This bill seeks to designate U.S. Highway 54 as a high priority corridor on the National Highway System. The corridor would be known as the Southwest Passage Initiative for Regional and Interstate Transportation Corridor, or the SPIRIT Corridor. U.S. 54 runs from the border with Mexico at El Paso, Texas, through New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma, to Wichita, Kansas. This legislation will help improve transportation infrastructure and stimulate economic development in the communities and states through which U.S. Highway 54 passes.

Mr. Speaker, those who live in the eastern United States know that communities are more compact and the commutes much shorter. For the intermountain west, on the other hand, it is not unheard of for people to have to commute 80 miles to work and 80 miles back home. That is just one of the reasons designating U.S. 54 as a high priority corridor is so important to improving the transportation infrastructure and promoting economic development. Safe and efficient highways are critical to all types of traffic, whether it be tourists visiting or goods being shipped from point to point. Designating U.S. 54 as a High Priority Corridor will make it eligible for additional federal grants and transportation funds, which will, in turn, help upgrade the highway and improve its safety and efficiency.

I was pleased that the SPIRIT Corridor designation was included in H.R. 3550 during the 108th Congress, and will again seek inclusion of the designation in any transportation reauthorization legislation we consider this session. I urge my colleagues in the House to support the addition of the SPIRIT Corridor to the list of high priority corridors in our National Highway System.

HONORING PARSONS CHILD AND
FAMILY CENTER

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor an organization that has provided compassionate and dedicated service to children and families in New York for over 175 years. The Parsons Child and Family Center and their hardworking staff currently serve more than 7,000 children and their families, by providing residential and foster care services and by specializing in special education prevention and mental health services.

The mission of the Parsons Child and Family Center has evolved over time. Starting as a foster home for destitute children, this organization's primary goal today is the preservation of families. It has become a treatment-oriented institution offering intensive, therapeutic services to emotionally disturbed children. The Parsons Child and Family Center recognizes the vital role that a family plays in the upbringing of our children, and it does all it can to prevent the need for foster care placement. After a period of rehabilitation, the Parsons Child and Family Center endeavors to return these children to their families and communities as soon as possible.

The Parsons Center provides invaluable services to countless children and families

across New York State, children in dire need of special care and assistance. The tireless and selfless work of organizations like the Parsons Child and Family Center constitutes the foundation of our nation's communities and embodies the true spirit of the United States. America's greatness is found in ordinary citizens performing extraordinary acts of kindness.

The Parsons Child and Family Center is due recognition for their work with the American family. We should honor the devoted staff of this organization, not only for the lives they touch and the families they heal, but for the example they set for us all.

I ask my fellow members of the House of Representatives to send our gratitude to the Parsons Child and Family Center for its most praiseworthy work.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY
COLEMAN GILMER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Mary Coleman Gilmer on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Gilmer was born January 24, 1905 in Monroe County, Alabama, and is the oldest of eleven siblings. In 1926 she married Gaddie Gilmer, and moved to Montgomery where the couple first lived. Mrs. Gilmer graduated from Alabama State Teacher's College in the 1940s.

Mary Gilmer has been a servant of the Lord all her life, Mr. Speaker, having shared her love with family, friends and associates. She is known as a generous person, having given money and shelter to those in need over the years, all without want of recognition or thanks for her deeds.

Mary Gilmer is an active Christian, and has served as Minister of Music for the Shiloh Baptist Church Choir, the Branch Grove Missionary Baptist Church Choir, the St. James Missionary Baptist Church Choir in Deatsville, and the Revelation Missionary Baptist Church Choir. She is also a former member of the Old Ship of the Eastern Star Lodge #343.

To this day, Mrs. Gilmer still walks to St. James Baptist Church and frequently appears on many community programs such as the Nat King Cole Society program and the Montgomery Tuskegee Times Black History Awards Banquet. She also loves playing the piano.

Let us all pause to honor Mrs. Mary Coleman Gilmer today, Mr. Speaker, and join in the celebration of this blessed milestone in her long and fruitful life.

HONORING JACK B. REESE, DEL
NORTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jack B. Reese, member and Chairman of the Del Norte County

Board of Supervisors, who is being honored on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Reese was first elected to serve the citizens of Del Norte County in 1993. He has been an exceptional public servant throughout his long and prestigious career.

Jack Burle Reese received an Associate of Arts Degree in Police Science from Butte College, a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Sacramento and holds a lifetime Teaching Credential. He served the people of California as a Law Enforcement Officer for 30 years.

In twelve years of service as a member of the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors, Jack Reese championed many issues to improve the lives of his constituents and to bring prosperity to the community. He provided leadership for Del Norte County as Chairman of the Northern Rural Training & Employment Consortium, as Chairman of the Solid Waste Management Authority, as a member of the Regional Air Quality Control Board and as Chairman of the Local Transportation Commission. In addition, he served on the Del Norte Senior Center Board of Directors and the Local Agency Formation Commission.

Jack was a Command Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army and was a highly regarded member of the Crescent City Police Department and the Del Norte County Sheriff's Department. He attained management and executive certificates from the Commission on Peace Officer Standards as well as specialized certification from the State Department of Education and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

As a private entrepreneur, he owned and operated Reese Hydro Farms for over twenty years. He is a member of the Crescent City Car Club and founded the Sea Cruise car event. He is a Harley-Davidson enthusiast, an accomplished photographer, an amateur astronomer and a passionate karaoke singer.

Jack Reese is a native of Bellflower, California who has shared his life with his wife of 38 years, Kathryn. They have three children, Greg, Ryan and Angela and three grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Jack B. Reese for his commitment and dedication to his profession and for his service to the people of California.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
DIANE GARRISON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the courageous men and women of the Michigan State Police. Day after day, these brave individuals work together to ensure safe streets for the citizens of Michigan. On Friday, January 28, the Michigan State Police will gather to celebrate the retirement of First Lieutenant Diane Garrison, after 25 years of dedicated service to the force.

Diane Garrison enlisted with the Michigan State Police June 11, 1979, and graduated on September 26. During her distinguished career, she has been stationed at several posts, including Bay City, Lansing, Detroit, Brighton, Coldwater, and ultimately Flint, where she served as Post Commander until her retirement on December 31, 2004.

As a State Trooper, Diane has made it her life's work to protect and defend human dignity and the quality of life for our citizens. Many people, myself included, have greatly benefited from her experience and leadership. This extends to the community as well, where Diane is a proud member of St. James Catholic Church in Mason, and serves as a Kindergarten Religion Education teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the accomplishments and career of Diane Garrison. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in congratulating her for her unwavering commitment to justice, and wishing her well in her retirement as well as all her future endeavors.

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO JUDY
HART

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to recognize Judy Hart who is retiring after a 27-year career with the National Park Service.

Judy Hart is the first superintendent of Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California. The legislation creating the new national park was signed by the President October 24, 2000, and Ms. Hart began as Superintendent on January 15, 2001. Prior to becoming Superintendent Judy coordinated the study for the new park. Judy has been instrumental in moving the Rosie the Riveter National Park from concept to reality. She is the latest in a long list of remarkable women whose contributions here have shaped American history. She has devoted the last 4 years of her career to laying the foundation for a National Park that is not only a part of Richmond's unique heritage, but that also symbolizes a national effort to recognize the women whose important Home Front contributions helped win World War II and also changed the way our Nation thinks about civil rights, child care, health care and labor rights. Judy has skillfully brought together a large group of partners to make this effort a success. The challenges Judy has faced and the obstacles she has overcome are even more remarkable because, as a "partnership park," all of the land and buildings are owned by entities other than the National Park Service, and the federal funds available for start-up are limited. Working with a number of grants, volunteers and her public and private donors, Judy will turn over to her successor a sound structure on which to build.

Her accomplishments at RRNP include the following: overseeing the implementation of the General Management Plan process which she also is coordinating with the City of Richmond's general plan amendment; worked with the Port of Richmond to open Shipyard #3 to visitors; worked on the National Register nominations for all structures but one within the Park; and developed Phases one and two for oral histories of home front workers. Over 9,000 Rosies have contacted the Park to share their names and short stories. After connecting with the Park, over 2,000 Rosies have written out the whole story of their home front

adventures, up to 55 typed pages from one Rosie. Over 2,000 Rosies have donated their precious mementos, treasured for over 50 years, and now delivered to the safekeeping of the Park.

Her career in the Park Service spans 27 years. Prior to moving to California for this new position, Ms. Hart worked for 12 years in the Washington, D.C. headquarters. She was the first National Program Coordinator for the National Heritage Areas which are partnership areas privately owned and managed in cooperation with the NPS. Previous to that Ms. Hart developed the Conservation Study Institute, now operated in partnership with the University of Vermont and the new Marsh Billings National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont. Ms. Hart served in the Washington Office of Legislation for 6 years, supporting the creation of Petroglyphs National Monument, Marsh Billings National Historical Park, the Mary McLeod Bethune National Historic Site, and Manzanar National Historic Site, as well as many other park units.

Ms. Hart lived for 6 years in Seneca Falls, NY, and was the first superintendent of the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, after suggesting the idea, working on the study and working on the legislation. Prior to that Ms. Hart worked on park legislation out of the Regional office in Boston, MA.

Prior to her career with the Park Service, Ms. Hart worked for the Boston Redevelopment Authority, City of Boston, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as Director of the Bureau of Relocation. She also worked for the Federal Highway Administration on Environmental Impact Statement reviews.

She began her career in publishing at Little, Brown and Company, and as a company newsletter editor for the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, both in Boston. Her graduate degree is in English Literature from Cornell University, and her graduate degree is a Master of Arts in law from Goddard College in Vermont.

Mr. Speaker, because of Ms. Hart's many contributions to preserving and interpreting our Nation's history, it is proper for us, and it is my honor, to recognize her today.

HONORING LYNN VICTOR OF
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynn Victor of Santa Rosa, California, who retires after a remarkable 30-year career of creative and innovative work to improve the lives of low-income Americans.

Beginning at the Community Action Council of San Joaquin County in the 1970s, Lynn created innovative solutions to the needs of low-income communities. As energy costs rose, she helped to develop and then administered the nation's first home weatherization programs funded by state regulated utility companies. Based on its great success, regulated utility companies in 22 states now provide weatherization services to millions of their low-income customers around the Nation. These programs not only help disadvantaged families

reduce their energy costs, they also conserve energy for America, helping toward energy self-sufficiency and reduced dependence on foreign oil.

Lynn then went on to design the Nation's first education program to help low-income and non-English speaking communities understand the deregulation of the telephone industry, enabling them to obtain and keep vital telephone service at the lowest possible cost. She designed a program to help millions of low-income people understand the privacy and security implications of new telephone technology. In this effort, she created education materials in 32 languages and Braille so that, for the first time, major telephone companies were able to reach California's huge immigrant populations through community action agencies, domestic violence shelters and other community based organizations. Once again, this program became a model for utility companies throughout the nation to understand and address the needs of their hard-to-reach customers and bring them important consumer protection information.

Lynn's work has always featured collaborations with Community Action Agencies (CAAs) our Nation's network of over 1,000 anti-poverty agencies that serve millions of low-income Americans. CAA's operate Head Start, Energy Assistance Programs, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and other services that reach millions of disadvantaged Americans. For the past 4 years, Lynn has worked as Executive Director of the California/Nevada Community Action Partnership, helping this two state association of CAAs address the causes and symptoms of poverty in their communities.

An immigrant born in England, Lynn grew up in New Zealand, arriving in America in 1963. As a single parent of Michael, Elizabeth and Kristina Victor, Lynn had many hardships to face with no family to turn to. However, she found her new family in her community.

Mr. Speaker, as innovator, organizer and inspiration, this remarkable woman exemplifies the spirit of American immigrants who contribute so much to the vibrancy of our Nation. She is leaving her post having set a new standard for all who will follow after her, and she has put into place programs that will serve the neediest of us well in the future. Thank you, Lynn.

THANKING DOLLY SEELMEYER
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in December 2004, we rise to thank Ms. Dolly Seelmeyer for over 32 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Dolly began her career in government in 1972 in a "temporary 6-week position" in the Office of Photography. She followed that with being hired as the first female Photographer for the House of Representatives. Her passionate customer service, organizational knowledge and resourcefulness benefited six Speakers of the House, and more than 4,000 Members of Congress over three decades. Some say Dolly, herself, is an institution within

the Office of Photography. Dolly has displayed great passion for her work and dedicated herself to ensuring the needs of her customers were met with great enthusiasm.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Dolly for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Dolly many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
JOHN R. FECHKO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of John R. Fechko, devoted husband, father, friend, public servant and United States Veteran. Mr. Fechko's commitment to the safety of the residents of Seven Hills defined his 35 years of outstanding public service as a police officer, S.W.A.T. team member, and as Seven Hills Chief of Police for the past 20 years.

Mr. Fechko was a 1964 graduate of Parma Senior High School. Following graduation, he served in Vietnam with the United States Marine Corps. In 1969, he joined the Seven Hills Police Department as a patrol officer. Mr. Fechko was promoted to sergeant in 1981, and in June of 1984, he was instated as Police Chief of Seven Hills.

Mr. Fechko's dedication to his career extended beyond the borders of Seven Hills. He was always willing to help an individual, family or neighboring community in need. He handed down his safety experience and expertise to cadets in training at the Cleveland Police Academy—a role he held for 31 years. Additionally, Mr. Fechko was a lead initiator of the Tri-City task force. This vital program focused on educating residents about key safety community issues, including gang activity, intervention of at-risk youths, and juvenile crime prevention.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. John R. Fechko. As police officer and Police Chief of the Village of Seven Hills, Mr. Fechko dedicated his professional life to the safety of his officers and the security and safety of the entire Seven Hills community. I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Suzanne; his beloved son, Craig; his sister, Diane; and also to his extended family and many friends. His legacy of protecting others will live on within the hearts and memories of his family, friends, and the public he so faithfully served, today and for all time.

COMMENDING THE SAN MATEO
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CANINE
UNIT FOR EXCELLENT
COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to recognize the tireless work of

the forty-four year old San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit, as it continues to serve the people of San Mateo County. As the longest running canine unit in the state of California, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit is the only such unit in San Mateo County to provide full time patrol coverage, twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit was founded by Sergeant Bill Sweeney in 1961 with the purchase of three German shepherd dogs. Since its meager beginnings, the Canine Unit currently maintains twelve highly trained canine teams, which have various specialties. Each canine is trained in and performs general patrol practices such as obedience, handler protection and suspect searches. These canine teams are also assigned to and trained in expert detection of narcotics, tracking and explosives.

Over four decades of service, the Canine Unit has located hundreds of wanted felony suspects, uncovered tons of narcotics, and performed numerous explosive detection sweeps for United States' presidents, Senators, Representatives and foreign dignitaries.

In addition to protecting the citizens of San Mateo County, the Canine Unit also performs an average of thirty canine demonstrations per year for community and church groups, and middle and elementary schools. I became acquainted with this excellent Unit and its myriad accomplishments and abilities at one of these superb demonstrations.

On October 16, 2004, in conjunction with the public opening of "Art that Speaks for Homeless Pets," an art exhibit by animal rights activist and artist Cyrus Mejia, and photographer Clay Myers, at the San Mateo County History Museum, my wife Annette and I had the pleasure of attending one of these demonstrations. The Canine Unit brought five impressively trained German Shepherds to illustrate the precision and professionalism with which both the canines and their officers carry out explosive and narcotic detection.

I'd like to recognize the capabilities of the five teams that successfully entertained and educated the attendees:

Deputy Andy Armando and K9 Ando
Deputy Rod Larmour and K9 Abe
Deputy Todd Finato and K9 Vito
Deputy Keith James and K9 Haus
Deputy Sean O'Donnell and K9 Colt.

While I am an adamant animal lover and animal rights activist in my own right, indisputably, I was not the only spectator captivated by the animals discipline and sweetness. Indeed, all individuals in attendance were astonished and delighted to see the work of these loyal, well-trained canines and their equally dedicated officers.

According to Sergeant Mark M. Duri, Bomb Technician and Canine Trainer, the goal of these demonstrations is to educate the public of the great service the twelve canine and handler teams provide for San Mateo County. Moreover, the demonstration also functions to educate younger school children on the dangers of drug abuse and entanglement.

It is with gratitude to the long standing quality of service and protection provided for the residents of San Mateo County, that I sincerely commend the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit's continued excellence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIBERTY
AMENDMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Liberty Amendment, which repeals the 16th Amendment, thus paving the way for real change in the way government collects and spends the people's hard-earned money. The Liberty Amendment also explicitly forbids the federal government from performing any action not explicitly authorized by the United States Constitution.

The 16th Amendment gives the federal government a direct claim on the lives of American citizens by enabling Congress to levy a direct income tax on individuals. Until the passage of the 16th amendment, the Supreme Court had consistently held that Congress had no power to impose an income tax.

Income taxes are responsible for the transformation of the federal government from one of limited powers into a vast leviathan whose tentacles reach into almost every aspect of American life. Thanks to the income tax, today the federal government routinely invades our privacy, and penalizes our every endeavor.

The Founding Fathers realized that "the power to tax is the power to destroy," which is why they did not give the federal government the power to impose an income tax. Needless to say, the Founders would be horrified to know that Americans today give more than a third of their income to the federal government.

Income taxes not only diminish liberty, they retard economic growth by discouraging work and production. Our current tax system also forces Americans to waste valuable time and money on compliance with an ever-more complex tax code. The increased interest in flat-tax and national sales tax proposals, as well as the increasing number of small businesses that question the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) "withholding" system provides further proof that America is tired of the labyrinthine tax code. Americans are also increasingly fed up with an IRS that continues to ride roughshod over their civil liberties, despite recent "pro-taxpayer" reforms.

Mr. Speaker, America survived and prospered for 140 years without an income tax, and with a federal government that generally adhered to strictly constitutional functions, operating with modest excise revenues. The income tax opened the door to the era (and errors) of Big Government. I hope my colleagues will help close that door by cosponsoring the Liberty Amendment.

BILL TO PERMIT BETTY DICK TO
CONTINUE USE OF HER HOME IN
GRAND COUNTY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to permit Ms. Betty Dick to continue her use and occupancy of a house located within Rocky Mountain National

Park. The bill is cosponsored by my Colorado colleague, Representative TANCREDO. I greatly appreciate his support.

The purpose is to allow an 82-year-old Grand County grandmother to continue to live in this house for the rest of her life, as she has done for 25 years under a legal agreement between her late husband and the National Park Service. That agreement ends on July 16 of this year. Without this bill or a new agreement with the National Park Service, at that time Ms. Dick, who has been a good neighbor with the National Park and who has opened her home for community events, will be evicted from this property.

Such an eviction is neither necessary nor desirable. Ms. Dick has been a good neighbor, has taken good care of the property and has not created management or administrative problems for the National Park Service in the years she has lived on this property. She should be allowed to continue to live on this property and continue to contribute to the National Park and the surrounding community.

I had hoped that Ms. Dick and the Interior Department could work out a resolution to this issue so that she could remain on her property.

Last year I asked Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton to help make that happen. But the response—from the Director of the National Park Service's Intermountain Region—was that the Interior Department is “legally bound to honor the provisions of the [1980] settlement agreement” and that the furthest the Department would go would be to offer Ms. Dick “the opportunity to remain on the property for the entire summer of 2005,” an offer that evidently she has declined.

Ms. Dick needs to have a resolution to this issue as soon as possible—she needs to know by this spring whether she has to start packing her things and move out, or arrange to do some maintenance on the property if she is allowed to stay. I am not convinced that the Interior Department lacks the authority to resolve this matter by entering into a new agreement with Ms. Dick. But in any event, my bill would settle that question.

Since I first raised this matter with the Interior Department, I have been impressed with the outpouring of support from the nearby communities of Grand Lake and Granby, Colorado. The people in these communities have expressed a strong desire to have Ms. Dick remain on this property and be a part of their community. That is the purpose of this bill. For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching background information and an outline of the bill:

BACKGROUND

Prior to their divorce, a married couple, Fred Dick and Marilyn Dick, owned as tenants in common a tract of land within the boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park that included the property covered by the bill.

When Fred and Marilyn Dick were divorced, Marilyn Dick became the sole owner of the tract, but Fred Dick retained the right of first refusal to acquire it if Marilyn Dick ever chose to sell it.

