

and prayers as they deal with their tremendous loss.

As I've thought about Tillie over the past week, I remember that Tillie always seemed to know where she was going. She wasn't necessarily in a hurry, but she knew where she wanted to be, and what she needed to do. Many of my colleagues may remember the brisk pace of Tillie as she hustled between meetings and votes and other commitments. She was dainty but determined, small yet sure, focused yet always friendly.

Tillie was deeply dedicated to her work on the Armed Services Committee and to the men and women who serve our country in the military. In her mind, they deserved the best, and she was determined to see that they got it. She had the respect of members from both sides of the aisle, and especially the leadership of the military and the Pentagon for her commitment.

Today, as we find ourselves engaged in the Global War on Terror and we see all that our military has accomplished to further the cause of liberty across the Middle East, we should remember Tillie's hard work on their behalf. She deserves a tremendous amount of credit for recognizing the importance of a strong military, even in times of relative peace and prosperity. You never know when you might need it. And we need it today. Thanks to Tillie, and many other people, we have it.

Tillie Fowler will long be remembered here on Capitol Hill for her dedication, her grace, her love of this country and those who serve it. She set a shining example for all of us to follow—love your family, love your country, love your job, and know where you're going.

RECOGNIZING 225TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CON-  
GREGATION IN GEORGETOWN

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Presbyterian Congregation in Georgetown, which is celebrating 225 years of distinguished history on March 16, 2005. On the Sundays when I'm in Washington, I often attend this church and I'm always reminded of its unique heritage.

The church's history is deeply connected with the history of the Nation. It started with a small group of worshipers in 1760 who were organized into a church in 1780 under the eminent Stephen Bloomer Balch, pupil of religious leader John Witherspoon and soldier of the Revolution. It is the first Presbyterian Church in what is now modern-day Washington, DC, and remains the oldest church in the city of any denomination with an unbroken ministry. Men and women of every denomination worshiped there, including many leaders of the young republic.

The first, and for many years the only, Protestant church building in Georgetown was erected by its congregation in 1782. Additions were made in 1794 with Thomas Jefferson listed among the contributors. A rare charter, still in effect, was granted in 1806 to "the Presbyterian Congregation in George Town" by an act of Congress signed by President Jefferson. In 1810, the church's seal, with its

seven stars and Bible, was given to the church by the superintendent of the United States Mint. In 1821, President Monroe laid the cornerstone for the beautiful Bridge Street building which was moved fifty years later to its present site, with President Grant laying the cornerstone at that location. This is the same building in which the congregation now worships.

The Presbyterian Congregation in Georgetown has always been a pioneer in the religious and cultural life of the community. In 1781, Dr. Balch became headmaster of the Columbian Academy to which George Washington sent his nephews and wards. Later, a school for girls was founded. The first book published in the District of Columbia was written by Dr. Balch, and he helped to found the first public library. As an outgrowth of the church's ministry, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches were established in Washington and Maryland.

The church's bell tolled all day when President Washington died. George Washington Parke Custis, the grandson of Martha Washington and father-in-law of Robert E. Lee, delivered an oration on the defeat of Napoleon from the church's pulpit. Memorial services for President William Henry Harrison were conducted there. During the Civil War, its building was used as a hospital for both Union and Confederate soldiers, including casualties after the Second Battle of Manassas and the Battle of Fredericksburg. In these and many ways, the church has been identified with the history of the nation it has sought to serve.

The church's ministry remains vibrant today. The congregation is thankful for the recent arrival of its new pastor, the Reverend Doctor Richard L. Sheffield. Under his dynamic leadership and with God's grace, I'm certain that the church will continue to play an important role in the Washington community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Presbyterian Congregation in Georgetown on its 225th anniversary. It is both an honor and a pleasure to salute such a long-standing institution that has played such an important role in the history of our Nation.

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING WEEK

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of our nation's great manufacturing base. My colleague Rep. GILLMOR introduced important legislation, H. Res. 16, to support National Manufacturing Week, congratulate manufacturers and their employees for their contributions growth and innovation, and recognize the challenges facing the manufacturing sector. I join him in applauding America's manufacturers.

