

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF COUNTRY MUSIC LEGEND MERLE KILGORE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Merle Kilgore, a talented musician, legendary writer, and friend, a fellow West Tennessean who dedicated his life to entertaining the world.

Merle began his music career in 1948, carrying Hank Williams' guitar at the Louisiana Hayride. He soon began performing, and he wrote and recorded hit songs such as "Ring of Fire" and "Wolverton Mountain." Mr. Kilgore was also an actor, appearing in films such as "Coal Miner's Daughter" and "Five Card Stud." Apart from his performance skills, he was a fine businessman, managing the legendary career of Hank Williams, Jr. He was named honorary State Senator by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1987, while I had the honor of serving in that body.

Merle Kilgore was more than a music legend. He is remembered by those who knew him best for his loyal friendship and sharp wit. Mr. Kilgore's stories and anecdotes brightened the lives of everyone he touched. Merle's cheerful outlook on life will be deeply missed by his family and friends. A dedicated family man, he is survived by his wife, Judy; two sons; three daughters; eight grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the exceptional life of a true legend and dear friend, Mr. Merle Kilgore.

A TRIBUTE TO THE A.P. GIANNINI MIDDLE SCHOOL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the A.P. Giannini Middle School of San Francisco, which is located in my Congressional district. This extraordinary middle school has long been known for its academic promise and delivering students who are well prepared to area high schools.

This school is named after Amaedo Peter (A.P.) Giannini, who started the Bank of Italy in 1904, with the then unheard of concept of providing banking services for the "little fellows," the hard-working immigrants that other banks refused to serve. After the devastating earthquake of 1906, A.P. Giannini immediately set up a temporary bank. Almost every building in the city had been destroyed, and he went about collecting deposits, making loans, and proclaiming to all that San Francisco

would rise from the ashes. Mr. Giannini ensured that many hard working immigrants could get their piece of the American dream by loaning them money when no other banks would. Under his watchful eye, this little bank, which started in a converted saloon, expanded rapidly throughout the State of California and in 1930 he renamed his institution the Bank of America.

Mr. Speaker, the middle school, which now bears his name, was opened in the Sunset District of San Francisco in September of 1954, but renamed after Mr. Giannini on January 26, 1955. Although Mr. Giannini had passed away six years earlier, both his widow and daughter Claire were present for the ceremony to dedicate the school. Today the school serves children from grades 6 to 8, with an average enrollment of 1,300 students. It routinely tests well above the California and national average, and over a quarter of the students study in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program.

A.P. Giannini Middle School provides students with a diverse learning environment and as well as a lesson of tolerance. Like A.P. Giannini back in the early 1900's, A.P. Giannini Middle School gives their students a chance to achieve the American dream. The staff of A.P. Giannini Middle School deserves credit for providing their students with the tools they will need in high school and throughout life.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the last 50 years, A.P. Giannini Middle School has proven what dedicated staff members, counselors and teachers can do. The students are exemplars in the community and should be commended. I would also like to thank the Giannini family for their continued support of the school that shared so much of the vision of Mr. Giannini. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the A.P. Giannini Middle School Day, with me on February 17, 2005.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO ROBERT B. WILSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mr. Robert Bernard Wilson of Carroll County in the State of Mississippi. Born September 10, 1928, in Chicago, IL, Wilson was educated in the Chicago Public Schools, and later at the Mississippi Industrial College (B.S.), and received certification in Science/Biology at Mississippi State University.

Mr. Wilson served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict and received an honorable discharge. He was an educator for 32 years in the Carroll County and Montgomery County school districts where he taught science and biology. During his tenure as an educator, Mr. Wilson was the first African American to coach high school football after school integration in Mississippi. He received numerous awards, such as Teacher Award, Coach of the Year Award (Local and State), Senior Class Sponsor Award and the Montgomery County Citizenship Award.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

IN HONOR OF LARRY McREYNOLDS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry McReynolds for his outstanding leadership and remarkable accomplishments in the field of health care administration. After almost 5 productive years, Mr. McReynolds moved on from his position as executive director of the Jersey City Family Health Center on Friday, January 28, 2005.

A New Jersey resident since 1991, Mr. McReynolds has proven himself to be a valuable asset to health care organizations. During his impressive career, he has held a variety of positions with Clara Maass Medical Center and the Saint Barnabas Healthcare System. Since 2000, he has served as executive director of the Jersey City Family Health Center where he has been instrumental in the expansion and development of a wide range of health programs and initiatives.

Under his strong guidance, the health center has expanded many of its services that aid the underserved or low income populations in the community, including an AIDS treatment center and the Healthcare for the Homeless Program. Additionally, it has established a pharmaceutical program that helps patients access medication, the Reach Out and Read Program for inner-city kids, and many outreach initiatives aimed at helping the Hispanic community. While serving as executive director, Mr. McReynolds has seen the health center almost double its budget and staff size. Other

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

positive developments include receiving a March of Dimes grant for research purposes and obtaining funding for a program to assist parolees with re-entry into the community. With the help of contributions from the State, the Susan B. Koeman Foundation, and the banking industry, the Jersey City Family Health Center has established a mobile mammography program. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. McReynolds, and he has been instrumental in making much needed health care services a reality. I am proud to have secured funding for a pilot program at the health center, and thanks to him and his team, the community enjoys the benefits of a successful program for minorities with cancer.

Apart from working in administration, Mr. McReynolds has taught as an adjunct professor at New York University where he was the author of a course textbook in the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Born and raised in Indiana, Mr. McReynolds spent much of his undergraduate career studying and traveling abroad before graduating from Wheaton College with a degree in English literature. He also holds a master's degree in hospital administration from the Washington University School of Medicine.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Larry McReynolds for his impressive ability to spearhead and develop worthwhile health care programs, his drive to improve access to vital patient services, and his passion to help those in need. His work has touched the lives of countless individuals in Jersey City and the greater community. I am confident that he will continue to have great success in his new position as the executive director of the Sunset Park Health Center Network at the Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, and I wish him all the best.

A NOTE ON PROCESS REGARDING THE CONTINUITY IN REPRESENTATION ACT

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2002, the House Subcommittee on the Constitution held a legislative hearing on H.J. Res. 67, Representative BRIAN BAIRD's proposed constitutional amendment to allow lawmaking by an appointed House of Representatives following a terrorist attack.

During the 107th Congress, a bipartisan working group co-chaired by then-House Republican Policy Committee Chairman CHRISTOPHER COX and House Democratic Policy Chairman Martin Frost, met regularly to discuss the issues surrounding continuity in government, including constitutional amendments. As a result of those working group meetings, the House passed H. Res. 559 during the 107th Congress, expressing the sense of the House that each State should examine its existing procedures governing special elections so that, in the event of a catastrophe, vacancies in the House could be filled in a timely fashion. Unfortunately, only one state, California, responded to that request. Consequently, the House responded precisely as the Founders would have expected the House to respond, namely by acting pursuant to

Congress's authority under the Constitution to ensure that the House is repopulated expeditiously through elections in extraordinary circumstances. To that end, H.R. 2844, the Continuity in Representation Act, was introduced in the 108th Congress. The bill received a hearing before the House Administration Committee on September 24, 2003, and it was marked up by both the House Administration (on November 19, 2003) and House Judiciary Committees (January 21, 2004). Amendments adopted on the House floor included one that would protect the rights of military and overseas voters to participate in the expedited elections, and a provision that provided explicitly that all federal laws governing the administration of federal elections would apply.

Because H.R. 2844 was a bipartisan bill that resonates best with America's democratic values, on April 22, 2004, it passed the House on an overwhelming bipartisan basis by a more than 3-to-1 margin, by a vote of 306-97.

As part of a bipartisan agreement, I agreed to a markup of Representative BAIRD's proposed constitutional amendment (H.J. Res. 83 in the 108th Congress) in the Judiciary Committee. That was done on May 5, 2004. Committee Members all had the opportunity to offer amendments to H.J. Res. 83 to either perfect its language or replace it entirely with the text of any other version of the amendment. During the markup, I asked if there were any Members who wanted to offer amendment more than half a dozen times. The Judiciary Committee adversely reported out H.J. Res. 83, so all Members could have an opportunity to vote on it on the House floor.

The constitutional amendment the House voted on was the approach supported by Representative BRIAN BAIRD, the Member who is widely regarded as the most outspoken House proponent of appointed Members. This proposal and a host of others have been extensively studied by scholars both inside and outside of Congress, including during the last Congress, and by previous Congresses, going back some 50 years. It remains a terrible idea because it would introduce into our Founding document, for the first time, the concept that laws can be written by an unelected aristocracy. That is a bad idea now, and it was a bad idea then, when the House of Representatives, controlled by both Democrats and Republicans, rejected all constitutional amendments authorizing appointed House Members sent to it by the Senate, even during the height of the Cold War.

The conclusion of the Continuity in Government Commission's (a privately-funded commission's) report recommending a constitutional amendment that would deny the right to self-government under laws enacted by elected representatives states that "The exact details of a solution are less important than that the problem be addressed seriously and expeditiously." (This is from page 31 of the report, which can be found at <http://www.continuityofgovernment.org/report/report.html>.)

On June 2, 2004, the House voted on H.J. Res. 83 and generally on the question of whether Americans should be governed by laws passed by an unelected aristocracy. There are only two ways to go on the issue: either you support an appointed House—the "details," by the Continuity in Government Commission's own admission, are relatively unimportant—or you support preserving law-

making by an elected House. Representative BAIRD, the author of H.J. Res. 83, said of a constitutional amendment—quote—"The more urgent matter is to put that measure before the body." On June 2, 2004, that measure was put before the House, and the House overwhelmingly rejected it by a vote of 63-353, a margin of over 5-1. That margin of defeat of a constitutional amendment is historically large.

The right to self-government under laws passed by the People's chosen representatives has endured since America's birth, through two World Wars, a Civil War, a Cold War, and now a war against terrorism. The terrorists would like nothing more than to make us rewrite our Constitution to reflect their twisted vision of autocratic rule. The Continuity in Representation Act rejects that terrorist vision and would preserve the right to elected representation.

TRIBUTE THE REVEREND LUCIUS WILLIAMS ON HIS TWENTY-FIFTH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to congratulate Reverend Lucius Williams on his 25 years as pastor of Second Baptist Church in Belleville, New Jersey. Second Baptist is indeed fortunate to have the dynamic and creative energy Pastor Williams offers to his congregation. Likewise, Pastor Williams is blessed to have a membership that honors and respects him enough to celebrate this significant milestone with him.

Reverend Williams was installed as pastor of Second Baptist Church in February, 1980. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in theology from United Bible College in Orlando, Florida. His ministry is filled with love for his congregation and he works tirelessly toward enhancing his members' theocratic experience. Under his pastoral watch, several ministries have been established. They include:

The Sisters Sharing Ministry, a ministry focusing on the needs of women and children; the Eliza B. Goldston Scholarship Foundation, a ministry that raises the awareness and importance of education through scholarship; the Valley Community Development Corporation, a ministry that incorporates community development and neighborhood beautification along with a tutorial program and English as a second language; SBC Praise Ministry, a ministry that lifts the name of Jesus in song; Hosanna Praise Dance Ministry, a ministry that lifts the name of Jesus in dance; the Christian Education Ministry, a ministry that focuses on Christian walk through education and mentorship; the Prison Ministry, a ministry that focuses on the needs of men and women in the penal system.