In 1977, Marilyn Dick sold the tract to the United States for addition to Rocky Mountain National Park, but Fred Dick, asserting his right of first refusal, sued to cancel the transaction.

In 1980, that lawsuit was settled through an agreement between the National Park Service

and Mr. Dick and his heirs, successors and assigns. Under the settlement agreement, Mr. Dick and his new wife, Ms. Betty Dick, were allowed to lease and occupy the 23 acres comprising the property identified in section 2(b) for 25 years. Mr. Dick died in 1992, but Betty Dick has continued to lease and occupy the property identified in section 2(b) under the terms of the settlement agreement.

Betty Dick's right to lease and occupy the property will expire on July 16, 2005, at which time Ms. Dick will have attained the age of 83 years. She wishes to continue to occupy the property for the remainder of her life, and has sought to conclude a new agreement with the National Park Service that would permit her to do so. However, the Park Service has not been willing to agree to such an arrangement and is demanding that she vacate the property by July 16, 2005.

Since 1980, Betty Dick has consistently occupied the property as a summer residence and has made it available for community events. During that period, she has been a good steward of the property. Her occupancy has not been detrimental to the resources and values of Rocky Mountain National Park and has not created problems for the National Park Service or the public.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The legislation reflects the fact that it is appropriate for Betty Dick to be permitted to continue her occupancy of the property covered by the bill or the remainder of her natural life under the terms and conditions applicable to such occupancy since 1980. The purpose of the bill is to require the Secretary of the Interior to permit this.

OUTLINE OF THE BILL

Section 1 provides a short title, sets forth findings regarding background information and states the purpose of the legislation.

Section 2 has four subsections—

Subsection 2(a) would require the Secretary of the Interior to permit continued use and occupancy of property described in subsection (b) by Betty Dick for the remainder of her natural life, subject to the requirements of the bill.

Subsection 2(b) identifies the property covered by the bill through an appropriate map reference.

Subsection 2(c) provides that Ms. Dick's occupancy and use of the property covered by the bill is to be subject to the same terms and conditions as have applied to such use and occupancy under the 1980 agreement between the National Park Service and Ms. Dick's late husband, except that Ms. Dick is to make annual rental payments equivalent to 1/25th of the up-front amount that the agreement required to be paid to the National Park Service in 1980.

Subsection (d) states that nothing in the bill is to be construed as permitting construction of any new structure on the property covered by the bill and that nothing in the bill would apply to occupancy or use of the property by anyone except Betty Dick.

H.R. XXXX, EXTENSION OF THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL HIRE VETERANS COMMITTEE

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, fundamentally, hiring former servicemembers is a good business decision. They are a competitive business asset and a unique national resource. They represent the very best of commitment, reliability, and resolve.

In the 107th Congress, President Bush signed into law the Jobs for Veterans Act (Public Law 107-288), which I authored with my friend SILVESTRE REYES. It established the President's National Hire Veterans Committee (NHVC) with a mission to reach out to employers and make them fully aware of the skills and attributes veterans offer to the civilian workforce. As we fight the war on terrorism, America's sons and daughters continue selflessly to volunteer for military service and then join the civilian workforce better prepared to make a significant contribution to our private economy. The NHVC expires on December 31, 2005.

Since its genesis in 2003, the President's National Hire Veterans Committee has initiated a nationwide marketing campaign which has brought more employers seeking veterans to the Department of Labor's One-Stop Career Centers.

NHVC launched a sophisticated website, www.hirevetsfirst.gov that helps employers and veterans while embracing the existing workforce development systems. Prior to this website there was no single national location of which I am aware for the either the employer or the veteran to find relevant information about each other.

NHVC initiated a unique advertising campaign to attract human resource specialists, business executives, and public sector employers. These are highly effective ads conveying a message of the value that veterans bring to the workplace. To guide employers to the website, a wrap-around cover “outsert” program, mailed to selected executive readers of Business Week, contains interviews with four business leaders including Robert Lutz, Vice Chairman of General Motors; Jackson Moore, CEO-designate of Regions Financial Corporation; and Bob Nardelli CEO of Home Depot.

NHVC has also been a catalyst for local and statewide initiatives to support jobs for veterans. NHVC worked with the governors of many states, including my home state of Idaho, to declare Hire Vets First month. The Committee is working directly with employers throughout America, and in a cooperative venture with NHVC, Home Depot hired over 13,000 veterans in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to convey the message of the competitive value and bottom-line results that veterans add to our economy. We must ensure that we as a nation properly leverage in our domestic economy the investment of over \$17 billion a year in training our military. But more importantly, we must continue to commend the virtues of our veterans who have the ability to learn new skills, and a propensity for teamwork, self discipline, loyalty and many other characteristics

that translate into productivity, innovation, and leadership.

Hiring former servicemembers is good for business, it's good for veterans, and it's good for America. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. XXXX, providing for a 3-year extension of the President's National Hire Veterans Committee.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
THOMAS C. SHORT, INTER-
NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF IATSE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Thomas C. Short, President of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists, and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada (IATSE), as he was recently awarded the "The Actors' Fund Medal of Honor" by the Actors' Fund of America.

Mr. Short's commitment to the rights and welfare of workers in the entertainment and broadcasting industries spans more than thirty years. In 1968, Mr. Short first became a member of the Stagehands Local No. 27, located in Cleveland, Ohio. Ten years later, Mr. Short was elected to the office of President of Local No. 27.

In 1988, Mr. Short was elected by IATSE members to the position of Eleventh International Vice President, following the path of his father, who served as International Vice President for many years. Since 1994, Mr. Short has served as International President of IATSE. Because of his vision, leadership, and ability to energize others, every facet of the union has been fortified and enhanced. During his tenure, membership has increased from 65,000 to 103,000, with more than 75 national term agreements. Mr. Short also restructured IATSE into five departments: Stage Craft, Motion Picture and TV Production, Organizing, Trade Show, and Canadian Affairs.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Thomas C. Short, for his outstanding service as member, leader and International President of IATSE. Mr. Short's dedicated focus and tireless efforts on behalf of all members of IATSE serves as an agent of strength and shield of protection for the heart of this nation—the American worker.

INDIAN SCHOOL BUS ROUTE SAFE-
TY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2003

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise to introduce companion legislation to a bill being introduced by Senator JEFF BINGAMAN in the Senate today. I am extremely pleased to be joined in introducing this legislation, the Indian School Bus Route Safety Reauthorization Act of 2005, by Congressman JIM MATHESON of Utah and

Congressman RICK RENZI of Arizona, both of whom represent portions of the Navajo Nation in their Congressional districts.

This bill is very similar to legislation Senator BINGAMAN and I introduced during the 108th Congress, also joined then by Mr. MATHESON and Mr. RENZI, to benefit the children and residents of the Navajo Nation, and the counties into which the Navajo Nation's boundaries extend. In New Mexico these counties are McKinley and San Juan Counties, and prior to 1998 they were responsible for maintaining the roads used by county school buses that stretch into the reservation to transport the children of the Navajo Nation to and from the county schools. Although there is nothing unique about counties funding and maintaining the roads in their jurisdiction, this particular case of the counties being responsible for the upkeep of the roads that ran into the Navajo Nation was extremely rare, and seems to be the only situation of this kind throughout the United States. This put an enormous burden on McKinley and San Juan County officials, and oftentimes resulted in impassable roads, which, in turn, resulted in children missing school because the buses were unable to pick them up.

In 1998, however, Senator BINGAMAN was successful in acquiring funds through the Indian School Bus Route Safety Act for the counties in New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona to assist them in facing this particularly burdensome responsibility. Today, we are proud to introduce the reauthorization of this legislation to provide further assistance to the counties and children of the Navajo Nation. This bill authorizes funds totaling \$10.8 million for fiscal years 2005 through 2010—\$1.8 million for each of the fiscal years—to be divided equally among New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona.

These critical funds will provide much-needed assistance to the counties, and will help put an end to the shameful situation of children missing school simply because of impassable roads due to lack of maintenance. I am extremely hopeful that we can either pass this measure, or include it as part of any transportation reauthorization bill Congress considers this session, to provide further assistance to the children of the Navajo Nation and our respective states. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING CAROL HOTALING

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor an extraordinary citizen. Carol Hotaling of Saratoga County, New York, along with help from friends and family, has devoted an immeasurable amount of time and effort to support our troops and has strove to promote unity in our great Nation.

Ms. Hotaling has shown her ability to bring together communities in support of our troops. She has worked tirelessly to distribute hundreds of yellow ribbons to citizens around the state in recognition of our service men and women. These ribbons help foster a spirit of unity and help convey respect and support for those who protect our freedom.

In recognition of Ms. Hotaling's continued work and support, the State of New York designated September 2004 "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Month". To help encourage all citizens to follow the example of Ms. Hotaling and to express their appreciation for the nation's armed forces, New York State has shown its encouragement for the continued display and distribution of yellow ribbons.

At this time, it is important that we honor individuals for fostering support and practices in tribute to the nation's armed forces. The actions of those, such as Ms. Hotaling, serve as examples to the citizenry of the United States.

I ask that the House of Representatives send its gratitude to Carol Hotaling for her praiseworthy work.

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF
PAOLI-MALVERN-BERWYN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rotary Club of Paoli-Malvern-Berwyn, Chester County, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

The Rotary Club is unique in that it is the world's first service-oriented club. The very first Rotary Club was formed in Chicago, Illinois on February 23, 1905 by Paul P. Harris. Mr. Harris was an attorney who wished to recapture, in a professional organization, the friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns and communities of his youth. Mr. Harris' forward-thinking concept of community and service has gone on to become one of the world's foremost and most respected civic and humanitarian organizations.

Rotary became extremely popular in the coming decade as clubs were chartered across the country from San Francisco to New York City. In 1921, the Rotary took their ideals of service and community to the international community. The Rotary Club was given its first opportunity to expand abroad and, in doing so, spread to six different continents around the world. Today, the Rotary Club has 31,000 international chapters in 166 different countries.

As Rotary grew in popularity and membership, its mission expanded beyond serving the professional and social interests of its members. Rotarians, such as the members of the Rotary Club of Paoli-Malvern-Berwyn, began pooling their personal resources and contributing their talents to help serve area communities in need. It was during this great time of exemplary community service that the Rotary Club adopted its singular motto, "Service Above Self," and each of its members throughout the world strives to implement that motto today.

In the following years, Rotarians became deeply involved in many different important causes. Rotary has made many significant contributions to the international community through working with the United Nations and was a leading advocate of the establishment of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. In 1985, Rotary made a historic commitment to immunize the world's children against polio, further proving their extraordinary commitment to public service and

to the betterment of communities around the world. As a result, Rotary is the largest private sector contributor to the global polio eradication campaign.

Rotary is an exemplary professional, social and civic club. Its goals and ideals are noteworthy, compassionate, and are ones deserving of emulation. The members of the Rotary Club of Paoli-Malvern-Berwyn have worked hard for the past 75 years to uphold the motto of the Club's founder and continue to work to meet the needs of the communities in Chester County, their Rotary District, nation and the world. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Rotary Club of Paoli-Malvern-Berwyn for its tremendous contributions to the individuals, organizations, and communities they have benefited for 75 years and to wish the Club's members continued success and good fortune in meeting Rotary's mission to serve others above themselves.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY'S "WAR ON HUNGER" CAMPAIGN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of students and faculty at Auburn University who are waging an important campaign to fight world hunger.

Known as the War on Hunger campaign, this groundbreaking initiative partners Auburn University with the United Nations World Food Programme, a first for any university worldwide.

Over the next several years this campaign will continue to develop a framework for addressing the problem of world hunger. Plans include developing an agenda that increases hunger awareness, and creating new academic initiatives at the university. Local organizers also hope to use their efforts to influence policymakers at all levels of government with regard to hunger initiatives.

Auburn University students will continue to work together, Mr. Speaker, and participate in several planned activities to help carry out their campaign, including holding benefit concerts and hosting a symposium on world hunger. Students will work to enlist the support of the Auburn community, and also sponsor a film series on world hunger and sustainability. In the true spirit of the Auburn Creed, this initiative aspires to feed Auburn students' minds and hearts with a sense of social responsibility and human well-being.

Ultimately, Auburn's goal is to develop and implement a War on Hunger model that can be replicated by other universities across the nation and around the world. On this important day, I salute the students and faculty of Auburn University for addressing this challenge, and applaud their efforts in helping end hunger around the globe.

TRIBUTE TO JUNE PICETTI SHEPPARD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June Picetti Sheppard, who has been named the City of Sonoma's 2005 Alcaldesa, or Honorary Mayor.

Ms. Sheppard earned this honor from her community for a lifetime of volunteer work. She is a practitioner of the "little things" that can make such a difference in someone's day-to-day life. An avid early morning walker, this dynamic 88-year-old picks up newspapers at homes along her route when it is raining and places them on her neighbor's porches, just to help folks out. She is also well known around town for her trademark flower cups, or "Tussy Mussies," that she distributes when the mood strikes her, and the mood strikes often.

Ms. Sheppard has been a long-time volunteer with Friends In Sonoma Helping (FISH), which provides food and clothing for the disadvantaged. She helps gather surplus food from local markets and bakeries for the FISH clients and for community groups such as the Senior Center and Boys and Girls Club.

She also volunteers as a docent with the Sonoma League for Historic Preservation, providing tours of vintage homes in the community.

As Alcaldesa, Ms. Sheppard will preside over all ceremonial events in the town, from parades to grand openings to meetings. Since 1975, the City of Sonoma has bestowed the honor of Alcalde/Alcaldesa on a local resident or couple who demonstrates outstanding community service.

Mr. Speaker, June Picetti Sheppard's dedication to her community follows this tradition and it is therefore appropriate that we recognize her at this time as the 2005 Alcaldesa for the City of Sonoma.

RETIREMENT OF JAMES STEDMAN, CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the long years of service which James Stedman has provided to the Congress. "Jim" as he is better known to his friends and colleagues retired this month after 31 years at the Congressional Research Service (CRS). His dedication, determination and spirit will be sorely missed. I know that I have relied on Jim on numerous occasions in the past and he has certainly made me a more effective legislator.

James Stedman began his career at the Congressional Research Service as an education policy analyst in 1973, after earning a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College and a master's degree from Harvard University, both in history. Upon joining CRS, he reached the status of Specialist in Social Legislation in a very short period of time. From the beginning of his career, and continuing for

over 30 years, Jim has expertly supported Congressional work on education related legislation. Jim's most important contribution however has been his effective and unselfish mentoring of the next generation of CRS education analysts.

Jim has for decades been a nationally recognized expert on numerous major aspects of Federal education policy. One such area is elementary-secondary school reform. Jim has shown a boundless understanding of the complexities of standards-based reform, school choice (a topic on which he prepared pioneering policy analyses), and Federal programs to support the recruitment, development, and retention of elementary-secondary school teachers. Jim also excelled in his knowledge of Federal efforts to improve mathematics and sciences education; and all aspects of Federal policy to provide financial assistance to postsecondary students from low-to moderate-income families, including grant, loan, and tax-based programs.

Throughout his career, Jim has not only been exceptionally productive, but also innovative. He has provided ground-breaking analyses that have been especially useful to the Congress in its consideration of how best to provide financial aid for college bound students, through loans, grant, or tax-based methods. Jim has also undertaken pioneering work of broad significance on the process used to determine the amount of aid a college student receives, commonly referred to as "needs analysis." Jim was also the leading CRS analyst supporting congressional legislation and other activities in response to the Reagan administration's "A Nation at Risk" and the Clinton administration's "Goals 2000 initiatives."

In more recent years, Jim's work has been primarily devoted to providing strong leadership to teams of CRS staff assisting with higher education legislation during the 105th and 108th Congresses. He has coordinated a vast number of projects in support of committee deliberations on higher education legislation, serving as the primary liaison between the CRS higher education analysts and authorizing committee members and staff. Jim has also unselfishly devoted a great deal of time and effort to helping the relatively new CRS analysts to build expertise in legislation, relevant issues, and sources for data analysis.

Jim's contributions will be sorely missed. The leadership and knowledge he provided for over 30 years has greatly benefited the Congress and the American people. Jim's retirement now provides him the time to pursue a second career as a teacher. If he brings the same determination and spirit to teaching that he had for 30 years at CRS, he will be a success. This House should congratulate Jim on his retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SANDRA L. SEENO FOR HER WORK WITH OAKLAND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity

to extend my support to Sandra L. Seeno, a community leader and friend who will be formally recognized on February 4, 2005, at the grand opening of the Center for Immunobiology and Vaccine Development at Children's Hospital in Oakland, California.

Ms. Seeno has been an ardent supporter of Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland for more than 20 years. She is committed to promoting Children's Hospital and ensuring the delivery of high-quality pediatric care. Ms. Seeno has also worked to maintain Children's Hospital as a nationally recognized research program with highly qualified primary care providers and strong education and teaching programs.

For the past 2 years Ms. Seeno has served as a member of the Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute (CHORI) Advisory Board, which was established to promote CHORI to philanthropic, scientific and business communities. Over the past year she has been particularly dedicated to supporting the completion of the Institute's new Center for Immunobiology and Vaccine Development (CIVD).

Ms. Seeno's service as a community advisor has been instrumental in present and future development strategies for the Children's Hospital and Research Center Foundation. Along with her husband, Albert D. Seeno, Jr. she has helped oversee the charitable arm of the Albert D. Seeno, Jr. Family Foundation and helped to bring about new projects such as the grand opening of the Center for Immunobiology and Vaccine Development.

I congratulate Ms. Seeno for her hard work and dedication to the community and the Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland.

HONORING JANIE WALSH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janie Walsh, who is retiring as the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission after 30 years of dedicated service to her community.

In high school, Ms. Walsh lived in Vietnam, where her interest in community service took root. She has returned periodically to implement programs sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of California such as helping to build a school, and providing eyeglasses to those in need.

Ms. Walsh began her career in Pennsylvania as a teacher and Head Start director. Her move to California saw a change of direction in her career as she began the important work of community development. As the Redevelopment Project Manager in the City of Petaluma she began the City's housing rehabilitation program. She moved on to the Sonoma County Housing Authority as Community Development Specialist and was quickly promoted to Community Development Manager.

In 1985 the Board of Supervisors appointed her as Executive Director of the Community Development Commission where she has done an outstanding job supervising Sonoma County's Housing Authority, Redevelopment

Agency, and a wide range of community development and affordable housing programs.

Ms. Walsh has also served as Senior Vice President and President of the Pacific Southwest Regional Council of the National Association of Housing Officials (NAHRO), where she worked closely with the Department of Housing and Urban Development on major changes in legislation and regulations that affect housing and community development agencies.

Upon retirement, Ms. Walsh and her husband, John Humphrey, are planning to move to the country and raise grapes and honeybees. She plans to spend time with her two adult sons, Philip and John, and her young grandsons. Ms. Walsh is looking forward to some international travel, particularly a trip to visit her roots in Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, Janie Walsh is a woman who has made a positive impact on those around her. She has led the Community Development Commission with an attitude of compassion and respect for clients and community that permeates the entire agency. I am proud to honor her and wish her well in this new chapter of her life.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF MARY ZONE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of my dear friend and mentor, Mary Zone, loving mother, grandmother, dedicated public servant, community activist, and dear friend to many. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for the people of Cleveland, whom she served with the highest level of commitment, concern, integrity and honor.

Mrs. Zone's husband, the late Michael Zone, and their eight children were central to her life. The great care and love that she showered on them extended throughout Cleveland's west side neighborhood, where Mrs. Zone carried the torch of her late husband. The well-being of their community, anchored by their parish, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, remained a constant focus in the hearts of Michael and Mary Zone. Their united focus on family and service to others continues to illuminate the hope and promise of a better day for every citizen of this diverse, working-class community.

A staunch Democrat, Mrs. Zone was appointed to Cleveland City Council in 1974, to serve out the term of her late husband. She was elected to serve three additional terms. As a member of the Council, Mrs. Zone was a fierce champion of the people of the near west side, and her unequalled work ethic and uncompromising integrity quickly garnered her the admiration of residents and the respect of those at City Hall.

Armed with a compassionate heart, sharp mind and even sharper focus on the public she served, Mrs. Zone shattered the status quo by becoming the first woman of Italian heritage to serve on Cleveland City Council, and the first woman to serve as the Council's majority whip.