I especially want to highlight aviation manufacturing, the manufacturing sector predominant in my district, where Wichita is known as the Air Capital of the World. Wichita is home to 4 major aircraft manufacturers, numerous suppliers and other support industries. I am very proud of all the men and women today and in years past who have brought that distinction to our great city.

According to the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, General Aviation manufacturing contributed over \$6 billion to the U.S. economy in 2004, exporting nearly \$1.5 billion. Approximately 80 percent of the world's GA aircraft is manufactured in the United States. The total U.S. aerospace manufacturing industry exports \$58.5 billion in products—the largest net export segment of all U.S. industry.

General Aviation Manufacturers directly employ nearly 169,000 workers around the country. Aircraft manufacturing workers are the highest-paid, highest-skilled workers in the manufacturing sector. They earn an average wage of \$47,700 annually—35 percent more than the U.S. average.

In addition, for every aviation manufacturing job created in the U.S., three additional jobs are created in other industries. In 2002, the last year for which we have complete numbers, the total impact of civil aviation on the U.S. economy exceeded \$900 billion and 11 million jobs. This amounts to 9 percent of the U.S. GDP. General Aviation contributes approximately \$102 billion (or 12 percent of the total civil aviation contribution) and 1.3 million jobs.

General Aviation manufacturers make aircraft for fire-fighting, law enforcement, scientific research, search and rescue, and agriculture. Currently General Aviation and aerospace employees are working on the future of flight: advances in propulsion, including quiet supersonic flight, new energy sources including hydrogen, and integrating satellite technology for navigational and safe flight purposes.

Manufacturing employees across America are building our future as I speak. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding their hard work, and to commit to ensuring that our manufacturing base thrives for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF TILLIE FOWLER,  
FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and former colleague Representative Tillie Fowler.

Tillie, who was sometimes called the "Steel Magnolia," represented her district in Florida from 1992 until 2000 and was a champion for the issues important to her constituents. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, she fought to keep military bases in her congressional district. During her tenure on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, she investigated the inadequacies in the country's preparedness for a domestic terrorist attack and was able to identify many of the shortcomings that contributed to our lack of preparedness on September 11, 2001. She also served as vice chairwoman of the House Republican Conference and was the fifth-highest member of the House leadership when she left Congress.

In 1997, she served on a congressional task force created to investigate the incidences of sexual harassment and abuse in the U.S. military, an issue on which she and I worked closely together. Two years ago, she was appointed by Secretary Rumsfeld to lead a

seven-member panel created by Congress to review sexual misconduct allegations at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The panel's findings detailed much that we already knew including a failure of leadership and command and a lack of support for the victim. I strongly believe that we owe much of the progress we are now making on this issue to the efforts made by Tillie Fowler during the past ten years.

Tillie is survived by her husband Buck and her two daughters Tillie and Elizabeth. I join with my colleagues in expressing my deepest condolences. Tillie will certainly be missed.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER JOHN PETER MONTALVO

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Laredo Independent School District Board Member John Peter Montalvo for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Mr. Montalvo was elected to the Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees in May 2000. He is a retired employee of the U.S. Postal Service and former City of Laredo council member. He has contributed much of his time and efforts toward social causes.

He has worked with numerous capital improvement projects which included housing rehabilitation, street paving and recreational parks. He also has initiated many health-related programs for low income citizens of his district.

As the school board representative for District 3 he serves the parents and children of Bruni, Tarver, and J.C. Martin Elementary school, but believes in serving the community as a whole to give the children the best opportunities possible. Montalvo is an inspiration to all in his community, through his lifetime service to education and the children of Laredo.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the dedication of Laredo Independent School District Board Member John Peter Montalvo, and I thank you for this time.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF A YEAR OF LANGUAGES

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a supporter of H. Res. 122, a bill brought before the House of Representatives by my colleague Rush Holt. 2005 is The Year of Languages, which is a nationwide initiative to raise the American public's awareness regarding the importance of learning languages.

The goals of the Year of Languages initiative are simple. We want to expand the public's understanding of the role played by languages in all aspects of people's lives, in society and in the future of human and inter-

national relations. This is also an opportunity to promote the importance of language learning and language proficiency, urging every American to commit to learning other languages.