Pastor Williams' commitment to his church and the surrounding area are evident in his other activities. Along with his wife, the former Patricia Gabriel, the Crossroads of Life Christian Bookstore was established in June, 1976. He has received numerous awards for his outstanding love and passion to the work of the church, business and community.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in letting Pastor Williams' family, friends and congregation know that his 25 years of service are greatly appreciated. I also wish him well in continuing his leadership to both Second Baptist and the community.

ARTHUR STACEY MASTRAPA POST
OFFICE BUILDING

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as someone born and raised in the town of Altamonte Springs, Florida, it is a special honor to support the designation of the United States Postal Service located at 321 Montgomery Road in Altamonte Springs, Florida, as the Arthur Stacey Mastrapa Post Office Building.

SGT Arthur Stacey Mastrapa, a former Postal Service employee, was killed in Iraq last June while serving his country as an Army Reservist. Naming the Altamonte Springs Post Office after Sergeant Mastrapa is an honor befitting of a man who dedicated his life to serving his fellow citizens and eventually made the ultimate sacrifice for his nation.

Sergeant Mastrapa was killed in June 2004 after serving nearly 400 days in Iraq as part of a Military Police unit of the Army Reserve. Sergeant Mastrapa joined the Army in 1992 and later joined the Army Reserve in 1998 after leaving active duty. When he was not serving with his reserve unit, he served as a postal worker at the Altamonte Springs Post Office. Sergeant Mastrapa leaves behind his wife Jennifer and two children. Sergeant Mastrapa was a model American.

Mr. Speaker, each of the 24 other members of the Florida Congressional delegation supports this legislation because it not only honors Sergeant Mastrapa's life, but it also thanks his family for their sacrifice and creates a permanent memorial that his coworkers at the post office can remember him by.

HIGHLIGHTING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ARMENIAN-AZERBAIJAN CONFLICT

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, Armenian forces occupy the mountainous region of Nagorno Karabagh, as well as seven additional regions, resulting in a million refugees and internally displaced Azerbaijanis.

Located between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan is an important partner and ally in the international war against terrorism. While bilateral cooperation on terrorism-related issues between the U.S. and Azerbaijan started well before September 11, they intensified with Azerbaijan offering unconditional support to the coalition and becoming the first Muslim country to send troops to Iraq.

While there have been several attempts to find a resolution to the conflict under the Orga-

nization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Process, little progress has been made. However, the U.S. continues to work towards the end. According to a recent State Department statement: "The United States does not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent country, and its leadership is not recognized internationally or by the United States. The United States supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and holds that the future status of Nagorno-Karabakh is a matter of negotiation between the parties. The United States remains committed to finding a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through the Minsk Group process. We are encouraged by the continuing talks between the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan."

On January 25, 2005, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution on the Nagorno Karabagh conflict, which concluded that "considerable parts of Azerbaijan's territory are still occupied by the Armenian forces and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region." Additionally it asked the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to expedite an agreement on the issue and urged the parties concerned to comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions by refraining from any armed hostilities and "by withdrawing military forces from any occupied territories."

Mr. Speaker, this shows the international community is ready for a resolution of the conflict. I welcome the initiatives by the Council of Europe and the statement by the U.S. Administration, and I urge my colleagues to support a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
JULIA THOMAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Julia Thomas of Washington County. Mrs. Thomas has been an advocate for young African Americans throughout her life. She has been instrumental in getting young African-Americans elected to public office. She is a member of the Progressive Art and Civic Club that provides scholarships to African-American students to help further their education.

Mrs. Thomas' dedication to the citizens of Washington County is also recognized through the sponsorship of twenty to thirty girls to participate in Literacy Bowls, and workshops on etiquette, attitude, mannerism, drugs, health, politics, etc.

Mrs. Thomas also volunteers 85 percent of her time going to schools to talk to students about the contributions that African-Americans have made and are still making in the State of Mississippi and throughout the nation. Some examples of Mrs. Thomas hard work and dedication to having African Americans represented in the political arena include Mr. Davis Weathersby (African-American) serving as Election Commissioner for 2 terms and Mr. Mark Seard being elected to the Office of Supervisors.

Even though she has not been the "1st" she has made numerous contributions to her race. Throughout her lifetime she has kept the motto to "lift as she climbs."

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

IN HONOR OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rotary International on 100 years of outstanding service worldwide.

Founded on February 23, 1905 in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary International is an organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Today, there are nearly 1.2 million Rotarians belonging to more than 31,000 Rotary clubs located in 166 countries. We are very fortunate to have 11 Rotary Clubs in the 29th Congressional District. The Burbank, Burbank Sunrise, Alhambra, Altadena, San Gabriel, Pasadena, Pasadena Sunrise, South Pasadena, Glendale, Glendale Sunrise, and Monterey Park Rotary clubs have individually contributed to Rotary International's mission and have united in the ideal of service.

More than one million Rotary members have volunteered their time and personal resources to protect over 2 billion children in 122 countries from polio. Rotary has contributed over \$500 million to the global polio eradication campaign and spearheaded the polio rededication efforts of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO). It is also a proud supporter of educational opportunities for students, teachers, and other professionals. These clubs are community gems that have wholeheartedly donated their time, effort, and passion to causes of worldwide importance.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring Rotary International on their 100th Anniversary and recognizing their important services to local communities and the world.

INTRODUCING THE PHARMA-
CEUTICAL RESEARCH AND MAN-
UFACTURERS ACCOUNTABILITY
(PhRMA) ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, people are dying because the drug industry is making billions marketing drugs they know to be unsafe. Today I propose a bill that will end this dangerous practice by increasing accountability for pharmaceutical manufacturers and their executives who withhold evidence of drug risks.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Accountability (PhRMA) Act would impose criminal penalties and fines on those who fail to disclose evidence of serious adverse drug experiences. It is unfortunate we need this legislation, but the only way to make manufacturers accountable for drug safety is to hit them where it hurts—putting executives in jail and imposing large individual and corporate fines for wrongdoing.

In the past six months alone, Vioxx has been taken off the market for causing heart attacks and strokes, and a new “black box” warning has been added to antidepressants due to increased risk of suicide in children. What’s worse, evidence suggests the manufacturers knew about these deadly safety issues, but masked or withheld the information from consumers and the FDA because they were making so much money on these drugs.

Profit before public safety is the modern mantra of pharmaceutical manufacturers. These companies continued to market drugs that caused individuals to be severely physically disabled or die. While the companies have been civilly sued for their actions, their typical response has been to pay enormous monetary settlements that don’t even put a dent in their outrageously high drug profits. Even worse, the manufacturers never admit guilt and require injured parties to sign non-disclosure agreements as part of the settlement, effectively hiding from the public the horrific tales of death and disability.

The PhRMA Act will put an end to this irresponsible corporate citizenship by placing responsibility for the knowing concealment of serious adverse drug experiences on the pharmaceutical executives who ultimately decide to place profits over people’s lives. In the wake of Enron and other corporate accounting scandals, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act created 10-year prison terms for withholding financial information from shareholders and regulators. The PhRMA Act would impose a minimum jail term of 20 years and fines of up to \$2 million on executives who withhold information, proving once and for all that life is more valuable than the almighty dollar.

The bill would also require CEOs to annually attest that they have disclosed all evidence of serious adverse drug experiences to the FDA. Failure to meet this requirement would result in fines up to \$100,000 per month for the CEO and \$1 million per month for the Corporation.

Under today’s fast track process at FDA, drugs are often approved with the caveat that manufacturers complete specified post-marketing studies of safety and effectiveness. Unfortunately, drug companies currently ignore

these requirements because they know FDA will not revoke approval of a drug unless it is clearly unsafe. This perverse system actually provides an incentive for manufacturers to ignore required post-marketing studies so there is no new safety evidence available for FDA to justify a market withdrawal.

The PhRMA Act ameliorates this problem by requiring post-marketing studies to be completed in a time-period specified by the FDA. Failure to complete these studies can lead to fines of \$5 million for each month the study goes unfinished. As always, FDA retains the authority to pull a drug from the market, but the PhRMA Act would give them an important intermediate sanction to make drug companies accountable for meeting their obligations.

The influence of the drug industry has infiltrated every aspect of society. The Bush Administration gave drug manufacturers a huge windfall in the Medicare prescription drug bill, the FDA bows to the industry while ignoring the science, and millions are taking unnecessary prescriptions because of TV commercials or doctors bribed by manufacturers.

The PhRMA Act can begin to turn the tide on an industry that continually puts profit and shareholder earnings above patients’ lives and health. By holding pharmaceutical manufacturers and their executives responsible for the safety of their products we can ensure prescription drugs save lives, not destroy them.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to join with many of my colleagues in recognizing the fifth anniversary of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

African Americans have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS since the epidemic’s very beginning, and there’s no evidence to show that trend is changing. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day not only calls attention to how HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects the Black community, but the extreme disparities in healthcare access for African Americans.

Although African Americans represent only 13 percent of the U.S. population, they account for 40 percent of the 929,985 AIDS cases diagnosed since the start of the epidemic and approximately half of the 43,171 cases diagnosed in 2003 alone. The epidemic has also had a disproportionate impact on subgroups of African Americans including women and youth.

African American women accounted for a greater proportion of new AIDS cases among African Americans overall than their white counterparts. And although African American teens (ages 13–19) represent only 15 percent of U.S. teenagers, they accounted for 65 percent of new AIDS cases reported.

Although treatment advances, along with prevention efforts, have led to the decline in new AIDS diagnoses and deaths, these declines were not as sharp for African Americans and appear to have ended.

We must continue to push for a comprehensive prevention policy that highlights the

ABCs—Abstain, Be Faithful, and use Condoms. We must strongly encourage destigmatization of the disease among African Americans, and increase funding that will allow for extensive outreach not only in our communities, but to our international neighbors as well.

We must support the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and “Get Educated, Get Involved, and Get Tested.”

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
MILDRED JUANITA SCOTT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Ms. Mildred Juanita Scott of Sunflower County, Mississippi. A native of Indianola, MS, Scott attended Indianola Elementary School and later graduated from Booker T. Washington High School located in Memphis, Tennessee. She continued her education at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi, where she received an AA Degree in Library Science. Ms. Scott also has worked extensively towards a degree at Delta State University, located in Cleveland, Mississippi.

Ms. Scott has worked diligently with grassroots organizations in and around Sunflower County. At an early age Ms. Scott joined the Sunflower County Branch of NAACP where she served as Secretary for this great organization. It was during this time Ms. Scott and others participated in sit-ins and boycotts throughout Sunflower County. Ms. Scott served as chairperson of the Sunflower County Democratic Executive Committee. She served as Den Mother for Boy Scouts of America and is a member of the National Council of Negro Women. For the past 11 years Ms. Scott has served as County Coordinator for the Friends of Bennie Thompson campaign committee. She recently became the treasurer for the Sunflower CO-OP for Community Improvement.

