

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHNNY GIBSON TO EXPLORING AND SHARING THE BEAUTY OF WEST TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Johnny Gibson, a renowned wilderness guide, a cherished member of our community and my friend.

Johnny began his life of service when he joined the Marines on July 12, 1941, at the age of seventeen. He served his country in the Pacific for four and a half years, and after this tour of duty, he returned to school to earn a high school diploma and begin working for the Tennessee Highway Department. A lifetime hunter and fisher, Mr. Gibson soon realized his true passion was in the outdoors, and he followed his calling to become the most famous wilderness guide in our area.

Johnny dedicated his life to introducing people to the enchanting wildlife and beauty of the West Tennessee countryside. Some of his patrons have included country music stars, such as Ricky Shelton, Hank Williams Jr., and Little Jimmy Dickens, and political leaders like Walter Mondale and Al Gore. His years as a guide behind him, he is now dedicated to spending time with his wife of 43 years, Jane, their five children and ten grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing the exceptional service of my friend, Mr. Johnny Gibson.

IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, AND NATIONAL SECURITY: THE SILENT INVASION

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the foreword to an article I authored in the Fall 2004 special migration issue of Mediterranean Quarterly. People on the Move: The Security, Social, and Economic Implications of Migration Foreword

The long cycles of history are revealing to those who study them but may harbor surprises for those who choose to ignore them. The editors of Mediterranean Quarterly, cognizant of lessons learned or ignored, decided to take a closer look at a pattern of history that seems to be at the core of current global instability: the mass migration of people in search of basic means of survival, or just survival from brutal rulers.

On an annual basis, approximately 100 million people either attempt to or actually do leave their place of birth, often not knowing where they will end up. More than 10 million illegal immigrants have entered the United

States since the last "amnesty" in 1986, and the flow continues despite the promises of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Close to 1 million Albanians, almost one-fourth of the country's population, have sought refuge in neighboring countries since the collapse of their country's communist regime. Tens of thousands of Turks leave their country annually in search of work in Western Europe and endure the consequences of cultural discrimination. More tragically, young women from the poorest components of the former Soviet Empire have vanished into the jungle of human trafficking and become commodities in an ugly form of trade that is managed by the new barons of a dangerous underworld. Recent statistics assembled by Greek authorities estimate that seventeen thousand women are being exploited by sex merchants in the Balkans alone. Albanian mafia lords, in association with their former enemies and with links all the way to Afghanistan, control lucrative drug, gun, and human-smuggling operations across national borders with relative impunity. And as in times past, the Mediterranean Sea has become the crossroads of people on the move and the stage on which human tragedy unfolds almost on a daily basis.

Human cargoes float from island to island in the eastern Aegean, with boat crews waiting for the opportunity to dump these people on dry land, after having extracted the last ounce of resources from their helpless victims. On the African shores of Gibraltar, thousands of Africans patiently wait for the first opportunity to cross the narrow stretch of water and set foot on European soil. Egyptians, Iraqis, Pakistanis, Filipinos, and Bangladeshis have landed on Italian, Greek, French, and Spanish shores over the years. They bring along their poverty, their energies, and their hopes. They also bring social, political, and now security concerns.

More than a dozen scholars, policy makers, and political leaders present diverse views on this critical issue in these pages. The lead essay, on the security implications of illegal migration for the United States, is written by Congressman Tom Tancredo, Republican of Colorado, and the unfolding drama of African refugees is provided by Francis M. Deng, United Nations representative for internally displaced persons. Rochelle Gershuni, head of Israel's Ministry of Justice, addresses sex exploitation and human trafficking and its consequences for her country. Scholars of diverse origins and viewpoints deal with migration issues in Spain, Egypt, Turkey, and Greece and the South-North migration in the United States and Canada. Naturally, we do not pretend that we provide a complete picture of a huge historical phenomenon, but we do hope to spark a debate on the social, policy, security, and economic implications caused by "people on the move."

Historical patterns show that mass population movements have altered cultures, demolished empires, given birth to new ones, and ultimately compelled humankind to organize itself into nation-states, with sovereignty

determining their national characters. Now the nation-state that saw its birth in the Treaty of Westphalia is in retreat as an organizing concept of human events. Multiculturalism, globalization, poverty, and the North-South global economic divide have altered the patterns of civilization to a degree unprecedented since the eastern tribes overwhelmed the Roman Empire and the Ottomans reached the gates of Vienna.

The advanced industrial democracies, the ultimate destination of people on the move, have shown a lack of vision about the implications of mass movements of people in search of a livelihood. In their pursuit of high profits with cheap labor in the shortest time, they have adopted immigration policies that no longer facilitate the orderly integration of cultures and the peaceful evolution of new forms of ethnic identity. Instead of inviting potential citizens seeking a better life, the industrial nations have institutionalized the transplantation of ethnic communities and have set in motion a process for their own national balkanization.