By focusing on such goals, we will build awareness of the diversity of languages that now play an integral part of everyday life in our country. Ultimately, this can promote the formation of a national task force to study and strengthen national policy on language learning and teaching and to make recommendations to strengthen U.S. policy.

The Year of Languages is being marked by events at the national, regional and local levels. American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) has organized a national media campaign and educational and promotional materials designed to boost interest among learners of all ages, including public service announcements for television, radio, and print media.

Thank you, Merci, Gracias, Danka and Todah.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOODBURY CHURCH OF CHRIST

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th year of existence of the Woodbury Church of Christ. The Middle Tennessee congregation will celebrate the church's 175th anniversary during festivities slated for March 13-16.

The Woodbury Church of Christ began in 1830 when Tolbert Fanning baptized Elizabeth Gowan, wife of Dr. W.D. Gowan, in the Stones River. In 1836, William West donated the property upon which the first church was erected in 1842. A new building was built on the same site in 1889. It still stands today.

In 1868, the Woodbury Church of Christ reported 100 members. Today, the Church has 850 members. Minister Herb Alsup has served the Church for more than 27 years. He is helped by Junior Associate Minister Al Bugg Jr.; Missions Outreach Minister Howard Swann; Youth Minister Tim Knox; elders Lannie Burger, Clayton Glenn and Ray LeFevers; and deacons Mark Bailey, Mike Bailey, Dale Bush, Mike Corley, Mark Elkins, Bob Fuller, Jimmy Merryman, Boyd Pitts, Jeff Reed and Greg Rogers.

The Woodbury Church of Christ helps the community's needy through its outreach center, which provides clothing and food, and other benevolent work. The congregation's mission program is very active, having started three churches in the past five years. The new churches are Bright Angel Church of Christ in Las Vegas, Nevada; Emerald Beach Church of Christ in Panama City Beach, Florida; and Cleveland Church of Christ in Cleveland, Georgia. The Woodbury Church of Christ also supports churches and ministers in 10 foreign countries and nine other cities in the United States.

Woodbury is a better place because of the work of the Woodbury Church of Christ and its congregation. I am sure the church will continue to make a positive difference in the com-

munity for the next 175 years, and I congratulate the congregation and Minister Herb Alsup for all the good work they have done.

COLLEGE STUDENT CREDIT CARD PROTECTION ACT

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, while we prepare to debate in the next few weeks a bill that will make it more difficult for personal bankruptcy filers to escape their debts, I rise today to speak about young people in this regard. We have seen a 50 percent rise in bankruptcy filings in the past 10 years among young people.

I am reintroducing legislation today to address the growing problem of rising credit card debt among college students in the United States, a leading cause of bankruptcies filings among young people.

In 2001, Nellie Mae conducted a study that found college students, on average are graduating with six credit cards in their wallets. In 2001, their credit card debt average was \$2,327, and graduating seniors had a combined college loan and credit debt of \$20,402 each.

Semester after semester, students open their mail boxes to find envelopes notifying them that they are preapproved for credit cards. When they check their e-mail, there are more credit card offers. When they answer the phone in their dorm room, there are more offers.

Credit card companies pay college students generously to stand outside dining halls, dorms, and academic buildings and encourage their fellow students to apply for credits cards. With each completed application, the student applicant receives free gifts, from t-shirts to indoor basketball hoops, and the credit card company receives another interest paying customer. Walk on a college campus from move-in day on, and getting inundated with credit card applications is unavoidable.

I have heard personal stories from my district about college students overwhelmed by credit card debt. One junior in college has amassed a whopping \$14,000 of credit card debt. And Victoria's Secret still gave her a credit card with a \$2500 limit.

One of my staffers was approved for a credit card when she was in college after misspelling her name on the application, giving an incorrect address, wrong phone number, and wrong social security number. Clearly, credit card companies are not paying attention to whom they are giving credit cards, much less if the applicants can afford to pay the balance. This must stop!

College graduation should be a time of excitement and new beginnings; a time when students can watch the skills they have learned in college manifest into successful careers and happy lives.

Instead of endless possibilities, students are burdened with endless debt. Studies show that over half of college students feel burdened by debt when they graduate. According to the Federal Trade Commission, by the time college students graduate, one in eight will have charged their way to more than \$7,000 of credit card debt. Studies also show that the