In addition to her long list of volunteer services, Ms. Mildred Juanita Scott has worked for over 38 years as an Administrative/Finance Assistant. She currently works in the Accounts Payable Department at the Bolivar County Community Action Agency.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

IN HONOR OF THE MARINE CORPS
JROTC AT EMERSON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) on its tenth anniversary of training at Emerson High School in New Jersey. The JROTC hosted a dinner celebrating the event on February 10, 2005.

The JROTC has spent a decade instructing, guiding, and inspiring students to push themselves both physically and mentally. Throughout their rigorous training, they learn valuable skills such as discipline, commitment, and perseverance. The JROTC also instills in the students a sense of honor and citizenship. By participating in the program, students grow in strength and character and are well-prepared for a wide range of pursuits after high school.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the JROTC for its years of outstanding work and positive leadership training in Emerson, New Jersey.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE
UNITED STATES CODE

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to make technical corrections to the United States Code. The bill updates cross references, corrects typographical errors, and makes stylistic changes such as conforming the capitalization of certain words.

The Office of Law Revision Counsel has prepared the bill and submitted it to the Committee on the Judiciary as a part of the responsibilities of the Office under section 285b of Title 2, United States Code that have been enacted into positive law so that those titles may be kept current.

Anyone with questions about the bill should contact Robert Sukol, Assistant Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-304 Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515-6711. The telephone number is (202) 226-9060.

TRIBUTE TO R.W. WILLIAM J.
EWING, 32ND WORSHIPFUL MAS-
TER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to recognize Worshipful

Master R.W. William J. Ewing for his leadership of Jephthah Lodge No. 56 in Montclair, New Jersey. Under Worshipful Master Ewing's leadership, overall membership increased and acknowledgments of community initiatives improved. His unwavering dedication and passion have inspired the brothers of Jephthah Lodge No. 56 to increase their own commitments to do more within their designated communities.

Worshipful Master Ewing performed his duties as caretaker of the East, not only by word, but more importantly, through his deeds. He has made in-kind donations by extending the use of his business office, including his office manager and staff, consistently throughout his tenure. He has also made substantial financial contributions to assist the lodge. These unselfish acts have contributed significantly to the success of the lodge.

In addition to his lodge activities, Worshipful Master Ewing is a good citizen, a former Assistant Prosecutor, an attorney and an excellent role model. He is a dedicated family man, a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Montclair and a life member of the NAACP. As a former student, he is also supportive of keeping the legacy of the Bordentown Boarding School alive. Worshipful Master Ewing is an ardent traveler and is a dedicated annual Super Bowl participant.

Mr. Speaker, as Jephthah Lodge No. 56 celebrates its annual event on Friday, February 11, 2005 at the Ridgefield Regency in Verona, New Jersey, I urge my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Worshipful Master Ewing for his dedicated service. As he concludes his term in office, his ongoing commitment to Jephthah Lodge No. 56, its brothers and Prince Hall Masonry in general is truly worthy of recognition and acclaim.

SUPPORT OF BURMA'S
DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on February 17, 2005, Burma's ruling military junta, a regime that Secretary of State Rice has rightly called an "outpost of tyranny," will reconvene a national convention to draft a new constitution. Sadly, this convention, which excludes anyone interested in democracy and freedom of expression, appears to be yet another attempt to place a veneer of legitimacy on the dictatorship's rule. General Than Shwe, the recognized leader of Burma's military and the dictatorship, must understand that the international community and the people of Burma are not fooled by this latest attempt to establish legitimacy.

On February 14th, Burma's Committee for the Restoration of the People's Parliament (CRPP), an umbrella organization including over 200 Members of Parliament elected in 1990, called for all of Burma's ethnic groups to boycott the military's convention. The CRPP includes Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD). The statement by CRPP demonstrates once again the incredible bravery of the Burmese people in their battle against the ruling generals.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the international community to face the facts: Than Shwe and other leading participants of this rogue regime have shown that they have no desire to seek political accommodation or peaceful dialogue with the Burmese people. Their actions show that they have chosen the path of tyranny and terror—the impact of this decision will increasingly be felt throughout the region.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) must realize that Burma's military junta is an iron anchor wrapped around the neck of this important organization. The actions of the military junta are draining economic growth from regional states, promoting the spread of HIV/AIDS throughout Asia, protecting indicted drug smugglers and flooding Thailand with methamphetamines and heroin, that eventually makes its way to the shores of the U.S. The regime fundamentally promotes regional instability and obstructs regional growth.

Recently, the U.S. Federal Court in New York City indicted eight drug traffickers from Burma in absentia. According to court documents, they are leaders of the United Wa State Army, one of the largest drug producers and traffickers in the world. This group is responsible for importing \$1 billion worth of heroin into the U.S. between 1985 and 2004. These criminals could not operate without the active collusion of the ruling generals. Moreover, the legendary drug kingpin known as Khun Sa, also under indictment in the U.S. on heroin trafficking charges, is living under the protection of the dictatorship of Rangoon. On November 18, 2003, the Department of the Treasury announced the designation of Burma and two Burmese banks to be of "primary money laundering concern" under Section 311 of the USA PATRIOT Act. In addition, The Department of Treasury, acting through the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), has instituted sanctions against two Burmese financial institutions, Myanmar Mayflower Bank and Asia Wealth Bank, due to money laundering concerns.

ASEAN is serving in a critical role in the recovery and rebuilding efforts after the horrible tsunami that devastated parts of Asia. As a leader in the international community, ASEAN must come to understand that the organization must actively challenge Burma's military regime to work with Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD. It must not be forgotten that the NLD won over 80 percent of the seats in the 1990 parliamentary election. A stable and democratic Burma is good for the entire region and the world. I would like to strongly commend and welcome the work of the Burma Caucus members in the Indonesian and Malaysian parliaments who are pressing for greater involvement by their countries in pressing the Burmese junta to bring positive change.

ASEAN cannot afford to have its leadership role sidetracked as it is forced to account for the acts of terror and oppression a member nations, Burma's junta, inflicts on the Burmese people. Last year's Asia-Europe meeting (ASEM) was delayed for months due to negotiations surrounding the participation of Burma. ASEAN is heading for another diplomatic fiasco as Burma is set to assume the chairmanship of ASEAN in 2006. ASEAN must understand that when the group spends more time addressing the latest crisis created by the junta, instead of focusing on plans to promote economic growth, fight the war on terror, and

develop collective solutions to the region's social problems, that is not good for ASEAN or any of its individual members. ASEAN immediately needs to put significant, meaningful pressure on the regime. Ejecting Burma's junta or at the very least suspending their membership from ASEAN would be a powerful statement of ASEAN's determination to deal with the problems Burma's dictatorship creates.

The United States government and citizens have long stood side-by-side with Burma's democracy movement. I look forward to legislation that will continue the U.S. economic sanctions imposed on the country in 2003. In addition to action that we take as a nation, we must also press the United Nations to do more. Secretary General Kofi Annan should use his office to bring the issue of Burma before the Security Council for immediate action. Further, the Secretary General should request a formal investigation to examine evidence of crimes against humanity by Burmese military officials and senior regime leaders in order to hold responsible parties accountable for the widespread use of rape and ethnic dislocation as weapons of war.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House, the Senate and the Administration to see that Burma's military regime soon joins the Soviet Union, Ceausescu's Romania, Milosevic's Yugoslavia and other regimes and dictatorships that now reside in the ashbin of world history.

And, Mr. Speaker, I say to the people of Burma: You are not forgotten. We stand with you and will continue to work with you for as long as it takes to ensure that the people of your nation are able to live in peace and freedom.

VERMONT'S GREAT JAZZ MASTER

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, Vermont's great jazz saxophonist, Big Joe Burrell, died on February 2 at the age of 80. He was born and spent his early years in Port Huron Michigan. The story of his start in music is legendary. Here is how Brent Hallenbeck recounted it in the Burlington Free Press:

"As a shy 10-year-old, he approached his mother's boss and asked to borrow \$5 so he could buy a saxophone.

"Saxophone?" the man asked. "What are you going to do with a saxophone?"

"I'm going to play it," little Joe Burrell told him." And he did, mastering his instrument in the next few years. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, his musical career took off. At an Akron dance he played the opening act for a B.B. King performance, and King thereafter asked Big Joe to play saxophone in his orchestra. He would go on to tour with King for almost two years before meeting up with another major figure in American music, Count Basie.

Basie invited Big Joe to play in his club in New York, and would become the major musical influence in Big Joe's life. "Count Basie was the predominant influence on me until the day he died, and still is today," Burrell said in 2002.

Ten years of playing in Canada eventually brought him to Montreal, from where it was an easy journey to play a date in Burlington, Vermont. There he discovered his nephew, Leon Burrell, was a professor of education at the University of Vermont. The meeting was doubly fortuitous: Leon invited Big Joe to live with him, and he made Leon's home his own for many years. And Vermont gained its most well-known, most well-beloved jazz musician.

Big Joe jammed with fellow musician Paul Asbell, and out of their collaboration was formed an ensemble called The Unknown Blues Band. The core of The Unknown Blues Band included Asbell, Chuck Eller on keyboard, Tony Markellis on bass, and Russ Lawson on drums. And of course, Big Joe. Not only did they make music, but they shaped a whole new generation of musicians. Big Joe, who played with B.B. King and Count Basie, Etta James and Little Richard, was a formative influence on Trey Anastasio, the guitarist for Phish. In fact, Burrell played guest appearances with Anastasio's band in recent years.

Last year, the Unknown Blues Band celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. The band was a Burlington staple, playing at gigs everywhere, and most especially at a weekly performance at Halvorson's Upstreet Café in Burlington. Even as age seemed outwardly to slow him down, Big Joe kept performing at his customary high level. Café owner Tim Halvorson told the Free Press, "He'd shuffle in with his walker or a cane, but, boy, as soon as the music started and he got a glass of Canadian Club and he grabbed his saxophone, he was 30 years younger." As his nephew Dr. Leon Burrell said, speaking of his last performance just a month ago, "He went out doing what he did best. It's like a cowboy dying with his boots on."

Big Joe was a big man—not only in physical stature, but big in heart. He loved music, he loved people, he loved playing in Vermont. And Vermont loved him back: He was an emblem of the amazing power of jazz, our nation's preeminent form of music. He showed all who lived in the Green Mountain State how jazz can speak to each of us, directly, deeply; he showed us that the music born in the South and in the big cities of the Mid-west has flowed, like a mighty river, all through our nation. He was an important tributary of that river, and all of us in Vermont who love music will remember Big Joe for that, and for the wonderful performances he gave us, time and again.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO ANDREW AND MARY LOU HAWKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History

Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Andrew Hawkins, Sr. (1918–2000) and Mary Lou Hawkins (1907–1972) of Shaw, MS which is located in Bolivar County. Andrew and Mary Lou "Mae Lou" were married in 1937 until her murder in 1972. Being children of slaves and having grown up in the Mississippi Delta during the Jim Crow era and when the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission was active, they set out on an expedition against segregation and discrimination to improve life for black folks. Their stubborn will would not allow them to accept the unfair treatment imposed by white folks. In fact their willingness to lead and step out front brought death; alienation, planned house fires, and increased harassment upon the family but that did not stop the Hawkins.