Her years of working as a business owner and elected official served the City well

throughout her tenure as an administrator with Cleveland's Community Development Department, an appointment made by then-Mayor George Voinovich. Later, she was appointed as Deputy Director of Special Projects with the Ohio Lottery Commission.

Mary Zone's greatest legacy is reflected in the lives of her family and friends and along every street crisscrossing the near west side. She was a founding member of the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization and the Nolasco Housing Organization. She was an integral and active member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, serving for many years as President of its PTA. Most recently, Mrs. Zone served on the board of Villa Mercedes. Following the death of her son, Marty, to AIDS in 1993, she actively pursued programs and projects focused on assisting individuals and families living with HIV and AIDS.

Her humble nature precluded her from reveling in awards and accolades. However, her outstanding service was recognized by others. She was the recipient of many awards that highlighted her humanitarian efforts, including the Father Marino Frascati Neighborhood Champion Award from the Detroit Shoreway CDC, presented to her this past November.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mary Zone. The infinite measure of her heart, combined with her courage, vision and integrity, defined her life and served to lift the lives of countless individuals and families throughout our community, especially our near west side neighborhood. Her kindness, energy and compassion will be greatly missed within the hearts of her many friends, including my own. I extend my deepest condolences to her friends and family members, and especially to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mary Zone lived her life with joy, energy and in unwavering service to others. Her eternal faith in humanity and in the notion that together, we can make a positive difference, will continue to serve as an unending force of hope and possibility throughout our community, and her memory and legacy will forever live on within the hearts of all who knew and loved her well.

INTRODUCING THE MAKE COLLEGE AFFORDABLE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Make College Affordable Act of 2005. This legislation helps millions of Americans afford college by making college tuition tax deductible. Today the average cost of education at a state university is \$9,802 per year, and the cost of education at a private university is \$31,052 per year! These high costs have left many middle class American families struggling to afford college for their children, who are often ineligible for financial aid. Therefore, middle class students have no choice but to obtain student loans, and thus leave college saddled with massive debt.

Even families who plan and save well in advance for their children's education may have a difficult time because their savings are eroded by taxation and inflation. The Make College

Affordable Act will help these middle class students by allowing them, or their parents or guardians who claim them as dependents, to deduct the cost of college tuition as well as the cost of student loan repayments.

The Make College Affordable Act will also help older or nontraditional students looking to improve their job skills or prepare for a career change, by pursuing higher education. In today's economy, the average American worker can expect to change jobs, and even careers, several times during his or her working life, making it more important than ever that working Americans be able to devote their resources to continuing their educations.

Helping the American people use their own money to ensure every qualified American can receive a college education is one of the best investments this Congress can make in the future. I therefore urge my colleagues to help strengthen America by ensuring more Americans can obtain college educations by co-sponsoring the Make College Affordable Act.

HONORING JAY LLOYD

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jay Lloyd on the occasion of his retirement from Philadelphia's KYW News Radio after 35 years of dedicated service and exemplary accomplishment.

Jay Lloyd began his career in broadcast journalism at ZBM Radio and TV in Bermuda after a tour of duty in the Korean War. He then moved overseas to a new position in the Netherlands where he covered news and feature stories for the Dutch International Radio Service. While living abroad, Mr. Lloyd did a weekly music show on Dutch Radio where he featured American music for his Dutch listeners utilizing the radio name of "Chuck Holiday." Mr. Lloyd's international career also took him to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico before he returned to Philadelphia in 1961 to work for Channel 48 and the Philadelphia Bulletin's radio station.

In 1969, Mr. Lloyd joined KYW News Radio as a general assignment reporter. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Lloyd was promoted to the position of transportation reporter. On January 1, 1971, Mr. Lloyd took control of the KYW Suburban Bureau and has since reported on some of the area's most important news events. Such stories have included the near disastrous nuclear power plant accident at Three Mile Island and the Susan Reinert murder case.

Mr. Lloyd was again given the opportunity to go overseas some years later when he traveled to Spain's Canary Islands to mark the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' historic voyage to the Western World. He then returned to the United States to cover other important news events, including that occurring September 11, 2001 when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon. Mr. Lloyd immediately traveled to the scene to cover the breaking story for his listeners in the Philadelphia area.

Mr. Lloyd has also been deeply involved in the political arena during his years at KYW, reporting on major events and covering numerous important elections. He has either met

with or interviewed every President of the United States since John F. Kennedy. On November 2, 2004, Mr. Lloyd celebrated his 70th birthday by covering his final presidential election.

In recognition of his involvement in significant world events over the past 35 years, Mr. Lloyd has won several industry awards including the Associated Press Broadcasters Association Award for Enterprise Reporting and for commentary on international affairs. These awards offer clear evidence of Mr. Lloyd's exemplary professionalism and skill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Jay Lloyd. He has provided invaluable service to the people of Southeastern Pennsylvania during his outstanding 35 year career in broadcasting. Jay Lloyd's dedication to his work has been extraordinary and he should be acknowledged for the many distinguished contributions he has made to the quality of life in the Philadelphia region throughout his career with KYW News Radio.

INTRODUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing the Environmental Justice Act.

I am proud that Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS and Representative ROB ANDREWS are joining me as original cosponsors of this bill. Representative Solis and I introduced a similar bill in the 108th Congress.

Reintroduction of the bill reflects continued concern about the way federal actions have had disproportionately adverse effects on the health, environment and quality of life of Americans in minority and lower-income communities.

Too often these communities—because of their low income or lack of political visibility—are exposed to greater risks from toxins and dangerous substances because it has been possible to locate waste dumps, industrial facilities, and chemical storage warehouses in these communities with less care than would be taken in other locations.

The sad fact is that in some eyes these communities have appeared as expendable—without full appreciation that human beings, who deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, are living, working, and raising families there.

This needs to give way to policies focused on providing clean, healthy and quality environments within and around these communities. When that happens, we provide hope for the future and enhance the opportunities that these citizens have to improve their condition.

Our bill would help do just that. The bill essentially codifies an Executive Order that was issued by President Clinton in 1994. That order required all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice considerations in their missions, develop strategies to address disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income people from their activities, and coordinate the development of data and research on these topics.

Although federal agencies have been working to implement this order and have developed strategies, there is clearly much more to do. We simply cannot solve these issues overnight or even over a couple of years. We need to "institutionalize" the consideration of these issues in a more long-term fashion—which this bill would do.

In addition, just as the current policy was established by an administrative order, it could be swept away with a stroke of an administrative pen. To avoid that, we need to make it more permanent—which is also what this bill would do.

It would do this by statutorily requiring all federal agencies to—make addressing environmental justice concerns part of their missions; develop environmental justice strategies; evaluate the effects of proposed actions on the health and environment of minority, low income, and Native American communities; avoid creating disproportionate adverse impacts on the health or environment of minority, low-income, or Native American communities; and collect data and carry out research on the effects of facilities on health and environment of minority, low-income, and Native American communities.

It would also statutorily establish two committees:

The Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group, set up by the Executive Order to develop strategies, provide guidance, coordinate research, convene public meetings, and conduct inquiries regarding environmental justice issues; and

A Federal Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, appointed by the President, including members of community-based groups, business, academic, state agencies and environmental organizations. It will provide input and advice to the Interagency Working Group.

In a nutshell, what this bill would do is require federal agencies that control the siting and disposing of hazardous materials, store toxins or release pollutants at federal facilities, or issue permits for these kinds of activities to make sure they give fair treatment to low-income and minority populations—including Native Americans. The bill tells federal agencies, "In the past these communities have endured a disproportionate impact to their health and environment. Now we must find ways to make sure that won't be the case in the future."

For the information of our colleagues, here is a short analysis of the bill:

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT

Summary: This bill would essentially codify a Clinton Administration Executive Order which directed a number of federal agencies and offices to consider the environmental impact of decisions on minority and low-income populations.

Background: On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." The President also issued a corresponding Memorandum to all federal departments and agencies further explaining the order and how the agencies should implement it to address environmental justice issues. The Order and Memorandum called for the creation of an interagency working group to provide guidance on identifying disproportionate impacts on the health and environment of minority and low-income populations, develop strategies to address such disproportionate impacts, and provide a report on that

strategy. Since the order was promulgated, the affected agencies have developed reports and strategies.

Need for the Bill: Although federal agencies and offices have been complying with the Executive Order, disproportionate impacts related to human health and the environment still exist for many minority and low-income communities. These impacts must be addressed over the long term. In addition, due to the lack of resources and political clout of many of these impacted communities, vigilance is required to make sure that disproportionate impacts are reduced and do not continue. As the effort to date has been primarily administrative based on the presidential order and memorandum, these strategies need to be incorporated into the routine functioning of federal agencies and offices through federal law.

The bill—

Requires federal agencies and offices to: include addressing environmental justice concerns into their respective missions; conduct programs so as not to create disproportionate impact on minority and low-income populations; include an examination of the effects of such action on the health and environment of minority and low-income populations for actions that require environmental analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act; create an environmental justice strategy to address disproportionate impacts of its policies and actions, and conduct and collect research on the disproportionate impacts from federal facilities.

Creates an Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group to develop strategies, provide guidance, coordinate research, convene public meetings, and conduct inquires regarding environmental justice issues.

Creates a Federal Environmental Justice Advisory Committee composed of members of community-based groups, business, academic, state agencies and environmental organizations which will provide input and advice to the Interagency Working Group.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
RON KUNTZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today in honor and recognition of acclaimed sports photographer Ron Kuntz, for his masterful artistry in capturing defining moments in Cleveland sports history, a legacy that spans more than fifty years and continues today, and for his ministry of the heart, a vocation that continues to provide light and solace for those living without hope.

Beyond his unwavering dedication to his family and to his profession, Mr. Kuntz shares his stories, photographs and compassion with prisoners in Ohio and across the country. His outreach began thirty years ago, when Mr. Kuntz first volunteered with the Bill Glass Prison Ministry. Mr. Kuntz' gifts of spiritual guidance and kindness continues to serve as a source of comfort and support for those who live in desolate isolation.

The inspiring photographs of Mr. Kuntz jump with energy and emotion from the pages and wires of local and national publications. His ar-

tistry is evidenced in every picture, highlighting his unique ability to seize the true essence of a remarkable moment. From the dark room to the newsroom, Mr. Kuntz brings the emotion and movement of a moment already gone, back to life—a split-second portrait of the human condition framed by athletic competition.

His work chronicles the great legends and legendary moments of professional athletes and teams of Cleveland, especially the Cleveland Indians—from the glowing victories to the crushing defeats. Armed with an affable nature and quick smile, Mr. Kuntz garnered the respect, trust and admiration of everyone around him. His joy for life is reflected in the photographs he has taken, and within his outreach to others.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ron Kuntz brilliant photographer, dedicated family man, and compassionate volunteer, whose work and ministry continues to be a gift to our entire community. As he journeys onward from here, we offer him blessings of health, happiness and peace. We look forward to the continued artistry of Ron Kuntz, a man of heart, integrity and deep sense of service to others, whose very life continues to elevate the lives of others, with a snapshot, handshake, kind word and a smile.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DARRYL KEHRER

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Darryl Kehrer, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who is retiring after 37 years, 33 of which were devoted of public service to our nation's veterans.

Darryl's distinguished career in public service began with active duty in the United States Air Force from 1966–1970, after which he received an Honorable Discharge as Staff Sergeant. Since then, he has served with distinction at the Department of Veterans Affairs, the United States Senate, and as Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs at the United States House of Representatives. Furthermore, he served as Executive Director of the Congressional Veterans Claims Adjudication Commission, and Staff Director of the Panel on Veterans' Benefits for the Congressional Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance.

Darryl has dedicated his career to improving the lives of our nation's veterans and to provide them with the very best with respect to benefits and services in their transition to civilian life. He has made significant contributions to the development and enactment of veterans' legislation to improve education, employment, and transition assistance, to name just a few of his accomplishments.

As the Chairman of the Veterans Benefits Subcommittee during the 107th Congress, Darryl's strong work ethic and commitment to the issues was unwavering. He worked tirelessly with me to enact the Jobs for Veterans Act (PL 107–288), and since then he has continued his work with the Department of Labor to ensure the legislation is reaching veterans

and helping them make the transition from military service to civilian employment. His comments and insight into issues affecting veterans was invaluable to me when I served as the Chairman and continues to be today.

Darryl has been a guest instructor at the University of Missouri and the Harry S Truman Library, the John Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, West Potomac and Annandale High Schools in Virginia, the United States Military Academy, and the United States Air Force Academy. Using the Montgomery GI Bill as an example of how legislation is made, he developed a case study on the enactment of this significant piece of veterans legislation, providing students with a hands-on approach to law-making. He has accompanied me to both West Point and the Air Force Academy, where we visited with instructors and spent time with the cadets. At the Air Force Academy, we did a joint presentation to students regarding the Member and staff perspectives of the U.S. Congress. His success as a guest instructor is clearly demonstrated by how frequently these renowned institutions ask him to return.

Darryl's passions are teaching, mentoring, and baseball. He has spent the past fifteen years volunteering for the Annandale Little League, and the League established an ongoing scholarship in his name. Called the "Kehrer Cup," it is awarded to the youngster who personifies the values of Little League Baseball and includes a \$550 scholarship to the Little League Baseball International Summer Camp. He also received the Ellie Doyle Award for his exemplary partnership with the Fairfax County government in youth sports activities. A self-proclaimed "baseball fanatic," Darryl has used his passion to instill the love of the game and the ideals of sportsmanship in children and young adults.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his career as a public servant and volunteer in the community, Darryl has exemplified the highest ideals of family, community, and public service. With his retirement, we are losing an exemplary public servant and true friend of our nation's veterans. Thank you, Darryl, for your many years of dedicated service to our nation.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE
AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOGI
BHAJAN

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution honoring the life and numerous contributions of Yogi Bhaajan, the chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the West. Yogi Bhaajan passed away in Española, New Mexico on October 6, 2004 at age 75.

A native of India, Yogi Bhaajan introduced thousands around the world to Sikhism, a religion that carries the message of truthful living and the fundamental unity of humanity, and reaches out to people of all backgrounds to work together for world peace. When he came to the United States in 1968, Yogi Bhaajan recognized immediately that the experience sought by many young people through drugs could be alternatively achieved through

Kundalini yoga, which stimulates individual growth through breath, chanting, and meditation among other components. Soon after, he founded the Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO), a nonprofit private educational and scientific foundation with 300 centers in 35 countries, dedicated to improving physical well-being, deepening spiritual awareness, and offering guidance on matters of health and heart. He later also founded a successful drug rehabilitation program that blends ancient yogic wisdom of the East with modern technology of the West.

In 1971, the president of the governing body of Sikh Temples in India gave Yogi Bhajan the title of chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the Western Hemisphere. That same year, the Sikh Dharma was legally incorporated and recognized as a religion in the U.S., and soon after Yogi Bhajan founded the Sikh ashram that still thrives in Española, New Mexico in my district. Yogi Bhajan wrote 30 books and inspired 200 more through his teaching, and inspired the founding of several businesses including Akal Security Inc., one of the fastest growing security companies in the nation. Throughout his lifetime, he traveled the world and met with world leaders such as Pope John Paul II and the Dalai Lama to discuss world peace and religious unity. He also served as informal counsel to numerous political and spiritual leaders. As the resolution states, Yogi Bhajan's teachings and the businesses formed under his inspiration, improved personal, political, spiritual and professional relations between citizens of the United States and citizens of the nation of India.

After the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil on September 11th, Yogi Bhajan reached out to Sikhs across America, encouraging and helping them to educate their fellow citizens about Sikhs, and to work with law enforcement and community leaders to help them protect Sikh populations. He established links to human rights advocates nationwide to ensure that the issue of Sikh identity was understood and respected. When a Sikh man named Balbir Singh Sodhi was murdered in Arizona five days after 9/11, Yogi Bhajan worked with community and government leaders in Arizona to help raise awareness about the Sikh community there, and to honor Balbir Singh with a major memorial event.

I had the privilege of Yogi Bhajan's friendship and support for more than 20 years. He was a dynamic, powerful person with a strong devotion to human rights, religious freedom, and good health. Whatever one's faith, he had the right words, the right lesson, and the right message. He spoke to us all, and he inspired us. Around the world he was a powerful voice for peace. I am also proud that my State of New Mexico made history by designating October 23rd as "Yogi Bhajan Memorial Day."

The resolution I am introducing today recognizes Yogi Bhajan as a wise teacher and mentor, an outstanding pioneer, a champion of peace and compassionate human being, and extends condolences on his passing. I introduced this bill at the end of the 108th Congress, soon after Yogi Bhajan's passing, and I hope my colleagues and I can work together to pass the resolution during the 109th. I would like to thank members of the House India Caucus, who helped build support for this resolution, as well as Senators JEFF BINGAMAN, PETE DOMENICI, and JOHN CORNYN, who will introduce the Senate companion. I

also thank House International Relations Committee Chairman HENRY HYDE and Ranking Member TOM LANTOS for their strong support, as well as the bipartisan group of original co-sponsors who join me in urging my colleagues to support this important resolution.

HONORING SALLY MAZZARELLA

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor an extraordinary citizen. Sally Mazzarella, of Rhinebeck, New York, along with help from friends and family, has devoted an immeasurable amount of time and effort to make her community and Dutchess County a better place to live.

Sally has exemplified selfless and tireless community leadership. She is president of the Winnakee Land Trust and serves on the boards of Families First New York and the Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. In the past, Sally has served on the boards of the United Way of Dutchess County, Family and Services Inc., Hudson Valley Philharmonic, and Dutchess Housing Partnership. Since 1990, Sally has worked alongside State Senator Stephen Saland as a Constituent Services Representative working to solve the problems facing the 41st Senate District of NY.

Sally recently served as chairwoman of leadership gifts for the \$2.2 million expansion project for the Starr Library. She has co-chaired the YWCA's \$2 million capital campaign renovation project and the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum \$2.8 million acquisition project. Sally is also chairwoman of the Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Revision Project, a community-wide planning initiative focusing on Rhinebeck's future.

Sally has also served as chairwoman of the Town of Rhinebeck Planning Board. She has been an active member of the New York State Planning Federation and the Dutchess County Planning Federation, as a member of Hudson River Shorelines Task Force. Sally also served as a representative of the Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature on the Hudson Valley Regional Council.

In recognition of Sally's continued work and service to her community, the Community Foundation of Dutchess County has recently honored Sally, as have many other organizations throughout the region over the years. Sally's tireless and dedicated service demonstrates the essence of what it means to be a citizen. People like Sally across the nation form the fabric of our society.

At this time, it is important we honor such individuals for their devoted and generous work, leadership, and service on behalf of their communities. As evidenced by Sally's achievements, it is people like her that make our communities better places to live.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF
DETECTIVE LOUIS J. DECK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Detective Louis J. Deck, loving father, grandfather, friend and mentor, whose life was lived in dedicated and outstanding service to others. As a veteran of the United States Navy, Mr. Deck served our country with courage and honor. As a veteran police officer and detective with the Cleveland Police Department, Detective Deck protected and served the citizens of our community with wisdom, compassion, courage and integrity.

Detective Deck began his law enforcement career in 1967, as a police officer working in the 4th District of the Cleveland Police Department. Just three years later, he was appointed to serve in the Bureau of Special Investigations unit and was soon appointed to the position of Detective. Detective Deck incorporated his street smarts, brave heart, and insight into the human psyche to assist in solving a myriad of criminal cases—cases that sprung from the streets and cases that rose from corporate greed.