In 1969 Andrew along with Mae Lou and twenty other African American plaintiffs sued the Town of Shaw for violating their rights as spelled out in the 14th Amendment. They had lawyers representing them from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. These were their rights to parallel living conditions in black neighborhoods as experienced by whites in their neighborhoods. Photographed and statistical evidence of both black and white neighborhoods pointed to the disparities between the two of inadequate water supply, unsanitary sewage exposure and disposal, water line pipes, rock roads, natural gas supply, street lights, and more. Hawkins first loss came when he appeared in District Court before Judge Keady. Then on January 23, 1971, the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Judge Keady's decision making the case a precursor for lawsuits against the inequalities of services provided by municipalities. Careful examination of the evidence presented by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund Lawyers overrode all evidence presented by the Town of Shaw helping to establish a prima facie case of racial discrimination. The court prohibited the Town of Shaw from further spending of monies to improve conditions in white neighborhoods until they improve conditions in the black neighborhoods thus creating a better living environment for the entire Town. The Hawkins v. Town of Shaw case is often equated with such paramount cases as Brown v. Board of Education for being one of the great pillars in African American History.

In May 1972 two months after the 5th Circuit en banc affirmed the decision of Hawkins v. Town of Shaw, Mary Lou Hawkins was shot and killed by a black "white controlled" police officer for the Town of Shaw. In the first fire set to their home, no one was injured but in the second fire, their son Andrew, Jr. and two granddaughters were killed. Mr. Andrew Hawkins and his family has certainly been in a storm and faced tragedies as a consequence.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to these outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserve mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

HONORING SUSAN B. ANTHONY

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate the birthday of one of the true heroines of our country, Susan B. Anthony. Best known for being a pioneer of the women's movement, Susan B. Anthony dedicated her life to fight for equal rights for women and was instrumental in helping women gain the right to vote.

Unfortunately, it is often forgotten that Susan B. Anthony was a strong pro-life advocate. Her respect for the rights of the unborn sprung from her profound belief that all humans deserve equal protection under the law.

As a pro-life woman, I can identify with Susan B. Anthony. I too wish to protect and nurture human life in every stage of development.

Susan B. Anthony embodied true compassion as a defender of women and protector of children. In honoring the memory of Susan B. Anthony, let us acknowledge that to be pro-life is to be pro-woman.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE
AIRMEN

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 26 as offered by my colleague, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, in acknowledgement and appreciation of the contribution of the Tuskegee Airmen to our Air Force and our nation. Their example of breaking racial boundaries in order to contribute to the Allied efforts in WWII is still valuable today in our war against global terrorism. I thank Mr. ROGERS of Alabama for bringing this important resolution to the floor today.

The lessons we can learn from these men are numerous. In a time when the world was threatened by fascism, they stood among the many to repel its force. They demonstrated to their countrymen that skin color does not define the quality or the character of the man, but rather the sense of duty to the ideals they hold and their willingness to do what it takes to defend those ideals.

The Tuskegee Airmen not only fought against enemies in the air, but they engaged in a struggle within their own country. They were the first African-Americans to qualify as military pilots in any branch of the armed forces, as a result of years of pressure on the military to further integrate the Air Force. These men took a big step in the fight for equal civil rights, and made a major impact in the war as a result of their superior skill as pilots.

As we face the challenges of today, we must remember their contribution to the U.S. Air Force and to the American civil rights movement. We must honor their dedication to the values of justice, equality and democracy as we go forth in our war against terrorists. The men and women that protect the citizens

of this country come from many racial backgrounds. Because of the example of the Tuskegee Airmen, the aviation industry and the armed forces have been able to benefit from the contributions of many talented people from all different origins.

In the promotion of democratic values abroad, the Tuskegee Airmen helped to promote the ideal of racial equality. We must remember their honorable service as well as the message that they promoted through their example. The lessons that can be taken from history must be remembered and practiced every day. In our war on terror, in our global humanitarian assistance, and in our domestic fight against crime, it is vital that we apply our national values to the conduct of our everyday lives.

The memory of the deeds of the Tuskegee Airmen must not be forgotten. The fight against discrimination and evil is ongoing, and it is only by learning from our past that we can successfully achieve our goals of the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with my colleagues in appreciation for the service of the Tuskegee Airmen and support of this resolution, and I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama for his leadership on this issue.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS
ONLY ACT**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Social Security for American Citizens Only Act. This act forbids the federal government from providing Social Security benefits to non-citizens. It also ends the practice of totalization. Totalization is where the Social Security Administration takes into account the number of years an individual worked abroad, and thus was not paying payroll taxes, in determining that individual's eligibility for Social Security benefits.

Hard as it may be to believe, the United States Government already provides Social Security benefits to citizens of 17 other countries. Under current law, citizens of those countries covered by these agreements may have an easier time getting Social Security benefits than public school teachers or policemen.

Obviously, this program provides a threat to the already fragile Social Security system, and the threat is looming larger. A little-noticed part of the administration's immigration "reform" proposal would make hundreds of thousands of Mexican citizens eligible for U.S. Social Security benefits. Totalization is the centerpiece of this proposal, so even if a Mexican citizen did not work in the United States long enough to qualify for Social Security, the number of years worked in Mexico would be added to bring up the total and thus make the Mexican worker eligible for cash transfers from the United States.

Mr. Speaker, press reports also indicate that thousands of foreigners who would qualify for U.S. Social Security benefits actually came to the United States and worked here illegally. That's right: the federal government may actu-

ally allow someone who came to the United States illegally, worked less than the required number of years to qualify for Social Security, and then returned to Mexico for the rest of his working years, to collect full U.S. Social Security benefits while living in Mexico. That is an insult to the millions of Americans who pay their entire working lives into the system and now face the possibility that there may be nothing left when it is their turn to retire.

The proposed agreement is nothing more than a financial reward to those who have willingly and knowingly violated our own immigration laws. Talk about an incentive for illegal immigration. How many more would break the law to come to this country if promised U.S. government paychecks for life? Is creating a global welfare state on the back of the American taxpayer a good idea? The program also establishes a very disturbing precedent of U.S. foreign aid to individual citizens rather than to states.

Estimates of what this latest totalization proposal would cost top \$1 billion per year. Supporters of the Social Security to Mexico deal may attempt to downplay the effect the agreement would have on the system, but actions speak louder than words: According to several press reports, the State Department and the Social Security Administration are planning to enact a new building in Mexico City to handle the expected rush of applicants for this new program. As the system braces for a steep increase in those who will be drawing from the Social Security trust fund while policy makers seriously consider cutting Social Security benefits to American seniors and raising payroll taxes on American workers, it makes no sense to expand Social Security into a global welfare system. Social Security was designed to provide support for retired American citizens who worked in the United States. We should be shoring up the system for those Americans who have paid in for decades, not expanding it to cover foreigners who have not.

It is long past time for Congress to stand up to the internationalist bureaucrats and start looking out for the American worker. I therefore call upon my colleagues to stop the use of the Social Security Trust Fund as yet another vehicle for foreign aid by cosponsoring the Social Security for American Citizens Only Act.

Original Cosponsors of the Social Security for American Citizens Only Act: ROSCOE BARTLETT (MD-06), JOHN DUNCAN (TN-02), SCOTT GARRETT (NJ-05), VIRGIL GOODE (VA-03), THADDEUS MCCOTTER (MI-11), ZACH WAMP (TN-03).

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
REVEREND VICTOR DIXON**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

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Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Reverend Victor Dixon of Covich County in the State of Mississippi. Born September 27, 1957, Dixon was educated in the Covich County School District.

Rev. Dixon is the pastor of the Egypt Hill M.B. Church, where he has been pastor for twelve years. Presently he serves as Moderator of the Brushy Creek-New Hope Association. He is the President of the Covich County Minister Alliances, Executive Board Member for the Covich County Fair Association and Board Member for the Covich County Boys and Girls Club. Additionally, Rev. Dixon is the owner and President of Dixon Body & Auto Sales, Inc.

Previously, Rev. Dixon ministered at Greater Mt. Olive M.B. Church of Oma, Mississippi for 8 years. Rev. Dixon served also served as the Vice-Moderator of Lawrence County Association for four years and Vice-Moderator of the Brushy Creek-New Hope Association for 10 years.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN R. GREGG

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephen R. Gregg, a distinguished Congressional Medal of Honor winner whose life was devoted to serving the community and his country. Mr. Gregg was remembered at a memorial service on February 11, 2005, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

A decorated veteran of World War II, Mr. Gregg began his army service in 1942 and joined the Weapons Platoon, Company L, 143rd Infantry, 36th Infantry Division. After training in Algeria, his unit was sent to Italy, where he suffered shrapnel injuries to his back and leg. During a battle in France, Mr. Gregg, then a technical sergeant, single-handedly slowed the advance of German soldiers. This enabled medics to recover and treat seven wounded soldiers from his platoon. His valiant counterattack also allowed the platoon to successfully reposition itself and continue fighting. Mr. Gregg's bravery, quick thinking, and combat instincts helped save the lives of many fellow soldiers that day and earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was also promoted to second lieutenant and awarded a Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Silver Star.

Respected and admired by the community, Mr. Gregg was frequently asked to appear at presidential inaugurations, remembrance events, and on TV shows. For 25 years, he at-

tended Hudson County's ceremonies to honor the fallen at Pearl Harbor. Known by his family and friends for his great humility, Mr. Gregg rarely spoke of his combat experiences at home and said a nightly prayer for his fallen comrades who did not survive the war.

Raised in Bayonne, he attended the Bayonne Technical and Vocational High School and later spent time working at an art gallery in New York and the shipyards in Kearny, before serving in the Armed Forces. After being discharged from the Army, he worked as a deputy Hudson County court clerk and a county court attendant. He later became the Sheriff Department's chief court officer.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Stephen R. Gregg, a man of exceptional character, whose dedicated service and humble nature won him the respect and love of all who knew him. Mr. Gregg was an important figure in the community's military history, and he will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend several votes late last week due to personal business, and I ask unanimous consent to include this personal explanation in the record.

On February 10, 2005, I was unable to be present for Rollcall votes #28–#31.

On Rollcall vote #28 on agreeing to the Nadler of New York amendment to H.R. 418, I would have voted "nay."

On Rollcall vote #29 on agreeing to the Farr of California amendment to H.R. 418, I would have voted "yea."

On Rollcall vote #30 on the Motion to Re-commit H.R. 418 with Instructions, I would have voted "yea."

On Rollcall vote #31 on final passage of H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act, I would have voted "nay."