Detective Deck's nearly forty-year tenure with the Cleveland Police Department was framed by honor and achievement. Though modest and unimpressed with accolades, Detective Deck's significant contribution to our community did not go unnoticed. In 1985 and 1986, Detective Deck was awarded commendations by the U.S. House of Representatives for his outstanding work as a crime victim liaison. In that capacity, Detective Deck worked diligently to uncover every avenue of assistance for crime victims and their families. Detective Deck's concern for others extended well beyond the bounds of the 4th District. He was a regular volunteer with the Cops & Kids programs at Metro General Hospital, providing a sunny distraction for young patients through his annual transformation from detective to elf. He was also an active member of civic organizations, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the Cleveland Police Patrolman's Association, and the Cleveland Police Historical Society and Museum.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Detective Louis J. Deck, as we reflect on his incredible service to our community as police officer, detective, veteran, volunteer and friend. Detective Deck's integrity, expertise, and focus on protecting and reaching out to those in need will forever serve as a shining example of all that is good in public service. He lived life with a wry smile, quick wit and helping hand, and his legacy of lifting up the lives of countless residents, young and old, will serve as a shining road upon which others should follow, and will forever uplift our entire community. I offer my condolences to his children, grandchildren, extended family and many friends. His life and service to others will live forever in the hearts of everyone who knew and loved him well.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOPE
PLUS SCHOLARSHIP ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Hope Plus Scholarship Act, which expands the Hope Education Scholarship credit to cover K–12 education expenses. Under this bill, parents could use the Hope Scholarship to pay for private or religious school tuition or to offset the cost of home schooling. In addition, under the bill, all Americans could use the Hope Scholarship to make cash or in-kind donations to public schools. Thus, the Hope Scholarship could help working parents send their child to a private school, while other parents could take advantage of the Hope credit to help purchase new computers for their children's local public school.

Reducing taxes so that Americans can devote more of their own resources to education is the best way to improve America's schools, since individuals are more likely than federal bureaucrats to insist that schools be accountable for student performance. When the federal government controls the education dollar, schools will be held accountable for their compliance with bureaucratic paperwork requirements and mandates that have little to do with actual education. Federal rules and regulations also divert valuable resources—away from classroom instruction.

The only way to reform America's education system is through restoring control of the education dollar to the American people so they can ensure schools provide their children a quality education. I therefore ask all of my colleagues to help improve education by returning education resources to the American people by cosponsoring the Hope Plus Scholarship Act.

REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS
ACT OF 2005

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Remote Sensing Applications Act of 2005.

I introduced this bill as H.R. 2426 in the 107th Congress, and the House passed it in 2002. The bill was introduced again in the 108th Congress as H.R. 1292, and passed the full Science Committee. In this Congress, I'm eager to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to see my legislation through to passage in both chambers.

I originally introduced this bill mainly to address a real problem we have in Colorado, the problem of excess growth and sprawl. My goal was to point to a way to utilize the resources of the Federal Government to help foster wise community planning and management at the local level. As a Member of the House Science Committee and the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, it made sense to me to look for ways to help communities grow in a smarter way through the use of technology.

I have reintroduced the bill in this Congress because I still believe we need to do more to

promote geospatial technology. Geospatial data from satellites can produce very accurate maps that show information about vegetation, wildlife habitat, flood plains, transportation corridors, soil types, and many other things.

By giving State and local governments and communities greater access to geospatial data from commercial sources and Federal agencies such as NASA, I believe that the Federal Government can help bring valuable—and powerful—informational planning resources to the table.

My bill would facilitate this transfer of information. The bill would establish in NASA a program of grants for competitively awarded pilot projects. The purpose would be to explore the integrated use of sources of remote sensing and other geospatial information to address State, local, regional, and tribal agency needs.

State and local governments and communities can use geospatial information in a variety of applications—in such areas as urban land-use planning, coastal zone management and erosion control, transportation corridors, environmental planning, and agricultural and forest management.

But another potential application that has garnered much recent attention is the use of geospatial technology to bolster our homeland security.

Emergency management has always been an important responsibility of State and local governments. But in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, the scope of this responsibility has broadened. Geospatial technology can help States and localities identify the location, nature, and scope of potential vulnerabilities and the impact of potential hazards, as well as how to respond to events and recover from them.

Certainly it is important that we continue to add to our database of available geospatial information—more information is always better than less. But we also need to get maximum use of information we already have at hand. That is the need this bill would address.

State and local officials are becoming more familiar with the uses of geospatial technology for various planning purposes. However, there is a need for Federal agencies such as NASA, which has been pioneering the uses of satellite remote sensing technologies, to work with State and local organizations to demonstrate how remote sensing and other geospatial data can offer a cost effective planning and assessment tool.

I'm pleased there has been broad bipartisan cosponsorship of the bill and that it has earned the endorsement of a number of important national organizations. These supporters of my bill understand the importance of targeting geospatial information at the places where it will have the greatest impact—the local and regional levels.

The Remote Sensing Applications Act can help begin to bridge the gap between established and emerging technology solutions and the problems and challenges that State and local communities face regarding growth management, homeland security, forest fire management, and other issues.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will be welcomed by States and localities nationwide. I look forward to working with Members of the House, including my colleagues on the Science Committee, to move forward with this important initiative.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
TIM MCCORMACK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Tim McCormack, upon the close of his outstanding service as Cuyahoga County Commissioner. Commissioner McCormack's passionate and powerful resolve and unwavering focus on restoring our child welfare system has saved the lives of many children, and enhanced the lives of countless more.

Beneath Commissioner McCormack's straightforward and abrupt approach shines a courageous and compassionate heart, one that has guided him well and served our children well. Of the myriad of issues facing our county, Commissioner McCormack directed his focus on the plight of the struggling children and families of Cuyahoga County. Armed with compassion, integrity, intelligence, and a natural immunity to political pressure, Commissioner McCormack worked tirelessly to cut a clear path through the tangled web of county government, working to recreate a system of government that would serve as an effective entity where the lives of our children would be protected and assisted. Because of Commissioner McCormack's commitment, the families and caseworkers of Cuyahoga County now walk along the path of light and hope.

The work of Commissioner McCormack was a vocation, not occupation, and he consistently drove himself to work the best he could on behalf of his constituents. His efforts always exceeded 100 percent, and he expected the same from his staff and colleagues. A true hero and man of unwavering integrity, Commissioner McCormack used his high profile position as nothing more than an instrument of aid to others. His long-time commitment to public service spans nearly twenty-five years, evenly reflecting a biography of outstanding service to his constituents, especially to those in need.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude to Commissioner Tim McCormack, whose honest work and unwavering focus shed light on a broken system, and who had a profound impact on the lives of countless residents of Cuyahoga County. Commissioner McCormack's steadfast dedication on behalf of our most vulnerable and valuable citizens, the children of Cuyahoga County, will forever serve as a beacon of light and hope, and the torch he carried must be raised high again.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER
TAX CUT ACT AND THE PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS TAX RELIEF
ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation that raise the pay of teachers and other educators by cutting their taxes. I am sure that all my colleagues

agree that it is long past time to begin treating those who have dedicated their lives to educating America's children with the respect they deserve. Compared to other professionals, educators are underappreciated and underpaid. This must change if America is to have the finest education system in the world.

Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. If we continue to undervalue educators, it will become harder to attract, and keep, good people in the education profession. While educators' pay is primarily a local issue, Congress can, and should, help raise educators' take-home pay by reducing educators' taxes.

This is why I am introducing the Teachers Tax Cut Act. This legislation provides every teacher in America with a \$1,000 tax credit. I am also introducing the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act, which extends the \$1,000 tax credit to counselors, librarians, and all school personnel involved in any aspect of the K-12 academic program.

The Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act increase the salaries of teachers and other education professionals without raising federal expenditures. By raising the take-home pay of professional educators, these bills encourage highly qualified people to enter, and remain in, education. These bills also let America's professional educators know that the American people and the Congress respect their work.

I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting our nation's teachers and other professional educators by cosponsoring the Teacher Tax Cut Act and the Professional Educators Tax Relief Act.

FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ MIGUEL
MARTÍNEZ HERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Miguel Martínez Hernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Martínez Hernández has bravely, and peacefully, advocated for liberty and freedom in Cuba, a country that suffers under the nightmare of repression that is the Castro regime. He is an area representative for the 24 February Movement, named for both the commencement of the glorious Cuban War of Independence in 1895, and the day in 1996 when two civilian aircraft carrying four members of the Brothers to the Rescue organization were shot down over international waters by the Cuban dictatorship's fighter jets. The 24 February Movement desires, and struggles for, freedom in Cuba. Mr. Martínez Hernández also hosts an independent library in his home, in order to provide truth instead of the regime's propaganda.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Martínez Hernández has been harassed and detained on a number of occasions in connection with his pro-democracy activism. Amnesty International also reports that he was taken into custody and interrogated by the tyrant's thugs in June, 2001. Despite being constantly attacked by the despotic regime, Mr. Martínez Hernández continued his efforts to bring freedom to the Cuban people.

Unfortunately, in March 2003, as part of the heinous crackdown of peaceful, pro democracy activists, Mr. Martínez Hernández was arrested. Subsequently, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 13 years in the totalitarian gulag.

While confined in the deplorable gulag, it has been reported that Mr. Martínez Hernández has been threatened because he has persisted in studying the Bible. It is abhorrent to nature that this brave man languishes in an infernal gulag because he believes in freedom of religion, democracy, and basic human rights for the Cuban people.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush addressed those brave men and women who spread the light of freedom in the darkest corners of the world when he said in his inaugural address, just a few days ago, "Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are: the future leaders of your free country." My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of José Miguel Martínez Hernández and every political prisoner languishing in the dungeons of tyrants.

THANKING AMANDA CONLEY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my thanks to Amanda Conley for her faithful and selfless dedication to our country.

On a daily basis, we are reminded of the tremendous costs that freedom often requires. Throughout the history of the United States of America, men, woman and families have given their all to further our constitutional hopes and dreams.

For 36 years, Amanda Conley has tirelessly supported the men of her family. Born on-base the daughter of a Navy Chaplain, Mrs. Conley grew up in the midst of great men and women that served and protected our Nation from enemies both foreign and domestic. Through three deployments to the Mediterranean and a year-long assignment to the jungles of Vietnam, as well as countless assignments to various destinations, Mrs. Conley endured what seemed like endless separation from her father.

As her father's service in the Navy came to an end, Mrs. Conley re-dedicated her support to the United States military by becoming a Navy wife. She endured the same sporadic deployments and nights alone as had marked her childhood, including a tour in the Persian Gulf and 6 years as a single mother while her husband Steve was assigned to recruiting duty.

Every day United States servicemen and women serve with fervency and zeal due in large part to the continued support of their spouses and loved ones. Troop morale stems from the loyal and endless efforts and sacrifices of their loved ones on the homefront, those who benefit from freedom each day because of what their husbands, wives, daughters and sons contribute through their service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, we are humbled by and appreciative to men and women like Mrs. Amanda Conley, who are willing to sacrifice and sup-

port those that they love to ensure the future of our great Nation.

To military spouses and families everywhere, thank you. We owe you a heartfelt debt of gratitude.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act. This act, a companion to my Family Education Freedom Act, takes a further step toward returning control over education resources to private citizens by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for donations to scholarship funds to enable low-income children to attend private schools. It also encourages private citizens to devote more of their resources to helping public schools, by providing a \$3,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra curricular programs.

I need not remind my colleagues that education is one of the top priorities of the American people. After all, many members of Congress have proposed education reforms and a great deal of time is spent debating these proposals. However, most of these proposals either expand federal control over education or engage in the pseudo-federalism of block grants. Many proposals that claim to increase local control over education actually extend federal power by holding schools "accountable" to federal bureaucrats and politicians. Of course, schools should be held accountable for their results, but they should be held accountable to parents and school boards not to federal officials. Therefore, I propose we move in a different direction and embrace true federalism by returning control over the education dollar to the American people.

One of the major problems with centralized control over education funding is that spending priorities set by Washington-based Representatives, staffers, and bureaucrats do not necessarily match the needs of individual communities. In fact, it would be a miracle if spending priorities determined by the wishes of certain politically powerful representatives or the theories of Education Department functionaries match the priorities of every community in a country as large and diverse as America. Block grants do not solve this problem as they simply allow states and localities to choose the means to reach federally-determined ends.

Returning control over the education dollar for tax credits for parents and for other concerned citizens returns control over both the means and ends of education policy to local communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Children in some communities may benefit most from the opportunity to attend private, parochial, or other religious schools. One of the most encouraging trends in education has been the establishment of private scholarship programs. These scholarship funds use voluntary contributions to open the doors of quality private schools to low-income children. By

providing a tax credit for donations to these programs, Congress can widen the educational opportunities and increase the quality of education for all children. Furthermore, privately-funded scholarships raise none of the concerns of state entanglement raised by publicly-funded vouchers.

There is no doubt that Americans will always spend generously on education, the question is, "who should control the education dollar—politicians and bureaucrats or the American people?" Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in placing control of education back in the hands of citizens and local communities by sponsoring the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, I was participating in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and, therefore, missed two recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes on recorded vote number 8 and yes on recorded vote number 9.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
ALLAN J. MOLL

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a man who has done much for journalism, the legal profession, and good government in my home state of Utah. Allan J. Moll passed from this world on December 22nd of last year. He leaves the world a richer and better place for his influence and presence.

I remember as a teenager in Utah watching him on the Evening News on Channel Four. The experienced anchor had a unique delivery style I found fascinating. His art was honed by a lifetime of experience. He began his career in radio news at the age of 19. One of his first assignments in broadcasting was reporting the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor to radio listeners throughout the Intermountain West. He served his country during World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

In 1948, Mr. Moll inaugurated the first commercial television broadcast in Utah. In 1958, he moved to California as the news director at the RKO affiliate, KHJ Radio and Television before returning to Utah in 1968. Mr. Moll was the evening news anchor on KCPX TV in the late 1960's through the 1970's. He interviewed numerous influential Americans, including President Truman, President Kennedy, Senator Goldwater and many Hollywood stars. In 2001, the Utah Radio and Broadcast Association inducted him as "Broadcaster of the Year."

Allan Moll's accomplishments are not limited to the broadcast industry. He received a law

degree from the University of Utah Law School. After a stellar broadcast career, Mr. Moll spent 25 years in the Salt Lake County Attorney's office. For two decades he was the chief spokesman for Salt Lake County at the state legislature. Here is where our paths crossed. In my years in the Utah House of Representatives, I came to know Allan Moll as an articulate spokesman for Salt Lake County. He was also a consummate professional. I appreciated his accurate information, his respectful demeanor and personal considerations. I joined many of my colleagues who considered Allan Moll not just an effective lobbyist, but also a friend.

He enjoyed his work and I enjoyed his innate kindness. He retired in 1996. In 1997, the 29 member Utah State Senate illustrated their respect by passing a resolution recognizing Allan Moll as the "30th State Senator." He also received recognition awards from the Utah State Court Association and BYU Lawyer and Legislative Association.

Allan Moll had an interesting story to tell. When I was assigned as the teacher advisor to my high school's National Honor Society, the first person I invited to speak to these outstanding kids was Allan Moll. He kindly gave of his time to meet the students and regale them with stories of the "good old days" of television news. I was appreciative of his willingness to give of himself.

Mr. Moll was unsuccessful in his only bid for elective office, but those of us fortunate to have worked with him had only the utmost respect. I am proud to honor the memory of a great Utah public servant, Allan J. Moll.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHIRLEY
RODRIGUEZ REMENESKI

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the achievements of a remarkable individual, Shirley Rodriguez Remeneski. Shirley has been an inspiration and an energetic force in our community, working tirelessly over the past few decades to better the lives of New Yorkers.

Throughout the years, Shirley has acted as a passionate advocate for not only the people of New York, but also for the Hispanic community at large. She successfully worked her way through the local government getting her first taste of public policy advocacy in the Social Services Unit in the Bronx Borough President's Office, then moving on to work as the Executive Director of NYS Governor's Office for Hispanic Affairs, and then to her most recent appointment in 2002 as the Senior Vice President of the Empire State Development's Economic Revitalization Division. There is no doubt that Shirley has touched a significant number of lives along the way. In 1989 Shirley helped to lead relief efforts for the victims and survivors of Hurricane Hugo in Puerto Rico. Time and time again, she has selflessly given her talent and devotion to improve and enhance the quality of life for others.

The list of Shirley's accomplishments for our community is plentiful, and has led to her recognition as a champion for both the city's un-

derstood populations and the Hispanic business community. She has received honors for her work by the Puerto Rican Bar Association, Verizon, the United Bronx Organization, Governor Pataki, the Girl Scouts, El Diario, the New York State Department of Correctional Services, the Hispanic Society of the New York/New Jersey Port Authority and Hispanic Magazine—and the list goes on.

This woman is a true leader, public servant, visionary, defender, mother and friend. Shirley—and the work she has done—is far more than one expects from the average citizen. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of Shirley Rodriguez Remeneski and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives in applauding her outstanding dedication to the residents of New York City and the Hispanic community throughout the years. We are all truly better off because of her devotion and commitment to us and our city.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE
MEMBERS OF BRAVO BATTERY,
FIRST BATTALION, 109TH FIELD
ARTILLERY DIVISION OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the 126 members of the Bravo Battery of the First Battalion of the 109th Field Artillery, based in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, who are returning home this week after a year in Iraq.

Our brave soldiers have served their country valiantly and we welcome them home with the utmost gratitude for their selflessness. In this time of war, it is important that we realize the sacrifices our troops endure. Americans have a history of making the necessary sacrifices for fighting for the ideals in which we believe. Americans have consistently stepped up and taken the lead in ensuring democracy through voluntary military service.

The Bravo Battery consists of: Richard Osborne Adams, David Paul Anthony, Stephen John Arnold, Richard Anthony Aulicino, Joseph Baloh, Michael William Bauder, James Lee Bell, Joshua Michael Bohinski, Jason Otto Bolesta; Joshua Brandes, Dennis Michael Bressler, Travis C. Brigalia, Christian Benjamin Brown, Mark Earl Brown, Ronald Joseph Bruza, Jr., Kyle Edward Buff, Robert Anthony Burge, Kevin Thomas Burritt, Raymond Charles Cannell, Gary Bruce Caton, Jr., John Lawrence Cavanaugh, Richard Lloyd Chesnet, Jr., Gerald B. Cobb, Scott Elliott Cousins;

Ryan Hazen Craig, Christopher Alan Daniel, Scott Anthony Domanowski, Robert Patrick Donahue, Dean Emery Doty, Nicholas Andrew Dulina, William Sanderson Dutzar, Jason John Ellison, Eric Anthony Eppler, Eugene Joseph Everett, Rodney Stephen Fedorchak, Robert Allen Franks, Terrance Charles Frederick, James Joseph Gallagher, James Michael Gallagher, Patrick Edward Gallagher, Tomas Rafael Garcia, Mario Luis Gonzalez, Jr., Jeremy James Granahan, Nicholas Joseph Guzinski, Justin Matthew Harris, William Harris, Kelly Scott Harter, Kevin Patrick Hettler,

Bruce Alan Hinds II, David Andrew Hoover, Kevin Thomas Hoover, Christopher Andrew Hudock, Matthew David Jacobs, Elijah Kareeme Jones, James Joseph Kania;

Daniel Steven Kankiewicz, Christopher James Keen, Christopher Warren Keller, Brendan Kevin Kelly, Jared Raymond Kennedy, David John Kinney, Rory Francis Kirwan, Rhyann Lee Kleiner, Neil Charles Klinges, Nicholas Andrews Kopco, Raymond Louis Krzak, Brett David Kunkle, Charles Cushing Ladd V, George Leibman, Matthew Lipo, Billy Joe Lora, Phillip Glenn Losito, Andrew Lukashewski, Brian Lukashewski, Joseph Andrew Lukashewski, Matthew Lupico, Nicholas Richard Lynn, Leonard John Macking III, Brian Jason Martin, William Frank Marusak, Michael Aloysius McKeown, Adam Charles Metz, Kenneth Paul Miller, Jr., Robert Jason Miller, Robert John Miller, Paul Minnicks IV, David Joseph Miscavage, Cliff Antonio Morales, Joseph John Novackowski, Patrick Francis O'Boyle, Walter Robert Ohl, Thomas Robert O'Leary, Charles Alex Pavlick, Francis William Petroski, Kris Sean Petrosky, Sr., Tony Phan;

Francis Joseph Poperowitz, Neil Aaron Ravitz, Jason Rexford Robbins, Timothy Michael Roberts, Jeremy John Rusczyk, Stephen Mark Rutkowski, Sean Paul Sarokas, John Sedon IV, Daniel Thomas Seip IV, Christopher Jude Sicurella, Jonathan Neil Suva, Anthony William Skrypski, K. Jaime Sorber, Daniel Christian Stella, Robert Paul Sternick, William Fredrick Stiefel, Jr., Jamie Lee Sult, Justin George Thomas, William Lewis Thubbron, Jonathan David Torres, Daniel Kieran Walsh, Nicholas William Walters, Wesley James Waters, Leonard Kenneth Weston, Jr., Adam Thomas Wilcox, Aron Preston Wright, Joshua Paul Yetter, Michael Lee Yetter, Eric Mark Zagata, and Robert Louis Zarnoch.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking these soldiers for their courage and love of country. It is truly an honor to serve them in the United States Congress. Please join me in welcoming these fine Americans home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, 2005, during rollcall vote No. 8 and rollcall vote No. 9, I was unavoidably detained due to travel back to the United States from Africa where a few of my colleagues and I on Chairman ROYCE's codel learned firsthand about the terrible genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both resolutions: H. Con. Res. 16, congratulating the Ukrainian people on their recent democratic election, and H. Res. 39, commending countries and organizations for marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and urging a strengthening of the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination, and anti-Semitism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I apologize for missing votes on the evening of January 25, 2005. I was on my way back to the United States from Chad and Algeria, where I witnessed first-hand the results of the genocide occurring in Sudan. Had I been able to, I would have voted: "Yes" on H. Con. Res. 16 (rollcall vote No. 8); "yes" on H. Res. 39 (rollcall vote No. 9).

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE OLD FORT LIONS CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to an outstanding service organization located in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On December 14, 2004, the Lion's Club of Old Fort, OH, celebrated its 60th anniversary.

The village of Old Fort, my hometown, is a community renowned for its civic pride and commitment to service. In 1944, it was home to five active churches, an active Grange as well as school organizations dedicated to helping others. There was not, however, an agency which could coordinate these services to provide for the entire community.

My father, P.M. Gillmor, who served as the first president of the Old Fort Lions Club, along with Ralph Blaney, were members of the nearby Tiffin Lions Club. Together, they proposed that Old Fort should form a club of their own. After enlisting 41 good citizens of Old Fort, they became charter members and joined Lions International.

The Lions Club was a good fit for Old Fort and the members were active in the community from the very beginning. Throughout its history there has never been a lack of enthusiasm or volunteer labor for its many projects. In addition, the Old Fort Lions Club has been active throughout the years in zone, State and International Lions. Ralph Blaney served as an international director, David Biddle and Ralph Gillmor served as district governors, and the Club has had many zone officers.

Anniversaries are a time to reflect upon a steadfast tradition of service. They are also a time to look toward new horizons. Lions have made it their responsibility to serve those in need by keeping pace with the ever increasing challenges facing mankind.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the community and the members of the club have greatly benefited from the effort that was started in 1944. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the achievements of the Old Fort Lions and encourage them to continue to uphold what has become the standard for service in Ohio.

IN HONOR OF TOMMY G. THOMPSON

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to recognize before this body one of our Nation's most dedicated public servants—Secretary Tommy G. Thompson of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Here in Washington, DC, most folks know Tommy for his role in transforming the Department of Health and Human Services into a highly sophisticated, highly organized agency equipped to combat the threat of bioterrorism. His hard work and steady leadership helped steer our Nation through some of its darkest moments, and America is a far safer place today because of his tireless efforts.

But the service of Tommy Thompson will be heralded for decades far beyond the D.C. Beltway as well. As a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly, followed by a historic 14-year tenure as Governor of the Badger State, Tommy solidified his place as one of the greatest public servants in American history. Personally, Tommy encouraged me to run for the State Assembly and later the U.S. Congress, and he has played a monumental role in shaping the political careers of countless others.

Mr. Speaker, as Secretary Thompson prepares to leave his post at the Department of Health and Human Services, I would like to once again thank him for his years of devoted service to the State of Wisconsin and our great Nation, and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVATION ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATION ACT (GRADE-A)

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to fully fund the Impact Aid program. Earlier today, along with twenty-seven bi-partisan co-sponsors I introduced the Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Act or GRADE-A bill.

This bill is intended to fulfill an obligation the Federal Government made in 1950 when Congress established the Impact Aid program. Impact Aid was created because Congress recognized the obligation of the federal government to assist school districts and communities that experience a loss in their local property tax base due to the presence of the federal government. Between 1950 and 1969, the Impact Aid program was fully funded by Congress. Since that time, the funding level has not kept pace with the amount required to cover the federal government's tax obligation.

Overseas, the Department of Defense runs many schools for the dependents of U.S. service personnel. Many people ask why the Department does not run such schools within the United States. The answer is that the children of military personnel already suffer enough

with their parents on long deployments overseas. We should not segregate military kids from schools when stationed here in their own country. Military kids also tend to be high achievers with parents that on average are model citizens. They tend to pull up the academic and athletic achievements of the schools they attend.

With thousands of servicemen and women risking everything overseas, I can think of no better way to set their minds at ease than by taking care of their families back home. This support should begin with assuring our soldiers that their children are receiving a quality education. There are 15 million school children in this Nation who are eligible for Impact Aid. Enrolled in one of the 1,300 eligible school districts, these children depend on their schools to provide them with an education and their parents depend on the schools to act as a community of support while they are deployed.

In my district, 36 percent of all students attending North Chicago's School District 187 are "Impact Aid" children. Currently, there is no guarantee that North Chicago will receive the maximum amount that Impact Aid has promised to provide for its students. We must guarantee our servicemen and women a quality education for their families.

But an even more pressing issue occurs at two other school districts in my district. About one in twenty students in School District 225 (Glenview), as well as School Districts 112 and 113 (Highwood/Highland Park), are Impact Aid children. Due to the current funding formulas, District 225 only receives \$110,000, and Districts 112/113 \$100,000. The money they receive is 90 percent short of the cost of educating these children. This shortfall creates a strain on the school districts overall.

The quickest way to take a soldier or sailor's mind off their mission is to have them worrying about their children's education. Kids from military families come from some of the hardest working, most patriotic families, but the schools they attend sometimes face short funding. This is because of the way we fund our Nation's schools. Impact Aid honors our commitment to military. It guarantees that those families who serve to protect our freedom are in turn protected by the federal government.

We should support the Impact Aid program because it is the right thing to do to make sure schools near military bases are adequately funded. We should also support this program because it is important to the future of our country's defense. The United States established the all-volunteer military thirty years ago. After decades of experience, we now know that the children of military personnel are the most likely to join the military. This means that the Impact Aid program is not only helping families now on active duty but also educating young men and women who are the most likely to become the future backbone of the armed forces.

This bill was the first piece of legislation that I introduced in the 107th Congress. We attracted above 20 co-sponsors. In the 108th Congress, we attracted above 40 co-sponsors. Clearly the time is coming when this bill must become law.

Our constitution commands that the first job of the federal government is to "provide for the common defense." As we improve the pay and benefits of men and women in uniform,

we must also support their kids and the local schools they attend. This may take many years to accomplish but the time is now to support schools that educate the children whose parents wear our Nation's uniform. Let us recognize our duty to America's children and to our military.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
THAT IS IMPORTANT TO RANCHERS
AND CONSUMERS

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Representative BARBARA CUBIN of Wyoming, to introduce a piece of legislation that we believe is vitally important for the ranchers of our states and for consumers across the country.

On December 29, 2004, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced regulations that would enable certain countries, including Canada, to qualify as "minimal-risk regions" for the disease bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE. Thus, on March 7, 2005, Canadian cattle will again be allowed into the United States after a 19-month moratorium on those animals due to a BSE outbreak in that country. Since the announcement of that rule, the government of Canada has discovered and confirmed two additional cases of BSE in that country's cattle herd. Despite this fact, USDA has not announced an intention to reexamine the rule or to postpone the date that it will open our borders to Canadian cattle.

Language to require country-of-origin labeling (COOL) for certain meat and perishable agricultural products was included in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, also known as the 2002 Farm Bill. Under that law, this provision was set to become operational on September 30, 2004. Unfortunately, Congress has postponed the implementation date for COOL until September 30, 2006. Even more distressing, opponents of COOL have begun an effort to replace the mandatory COOL program with a voluntary one.

Mandatory COOL is important policy for several reasons. First, it would distinguish American meat products from those that are being imported into this country. This would enable American ranchers and pork producers and others to promote domestically produced meat products that rancher in my state believe are superior to meat and live animals produced in other countries.

Secondly, it will give American consumers information that they have repeatedly stated they want about the origin of the meat that they buy at the grocery store. American consumers know where virtually all of their consumer goods are manufactured, but not something as important as the food that they provide for their families. They want this information and they should have access to it.

Providing consumers with access to country-of-origin information becomes particularly important in light of our Department of Agriculture's intention open the border to animals from a country that has recently found multiple cases of BSE.

This bill would prevent USDA from opening the Canadian border to cattle imports until

after a mandatory COOL program is up and running. Consumers want this information, and producers will benefit from having this information available. It is good policy and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
COMMEMORATE THE SPIRIT OF
CESAR E. CHAVEZ: "SI SE
PUEDE"

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a great American leader and hero, Cesar Chavez. He was a husband, father, grandfather, labor organizer, community leader and symbol of the ongoing struggle for equal rights and equal opportunity.

Cesar was the son of migrant farm workers who dedicated his life to fighting for the human rights and dignity of farm laborers. He was born on March 31, 1927, on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona, and died nearly 12 years ago in April of 1993. Over the course of his 66-year life, Cesar Chavez' work inspired millions and made him a major force in American history.

In 1962, Cesar Chavez and his family founded the National Farm Workers Association which organized thousands of farm workers to confront one of the most powerful industries in our nation. He inspired them to join together and non-violently demand safe and fair working conditions.

Through the use of a grape boycott, he was able to secure the first union contracts for farm workers in this country. These contracts provided farm workers with the basic services that most workers take for granted, services such as clean drinking water and sanitary facilities. Because of his fight to enforce child labor laws, farm workers could also be certain that their children would not be working side by side with them and would instead attend the migrant schools he helped to establish. In addition, Cesar Chavez made the world aware of the exposure to dangerous chemicals that farm workers and consumers face every day.

As a labor leader, he earned great support from unions and elected officials across the country. The movement he began continues today as the United Farm Workers of America.

Cesar Chavez' influence extends far beyond agriculture. He was instrumental in forming the Community Service Organization, one of the first civic action groups in the Mexican-American communities of California and Arizona.

He worked in urban areas, organized voter registration drives and brought complaints against mistreatment by government agencies. He taught community members how to deal with governmental, school and financial institutions and empowered many thousands to seek further advancement in education and politics. There are countless stories of judges, engineers, lawyers, teachers, church leaders, organizers and other hardworking professionals who credit Cesar Chavez as the inspiring force in their lives.

During a time of great social upheaval, he was sought out by groups from all walks of life and all religions to help bring calm with his non-violent practices. In his fight for peace,

justice, respect and self-determination, he gained the admiration and respect of millions of Americans and most Members of this House of Representatives.

Cesar Chavez will be remembered for his tireless commitment to improve the plight of farm workers, children and the poor throughout the United States and for the inspiration his heroic efforts gave to so many Americans.

We in Congress must make certain that the movement Cesar Chavez began and the timeless lessons of justice and fairness he taught are preserved and honored in our national conscience. To make sure that these fundamental principles are never forgotten, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. In the words of Cesar and the United Farm Workers, *si se puede*—yes, we can!

HONORING THE LIFE OF 1LT
NAINOA K. HOE, USA

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today we honor the life, passion, and patriotism of Nainoa K. Hoe, First Lieutenant, United States Army, a fallen American hero.

Although I have shared the stories of selflessness and sacrifice of our fallen soldiers before, this time is different.

First Lieutenant Hoe never lived in the Congressional District I represent. Truth be told, he never lived in Oregon. But his wife Emily, her family, and their friends were hopeful about the day he might.

His widow is a senior at Western Oregon University; she is proud of him and his contribution. Her greatest concern has been for her husband's men, his family, and the friends in their life.

It seems that bravery, commitment to service, and honor were personality traits shared by husband and wife. The young Hoe family will not get the years they deserved, but they are an example of love that we should all strive to emulate.

Just days ago, First Lieutenant Hoe was killed while leading his platoon on a foot patrol in Mosul. With him, the dreams of a radiant young couple with so much to offer—so many things to live and do—were buried in the sand of a country in transition.

Sadly, First Lieutenant Hoe was almost home. His rotation nearly completed, he was scheduled to return to the Pacific Northwest on February 6, 2005.

Though proud of his contribution to the long-term stability of Iraq and its people, he was an excited newlywed, looking forward to building a family, winning a position at the FBI, and enjoying the freedoms he had worked so hard to protect.

For Nainoa, courage was a family value. He believed that military service was an expected privilege; a duty that he proudly discharged. He reveled in his role as a commander of a combat platoon—a duty similar to the kind his father Allen Hoe completed during his time in Vietnam.

First Lieutenant Hoe believed there was nothing more important—no duty more sacred—than defending the ideals of this Nation, of fighting for a cause greater than him.

He believed these things knowing full well it meant risking his life, liberty, and his own happiness.

I believe we live in a smaller world these days. It grows smaller with each tragedy such as this. Every life matters—especially when it holds such promise.

Oregonians today are feeling the loss. Let us commit ourselves, here—in this chamber—to work even harder and do our part to make sound decisions about matters of peace and war; to be worthy of the trust Nainoa K. Hoe placed in our hands.

Let us pledge ourselves to being worthy of the sacrifice Nainoa freely offered; we owe him, and those that will follow, nothing less.

FREE SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF
THE PRESS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, not long ago, a Congressman from Ohio entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a recent newspaper account concerning his legal proceeding against Representative JIM McDERMOTT, my friend and colleague from Washington State. I was struck by this.

This story began with two newspaper accounts over 7 years ago. If we are going to reflect on this, I think it is only fair that Members of the House and the American people have access to the same basic information, so they can make up their own minds.

In this spirit, I am entering into the RECORD, and I would urge everyone to read, newspaper accounts carried by the New York Times and the Atlanta Journal Constitution. These stories disclosed efforts by then-Republican Speaker Newt Gingrich and Republican Members to skirt an agreement Gingrich had reached with the Ethics Committee.

At issue today are substantial issues concerning Free Speech and Freedom of the Press. The Courts have yet to render a full and final decision. While the legal process is underway, I believe we serve this House and the American people best by taking the time to be fully and fairly informed.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 10, 1997]

GINGRICH IS HEARD URGING TACTICS IN ETHICS CASE

(By Adam Clymer)

On the day in December when Newt Gingrich admitted bringing discredit on the House, his lawyer told Republican leaders that the Speaker had promised an ethics subcommittee not to use his office and his allies to orchestrate a Republican counterattack against the committee's charges.

That was part of the price for the subcommittee's agreement to accept his admission of guilt and spare him the potential humiliation of a full-scale public trial.

But that same day, even before the charges had been made public, Mr. Gingrich held a telephone conference call with other House leaders in which he made suggestions for a statement that the leaders would issue immediately after the subcommittee's charges were disclosed.

He also suggested the timing of various responses to Democratic attacks. The politicians agreed among themselves how they could use their opponents' comments to at-

tack the subcommittee's findings indirectly without technically violating the agreement that Mr. Gingrich's lawyers made with the ethics subcommittee.

The call was taped by people in Florida who were unsympathetic to Mr. Gingrich and who said they heard it on a police scanner that happened to pick up the cellular telephone transmissions of one of the participants. It was given to a Democratic Congressman, who made the tape available to The New York Times. Mr. Gingrich's office today did not question the authenticity of the conversation, but insisted that it did not violate any agreement with the ethics subcommittee.

The Speaker and his allies acknowledged at the time that their conversation was a bit "premature," since the subcommittee had not yet even voted on the charges against Mr. Gingrich. Nevertheless, they talked about how to handle inevitable Democratic attacks, how to time the day's events with newspapers, news agencies and the evening television news in mind, and—above all—how to avoid making all that look as if Mr. Gingrich was pulling the strings.

In the Dec. 21 conversation, Mr. Gingrich's lawyer, Ed Bethune, said, "it is very important for me to be able to say to the special counsel and if necessary to the committee members that we—and by that I mean the other attorney, Randy Evans, and I, and Newt—have done everything in our power to try to stop all things that might be construed in any way as an orchestration attempt by Newt Gingrich."

Mr. Gingrich, Mr. Bethune and the others discussed their tactics in a conference telephone call, a transcript of which was made available by a Democratic Congressman hostile to Mr. Gingrich who insisted that he not be identified further.

The Congressman said the tape had been given to him on Wednesday by a couple who said they were from northern Florida. He quoted them as saying it had been recorded off a radio scanner, suggesting that one participant was using a cellular telephone. They said it was recorded about 9:45 A.M. on Dec. 21.

The tape, in which the voices of Mr. Gingrich and other Republican leaders are clearly recognizable, was plainly a recording of a conversation that took place before the subcommittee released its charges and Mr. Gingrich's admissions.

The call capped a week of elaborate bargaining over the framing of the charges—and Mr. Gingrich's admission—that the Speaker had brought discredit on the House by giving untrue information to the ethics committee and by failing to get proper legal advice about the way he used money from tax-exempt foundations for a college course and televised town meetings with political overtones.

Mr. Gingrich's admission of guilt avoided a full-scale trial in which the details would have been televised nationally. In return, the committee's special counsel, James M. Cole, insisted on a promise that the Speaker would not use his allies to mount a counterattack against the subcommittee's case, since its rules forbade Mr. Cole and members from answering such attacks.

The tone of the conversation was optimistic. The Speaker and the other leaders believed that a coordinated response could enable them to limit political fallout.

And the talk, one of many that day, ended on a light note. After the basic outlines of the statement the leaders would issue had been agreed on, Representative Dick Army of Texas, the majority leader, had another suggestion for how Mr. Gingrich could handle the menacing accusation that he had deliberately lied to the committee: "I am not

sure you are ready for this, but you could quote Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers."

Mr. Gingrich asked, "Which one is that?"

Mr. Arney warbled: "I did not mean to deceive you. I never intended to push or shove. I just wish that you was someone that I love."

Today, Lauren Maddox, a spokeswoman for Mr. Gingrich, defended the Speaker's role. She said: "Newt has always had the right to run for Speaker and campaign. Any statement he made was in no way undermining the work of the committee."

She added: "There was a specific agreement between Newt's lawyers and the special counsel that Newt could brief the leadership. And it was always understood that in turn, the leadership could respond in any way they thought was appropriate."

In the December conversation, Mr. Bethune said in a couple of hours, once the subcommittee announced its actions, "it would also be a time when we are authorized to have the conversation that we are having now, a little prematurely. But I don't think it would be troubling to anyone that we are a little ahead of the gun."

Mr. Cole would not comment today, but the conversation itself suggested that the situation at the time seemed more complicated than Ms. Maddox contended.

Mr. Bethune, who served with Mr. Gingrich in the House for six years and now practices law in Washington, made several efforts to outline the slippery path that all must follow. One ally asked him what the leaders should say about any agreement between Mr. Gingrich and the subcommittee.

The lawyer replied: "No. I didn't say there was an agreement. I said there was a delicate process under way and that this is what Newt is going to do, in response to the delicate process. There is no agreement, no deal. We are not authorized to say that."

"Now if I can be very delicate here. There is one other constraint," Mr. Bethune continued. "He can run for Speaker, but he must maintain his confidentiality as far as public statements. And then, finally, Newt will not orchestrate, nor will he be—he will not orchestrate any attempt to spin this in such a way that it belies what he is admitting today in the statement of alleged violations."

But having barred one door, Mr. Bethune opened a window. "Having served as a member," he said, "you know when documents become public, I as a member, am entitled to say whatever the hell I want to say about those public documents. I guess that applies to any of you all who may be listening."

The men also talked about how they could use Mr. Gingrich's main adversary, Representative David E. Bonior of Michigan, the House Democratic whip, as a springboard to make arguments that Mr. Gingrich's agreement with the subcommittee would otherwise preclude.

"We know that Bonior is going to be having a press conference shortly thereafter, alleging a bunch of things that go too far," said Ed Gillespie, communications director of the Republican National Committee. "Once he has kicked that off, that would give us an opportunity to then go back and refute what he has said, and we have not jumped the gun on opening and we have simply responded."

Mr. Gingrich praised the suggestion. "Ed's very clever," he said. "Bonior, he will undoubtedly say things that are not true, will exaggerate what the committee has done."

Representative Bill Paxon of upstate New York, a coordinator of moves by the Republican leadership in the House, said it was essential to have a quick response after the subcommittee released its material.