DR. CARL KUTTTLER, JR. DAY IN
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, every once in a while you have the opportunity to work with an individual who touches a community in a special way. For me, that person is Dr. Carl Kuttler, Jr., the President of the St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

As President of the College for the past 26 years, Carl has touched the lives of thousands of students. He has made college an option for many students who otherwise due to cost or scheduling conflicts would not have been able to attend. He also has responded to the needs of our community by creating programs of study to fulfill labor demands, such as qualified teachers, nurses, pharmacists, law enforcement personnel, and most recently specialists in the field of orthotics and prosthetics.

Carl is one of those public servants who lead by example and with vision and commit-

ment. He has been such a strong and consistent force for change in our community that the St. Petersburg City Council recently honored him by declaring January 31, 2005 as Dr. Carl Kuttler Jr. Day.

Following my remarks, I would ask that the city's resolution be included so that my colleagues in the House can see what a dynamic leader Carl Kuttler is. He is an example for all public officials and college Presidents to follow in leading with a creative energy that not only enhances the quality of education but the quality of life for an entire community.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Carl Kuttler Jr. is a unique individual, a man with more energy and ideas than any person I know. It is an honor to share his story with you today.

Whereas, Dr. Carl Kuttler is a long time St. Petersburg citizen and has led St. Petersburg College for 26 years as President; and

Whereas, Recently Dr. Kuttler has helped St. Petersburg College evolve into a four-year school, offering baccalaureate degrees, the first community college in Florida to be given such a privilege; and

Whereas, Dr. Kuttler has been an advocate for Community Colleges everywhere; and

Whereas, Dr. Kuttler has worked with the City of St. Petersburg to develop a joint use library at Gibbs High School, the largest public library in the city; and

Whereas, Dr. Kuttler agreed to oversee the 300-100 year anniversary celebration between St. Petersburg, Russia and St. Petersburg, Florida, culminating with the two cities signing a twin city agreement; and

Whereas, Dr. Kuttler has led efforts to establish St. Petersburg College campuses in Midtown and Downtown St. Petersburg; and

Whereas, January 31, 2005 is Dr. Kuttler's 65th birthday.

Now, therefore, I, Rick Baker, Mayor of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, proclaim January 31, 2005 as Dr. Carl Kuttler Jr. Day in St. Petersburg, and I urge residents to join with me in recognizing the great and proactive impact he is making on our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GREENWOOD COUNTY SHERIFF MATT SAMUELS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Congressman TIAHRT and I join together today to honor the life of fallen Greenwood County Sheriff Matt Samuels. On Wednesday, January 19, Sheriff Matt Samuels was shot while serving a search warrant and an arrest warrant near Virgil, Kansas. He died in the line of duty while serving his community.

Protecting and serving was in Matt's nature. His father had served as county sheriff before him, so he grew up around the principles of law and justice. As a second-generation sheriff, Matt took service beyond just his job. He was seen as a leader, involved in the Special Olympics and serving as President of the local Kiwanis Club.

Sheriff Samuels was devoted to law enforcement, but more than that, he was devoted to the people of Greenwood County. While still in high school, Samuels began working as a part-time jailer. After graduation, he married Tamara Bechtle, then attended the

Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. He was elected to his first term as sheriff in 2000.

1979 to 2005. That's 26 years of public service. As Sheriff Samuels was only 42 years old at his death, it means he spent over half of his life serving the citizens of Greenwood County.

As his friend, John Lehnher said, "Matt lived to be a sheriff, and he died being a sheriff."

Hundreds of law enforcement officers from across Kansas turned out on Sunday, January 23, for Sheriff Samuels's funeral. The service was held in the local junior-senior high school gymnasium, and it was standing room only—plus an additional packed room, where the crowd watched the service on television.

It was fitting that Sheriff Samuels's casket traveled its route from the memorial service to his final resting place in a white pickup truck owned by the sheriff's department. The motorcade following that white truck included government and law enforcement vehicles of all kinds, from all over the area. It took half an hour for the entire procession to pass by.

People like Matt Samuels put on their uniforms every day, and go out to try and make their communities better and safer. They know, whenever they wear their badges, that they may face danger. But they take that risk. For us. For our children and our families. For all of us.

Matt Samuels made the ultimate sacrifice. At first glance, it seems unfair that Matt met his end while delivering warrants. After all, he was just doing his job. Who knew that gunfire would erupt and a daylong standoff would ensue? Who knew that anyone would be hurt, much less killed? Let us all remember that Sheriff Samuels did not die a senseless death. His job—even the routine duties—all of his duties carried great importance.

Those questions are the key to what makes us call law enforcement officers brave. No one knows what will happen when an officer confronts a suspect, whether that confrontation occurs at a house in the country or in the middle of a burglary. Law enforcement officers face the unknown. They apprehend suspects, for the good of their fellow citizens, despite the danger, despite the possibility of being injured, or even killed.

Being killed in the line of duty carries with it a certain nobility. But all the nobility and honor in the world can't ease the pain of losing Matt Samuels. His wife, son, and daughter are in pain. His community grieves. Rare are men like Matt Samuels, and we all feel he was taken too soon.

Congressman TIAHRT and I pray for the Samuels family. We pray for Eureka, Kansas, and for Greenwood County. We mourn the death of Matt Samuels and know he will be missed.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO KING T. EVANS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mis-

issippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mr. King T. Evans, Sr. of Sharkey County in the State of Mississippi. Mr. Evan has dedicated his life to community services as an advocate, member, and president of the Sharkey County branch of NAACP. During the Civil Rights era, Mr. Evans was instrumental in securing the return of a high school in the City of Anguilla for black students that was originally constructed for white students in the community. As a result of his longevity during the Civil Rights Era, Mr. Evans was recognized as a "Long Distance Runner" by the Mississippi Conference of the NAACP.

Mr. Evans is also known as the co-founder of one of the oldest funeral homes in Greenville, Mississippi, Edwards & Evans Funeral Home (1944). In addition, Mr. Evans recorded oral family history and the history of the Mississippi Delta Region on CD-ROM for the University of Southern Mississippi along with filming historical pleas and contemporary culture of the MS Delta Region to preserve the rich history of this area in the 2nd Congressional District.

He has received numerous awards for his outstanding contribution to the African American Race—Received "Outstanding Volunteer Award," Service Award, and Appreciation Award. For his hard work and dedication to African Americans, the City of Greenville has honored him with a street being named "King T. Evans Street" and the South Delta School District has named their resource room the "King T. Evans Resource Room" in his honor. Mr. Evans has been a true trailblazer for the African-American community.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH CLYDE ROBINSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Joseph Clyde Robinson, who recently passed away after a long battle with cancer. I am honored to remember his great life today.

Born in Statesboro, Georgia, and settled in Beaufort, South Carolina, Joe Robinson was a charitable and special member of South Carolina's Second Congressional District. His life

was a full one, dedicated to helping, protecting, and improving the lives of those around him. As a Coast Guard veteran, firefighter, church elder, and Boy Scouts leader, Joe abided by his personal motto to "live a life of no regrets."

Described as "Beaufort County's best," Joe possessed a spirit and purpose which profoundly impacted the lives of those around him. At his funeral, the procession of his friends who came to celebrate his life and mourn his passing stretched a mile long. Joe will be greatly missed throughout our community. My prayers and condolences are with the entire Robinson family.

HONORING GARY PLUMMER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Plummer, Former President/CEO of the Modesto Chamber of Commerce. For the past four years, Mr. Plummer dutifully served the business community of Modesto, CA. In January 2005, Gary Plummer went on to become President/CEO of the Greater Springfield (IL) Chamber of Commerce.

Gary Plummer has held numerous executive positions with many chambers of commerce. Since 1979, Gary has served as CEO of chambers of commerce in Shenandoah, Iowa; Waterloo, Iowa; Maryville, Missouri; Jefferson City, Missouri; and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

As a chamber executive, Mr. Plummer has been involved in a variety of public/private partnerships involving governmental affairs, education, transportation, tourism and economic development.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Gary Plummer for his service to the business community of Modesto, CA. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Plummer many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE ORGANIC TRADE ASSOCIATION ON THEIR 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Representatives GILCHREST, DEFAZIO, FARR, WALSH and our more than 30 fellow members of the bipartisan Congressional Organic Caucus, to offer our sincere congratulations to the Organic Trade Association on achieving their 20 year anniversary.

Formed in 1985 by a handful of individuals determined to build a trusted identity for organic products, this original group blossomed into the nearly 1,500 member Organic Trade Association today. The Organic Trade Association, North America's only organization dedicated to representing the views of all segments of the organic industry, has become an important source of information about the challenges and successes of the organic industry to the Congressional Organic Caucus and the public.

Mr. Speaker, millions of consumers are choosing organically grown food and fiber. Over the last decade, the consumer marketplace for organic products has risen exponentially. Moreover, thousands of family farmers have discovered the environmental and ecological benefits of organic farming methods and technologies. Working together, the Congressional Organic Caucus and the Organic Trade Association will continue to promote the importance of organic farming and organic products to both consumers and the overall health of our country's agriculture industry for the next 20 years and beyond.

STOP UNDERAGE DRINKING
LEGISLATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, underage drinking is a serious national health and safety matter. In the United States, alcohol is the primary substance abused by young people. It is a major contributor to the three leading causes of death among this population—unintentional injuries; homicide; and suicide. Young people who start drinking at the age of 15 are four times more likely to become alcoholics than those who start drinking at 21 and are more likely to try marijuana and cocaine.

Many parents don't realize the enormity of this problem and often underestimate the prevalence of alcohol use by teens. More young people consume alcoholic beverages than use tobacco or illegal drugs. Sadly, by high school graduation, most students have used alcohol.

It's tough for children to withstand the regular exposure to the alcohol industry's advertisements encouraging them to purchase and use alcohol. The industry's aggressive marketing of its products has led to children seeing regular—often daily—images promoting drinking.

I am pleased to be joining in a bipartisan effort in both houses of Congress to introduce The STOP Underage Drinking Act. This important legislation will help establish federal coordination and reporting of underage drinking information and coordinate the efforts and expertise. It also mandates annual report to Congress on efforts to combat underage drinking and an annual "report card" to track State efforts.

The legislation also authorizes a national media campaign to fight underage drinking and would provide additional resources to prevent underage drinking through the Drug Free Communities program. It would create a new program to providing competitive grants to states, non-profit entities, and institutions of higher education to create state-wide coalitions to prevent underage drinking and alcohol abuse by college and university students.

Finally, it would expand research and data compilation on the prevalence of underage drinking, specifically: reporting on the types and brands of alcohol that kids consume and the impact of underage drinking upon adolescent brain development.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a part of this effort to draw attention to this important national problem that is confronting our young

people. I look forward to continuing this work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Capitol to see that this important legislation is enacted.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
FRANK DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mr. Frank Davis of Claiborne County, Mississippi. Mr. Davis was born March 22, 1947. Upon his completion of high school, he served two years in the United States Army, where he developed a passion to protect and serve. Afterwards, Mr. Davis attended Alcorn State University and obtained his B.S. degree in 1971. Davis continued his educational studies at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1973 in Criminal Justice and Alcorn State University in 1988 in Business Education. Following his extensive educational studies, Mr. Frank Davis became the first elected black Sheriff for the State of Mississippi.