The Speaker suggested that a leadership response be put out by 2 or 3 p.m., within a couple of hours of his statement and the subcommittee's statement. "I'm not an expert," he said, but "at that point we're in by the evening news, catch the morning papers."

Then the group went over the statement, with various suggestions offered about how to say that the Speaker had never intentionally misled the ethics committee.

The Speaker sought to end the cross talk by saying, "Why don't we pick up Ed's language: 'Although there is no charge that Newt intentionally misled the committee, Newt was responsible for the mistakes that were made?'"

Ultimately, the statement as issued changed a little. It said, "it should be noted, and is clear, he did not seek nor intend to mislead the committee."

[From the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Jan. 11, 1997]

GINGRICH ETHICS CASE: PANEL TRUSTED HIS MOTIVES, GINGRICH TOLD GOP ALLIES TAPE REVEALS CONFIDENCE TO SEEK SPEAKER'S POST

(By Jeanne Cummings)

WASHINGTON.—On the morning that Newt Gingrich admitted that he provided inaccurate information to the ethics committee, the speaker told his top advisers that he was convinced the two Republican members of the House ethics subcommittee believed it was not intentional.

As a consequence, Gingrich moved aggressively forward in his campaign to be re-elected as speaker with less fear that he would later be cut down by the ethics panel.

The speaker's analysis was laid out in a conference call with his lawyer and top Republican lieutenants who were drafting a statement that would downplay the offense that could cost Gingrich his job: providing "inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable" material to the committee.

The conversation was picked up on a Florida couple's scanner and a copy of the tape was obtained by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the New York Times.

The conference call focused on how the Republican leadership should react to the investigative subcommittee's findings of alleged ethics violations and the speaker's decision to concede them later that day.

When the speaker's statement admitting the violations was released on a Saturday afternoon, reporters were handed the GOP leadership statement just moments after subcommittee members left a press conference area.

The subcommittee is chaired by Rep. Porter Goss (R-Fla.). The other members are Rep. Steven Schiff (R-N.M.), Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Rep. Ben Cardin (D-Md.)

In the taped conversation, which has been confirmed by the speaker's office, Gingrich said: "I think that if the committee thought I had intentionally misled them, I would not be a candidate for speaker. Goss and Schiff would have called me in and said, 'We will actively oppose you.'"

House Majority Leader Richard Arney agreed with Gingrich's comments and said: "We have got to believe they have carried Pelosi and Cardin as far as they can. And in that case, what Newt has just said is absolutely correct. They couldn't have carried them to where they are today if they were not confident they could defend Newt within their own circles."

There is no indication on the tape that Gingrich spoke with Goss and Schiff about their conclusions in the case.

Rich Galen, a spokesman for Gingrich, said the speaker's confidence came from a variety of impressions and experiences throughout

the investigation and not any direct conversations with his two Republican colleagues.

"The fact that they didn't (confront Gingrich) was something he drew comfort from," said Galen.

Goss and Cardin declined to comment.

Schiff said that while the speaker has extended contact with the subcommittee members during his two appearances before them, "there was no external contact."

Pelosi said: "Any characterization of how we ended up where we did is something the leadership could not know."

The discussion among Gingrich and his advisers that leads to his remarks about the ethics subcommittee members begins when Gingrich Chief of Staff Dan Meyer asks Gingrich's attorney Ed Bethune if it would be appropriate to include a sentence in the leadership statement saying that the speaker did not intentionally mislead the committee.

"It seems that members need to understand that and it then will be fine," Meyer inquired.

Noting that Gingrich had an agreement with the subcommittee not to coordinate an effort to undermine his own admissions, Bethune said, "Newt cannot be part of crafting any such statement."

However, Bethune said "a member of Congress having received those documents can say anything they want to."

The leadership then agreed to include a sentence in their statement that ultimately read: "It should be noted, and is clear, he did not seek nor intend to mislead the committee. We look forward to working with him as speaker following his re-election on January 7."

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE ACT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which I am offering to ensure the continued success of vocational and technical education programs into the future. The bill, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act, includes a number of positive reforms that will help strengthen vocational and technical education programs and improve opportunities for students.

Vocational and technical education, authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act and known as the Perkins program, aims to prepare youth and adults for the future by building their academic and technical skills and ensuring they are equipped to proceed with postsecondary education or pursue other avenues. This program represents one of the largest federal investments in our nation's high schools and is a key component of our secondary and postsecondary education systems.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 66 percent of all public secondary schools have one or more vocational and technical education programs with approximately 96 percent of high school students taking at least one vocational and technical course during their secondary studies. Vocational and technical education is an important postsecondary option as well. Over 2,600 postsecondary sub-baccalaureate institutions,

such as community colleges, technical institutes, skill centers, and other public and private colleges, also offer vocational and technical education.

Reforms made to the Perkins Act in 1998 increased the focus on ensuring that participating students at both the secondary and postsecondary levels acquired academic and technical skills, as well as completed their respective programs and transitioned into successful employment or further education. Some progress has been made as states have created an initial performance accountability system and the focus on academic performance among students participating in vocational and technical education courses has been strengthened.

Today, I am offering the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act to build on the 1998 reforms, and ensure vocational and technical education continues to prepare students for whatever they choose to pursue upon graduation. Should a student choose to proceed with postsecondary education, enter the military, or pursue other opportunities, the goal of the Perkins program must be to prepare students with the right combination of academic and technical skills so that they may succeed in whatever path they choose.

The bill I am offering includes a number of reforms designed to enhance achievement and accountability, streamline programs so that states may better utilize federal dollars, and provide model sequence of courses that will enhance vocational and technical education programs and partnerships.

The bill includes important steps to increase accountability, and emphasize continued improvement in student achievement. The bill establishes separate performance indicators for secondary and postsecondary students, improving on current law by recognizing the need for distinct measures to be applied to differing students. The bill also requires states to make continued and substantial improvement in the academic and vocational and technical achievement of students, and establishes incentive grants for states exceeding their own high standards.

To increase accountability and achievement at the local level, the bill requires local programs to establish local adjusted levels of performance similar to current statewide performance level expectations. The Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act also establishes local improvement plans and permits states to apply sanctions for local recipients that, after receiving technical assistance, fail to show improvement or continually do not meet local adjusted levels of performance.

To better streamline and target federal funding, the bill combines funding for the Tech-Prep and Perkins state grant programs into one program funding stream, and incorporates the activities of Tech-Prep into the basic grant program. This consolidation will increase flexibility for states, streamline funding, and ensure current activities continue to exist while the program as a whole is updated to meet the challenges of the future.

The Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act includes an important new element that will build upon efforts to coordinate secondary and postsecondary vocational and technical education. The bill requires states to develop model sequences of courses for vocational and technical programs to be used as an option at the local level. These model se-

quences of courses will incorporate both secondary and postsecondary elements, include rigorous and challenging academic and vocational and technical content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses, and lead to a degree or credential.

Technology and economic competition are combining in ways that are changing the nature of work and are redefining the American workplace. The need for higher literacy, numeracy, communication, and interpersonal skills in the workplace has grown over the past decade and will continue to be an important factor in the workplace in the future. The skills needed to be successful in postsecondary education are similar to the skills that are required by employers. The need for a strong academic and technical background makes it imperative that the current vocational and technical education system adapt in order to provide the knowledge and skills needed to succeed.

The bill I am offering today seeks to meet the challenges of a changing economy and workplace by building upon the current successes of vocational and technical education. Our challenge is to ensure that all vocational and technical education students have access to programs that are sufficiently rigorous in both their academic and technical content, as well as provide clear connections with the education and training beyond high school that most Americans need for continued workplace success. I believe this bill fulfills those high standards, and I am pleased to be offering it today.

THE ARRIVAL OF WILLIAM
ETHERIDGE OTTO

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a joyful heart to announce the birth of my very first grandchild. On January 19, my wife Faye and I welcomed into this world William Etheridge Otto, the new son of our daughter Catherine Etheridge Otto and her husband Tim. William arrived at 9:03 a.m. in Raleigh, North Carolina. He weighs seven pounds and seven ounces and measures 21 inches.

Faye and I are proud as can be of our very first grandchild and his parents. Looking into the face of a newborn baby reaffirms your hope for mankind, your faith in God and your commitment to family. I want my grandson to grow up in a peaceful and prosperous nation, where he can achieve his dreams and is limited only by his willingness to work hard. I want William Etheridge Otto and all children to have good schools, safe neighborhoods and the best medical care. And I hope our national leadership can return to the values of balanced budgets and opportunity for all so that my grandson's generation can reach for the American Dream. Those are North Carolina values. I look forward to teaching William those values throughout his precious life.

A new child in the family is a gift from God. The Etheridge family today is very blessed to welcome our newest addition. I look forward to introducing him to my friends and neighbors.

LEGALIZATION OF ILLICIT DRUGS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call attention to the work of organizations that seek the legalization of illicit drugs in our country, to the detriment of the health and safety of our citizens.

On January 4, 2005, the Washington Post published an article entitled "Exhale, Stage Left," chronicling the career of Keith Stroup, the founder and retiring executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). This article sheds light on some of the operations and claims of such organizations, and I ask that it be entered into the RECORD.

Particularly disturbing in this story is the entanglement of the drug legalization group with those who stand to profit from others' addiction—drug traffickers. The Washington Post article describes that one of the major early financial backers of NORML was "the legendary pot smuggler" Tom Forcade. To collect donations, Stroup even went to Forcade's "stash house," which was "filled with bales of marijuana." Certainly we can understand why a drug smuggler would contribute generously to efforts to legalize drugs like marijuana—with so much product to move, this man had a vested financial interest in making harmful drugs easier for people to obtain. But what kind of group takes money from such a criminal? Do we really want our laws "reformed" by efforts funded by criminal enterprises? Yet according to the article, it had seemed "perfectly normal for NORML to call a dope smuggler when it ran short of cash."

Drug legalization groups like to claim that marijuana is not really harmful and that it does not serve as a "gateway" to the use of other dangerous drugs. In fact, on its website, NORML claims, "There is no conclusive evidence that the effects of marijuana are causally linked to the subsequent use of other illicit drugs." Perhaps NORML needs to look back at the experiences of its own leaders to re-examine such an assertion. The Post article describes how Stroup and his colleagues themselves moved onto other drugs in the 1970s: "Privately, he and his NORML pals joked about forming an advocacy group for another drug they'd begun to enjoy—cocaine." I'm sure that the families who have suffered through the heartaches of cocaine addiction could inform NORML that cocaine abuse is no laughing matter. Stroup has come to realize that as well, admitting that his own use of cocaine may have led to lapses in professional judgment and that he knows now that "[c]ocaine is deadly." Once, though, he had thought cocaine harmless. If he was wrong about cocaine, might he not likewise be wrong in presuming marijuana harmless?

In an attempt to make marijuana sound "harmless," drug legalization groups also try to downplay the addictive qualities of marijuana. NORML states on its website, "While the scientific community has yet to achieve full consensus on this matter, the majority of epidemiological and animal data demonstrate that the reinforcing properties of marijuana in humans is low in comparison to other drugs of abuse . . ." Yet the leaders of legalization

themselves exhibit not simply social or occasional use of marijuana, but regular consumption of it. According to the article, Stroup smokes pot “nearly every night” as he watches the evening news.

Our citizens—especially our youth—need to understand the real danger of dependence on marijuana. It’s not as innocuous as legalizers would have us believe. As the Office of National Drug Control Policy has reported, “According to the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 4.3 million Americans were classified with dependence on or abuse of marijuana. That figure represents 1.8 percent of the total U.S. population and 60.3 percent of those classified as individuals who abuse or are dependent on illicit drugs . . . What makes this all the more disturbing is that marijuana use has been shown to be three times more likely to lead to dependence among adolescents than among adults.”

We need to be aware of marijuana’s harms. Last year NIDA Director Nora Volkow testified at a hearing before the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources, which I chair. Dr. Volkow attested to the health risks associated with marijuana, saying, “There are numerous deleterious health consequences associated with short and long-term marijuana use, including the possibility of becoming addicted. During the period of intoxication, marijuana disrupts short-term memory, attention, judgment, as well as other cognitive functions. In addition, marijuana has also been shown to impair coordination and balance, and can increase an individual’s heart rate.” Marijuana, Dr. Volkow testified, can affect the entire body: “New research is also showing us that marijuana can affect almost every organ in the body, from the central nervous system to the cardiovascular, endocrine, respiratory/pulmonary, and immune systems. Because marijuana is typically rolled into a cigarette or ‘joint’ and smoked, it has been shown to greatly impact the respiratory system and increases the likelihood of some cancers.” Marijuana use is connected to lifelong difficulties for our youth: “Also, we are finding that early exposure to marijuana is associated with an increased likelihood of a lifetime of subsequent drug problems.”

With all the risks that marijuana poses, we cannot afford to allow drug legalization groups to perpetuate their myths about the “harmlessness” of marijuana—especially when even their own history casts doubt on the validity of their claims.

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

EXHALE, STAGE LEFT: AT 61, LONGTIME MARIJUANA LOBBY LEADER KEITH STROUP IS FINALLY LEAVING THE JOINT

(By Peter Carlson)

Keith Stroup’s mouth is dry. His brain is foggy. America’s most famous marijuana lobbyist admits that a powerful drug has messed up his mind.

The drug isn’t marijuana, although he smokes that nearly every night. It’s Tylenol cold medicine. He took some this morning, he says, and it made him feet goofy, spacey, stoned.

“I hate taking it,” he says. “But my nose was running and I kept sneezing and I thought, ‘I gotta take something.’”

Wearing a bright white shirt and dark blue suit, Stroup is sitting at his impeccably neat desk in the tidy K Street offices of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of

Marijuana Laws. He founded NORML back in 1970 and now, 34 years later, he’s retiring at 61 as the pot lobby’s executive director.

“When I turned 60, I looked in the mirror and I saw this gray-haired old man and I said, ‘I think we need younger leadership,’” he explains. “It has to do with more energy, fresh perspectives, new ideas. It’s not like I’m ready for the old folks’ home. I just think we need somebody younger running the organization.”

That somebody is Allen St. Pierre, 39, who has served as NORML’s second-in-command for the past decade. St. Pierre took over yesterday, while Stroup, who recently got married for the third time, headed off to his Falls Church home to become a consultant and lecturer.

But now, Stroup, stoned on cold medicine and nostalgia, starts showing off the strange souvenirs of his strange lobbying career.

He pulls a black-and-white photo off the wall. It shows him in jeans and a jacket addressing a crowd of hippies in front of the White House in the ’70s.

“We used to have a July 4 smoke-in every year in Lafayette Park,” he says. “I like this just as a period piece. Look at those ragtag folks! Look at the guys without their shirts on!”

He points to a poster on the wall and reads its message aloud: “It’s only a weed that turns to a flower in your mind.” He laughs. “That’s a period piece, too.”

Decorating his filing cabinet are stickers—“Just Say Yes to Legalization”—and a backstage pass from a Willie Nelson concert. Nelson, famously fond of the weed, is a longtime NORML supporter.

“Over the years, we’ve built up a nice friendship,” Stroup says. “He’s going to sponsor a celebrity NORML golf tournament in 2005.”

Stoned golf?

Stroup laughs. “It’s a lot less competitive,” he says.

He picks up a picture frame that contains a typed letter. It’s the note that accompanied \$10,000 in cash left on the doorstep of NORML’s office in the summer of 1976.

“Officially, it was an anonymous gift,” Stroup says, smiling mischievously, “but I knew who it was.”

The money came from Tom Forcade, the legendary pot smuggler who founded *High Times*, the marijuana magazine, in 1974 and helped bankroll NORML before he committed suicide in 1978. Forcade’s letter claimed the \$10,000 was a donation from “The Confederation,” a fictitious group of dope growers and smugglers. It concluded: “Karma prevails. Venceremos.”

Stroup turned that gift into a media event, calling a news conference and spreading the well-worn \$10 and \$20 bills across a table for photographers.

Today Stroup is a bit embarrassed by that publicity stunt. “It was a little close to the line,” he says. “I was nervous about the whole thing going down, but I played along with it. If I did that today, the FBI and the DEA would have me before a grand jury in no time.”

Back in the ’70s, though, it seemed perfectly normal for NORML to call a dope smuggler when it ran short of cash. One day, Stroup recalls, he called Forcade for a donation and the smuggler told him to come to an address on New York’s Lower East Side.

“I got up there and it’s an apartment with no electricity,” he says, “and I walk in the door and the whole room is filled with bales of marijuana! It was a stash house! And I’m saying, ‘Forcade, what are you doing? I don’t know if I’m being followed.’ But we needed the money and I took the money.”

There was a time, back in the ’70s, when Keith Stroup was about as close to a rock star as Washington lobbyists ever get.

He hung out with the Allman Brothers and Jimmy Buffett. He parted with Willie Nelson and presidential son Chip Carter. He had sex in the fabled grotto at the Playboy mansion, where Hugh Hefner hosted a NORML fundraiser.

The man they called “Mr. Marijuana” grew up on a farm in southern Illinois. His mother was a devout Baptist. His father was a building contractor and Republican Party activist who stashed a bottle of whiskey under the front seat of his Lincoln Continental so he could take a snort when his wife wasn’t looking.

Stroup graduated from the University of Illinois in 1965—after a one-year expulsion for drunken frat boy high jinks—and headed for Washington. He enrolled in Georgetown Law School and, using his dad’s GOP connections, landed a \$50-a-week job in the office of Sen. Everett Dirksen of Illinois. The work was dull, but it gave Stroup a taste for Capitol Hill wheeling and dealing.

Meanwhile he’d begun smoking pot and marching in antiwar demonstrations, sometimes simultaneously.

He finished law school in 1968, got married and took a job on the newly formed federal Commission on Product Safety. That job put Stroup in contact with Ralph Nader, then a hot young consumer advocate.

Inspired by Nader’s work, Stroup got an idea: He’d create a consumer group for pot smokers, an organization to lobby for legalization. It was the kind of pipe dream that floated through the heads of countless pot smokers during long nights of deep inhaling, but Stroup actually did it—hustling \$5,000 in seed money from the Playboy Foundation and opening an office in his basement near Dupont Circle.

“Keith was a rebel, and he resented the idea that his government treated him as a criminal because of a drug that he and millions of other people used,” says Patrick Anderson, author of “High in America,” a 1981 book on Stroup and NORML.

Stroup didn’t dress like a rebel, though. He wore a suit and tie, like every other Washington lawyer-lobbyist.

“He was consciously trying to be an alternative to the freak approach, which he knew wasn’t going to work,” Anderson says.

Courting respectability, Stroup assembled a board of directors that included Harvard professors, former attorney general Ramsey Clark and, later, Sens. Phil Hart and Jacob Javits. Pumped with zeal, Stroup went anywhere to make his pitch, appearing on TV, lecturing at colleges, testifying before Congress and state legislatures.

In 1972, Stroup got unexpected help from an unlikely source: The National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse, appointed by President Nixon, issued its final report, concluding that marijuana is relatively harmless and that possession of less than an ounce should be legal. Nixon rejected the report, but Stroup used it as a lobbying tool in his increasingly successful campaign to reduce penalties for pot.

In 1975, five states—Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine and Ohio—removed criminal penalties for possession of small amounts of the weed. In 1976, Jimmy Carter, who during his campaign had advocated decriminalizing pot, was elected president. In 1977, Stroup visited the White House to meet with Carter’s drug policy adviser, Peter Bourne. Soon NORML would be playing the White House in softball.

It seemed like high times for NORML. Publicly, Stroup predicted that pot would be legal in a couple of years. Privately, he and his NORML pals joked about forming an advocacy group for another drug they’d begun to enjoy—cocaine.

Then Stroup hit a couple of snags. In October 1977, Canadian customs agents found a

joint in Stroup's pocket and busted him. That wasn't too bad: Canada had liberal pot laws and when Stroup returned for trial in 1978, the judge let him off with a \$100 fine.

But at the airport on his way home, Canadian customs agents searched his bags and found a joint and a vial containing traces of cocaine. Busted again, he spent the night in jail, was fined \$300 and got kicked out of Canada. The whole absurd episode was like a bad joke.

How can you tell if you might be a little too stoned?

You get busted going through customs with dope after your trial for going through customs with dope.

That was a dumb blunder. But Stroup was about to make a blunder that was infinitely dumber.

Back in Washington, he was lobbying for a bill to ban Federal funding of a controversial program that sprayed Mexican marijuana fields with the herbicide paraquat, shown to cause lung damage in people who smoked the tainted weed. Stroup asked Bourne, Carter's drug adviser, to support the bill. Bourne refused. Stroup was outraged. To him, it was a moral issue: The feds were deliberately poisoning pot smokers! Seeking revenge, Stroup leaked a secret to newspaper columnist Jack Anderson in July 1978: Bourne had snorted cocaine at NORML's 1977 Christmas party. And Stroup revealed the names of a couple of witnesses.

When Anderson broke the story, Bourne told reporters he'd only handled cocaine at the NORML party, he hadn't actually snorted any. It didn't matter, Bourne lost his job.

A few months later, so did Stroup. The folks at NORML didn't like snitches and eased him out the door.

"When I look back on it," Stroup says now, "it was probably the stupidest thing I ever did."

Nobody "in their rational mind," he adds, would jeopardize a relationship with a high White House official over a minor policy dispute.

Is it possible that he wasn't in his "rational mind" because he was too stoned too often?

"Yes," he says. "I think it is possible that my own personal use of cocaine played into that."

In those days he, like many people, thought coke was harmless. Now he knows better. "Cocaine is deadly," he says. "There are probably people who can use cocaine moderately. But I gotta tell you: Based on me and my friends, I didn't see very many of them."

After leaving NORML in 1979, Stroup spent four years as a defense attorney. "Every client I had was a drug offender," he says. "The only people who'd heard of me had been arrested on drug charges."

Unfortunately they weren't the kind of drug offenders he liked—folks who'd been caught with a little weed. They were mostly cocaine smugglers and, he soon realized, a lot of them were thugs.

"So I stepped aside," he says, "and went back into public-interest work."

Stroup, who had divorced in the early '70s, married a television producer and moved to Boston, where he became a lobbyist for the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities.

In 1986 he moved back to Washington to lobby for a family farm organization. In 1989 he became executive director of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. In 1994 he became a lobbyist for the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives, an Alexandria-based prison reform group.

Then in 1995, NORML—split by infighting—asked Stroup to come back and run the place.

He returned to find that everything had changed. The movement to legalize marijuana had run aground. In the 1970s, 11 states had decriminalized pot; in the '80s, none did. Nancy Reagan's "Just say no" crusade and the deadly spread of crack cocaine had led to a backlash against drugs. And NORML was nearly broke, politically impotent and beset by feuding factions.

Stroup saved NORML from self-destruction, St. Pierre says, but he failed to bring back the glory days: "Keith could not replicate what he did in the '70s."

Part of Stroup's problem was competition. In the '90s, two new groups arose to advocate drug-law reform, each bankrolled by an eccentric billionaire. The Drug Policy Alliance is funded by financier George Soros. The Marijuana Policy Project, founded by former NORML staffer Rob Kampia, is funded by insurance mogul Peter Lewis. Both groups have spent millions on state referendums to legalize medical marijuana—many successful, some not.

But Stroup has failed to find an eccentric billionaire sugar daddy for NORML.

"I wish we had that kind of funding," he says. "If I had the kind of funding that Kampia has, I think I could have done a lot more with it than he has."

Now NORML limps by on about \$750,000 a year, most of it raised from dues paid by about 12,000 members. It's not enough money to do much politicking, so NORML is now largely a service organization for pot smokers, providing tips on beating drug tests and legal advice for arrested smokers.

Over the past year money was so tight that Stroup laid off two staffers and stopped collecting his \$75,000-a-year salary for two months.

"I view NORML as a small and shrinking dinosaur," Kampia says. "NORML's time has come and gone."

Tom Riley, official spokesman for federal drug czar John Walters, agrees. "Keith and people like that have banged their heads against the wall for years saying 'Legalize pot.' But they're farther behind now than they were 20 years ago."

Riley says Stroup's career reminds him of a line from the movie "The Big Lebowski": "The '60s are over, Lebowski. The bums lost. My condolences."

"I have no doubt I'll be smoking marijuana the day I die," Stroup says.

He loves the weed. He smokes it nearly every night. He comes home from work, pours a glass of chardonnay, lights up a joint and turns on the TV news.

He does not smoke pot when he has to work or drive, he says, because, as the movies of stoner comedians Cheech and Chong prove, pot can make you stupid.

"I learned a long time ago that some of those Cheech and Chong jokes are very real," he says. "If you're in a social setting and you're smoking marijuana, there are going to be a lot of those Cheech and Chong situations, where you feel real strongly about something and you start a conversation and about halfway through you forget what the point was." He laughs. "But that's only when you're stoned. Four hours later, you don't have that."

His new wife doesn't share his passion for pot. Neither does his 35-year-old daughter, who recently had a baby boy, making Stroup a grandfather. He doesn't care that they don't smoke pot and he doesn't think anybody should care that he does smoke it. Forty years of serious inhaling, he claims, hasn't harmed his body or his mind.

"There's absolutely nothing wrong with it," he says, "and it should be of no interest or concern to the government."

Despite his candor on the topic, Stroup hasn't been busted since his Canadian mis-

adventures. But he knows the government and its drug war are always out there, and that can make a guy paranoid. About a year ago, the feds nearly discovered Stroup's stash in a suitcase he'd checked on a plane.

"I had a few joints in an airtight thing inside a sock so you couldn't see it," he says. "I got back home and opened it up and there was this slip saying, 'We opened your bag, blah, blah blah.' And my weed is a few inches away! I said, 'Man, that was too close!' So I no longer carry anything when I'm flying. If I'm going to be someplace for a few days, I ship myself a 'care package.'"

The next day Stroup calls, leaves a message on the voice mail. "Man, I was totally goofy yesterday on that cold medicine," he says. "I hope I wasn't totally goofy in my responses. . . . I should have better sense than to do an interview when I'm stoned out of my mind on cold medicine."

HONORING DEPARTING U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGES

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the end of this week marks the completion of our first semester for the Page academic year and thus several of our House Pages will be leaving us. At the completion of my remarks, I am submitting a list of names of those pages that will be departing for home in the next few days.

Not only do I want to note the participation and service of these fine young people, but as the Chairman of the House Page Board, I want to thank them for their service and commitment to this Institution. They have served with distinction and should be commended for their contributions. They and their fellow classmates have served during a time of great historic events that have included the final weeks of session of the 108th Congress, Presidential and Congressional elections, the Opening of the 109th Congress, the meeting of the Electoral College and last week's Inauguration of President Bush. As well, this class have distinguished themselves through their public service and their fund raising for the Red Cross to help the victims of the recent Tsunami.

We are proud of you and wish you only the best in your future endeavors. Thank you.

2004 FALL SEMESTER PAGES

Erin Leigh Baker—NE; James L. Barnes, III—TN; Scott M. Bengtson—MI; Jordan H. Blumenthal—FL; Mark Bracey-Sherman—IL; Stephanie Ching—CA; Kate E. Collins—CA; Jonathan M. Cowgil—MN; David A. Dazlich—CO; Christopher G. Doyle—NY; David G. Duncan—GA; Maxwell W. Epstein—MD; Scott D. Friedman—NY; Jenna C. Gaughan—MO; Ashley E. Gunn—MS; Sarah M. Harley—SC; Kathryn A. Helin—NH; Laura J. Johnson—WI; Jasma Phyllis Jones—MO; Dawn Marie Kling—PA; Johnathan D. Kristan—WI.

Thomas Lane—TX; Madeleine Claire Parish—OK; Eugene Hee Park—CA; Kimberly A. Peters—FL; Malorie Porter—OH; Melissa L. Price—AL; Maxwell Jason Rabkin—NJ; Edwin A. Robinson, Jr.—NY; Nicole Schuerch—PA; Elizabeth Shockey—OH; Alexandra Sunseri—LA; Miles Edward Taylor—IN; Monique Teixeira—CA; Maximilian D. C. Thompson—NY; Lynsey Nichole Thornton—VA; Cassi Turner—TX; Wilfredo Antonio Velasco Vargas—CA; Corey Walker—MD; Ashlee N. Wilkins—VA; Jaron A. Zanerhaft—OK.

RECOGNIZING THE MARCH FOR
LIFE

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the thousands of people in Arkansas and across the Nation who gathered this week to protest the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*.

Like those who assembled, I believe strongly in the sanctity of human life. 32 years ago, the Supreme Court decided that a woman could end a life by terminating her pregnancy for any reason, including health, gender selection or because it was an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy. As a result, thousands of lives have been ended out of convenience mislabeled as a woman's right to choose.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember this powerful Supreme Court decision this week, I ask that we also remember that we have a responsibility to protect the precious lives of the unborn children to come.

H.R. 304—AIRCRAFT CARRIER END-
STRENGTH ACT

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 304, a bill I introduced in the name of national security. This bill would set in law a requirement that our United States Navy maintain a fleet of at least twelve aircraft carriers.

Why, my colleagues might ask, is this change in law necessary? I believe the reason is clear. Our Nation is enduring an extraordinary amount of pressures, both financially and militarily. Somehow, Mr. Speaker, those financial pressures have weighed so heavy on our military leaders that they feel forced to propose a reduction in the number of carriers available to our Commander in Chief.

Mr. Speaker, the military might of the United States is unmatched. It is unmatched, Mr. Speaker, because no other Nation faces the challenges we face. And that is why I have introduced this legislation. Our unique challenges require force strength, flexibility, and presence. This is not my lesson; this is the lesson of past military conflicts.

The consistent message from senior Department of Defense leadership is that many of the important tactical missions accomplished in Afghanistan and Iraq would not have been possible without our fleet of aircraft carriers.

Aircraft carriers are in constant demand all over the globe. There is no technology, no way they can be in two places at the same time.

The Navy's CNO himself believes even with the technological advances, quantity has a quality all its own.

So this legislation, H.R. 304, will ensure that our Nation's Commander in Chief has a full fleet of carriers in times of peace, and in times of crisis. My colleagues, I urge you to support H.R. 304, support our carrier fleet, and support keeping the fabric of our national security whole.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EARLY
WARNING AND RAPID NOTIFICA-
TION ACT

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be introducing the Early Warning and Rapid Notification Act, which will fix some of the communications problems that plagued the effort to effectively warn people about the tsunami of December 26, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, exactly one month ago over 160,000 people in the Indian Ocean region died as a result of a catastrophic tsunami caused by the largest earthquake the world has seen in over 40 years. In the wake of that disaster, an outpouring of sympathy across this country has resulted in over \$350 million in private donations, with the United States government pledging nearly that much as well. Having witnessed such devastation, we're now asking the question: How can we keep this from happening again?

There were two entirely avoidable problems that contributed to the scale of the December 26 tragedy. The first was a lack of tsunami sensors in the Indian Ocean, which made it difficult for the scientists at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii to determine if the massive earthquake had in fact spawned a killer wave. In response to this we've seen a number of proposals, both from this Congress and around the world, to establish a global tsunami sensor network. I support these proposals, since there is no reason why we should be caught unaware in the event of any disaster where we have the ability to detect it beforehand.

The second problem on December 26 was far more fundamental, and far more mad-denying. It was, in this era of cell phones and instant text messaging and worldwide satellite coverage, a complete breakdown of communications. In some cases, we had the ability to let people know, but couldn't. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center simply wasn't sure who to contact in those countries bordering the Indian Ocean that were in danger from the tsunami. They did an excellent job in reaching who they could, but there was too much confusion, and far too much time passed before they could get the warning to those who needed it. There's no reason for this. The United States should know exactly who to contact in every country in the world if we have information about a natural disaster that they need. In this legislation, the State Department is directed to conduct a study examining the lines of communication about natural disasters between the United States and other countries, and to make recommendations to strengthen those lines if they're found lacking.

But even if we had known exactly when, where, and how hard the tsunami was going to hit, and had been able to get that info to the governments of every nation in the region, not much would have changed. Because in order to save lives, you have to get that information to the people in danger. The people in the towns and villages along the coasts. The tourists on the beaches. Without a way to get warnings to these people, all the sensors in the world won't do a bit of good.

Mr. Speaker, in this country we're used to all types of warning systems. Warnings about

tornadoes, warnings about floods, warnings about hurricanes; warnings about chemical spills and potential terrorist attacks; we grew up with the Emergency Broadcast System to warn us about the unthinkable. In short, we have one of the most advanced systems in the entire world for warning people about all types of hazards. And these warning systems save lives. But many other countries are missing even the most rudimentary ways of getting warnings to people at risk, which results in tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths each year.

The United Nations recognizes the need for a comprehensive, worldwide effort to establish early warning systems in countries that don't have them, and last week launched the International Early Warning Programme. The Programme identifies four elements of effective early warning systems: knowing what the risks are, detecting disasters, disseminating warnings, and making sure people know how to respond.

The legislation I am introducing today directs the United States to work with the United Nations in implementing the International Early Warning Programme, and authorizes \$50 million to help establish early warning systems in other countries for all types of hazards. This isn't merely protection against another tsunami; it's protection against floods, fires, storms, volcanoes, and any other event where a timely warning can save lives. This bill also expands the scope of our existing research programs on early warning systems to include an international component, and directs additional research into the use of advanced technologies to provide quick and effective warnings, both at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, setting up a worldwide tsunami warning system is important, but the sad likelihood is that far more people will be killed from floods and storms in the future than from another tsunami. This legislation will help establish systems that provide effective early warnings around the world for all types of hazards, and will help protect lives and property from the next disaster that, I fear, will come all too soon.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES W. EVATT

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James W. Evatt for his many years of service to the Boeing Company and our Nation's defense programs. Jim is stepping down from his role as vice president and general manager of Boeing's Missile Defense Systems and vice president and general manager for the Missile Defense National Team Systems Engineering and Integration program. He has held both positions since 2001.

A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Jim joined the Boeing Company in 1987 after 22 years of Government service. During his tenure as vice president and general manager, he was responsible for Boeing's Ground-based Midcourse Defense program, the Airborne Laser, Advanced Tactical Laser program, Boeing's Air and Missile Defense program, and the Laser and Electro Optical Systems program. He was also responsible for all

Boeing missile defense programs including its work on PAC-3, SLAMRAAM, Avenger, and advanced systems initiatives. Furthermore, he was instrumental in creating the missile defense market area within the company and aligning it with the Missile Defense Agency to ensure a seamless working relationship on the programs critical to national security.

In addition to his Boeing responsibilities, Jim is a member of the Air Force Association's Science and Technology Committee and the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Jim has been an integral part of our national security for many years. His experience, dedication, and knowledge will be greatly missed. On behalf of everyone in north Alabama, I rise to thank him for his service and join his colleagues, family, and friends in congratulating him on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO HILDA GAY LEGG

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the true diamonds working inside the rough and tumble granite rock of the Federal Government that will be leaving her post on January 31, 2005. The gem I'm referring to is Adair County, Kentucky, native and USDA Rural Utilities Service Administrator, Hilda Gay Legg.

I had the privilege of working closely with Hilda prior to her appointment to RUS. She served as executive director and CEO of the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, Kentucky, from 1994 until October 2001. Hilda provided true leadership by turning an upstart conference site into a world class community-oriented interactive center. In that position, she helped develop and implement a broadband telecommunications program in rural communities throughout southern and eastern Kentucky. The Center grew to manage 40 Internet centers that offer high speed, interactive video conferencing and community access to computers. Thanks to the solid foundation built by Hilda, those activities continue today.

In 2001, President George W. Bush tapped Hilda as the 15th person, and first woman, to serve as the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration—Rural Utilities Service. Shortly thereafter, Congress passed the landmark 2002 Farm Bill which in turn launched a number of new RUS initiatives including a broadband loan and grant program, energy efficiency grants, weather radio grants, and local television guarantees. Hilda took these new responsibilities in stride, leading the agency with professionalism and accomplishing much of our agenda.

While Administrator, Hilda approved some 5,570 loans and grants totaling nearly \$20 billion. These funds will improve water quality in communities throughout America, provide access to top-level treatment in our rural health clinics, and give our schools Internet access to the world. Under her faithful and deliberate watch RUS programs increased by nearly 60 percent while loan delinquency was a mere .1 percent. Hilda's leadership also improved loan processing efficiency, set in motion an intense

review of risk management, and accomplished much toward President Bush's goals in the areas of efficient and effective management, broadband deployment, energy independence, and job creation in rural America.

Hilda has never ceased to serve as an advocate for rural America and she has done so with remarkable class, spunk, and spirit. As her legacy still remains at the Center for Rural Development, I am confident it will also remain at RUS and in communities throughout the nation that have been touched by her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, although the Federal Government is losing out with Hilda's retirement, I can selfishly say I am thrilled that this precious gem is coming home to Kentucky.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEROES ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to join with 18 of my colleagues, including the entire congressional delegation of Alabama, in introducing legislation aimed at honoring the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform by greatly enhancing military combat death benefits. My legislation is also needed to ensure that military families are properly compensated in the event of the loss of a loved one in combat.

The nearly 170,000 American military personnel in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq are there to defend our nation's freedom and security. Their service is vital to the long term protection of our land and they must know that their government and fellow citizens are fully behind their efforts. I believe one of the best ways to demonstrate this support for our military is to provide them with the peace of mind that if they should lose their lives in combat their families will receive adequate death benefits.

The need to improve military combat death benefits is not new to Congress. In 2003 and 2004, enhancements were made to these benefits as part of the annual Defense Authorization bills. For example, the military combat death benefit was increased from \$6,000 to \$12,000 and Congress directed the Pentagon to study the feasibility of increasing Servicemen's Group Life Insurance maximum coverage to \$350,000 with the military covering the first \$100,000 of insurance for service members who purchase the maximum benefit. However, that's simply not generous enough.

I do not believe these benefits adequately compensate military families, nor do they send a strong enough message to our military personnel that their government will honor their sacrifice by providing proper benefits in the event of their death in combat.

My bill, known as the Honoring Every Requirement of Exemplary Service (HEROES) Act, would increase the military gratuity death benefit from the present \$12,000 to \$100,000. Furthermore, it would also increase the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance maximum coverage from the current \$250,000 to \$400,000 with the first \$150,000 in coverage guaranteed by the Department of Defense once a soldier is deployed into combat.

What's more, the HEROES Act would make retroactive payments of \$238,000 to the fami-

lies of those military personnel who've already lost their lives in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. This amount is equal to the \$88,000 increase in the death gratuity payment as well as the \$150,000 insurance coverage benefit boost. These enhanced benefits would apply to military personnel losing their lives in combat as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

In closing, I would urge quick adoption of this measure in order to give our military personnel and their families greater comfort as they are called upon to defend America.

THE NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION—PROVIDING PRAISEWORTHY SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the National Funeral Directors Association for their relief efforts in light of the recent tsunami tragedy in South Asia. Following President Bush's plea for monetary donations to assist the humanitarian effort, they established the Funeral Service Asian Relief Fund, which directs the funds to one or more charitable organizations assisting in the relief effort.

The National Funeral Directors Association has long been involved in volunteering their time and resources to aid in domestic disasters, such as the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack and the Oklahoma City bombing. However, it is clear that their care and concern for humanity goes beyond our American borders as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the efforts of the National Funeral Directors Association, including a member in my East-Central Indiana district, to aid the international relief efforts assisting the victims of the South Asia tragedy. I sincerely hope that Americans, and men and women throughout the world, will look to this as an example of care and compassion for mankind.

TRIBUTE TO MR. PETER VAN DER VELDE

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, Mr. ROTHMAN and I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding public servant, Mr. Peter Van Der Velde, Captain with the Hawthorne Police Department, who was recognized on Friday, January 21, 2005 for his lifelong dedication to public safety. It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for he has a long history of leadership, creativity, and commitment to his noble profession.

Mr. Peter Van Der Velde was born on August 23, 1947 in Paterson, New Jersey. He eventually moved from Paterson to the nearby Borough of Ramsey, New Jersey where he finished his formal education. After he graduated, Peter decided to serve in the United

States Army and subsequently spent two years stationed in Vietnam. Upon the completion of his tour of duty, he returned home and quickly became an employee of the Passaic County Sheriff's Department.

Captain Peter Van Der Velde has served with the Hawthorne Police Department for 30 years. During his long tenure with the department he has steadily climbed the ranks from Patrolman to Captain and completed countless assignments. Peter began his career with the Hawthorne Police Department in April of 1974 and by December of 1986 he was awarded the title of Sergeant. He then received a promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, before being named Captain.