Sheriff Davis has served in many capacities throughout Claiborne County. His long standing commitment in law enforcement has lead him to hold the position of First Sergeant of the 114th Military Police Company and Deputy Sheriff of Claiborne under the leadership of the late and former Sheriff Dan McCaa. In addition, Mr. Davis has held the position of Assistant Chief of Police for the City of Port Gibson, Director of Claiborne County Civil Defense, Acting Superintendent of Education for the Claiborne County Public Civil Defense, and Acting Superintendent of Education for the Claiborne County Public School District.

Sheriff Davis has not only held several key positions throughout his career, but he has held key positions with civic organizations throughout the county. Sheriff Davis was elected president of the Mississippi Sheriff Association from 2000–2001, making him the first black to hold this position. He is a founding father of NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement) Chapter in Mississippi, and served as president in 1990. He is a member of the Young Men of America, a member of the Heritage Corridor Study and served on the Boys and Girls Ranch Board of Mississippi Sheriff's Association Boys and Girls Ranch.

Additionally, his compassion for people and their rehabilitation while incarcerated led him to continue studying. Ultimately, he became certified in jail management, criminal investigations, mentally ill inmates, street survival and rural homicide to name a few. Today, he continues his devotion to justice by serving as Sheriff of Claiborne County with 25 years of dedicated service.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

HONORING THE IDAHO FALLS
POST REGISTER ON ITS 125
YEARS OF SERVICE TO EASTERN
IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Post Register Newspaper for providing 125 years of service to eastern Idaho. I'm proud to recognize and congratulate the Post Register for this achievement.

The Post Register can trace its roots to the founding of the Idaho Register in Blackfoot, Idaho in 1880. J. Robb Brady, son of former Idaho Governor and Senator James H. Brady, purchased the Daily Post in Idaho Falls in 1925. In 1931, The Post and Times-Register merged to create the Post-Register.

The Post Register is a longstanding corporate citizen committed to following its stated mission of being fair, ethical, accurate and courageous. The Post Register covers an area that stretches the miles from the Salmon River area, east into Montana, into western Wyoming including Jackson and south to Blackfoot, Idaho. Citizens who reside within these areas have benefited from the Post Register's 125 years of community journalism.

The Post Register is a newspaper that moves quickly to adjust to readers needs. In 1995, the first online pages were posted at www.postregister.com. In 1997, the newspaper hit another milestone when it changed to morning publication and added a Saturday edition.

Currently, the Post Register is owned by its employees and the descendants of James H. and J. Robb Brady. The Post Register's values are to serve "this special place, our home, now and in future generations," and they have held true to these values for the last 125 years. To the Post Register and all their employees, I congratulate you on such a successful business and look forward to the years to come.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish

and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the REAL ID Act. I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting a bill that not only tightens lax standards and loopholes in the current driver's license issuance process, but strengthens a judge's ability to determine whether or not an asylum seeker is truthful, and provides for the completion of the 14 mile long San Diego Border fence that has been halted by radical environmentalists. This bill will help implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and complete the intelligence reform we started during the last session of Congress.

The 9/11 Commission found that travel documents were as important to the terrorists as were their weapons. The simple fact is that if the 9/11 terrorists had not been able to enter the United States and operate freely—to obtain driver's licenses, open bank accounts, rent homes and cars, and board airplanes—they would not have been able to commit mass murder on that fateful day. To ensure that future terrorists no longer have access to legal loopholes to enter and remain at large in the United States, the REAL ID Act will establish minimum document and issuance standards for Federal acceptance of driver's licenses and State-issued personal identification cards. In addition, this legislation will require applicants to provide proof they are in the country legally, and tie the expiration date of the documents with the expiration of an alien's authorized term of stay. I believe that this bill enhances the security of all our Nation's identity documents so we are able to establish that people are who they say they are.

The bottom line is that our current laws fail to prevent those who may be harmful to the security of our Nation from operating freely and undetected in the United States. The ongoing stories of how terrorists took advantage of our broken immigration system provide the strongest evidence that we need to pass the REAL ID Act to make America safer. If the war on terrorism is to be ultimately successful, it is more important than ever that we take the necessary steps to strengthen security at our borders and provide law enforcement agencies the tools they need to identify those individuals who enter or remain in the United States illegally. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the REAL ID Act and demonstrate that the security of our Nation is our top priority.

CONTINUITY IN REPRESENTATION
ACT OF 2005

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, today we are addressing another important Issue for the Continuity of Congress by introducing the Continuity in Representation Act of 2005. This is

an important part of our efforts since the 107th Congress to assure the American people that their democracy will continue in the face of any attack or any catastrophe.

The service of our men and women in uniform to protect our democracy is exemplary, and we honor them. But police and military alone will not protect this institution. We, the elected representatives, also must act to protect the House.

At the start of this Congress, we acted by adopting a House rule to help us function if we have mass incapacitations.

I know there are a few who still wonder whether we need to amend the Constitution to deal with mass incapacitation.

As I announced on January 4th, the Rules Committee will be vigorously considering continuity issues throughout the 109th Congress. We may ultimately decide that more action on mass incapacitation is needed. In the meantime, we have already put into place a procedure that will ensure that this body will be able to function if there have been mass incapacitations of Members due to a catastrophe.

Today, we are acting by re-introducing a bill to deal with mass vacancies—created when large numbers of Members are killed.

Last year, after considering how to deal with mass vacancies in the various committees, we passed the exact same bill that we are introducing today. The House adopted last year's bill with a large, bipartisan majority of 306 votes.

This bill, the Continuity in Representation Act of 2005, protects the "People's House." It fits the Founders' vision of America—a House directly elected by the people and a Senate answerable to the states. And though we've done away with the old system of state legislatures electing Senators, we maintain that historic connection to the states by allowing for governors to fill vacant Senate seats in times of death.

Mr. Speaker, James Madison, a Founding Father and former Member of the Rules Committee, addressed the importance of an elected House when he said "The right of suffrage is certainly one of the fundamental articles of [democratic Government] . . . A gradual abridgement of this right has been the mode in which Aristocracies have been built on the ruins of popular forms."

In short, James Madison valued an elected House of Representatives, and so do we. This bill guarantees that the House will always be, as it always has, a body composed only of elected Members.

The Continuity in Representation Act provides that if more than 100 Members are killed, the Speaker can announce that extraordinary circumstance and trigger a uniform, 45-day special election to replace Members in affected districts.

Some have been concerned about the 45-day period for special elections. Not too long ago, I had the opportunity to assist in a major statewide election in California.

It saw a field of 135 candidates running to represent over 34 million people. That election went off without a hitch in just 55 days. Poll workers, polling places, and ballots all came together, and voter turnout was very high. Given the smaller scope of congressional district elections, 45 days is certainly enough time.

Mr. Speaker, we need to act now. We need to ensure that we are doing our part to protect

our democracy. We need to pass the Continuity in Representation Act of 2005.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
JOHN AUSTIN JAMES, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mr. John Austin James, Jr., of Leflore County. From 1942–1946, Mr. James was enlisted in the U.S. Army and fought in World War II, where he later received an Honorable Discharge. He also spent three years in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Mr. James departure from the military sparked the beginning of his career in education. He was formally educated and later became Department Head for the Science and Mathematics Department at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU). In 1971, he was named the Director for the Office of Institutional Research at MVSU, a position he retired from in 1992.

Mr. John A. James has been active in several civic and professional organizations. He is currently Treasurer for the Leflore County Democratic Executive Committee and former Chairman of the Board of Authority for the Delta Correctional Facility located in Greenwood, Mississippi. He is the past Basileus for the Beta Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Mr. James is Co-Chairman of the MVSU Pioneers and Life Associate Member of MVSU Alumni.

Mr. John A. James has received several awards and recognitions for his outstanding community involvement and volunteer services. To name a few, Mr. James has a building on the campus of MVSU named in his honor, received the Outstanding Service Award at his church, Meritorious Service for his leadership as the Board Chairman, Omega Man of the Year, MVSU 25th Anniversary Meritorious Service plaques and others.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

RECOGNITION OF MR. KEVIN F. KAST OF ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin F. Kast, an exceptional leader from my district in St. Charles, Missouri. Kevin recently announced his retirement as President of three major health facilities—SSM St. Joseph Health Center, SSM Joseph Hospital West and SSM Joseph Medical Park in St. Charles County.

I have known Kevin for many years, and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and praise him for his years of service, not only to SSM St. Joseph, but also to the St. Charles community at large. Kevin is a visionary and a compassionate, energetic, and inspiring leader.

Under Kevin's leadership, SSM St. Joseph has earned a variety of local, state and national honors. It is the first recipient of the MissouriPRO Quality Award, and twice has been named by Solucient as one of the 100 Top Hospitals™ in the country. SSM St. Joseph is a member of SSM Health Care, the first health care winner of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Kevin has been active in St. Charles County and our larger region with memberships in many civic, professional and volunteer organizations, and has an impressive list of personal accomplishments.

Again, I am pleased to be able to honor Kevin Kast today. He is a shining example of the great leadership we have in Missouri and I know all of my colleagues join me in wishing him the very best as he begins the next chapter in his life and career.

HONORING MICHAEL R. BLAKEY,
LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Blakey, Lake County Victim Witness Administrator, who is being honored on the occasion of his retirement. He has been an exceptional public servant throughout his long and prestigious career.

Since November 1984, when Mike Blakey started the Victim-Witness Division, he has planned and organized the activities of that division to improve the safety of Lake County residents. Mike was instrumental in preparing the original grant application for the Victim-Witness Program and over the years he has actively expanded and enhanced assistance programs for victims of crime. Due to his efforts, Lake County has enjoyed one of the top programs in the State of California.

Over the years, Mike has received numerous letters of recognition from local and state agencies acknowledging his accomplishments in protecting and enhancing the rights of victims of crime. In early 2000, Mike and his office were formally commended by a federal auditor as the Best Rural Counties Program in the Nation for compliance with the Violence Against Women Act.

For the past 20 years, Mike has been a leader in California's victim's rights and advocacy movement. He provided leadership for California as President of the California Victim-Witness Coordination Council, as Chairman of California's Victim-Witness Rural Coalition, as President of Lake County's Service Coordinating Council, as Chairman of the Lake County Crime Victims for Court Reform Committee, and as Treasurer of Lake County's AWARE program. In addition, he worked with the National Organization for Victim Assistance, Governor's Training Conference on Crime Victims, and AGAPE Shelter for Battered Women and Children.

Mike's personal dedication, vision, leadership abilities, and commitment have given victims of crime the resources and protection they need.

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

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
TIMAKA JONES AND LAWRENCE
BROWDER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Ms. Timaka Jones and Mr. Lawrence Browder of Humphreys County in the State of Mississippi. Ms. Jones and Mr. Browder are unique in that they are one of the few father and daughter duos, elected officials in the State of Mississippi. Before Jones began her political career, she assisted her father in becoming the first African American elected to the Office of Chancery Clerk in Humphreys County. Prior to Mr. Browder being elected Chancery Clerk, he was the first African-American Alderman in the City of Belzoni, where he served for 9 years.

As the daughter of a political father, Ms. Jones was influenced to spread her wings. After being requisitioned by former-Supervisor Arvell Bullock, she announced her candidacy for Justice Court Judge. In 1999, she won this office, being the first and youngest African-American Justice Court Judge in Humphreys County. In 2003 she fulfilled her ambition to become the first female African American Circuit Clerk.

Ms. Timaka Jones and Mr. Lawrence Browder have both been influential in helping others who have decided to run for political office in Humphreys County.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to these outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserve mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF
MRS. GEORGIA VICKERY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mrs. Georgia Vickery on the occasion of her 90th birthday on March 1. Mrs. Vickery was born in Edgewood, Texas to Thomas and Willie Ann Vickery. In February of 1946, she and her husband, Marion Pugh, opened up Pugh Hardware and Furniture in downtown Grand Saline, Texas. From 1970 to 1982 Mrs. Vickery managed this store while her husband served as Grand Saline's City Manager.

A mother to three children, Mrs. Vickery was also very active in the community, serving as a Sunday school teacher, a member of the United Methodist Women's organization, and a member of her Church Council. Today, at ninety years old, Georgia Vickery continues to work for Pugh Hardware by preparing and sending out its monthly statements. She also exercises five days a week, keeps an eye on her farm, and continues her work at the Methodist church.

As a mother, a wife, a devout churchgoer, a small businesswoman, and a community leader, Mrs. Georgia Vickery's life has embodied the values of family, faith, and hard work that lie at the core of American society. As her representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor her today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESTORE
SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY TO FED-
ERAL RESEARCH AND POLICY-
MAKING ACT OF 2005

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative WAXMAN and I are introducing a bill to protect the integrity of science conducted and utilized by the federal government: The Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking Act of 2005.

The Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking Act makes it illegal for any federal official to tamper with research findings, censor findings of research or to disseminate findings known to be false or misleading. It extends whistleblower protections to federal scientists who disclose incidents of political interference with science.

The Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking Act codifies the

recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office in their April 2004 report to Representative JOHNSON and Representative BAIRD. These provisions will improve the process for evaluating appointees to federal scientific advisory committees and make the advisory committee appointment and deliberation process more transparent to the public.

We need this legislation. The Administration has turned a deaf ear on the science community's call to restore scientific integrity in policymaking, including the voices of 48 Nobel Laureates, 62 National Medal of Science recipients, and 135 members of the National Academy of Sciences. While it is true that no Administration has been immune from the temptation to politicize science or has failed to succumb on occasion to this illness, the chronic condition displayed by this Administration requires strong medicine.

Two years ago, the Administration suggested that the incidents raised by the press, by Representative WAXMAN's Government Reform Committee staff report, and in the February 2004 report by the Union of Concerned Scientists were a series of misunderstandings or a partisan effort to defame the Bush Administration's science policies.

However, reports of the manipulation of science and information by the Administration have continued unabated. The diversity of complaints and their sources is unprecedented. Incidents have been reported by the non-governmental science community, former appointees of both Republican and Democratic administrations, Inspectors General of federal agencies, and career federal scientists.

Just this past week, two additional incidents have emerged. EPA's Inspector General issued a report indicating the Agency's senior management instructed EPA staff to produce a standard to fit a pre-determined national emission limit for mercury from power plants. And a survey of federal scientists at the Fish and Wildlife Service released by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility indicates a serious morale problem and a disturbing pattern of suppression and manipulation of scientific results by political appointees at the Agency.

Federal scientists should be free to conduct their research without fear of political censorship. Federal scientists should be active participants in the larger scientific community. Scientific progress occurs when we foster the open exchange of ideas and information. We must maintain a culture of openness and freedom of inquiry if we are to maintain the pre-eminent status of this nation in the world scientific community, develop new technologies, and to safeguard our environment and public health.

It is common in Washington to talk about the importance of basing government policy on reliable scientific and technical information and analyses. We can only accomplish that if politics does not unduly influence the objectivity and independence of our nation's scientific enterprise. The Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking Act of 2005 will ensure that scientific integrity remains the hallmark of all science conducted in this nation. I urge all my colleagues to join Representative WAXMAN and me in support of this legislation.

EXPRESSING SADNESS UPON THE
PASSING OF JUDGE HENRY
LATIMER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express great sadness about the tragic death of my good friend, former Broward Circuit Court Judge Henry Latimer.

Known by his friends as 'Lat', Henry Latimer was an extraordinary gentleman who achieved great success as a teacher, lawyer, judge, and trial attorney. Growing up in Jacksonville's projects, he attended segregated schools and was initially unable to supplement scholarship offers he had received from colleges around the country. Instead, he chose to serve in the U.S. Marines for 3 years and went on to teach economics and history at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale.

From humble beginnings, Judge Latimer proved himself to be a hard-working and scholarly professional. He received a bachelor's degree at Florida A&M University, a master's degree from Florida Atlantic University, was employed by the U.S. Labor Department, and in 1970, enrolled as the only Black law student at the University of Miami.

In 1979, Judge Latimer was appointed to the Broward Circuit Court, only the third African-American to do so, and was soon after rated the "most qualified" judge in the Circuit. Twice nominated for a federal judgeship, Lat stepped down from the bench to work for a large firm and established the Laura Latimer Free Legal Clinic in memory of his late sister.

Most recently, Henry Latimer was a trial attorney and shareholder in the law firm of Greenberg Traurig. There he had become very involved in cases of civil rights, wrongful discharge, sexual harassment, age discrimination and legal malpractice. In all these areas, judges and lawyers alike have relied on him for his legal expertise and professionalism.

Many, as I did, also relied on him as a mentor and a friend. Judge Latimer and I became close personal friends while serving on the bench and he has been an invaluable source of support. He has made a profound contribution to the legal community as exemplified by his impressive achievements. I will greatly miss his wise counsel, compassion and unwavering personal support during the good times and the bad. As a friend, the loss is simply immeasurable.

Listing his many achievements does little to encompass Henry Latimer's exceptional life. He succeeded in the face of adversity through sheer determination, hard work and a faith in the law. This country has lost a great man in Judge Latimer, and he will be sorely missed by all.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by again expressing my great sadness. On behalf of the House of Representatives, I offer my deepest sympathies to Judge Latimer's family, his wife Mildred, and his two daughters.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
MILDRED J. CAIN BURKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Mildred J. Cain Burks, of Carroll County, Mississippi. Though small of stature, Burks was very powerful in her speech and way of life. Ms. Burks founded the Senior Citizens Lunch Program and the Boys and Girls Club in Carroll County. In addition, Ms. Burks, along with her husband, Winston Burks, started the Burks No. 506 Order of the Eastern Star.

Ms. Burks was a member of the NAACP for many years and very active during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Ms. Burks was a very humble and dedicated woman with a purpose. She worked tirelessly for the betterment of her community especially with the younger generation.

It is with this vision that she purchased property for the children in the community to use as a park for them to play. Although she had no children, she felt she was blessed to have so many children in the community that were just like her own. Despite chronic health problems, she never gave up in trying to make a difference in the community. One of her last quotes was, "I am not as fast as I used to be, but I'll do what I call. I have no regrets of what I've done in my life or how I used my time."

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 838—THE
HOPE AT HOME ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the role of the National Guard and Reserve in our military forces has changed. The days of these forces simply providing replacement manpower for active duty personnel in the event of a conflict are no more. Since September 11, 2001 more than 400,000 members

of the Reserve Component have been activated for either homeland security or overseas missions. As of January 5, 2005 there are 180,000 citizen soldiers currently on active duty and it is well documented that the Guard and Reserve comprise more than 40% of the American forces in Iraq.

The Guard and Reserve have performed their patriotic services admirably. However, as these forces were utilized more there was an initial concern that increased mobilizations would lead to a fall off in recruitment and retention. Now, after three years, these fears are coming true. This past January the Army National Guard failed to achieve its recruiting goal by falling shy of its target by 44% and last year the Army Reserves fell about 10% short of its recruiting goal. Equally distressing was a memo written in early January 2005 by Lt. General James Hemly, Chief of the Army Reserves, that stated his belief that the United States Army Reserve was degenerating into a broken force because of dysfunctional military policies.

While the problems that are causing these drops in recruitment and retention are varied, one complaint that has been voiced is that the activations are occurring more frequently and for longer periods of time, and that the resulting stress on the soldier's family is causing him or her to leave the force. In particular, it is the lost income that many citizen soldiers encounter as a result of their activation that places significant stress on families.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, our citizen soldiers are asked to make many sacrifices; sometimes they make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. In addition for each National Guardsman and Reservist serving abroad, there is also a family at home who is also making sacrifices for their country. Husbands and wives, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers—all are asked to endure the temporary absence of a loved one and the fear that they may not return.

Unfortunately, many of these families also suffer from a loss of income. This is because when a National Guardsman or Reservist is called to active duty, their civilian job—and civilian salary—is placed on hiatus and they begin receiving military pay for their service, an amount that is often significantly less than their civilian salary. According to the General Accountability Office (GAO) more than 40% of the Guard and Reserves suffer from a loss in income as a result of their activation.

This "pay gap" forces National Guard and Reservists' families to pinch to make ends meet. Grocery budgets are trimmed, rent or mortgage payments are paid late, credit cards are run up, and other important purchases are postponed. Many family members of Reservists are forced to work overtime, dip into savings, borrow, or even go on welfare to pay the bills.

Mr. Speaker, too many members of our reserve components are faced with the difficult choice of defending their country or providing for their family, a choice that I am certain you will agree with me is unconscionable.

This pay gap, which is causing so much unnecessary stress, can be easily mitigated if the employer of the activated soldier suffering from a pay gap contributes differential payments to their employee. Already there are over 500 conscientious employers who have taken it upon themselves to commence these

payments and Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld was correct in applauding them in an open letter dated September 11, 2002, a copy of which I am placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Unfortunately, it was recently reported that many of these employers are now being forced to scale back or even to cease making these payments to their activated employees. Mr. Speaker, in order to help those employers, to encourage others, and to protect the financial security of more than 40% of our citizen soldiers, I am pleased to be joined by my distinguished colleagues, SAM GRAVES, JIM MCGOVERN and CHRIS SHAYS in introducing bipartisan common-sense legislation to fix the problem of the pay gap.

Our legislation, H.R. 838, entitled the Help Our Patriotic Employers at Helping our Military Employees, or HOPE at HOME Act provides numerous incentives to all of the employers in our country to make it financially attractive to make up any pay gaps that their citizen soldier employee faces as a result of his or her activation. Furthermore, by eliminating the pay gap and protecting the financial security of the families of activated Reservists and National Guard our legislation will reduce the stress of activation and ensure that our nation's military reserve components are able to maintain appropriate retention and recruitment levels.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 838 is designed to provide hope for the citizen soldier that is suffering from a pay gap. The hope is that his home will remain financially secure in his absence. In order to accomplish this, the legislation provides numerous tax incentives to non-federal employers. As I previously mentioned, there are numerous private employers that have taken the conscientious initiative of paying their employees the difference between their civilian and military salary. In fact, according to the Employee Support for Guard and Reserve—an outreach organization run by the Office of Secretary of Defense—there are currently over 500 private employers, state governments and municipal jurisdictions that have undertaken differential payments for their employees. As a reward for these conscientious employers and as an incentive for others to join them, The HOPE at HOME Act creates a tax credit equal to 50% of the amount the employer pays to the Reservist, capped at \$30,000 per employee.