On October 6, 1993 Peter was appointed to the rank of Captain and immediately he began tackling the Borough's most challenging projects. As Captain he was in command of both the Uniformed Patrol as well as the Auxiliary Police but Peter insisted on expanding his duties. True to his nature Peter assumed as many additional responsibilities as possible including the posts of Traffic Safety Officer and Emergency Management Coordinator.

Captain Van Der Velde exudes courage and dedication. Over the years Peter has been confronted by a wide array of obstacles and in each instance he has proven his resiliency. As President of PBA Local 200 he truly showed his concern for his fellow brethren as well as for the families of those police officers.

The talents that have made Van Der Velde a successful Police Captain were echoed in all the areas of his community service. His multiple roles in the Ramsey Rescue Squad, Ramsey Fire Department, North Haledon Fire Department and the Hawthorne Ambulance Corps have enabled Peter to develop into the inspiring leader he is today.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Captain Peter Van Der Velde.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that you join our colleagues as well as Peter's family and friends, in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service of Captain Peter Van Der Velde.

COMMENDING COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR MARKING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I solemnly rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the first and largest Nazi concentration camp stumbled across by Allied troops as they fought back Nazi Germany.

Today, the twin camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau are silent, yet full of the ghosts of horrors of boundless slaughter, torture and sadistic human experimentation. We lost over one million souls at Auschwitz alone. Over 5 million more innocent people with names, families and lives were murdered at several other Nazi concentration camps.

On January 27, 1945, Allied troops marched by the ashes of those killed at Auschwitz, and

freed the few remaining survivors. Tattooed with a number on their left forearm, and inconceivable torment in their minds and bodies, the survivors walked under the Auschwitz gate adorned with the words "Arbeit Macht Frei" or "Work Makes Freedom" as emancipated men and women.

The survivors miraculously got on with their lives, although the pain of their memories did not diminish. Many have become successful doctors, teachers, writers and entrepreneurs. Others served valiantly in defending the state of Israel against hatemongers with similar intentions as the Nazis. Many others settled in New York's Eight Congressional District, which I proudly represent, and added immensely to New York City's soul and wealth of character. Theirs is a remarkable story of the human spirit.

It is an appalling realization that 60 years after the Holocaust, the Jewish people are still persecuted, anti-Semitism remains prevalent in many parts of the world, and genocide occurs and is often ignored.

As we commemorate this 60th anniversary, we face the terrible reality that anti-Semitism did not die in Auschwitz. Many of those who survived the holocaust are now reliving the unspeakable horror of anti-Semitic hatred for the sole reason of their religion and identity.

Moreover, sixty years later, we continue to turn our backs on the victims of hatred and genocide. We failed to appropriately respond to devastation and death in Rwanda, and now we repeat our desertion of innocent women and children in Sudan.

Let us honor the memories of those who died in Auschwitz and the Holocaust and the lives of those who survived it, by combating anti-Semitism, hate and bigotry today, tomorrow, and always.

Let us never forget.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL CAPTIONING INSTITUTE'S QUARTER-CENTURY OF ACHIEVEMENT IN CLOSED CAPTIONING AND RELATED MEDIA ACCESS TECHNOLOGIES

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the Congressional Public Broadcasting Caucus, I am introducing a bipartisan resolution to recognize the achievements of the National Captioning Institute, NCI, in providing closed-captioning services and other media access technologies to Americans who are disabled by hearing loss and/or vision loss, or who are limited by their inability to read or master English as a second language. Given that communication delivery systems such as television and, more recently, the Internet, play an absolutely essential role in American society, this resolution salutes NCI's quarter-century of progressive development in bringing media-access technologies to the American people.

The National Captioning Institute was founded in 1979 as a nonprofit corporation with the mission of ensuring that deaf and hard-of-hearing people have access to television through the technology of closed captioning. Prior to this time, captioned television was of-

fered on an extremely limited basis, and the captions were "open," resembling subtitles, an obtrusive system roundly rejected by broadcasters and audiences alike. NCI pioneered the closed-caption technology in which captions could be accessed through special decoder units. This revolutionary solution made it possible for both hearing and hearing-impaired audiences to enjoy television programming at the same time, and made the goal of accessible television a reality. NCI pioneered the way for the first, nationally broadcast closed captioned television programs 25 years ago—an event so momentous that it was announced from the Rose Garden of the White House and made international headlines.

It is estimated that more than 100 million Americans benefit from captioned programming. These audiences include 28 million people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing; children and adults learning to read; and those learning English as a second language. Hearing and nonhearing audiences are most likely to use closed captioning in their homes, although the system is embedded throughout today's society in public spaces such as bars, gyms and airports. As part of NCI's commitment to providing media access to everyone, NCI is making great advances in the development and application of described video technology, a service that provides an audio description of the visual elements of video programming for people who are blind or have low vision, which is an audience of more than 14 million people.

The span of NCI's perseverance and dedication extends far beyond technology for our televisions. NCI established the Nation's only free consumer help desk for communications access issues where citizens may pose questions on topics such as the availability of captioned programming, how to resolve problems with displaying captions, accessibility of closed captions with digital cable and high definition television, and the availability of closed captions in Spanish and on DVDs and home videos.

In addition to its technologic achievements, NCI recently took the lead on auditing how the entire captioning industry is performing. It commissioned the field's first study to evaluate the quality, availability, and use of the Nation's use of captioning services in order to improve performance throughout the entire captioning industry.

In light of all of the above achievements, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this resolution and demonstrate our support for the National Captioning Institute's dedication to improving media access to millions of our fellow Americans.

CLARKRANGE HIGH SCHOOL WINS SECOND NATIONAL TITLE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Clarkrange High School Chess Team for winning the 2004 National K-12 Grade Championships Chess Tournament. This marks the second national title for the Clarkrange High School Chess team in the past 5 years, winning the 2000 title in Charlotte.

The tournament, sponsored by the United States Chess Federation, was held in Orlando, FL, at Disney World's Dolphin Resort. Over 1,500 chess players representing 44 States and hundreds of schools participated in this tournament. The competition pits each grade level against itself. Clarkrange entered three teams in the competition.

The ninth grade team took the national championship at that level, the 10th grade team just missed the championship by half a point and took second place, two CHS assistant coaches took third place in the collegiate competition.

Members of the Clarkrange chess squad include Coach Michael Cross, Assistant Coaches Matthew Human and Joe Wright, students Andrew Simonton, Justin England, Ryan Hunley, Michael Davis, Simmy Jenkins, Chris Snow, Coty Phillips, and Dillon McCann.

These young men will have something to be proud of for the rest of their lives. May they continue to challenge themselves and excel in everything they do in life. They have made Fentress County, Tennessee very proud. Congratulations, Clarkrange High School Chess Team.

TRIBUTE TO MS. SHIRLEY
RODRIGUEZ REMENESKI

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Shirley Rodriguez Remeneski, an incredible woman who has spent most of her life serving the needs of others. On Thursday, January 27, 2004, Ms. Remeneski will celebrate her retirement in the City of New York.

Since she started her career in 1966, Ms. Remeneski has held various leadership positions in the government and non-profit worlds. Currently she serves as Senior Vice President of the Empire State Development's Economic Revitalization Division. In this capacity she oversees economic development for distressed communities, including projects and programs to stimulate growth and development throughout New York State. Her efforts have helped to create permanent jobs and sustainable business enterprises.

Ms. Remeneski's list of achievements is long and impressive. She began her career in 1966 by establishing and directing the first Social Services Unit in the Bronx Borough President's office. Some of the more influential positions Ms. Remeneski has held include district administrator for Congressman Badillo, where she managed the New York City office and coordinated activities with the Congressman's Washington staff. In 1978 she served as Assistant Deputy Mayor of New York City where she worked on intergovernmental relations and community development issues in the South Bronx, Harlem and other areas of the city. And in 1986 she served as Executive Director of the NYS Governor's Office for Hispanic Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that Ms. Remeneski's service to the people of New York has not gone unnoticed. She has received numerous awards and commendations from a host of organizations, including the As-

sociation of Hispanic Mental Health Professionals, Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, the NYC Housing Authority's Society of Hispanic Employees, the NYS-Hispanic Political Coalition Employees and many others.

Ms. Remeneski has worked tirelessly to help improve the lives of people throughout New York. As a result of her unyielding dedication and hard work over the past four decades, countless New Yorkers enjoy a better life.

In honor of her retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Shirley Rodriguez Remeneski.

HONORING THE PULASKI CITIZEN
FOR ITS YEARS OF SERVICE TO
GILES COUNTY

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pulaski Citizen for its contributions to the citizens of Giles County, Tennessee.

The Pulaski Citizen is the longest-running newspaper in the history of Pulaski and Giles County, spanning 150 years from 1854 to 2004. It's also one of the oldest continuously operating in the State of Tennessee. Its weekly visits into the homes of Giles Countians have brought national, state and local news.

The Pulaski Citizen was especially crucial in the days before radio, television and the internet as the only news media available to so many people. It has served the business community equally as well by printing the advertisements that promote these businesses, often contributing greatly to the success of so many of the hundreds of varied businesses that have called Giles County home.

Community improvement and growth has been a primary function of the Pulaski Citizen under the leadership of the McCord, Romine, Smith and Lake Families. Through the editorial urgings of the Pulaski Citizen, community life in Pulaski and Giles County has been greatly improved by such things as a water works, a fire department, improved telephone service, new and better schools, an outstanding college, playgrounds for our children, and hundreds of other benefits for our community.

The Pulaski Citizen is the oldest existing business in Pulaski, Tennessee. It has been in continuous publication since December 16, 1854, except during the Civil War. Pulaski was occupied by Union troops from the spring of 1862 until the end of the war. Most, if not all, businesses in Pulaski were forced to close during the Union occupation. Publication resumed on January 5, 1866 and has been continuous since that time.

In honor of the 150th birthday of the Pulaski Citizen, one page each week during 2004 has been dedicated to taking an historic look at how the paper covered current events that are now the "popular" record of our history with staff writer Claudia Johnson selecting material for weekly installments and for a book in commemoration of the sesquicentennial.

PRESIDING JUSTICE ROBERT K. PUGLIA: JUDGE, SCHOLAR, WORDSMITH, TEACHER, PATRIOT, AND FAMILY MAN

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from California Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COX, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. DREIER, Mr. FARR, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LUNGREN, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. POMBO, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THOMPSON, and Ms. WOOLSEY to pay tribute to Presiding Justice Robert K. Puglia, judge, scholar, wordsmith, teacher, patriot, and family man.

Born in 1929, and raised in Westerville, Ohio, Robert K. Puglia came to California after high school to earn money for college. Returning to his Buckeye roots, he graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in political science, then fought in Korea and was a first sergeant in the Third Infantry Division. Following the war, he graduated from the University of California Boalt Hall School of Law in 1958.

He married Ingrid in 1959. They have four children—Peter, Susan, David, and Tom—and three grandchildren.

Justice Puglia began his legal career as a Deputy Attorney General in Sacramento, then moved to the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office where he prosecuted the most serious cases. At age 34, he was named Chief Deputy District Attorney. In 1969, he became a partner in McDonough, Holland, Schwartz, Allen & Wahrhaftig. He was a Professor of Law at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, and frequently taught at legal seminars. He also taught at California State University, Sacramento.

Governor Ronald Reagan appointed him Judge of the Superior Court, County of Sacramento, in August 1971; Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, in June 1974; and Presiding Justice in December 1974.

Justice Puglia distinguished himself, in California and in the Nation, both as a prosecutor and a jurist, during his more than 40 years in the law. Known for his keen intellect and clear reasoning, colleagues and litigants alike remember his sharp memory, gregarious personality, thorough consideration of issues, and effective leadership. His stewardship of the court was exemplary, marked by a respect for his colleagues and a concern for the independence of the judiciary. His administrative touch was light but firm and done with a sense of humor.

After becoming a judge, Justice Puglia served on the Judicial Council, the State courts' governing council. He served as president of the California Judges Association and the National Council of Chief Judges of Courts of Appeal. Admired and respected by appellate judges everywhere in America, he often served as a member of the faculty of the Appellate Courts Institute, conducted annually by the California Center for Judicial Education and Research, and the Appellate Judges Seminar, conducted annually by the Institute of Judicial Administration, New York University School of Law.

Justice Puglia's opinions are marked by scholarship, common sense, clarity and eloquence, reflecting his philosophy of judicial restraint and his understanding of the proper role of the courts in a democratic society. He authored more than 4,000 opinions, of which 446 were published, including one opinion he wrote as Chief Justice pro tem of the California Supreme Court. A dynamic, innovative, collegial and respected leader and mentor, he retired from the Court of Appeal in November 1998. The Court of Appeal's library was dedicated and named in his honor in April 1999.

Justice Puglia was chosen as the recipient of Boalt Hall's Judge D. Lowell Jensen Public Service Award in 2003. The Jensen Award is given each year to a prominent Boalt Hall graduate for his or her outstanding commitment to public service in the legal field. Judge Jensen personally presented the award at a special luncheon in Sacramento.

Justice Puglia has the uncanny ability to become a quick-study expert in anything that catches his interest. Of his many hobbies, two merit mention: music and sports.

Justice Puglia loves the big bands of World Ward II. He maintains a large collection of their music: Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller, and Harry James. He appreciates the vocal talents of Jo Stafford, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Mercer (as much as a songwriter as a singer), Dick Haimes, and Nat "King" Cole. One of his favorite singers was a British singer from World War II named Vera Lynn. She sang to British troops and was their hero.

Justice Puglia loves sports, but especially baseball. He supports his alma mater, Ohio State. In an era of many great sports heroes, he was partial to Bob Feller in baseball, Otto Graham in football, and Jerry Lucas in basketball, for their admirable characteristics both on and off the field of play.

Justice Puglia is undeviating in his commitment to ethics and civility, to playing by the rules, in sports and in life. For several years, Justice Puglia's ethics and civility have provided a beacon for young baseball and softball players in Northern California. The Sacramento River Cats, who play in the AAA Pacific Coast League, annually select the most outstanding high school baseball (boys) and softball (girls) players for Justice Robert K. Puglia Good Sportsmanship Awards. These awards are given before capacity crowds at Raley Field every August, as the baseball season wanes. Both Art Savage, president/CEO of the Sacramento River Cats, and Branch Rickey, president of the Pacific Coast League, have declared Justice Puglia is the perfect civic exemplar for Sacramento's, California's, and America's young people.

TRIBUTE TO COACH MYERS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay a special tribute to Richard J. Myers, a native son of Buffalo, New York. Richard J. Myers has devoted his entire career to the

teaching, coaching, mentoring and overall development of our youth.

Dick recently retired as an English teacher and the Head Basketball Coach for Gonzaga College High School after approximately 30 years of outstanding service. Coach Myers is credited with, among other things, taking a somewhat lackluster Gonzaga basketball program and transforming it to its current championship caliber.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of his retirement, I am proud to recognize Dick Myers' legacy. His longstanding and tireless dedication to youth education and learning is without equal. As an athletic coach at Gonzaga College High School, he is regarded as an institution and treasure.

Richard J. Myers was born in Buffalo, where a "blue collar" work ethic is the norm, and no one better personifies that strong ethic than Dick. While there is no doubt that Dick's inherent integrity, dedication to duty and commitment to community are qualities that were developed through the unselfish efforts of his parents and his family, there is little doubt that these attributes were nourished and allowed to blossom through his Jesuit education. The well-renowned teaching tradition of Jesuit educators, with a focus on the building of the "whole man" by equally focusing on mental, physical and spiritual growth, helped to lead Coach Dick Myers on his path of service to youth and his greatness as a teacher and coach.

In addition to his work ethic, Dick maintains a modest manner. He will always let you know that it was his students and athletes who made him successful. However, it is undeniable and oft-repeated by his former students and players that it was largely Dick Myer's guidance, teaching, coaching and encouragement that opened the pathway to their personal and team achievements.

Since his arrival at Gonzaga, Coach Myer's accomplishments are not only good grist for stories by sports enthusiasts of the Gonzaga community, but also can be measured in concrete and demonstrable facts. With his induction into the Gonzaga Hall of Fame on November 3, 2000, he was acclaimed as "an extraordinary man of great talent and integrity" with successes in the Gonzaga basketball program, including four WCAC championships and a DC City Title Championship. Significantly, an April 1999 Washingtonian Magazine article entitled "Real Basketball," claims that under the tutelage of Coach Myers, the Gonzaga basketball team's third victory over DeMatha in 1999 was "one of the most thrilling finishes of any sporting event in recent years."

All of Dick's accomplishments would be too numerous to mention and, as is so often the case with the contributions of successful teachers and coaches, the true milestones of their achievements are, to a large degree, immeasurable. However, Coach Myers' record-breaking mark as basketball coach at Gonzaga with a lifetime record of 714-362 provides some perspective into Dick's basketball coaching feats.

Dick Myers, an outstanding athlete in his own student days, attended Canisius High School (CHS), a Jesuit institution in Buffalo. Dick was a three sports star at CHS, and received All-Catholic Honors in both basketball

and baseball. He was also voted MVP for the Manhattan Cup Catholic League Championship game, won by CHS. In 1992, he was inducted into the CHS, Hall of Fame and was selected at the recipient of the prestigious "John F. Barnes Memorial Trophy."

He continued his academic and athletic successes at another fine Jesuit institution, LeMoyne College, in Syracuse, New York, graduating in 1964. At LeMoyne, he excelled in both basketball, helping to lead his basketball team to the NCAA playoffs in 1964, and in baseball, where his .300 batting average is still memorialized. In 1995, LeMoyne College honored Dick for his overall college level success by inducting him into the LeMoyne College Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I know I can state unequivocally that Dick's family and the people of Buffalo are proud his many and varied accomplishments. More importantly, however, it is our country that should give praise to Dick Myers, and the many other dedicated teachers, coaches and youth mentors. Often in relative anonymity, these people have unselfishly dedicated their careers to a singular purpose of making our society and this great country a better place by their positive impact on our youth—our future.

THANKING JACQUELINE AAMOT
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement at the end of January 2005, we rise to thank Ms. Jacqueline (Jackie) Aamot for her long career of outstanding service to the United States government, most recently here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Jackie began her career with the House ten years ago on January 4, 1995, and served in positions within the Administrative Counsel and Finance offices of the Chief Administrative Officer. As the Finance Office's Director of Financial Counseling, she provided financial assistance and guidance to all Member and Committee offices including monitoring and projecting available fund balances and ensuring expenditures comply with both House and Committee rules and regulations.

Jackie made significant contributions to the financial management of the U.S. House of Representatives, implementing consolidated electronic billings, which have lessened the administrative burdens both for Member and Committee offices and for the Office of Finance. In addition, she instituted more efficient processes that have resulted in the issuing of payments by the Office of Finance in less than two days following receipt of a voucher.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Jackie for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the financial management of the House. We wish Jackie many wonderful years of fulfilling her retirement dreams.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 1

9 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine strategies for reshaping U.S. policy regarding Iraq and the Middle East.
SD-419

10 a.m.
Budget
To hold hearings to examine the Congressional Budget Office budget and economic outlook.
SD-608

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, committee's rules of procedure for the 109th Congress, and subcommittee assignments.
SD-419

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain issues relative to CIA document disclosure under the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act.
SD-226

FEBRUARY 2

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine FELA issues relating to asbestos.
SD-226

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the U.S. Tsunami Warning System, and S. 50, to authorize and strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's tsunami detection, forecast, warning, and mitigation program.
SR-253

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations, committee's rules of procedure for the 109th Congress, and subcommittee assignments.
SD-430

FEBRUARY 3

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD-226

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine benefits for survivors of those killed in the line of duty.
SR-418

11 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the effects of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) on United States imports and exports of cattle and beef.
SD-106

FEBRUARY 8

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the implementation of Titles I through III of P.L. 106-393, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.
SD-366

FEBRUARY 10

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SH-216

FEBRUARY 15

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Administration's proposed fiscal year 2006 Department of Veterans Affairs budget.
SR-418

MARCH 1

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of the Interior.
SD-366

MARCH 2

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Forest Service.
SD-366

MARCH 3

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Energy.
SD-366

MARCH 8

2 p.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
345 CHOB

MARCH 9

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
SH-216

MARCH 10

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

APRIL 14

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

APRIL 21

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

SEPTEMBER 20

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