H.R. 838 also recognizes that smaller companies are disproportionately adversely affected by an employee's activation, since losing two people of 10-person business is akin to losing 100 people at a 500-person plant. In addition smaller companies often encounter greater difficulty in distributing an activated employees' responsibilities amongst the remaining employees and may need to hire temporary replacement workers. In order to provide relief to these small businesses, which H.R. 838 defines as those with 50 or fewer employees, as well as to ensure that the small business employers can make differential payments for their activated employees the legislation provides an additional tax credit of \$12,000 for the costs associated with hiring/training the temporary replacement worker contingent on the small business employer making pay differential payments to their activated employee.

The HOPE at HOME act also recognized the difficulties that those reservists who are self employed face when they are activated. These soldiers often face the most grievous

setbacks as their carefully built companies lose business, struggle to survive or are forced to close due to their prolonged absence. Mr. Speaker, our legislation creates an important tax incentive designed to assist the self-employed citizen soldier in defraying the costs of hiring someone to keep their business running in their absence.

The HOPE at HOME Act also recognizes that because the Federal government is the single largest employer of citizen soldiers it should lead by example. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the Federal government is the civilian employer for more than 13% of the Reserve Component. That is why the HOPE at HOME act requires the Federal government to eliminate the pay gap for its employees.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also makes some technical changes about how these differential pay payments are to be recorded. Currently the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) treats these payments as benefits requiring reporting on the 1099 form. This is a burden for the employee and the employer, as it requires quarterly filing of estimated tax burdens. Our legislation requires the IRS to treat these payments as wages, which means that employers would be able to use the more accessible W2 form, thereby reducing a possible burden that may have prevented employers from making these types of payments in the past.

Finally the HOPE at HOME Act makes it easier for employers to contribute to their activated employees retirement plans while the employee is serving our country. As our colleagues are aware, under The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) the law that governs the activations and deactivations of Guard and Reserves, an employee who is activated to serve is "separated" from his civilian employer and therefore, if that employer wanted to contribute to its activated employees' retirement fund (IRA, 401(k) etc) the employer would not receive the tax benefit anymore because of the fiction of the employees separation. The HOPE at HOME act removes this barrier and allows employers to continue to contribute to the retirement funds of their activated citizen soldier employee's.

Mr. Speaker, our citizen soldiers are a valuable and essential component of our military and we can ill afford to continue down this path of overextending these brave men and women. Clearly, those citizens who enlist in the Guard or Reserve do so because of an admirable sense of patriotism to our country. However, we cannot ask these citizen soldiers to sacrifice their families' financial security in order to carry out their patriotic duty. I urge all of our colleagues to join Mr. GRAVES, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. MCGOVERN and myself in supporting this bipartisan effort and join us in working for its expedited passage.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,

1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON,

Washington, DC, September 11, 2003.

AN OPEN LETTER TO AMERICA'S EMPLOYERS: Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the Department of Defense has mobilized more than 295,000 Reservists and National Guardsmen in response to the ongoing Global War on Terrorism. These dedicated men and women—citizen Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen—have been engaged in and around the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as providing security here at home and in other critical locations around the world.

This would not have been possible without the strong backing of America's employers. I

want to express my gratitude to all employers who have demonstrated support for this national crisis by swiftly releasing your valuable employees for military service. It is equally gratifying to see how you are welcoming back these returning warriors and reinstating them in their jobs. During the period of mobilization, many of you did more than was required by law by voluntarily offering continued benefits, pay differentials, and additional, creative forms of family support which made the period of separation so much easier to bear. I know of no other time in our nation's history when so many employers have voluntarily offered this level of support and benefits.

I recognize that these generous actions have not been without sacrifice. Each of you has earned the deepest appreciation of this Department and the United States Government for your unswerving support of our nation's military. Without this continued support, we could not maintain a strong military or sustain the current effort to overcome the international terrorist threat directed at our country, our citizens, and all who love freedom.

You have my deepest thanks. Your direct contributions and support are another illustration of America's greatness as a nation.

Sincerely,

DONALD RUMSFELD,
Secretary of Defense.

DEDICATED TO THE "COWBELLES"

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Ramona Snow, of Bakersfield, California. Ramona has been designated the Kern County "Cattlemom of the Year" by Kern County Cattlemen and Cattewomen Associations.

Ramona was born into a family of nine siblings and attended schools in Bakersfield until her senior year in high school when she transferred to Ventura. Shortly thereafter the family returned to Bakersfield, Ramona married Robert Snow, and began her life as a cattlemom.

She became adept at pulling calves and doctoring ailing stock, as well as everyday ranch chores. Between raising her four children and ranch chores, Ramona found time to become active in 4-H as a sewing and cooking leader. In 1964 Ramona was asked to become a member of CowBelles, which led to a long and active career within what is now known as the Cattewomen's Association.

Upon joining, Ramona became highly involved and chaired many committees. Such committees included, "Beef for Father's Day," and "Beef for Mother's Day." Ramona served as Vice President in 1976 and was elected President the following year. She was elected as President again in 1991.

Mrs. Snow has been an inventive member of CowBelles. She came up with the idea of a children's cookbook to be handed out at the Kern County Museum. Ramona was responsible for prize winning fair booths including the "Best Dressed Table" that promoted beef at the Kern County Fair for over 30 years. In the 1950s the CowBelles started awarding leather halters and now silver buckles to the winners of the Reserve Champion Steers at the Fair. Ramona designs these buckles each year so

they are always different. While Ramona was Vice President she introduced the idea of a Beef Cook-Off and with the help of fellow members the Cook-Off was held in Kern County that year.

Ramona's efforts have been exhaustive. Throughout her tenure as a member and officer of the Cattewomen's Association she has been instrumental in nearly every aspect of the organization. This award is reflective of her dedication.

IWG 2-YEAR EXTENSION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with 12 of my bipartisan colleagues, including Chairmen DAVIS and HOEKSTRA and Ranking Members WAXMAN, HARMAN, and CONYERS, introduce a bill that will extend the term of the Nazi War Crimes Interagency Working Group by 2 years. This is the companion bill of S. 384, a bill introduced by Senator DEWINE and passed in the Senate today. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the history and the impact of this legislation. I would like to thank Senator DEWINE and his staff for their tireless work and for the energy they have put forth to ensure that we know as much as we can about our Government's past involvement with Nazi War criminals.

In 1998, Congress passed the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, a law that was enacted to explain the relationship between the U.S. Government and former Nazis. The act required the release of all previously classified information on the topic to the Interagency Working Group on Nazi War Crimes, IWG. The documents provided thus far to the IWG have revealed that there was a closer relationship between the U.S. Government and Nazi war criminals than previously known, a revelation that is crucial to the understanding of history. This significant knowledge would not have been possible without the cooperation of many agencies including the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Until recently, the CIA had not complied with the law and did not release the documents needed to complete the IWG's task, as defined by law. Fortunately, after discussions with Senator DEWINE and myself and under the leadership of Director Porter Goss, the CIA agreed to release the requisite documents. With the term of the IWG set to expire at the end of March 2005, we are now at a critical juncture.

This bill is simple. It extends the term of the IWG so that it can complete its work, write a comprehensive report, and send it to Congress. We hope to move this quickly in the House, as they did in the Senate, to avoid a lapse in this important work. History, and the memory of the millions who perished in the Holocaust, deserve nothing less than full disclosure.

CELEBRATION OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to commemorate the 80th birthday of a living legend here in the United States Congress and a man who is revered and respected throughout this country, my predecessor, Congressman Louis Stokes.

Born February 23, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio, Louis Stokes was educated in the Cleveland Public Schools, graduating from Central High School. He went on to serve honorably in the United States Army during the Second World War. After three years of service he returned to Cleveland where he attended Western Reserve University and later earned his Doctor of Laws Degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1953.

On November 6, 1968, Louis Stokes was elected to the United States Congress, becoming the first African American member of Congress from the State of Ohio. He served 15 consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, ranking 11th overall in House seniority. Louis Stokes played a pivotal role in the quest for civil rights, equality and social and economic justice throughout his tenure in the United States Congress. He served on numerous committees throughout his tenure including the House Select Committee on Assassinations, the Ethics Committee, and the House Intelligence Committee.

He was the dean of the Ohio Congressional Delegation and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. His work in the area of health led to his appointment as a member of the Pepper Commission on Comprehensive Health Care, and he was the founder and chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. His resume in its entirety is too lengthy to be recorded in this resolution as it is adequately recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District, I join with his wife Jay, children, Shelley, Angela, Louis and Lori, grandchildren, family and friends in wishing Congressman Louis Stokes a very happy and blessed 80th birthday. You have been a trailblazer for so many who have followed in your footsteps. I thank you for your continued support and guidance throughout my career. May you have many, many more.

DEDICATED RANCHER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Fred David Lavers II, of Glennville, California. Mr. Lavers is being recognized by the Kern County Cattlemen and Cattewomen Association as the "Cattlemom of the Year."

Born in Bakersfield, Mr. Lavers has lived on the ranch at Glennville nearly his whole life.

David attended North High School, upon graduation he continued his education at California State University, San Luis Obispo where he majored in Agricultural Business Management. After he received his degree, David pursued his dream to study law and attended California Pacific School of Law and graduated with his Juris Doctorate degree.

While David pursued his goals away from home, he never forgot his family and the ranch. He came home every other weekend to work the ranch and once he graduated from Cal Poly he became employed by Tejon Ranch Feedlot. While at Tejon, David drove the water truck, ran the feed mill, cowboyed,

and worked as a bookkeeper. Since then David has worked as a landscaper, a brakeman for Southern Pacific Railroad, and at various cattle ranches. Besides being a rancher, he currently works as a HIPAA and Corporate Compliance Consultant.

Despite his active work schedule, David has a long history of community involvement. He has been President of the Poso Creek Cattleman's Association, a committee member of Ad Hoc Committee for the Kern County Board of Supervisors, a board member of the Linns Valley School District, Director California Cattleman's Association, Vice President of the Kern county Cattleman's Association, and is

current Director for the Kern County Cattleman's Association.

David not only dedicates himself to the community, and to his work, but he also puts his family first. He married his college sweetheart, Cynthia Sanchez in 1978 and their son Jack Justin was born in 1983. David and Cynthia's dream is that Jack can continue the long tradition of ranching from which David hails.

Mr. Lavers has contributed to the community in many ways and this award is recognition of such contributions.

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, February 17, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements from combatant commanders in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SH-216

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations.

SD-226

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

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

SH-216

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

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SH-216

10 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SD-106

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

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To resume hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements from combatant commanders in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SD-106

MARCH 17

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; to be followed by a closed hearing in SH-219.

SD-106

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