The essays included in this special issue of Mediterranean Quarterly (with more to follow in future issues) examine problems caused by migration both in countries of destination and countries of origin. It behooves the first to examine their social policies and the latter to come to grips with their inability to match national resources with their peoples' needs. By selectively examining problems on both sides of the divide, the editors hope to spark a debate that will be grounded on the reality that a silent invasion is under way that could, if left unattended, transform world politics and ferment global turmoil for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 8, 2005, having been unavoidably detained due to congressional business related to my work on the Financial Services Committee, I was unable to vote on Approving the Journal (Rollcall No. 53), H. Res. 133 (Rollcall No. 54), and H. Res. 122 (Rollcall No. 55). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three measures considered before the House.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WEBB COUNTY SHERIFF RICK FLORES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Webb County Sheriff Rick Flores for a lifetime of dedication to law enforcement.

• 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.

Rick Flores is an excellent example of a Sheriff who understands the needs of his community. Sheriff Flores spent six years working for the District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit. A dedicated public servant, Mr. Flores has experience in providing crisis intervention and counseling for local families.

Sheriff Flores is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Webb County Domestic Violence Coalition's "Breaking the Cycle" Award and his induction into the National Future Leaders Hall of Fame by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

Sheriff Flores believes that an informed public is better equipped for preventing crime in our streets and neighborhoods. He has organized numerous events and workshops helping to educate Webb County citizens on pressing issues such as drug abuse, sexual assault and teen violence. Rick Flores is an example of proactive law enforcement in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the achievements of Webb County Sheriff Rick Flores.

A TRIBUTE TO MABEL MUNIZ-SARDUY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Mabel Muniz-Sarduy who has dedicated her professional career to educating our children.

Mabel has been a student, community resident, teacher, Parent Coordinator, Assistant Principal and now Principal at P.S. 86 in the Bushwick community. As a student she attended the schools in District 32. As a community resident, she has been a youth leader and president of her block association.

Mabel has a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Arts from Hunter College, a Masters Degree in Reading from Hunter College as well as a professional diploma from Long Island University in Administration.

She began her professional career as a teacher at Saint Martin's of Tours, and then as a teacher at P.S. 86. Next, Mabel moved from the classroom to administration as a Parent Coordinator, an Assistant Principal at P.S. 106, and to her current position as the Principal at P.S. 86.

Mabel strives every day to empower and create a positive image for the community she loves. She is a firm believer that through education you can change your life and impact many others. Holding high expectations, she continues to strive to make sure that our students, educators, parents and community residents are involved in the progress of our students. She is married with two beautiful boys, Rafael and Jeremy.

Mr. Speaker, Mabel Muniz-Sarduy has ably served her community by dedicating her career to educating our students and thereby improving the lives of many New York City residents.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recognize China's National People Congress current meeting in Beijing. One of the most controversial bills under consideration is the Anti-secession Law targeted at Taiwan. If enacted, the law will give Chinese leaders the authority to annex Taiwan by force if Taiwanese leaders are found promoting Taiwan independence. This law is very unfriendly to Taiwan and I understand it has aroused public outcry and protests throughout Taiwan.

Understandably the leaders and people of Taiwan are disturbed by this proposed law. It is their position that Taiwan has never been part of the People's Republic of China. They also feel there is no legal basis or justification for China's territorial claims. I believe the people of Taiwan value a free and democratic way of life and they would like to co-exist with the Chinese people on the mainland peacefully. The economic and cultural relations between Taiwan and China should be developed on the principles of peace, faith, trust and mutual respect.

The proposed law represents a unilateral change of the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and threatens regional peace and security. Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian has said that he is willing to dialogue with the Chinese leaders and discuss issues of mutual interest including eventual reunification of Taiwan and China. Both Taiwan and China desire peace and co-existence, and they should be able to work out their differences without enacting this new law.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in urging the Chinese leaders not to enact the Anti-secession law.

HONORING PAUL VI CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Paul VI Catholic High School Baseball Team on their 2004 Virginia Independent Schools Baseball Association State Baseball Championship victory.

The Paul VI Panthers of Fairfax County, Virginia won the 2004 Virginia Independent Schools Baseball Association State Baseball Championship by defeating Bishop O'Connell High School 5-0 in the state title championship game. The Virginia Independent Schools Baseball Association sponsors the highest level championship among all private schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Paul VI Panthers, runners-up in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference South Division, qualified for the state title game by defeating Bishop Sullivan High School 12-2 in the state playoffs. The Panthers then went on to qualify for the state title game by defeating St. Stephen's High School 5-3. The Paul VI Panthers completed the season with a strong 17-12 record.

The following team members are recognized for their leadership, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the entire season: Seniors—Ryne Bromley, Dan Cinali, Sean Fitzgerald, Mike Geraghty, T.J. Guinan, Jose Herrera, Carl Kaczmarek and Jeff Manthe. Juniors—Ricky Blazquez, Scott Eastment, Chuck Evans, Alex Gregory, Justus Hogge, Trey McMenamin, Will Naylor, J.T. Richardson, and Brian Short. Sophomores—Robert Lamas, Zach Miller, Brett Moore, John Polcari, John Ralston and Scott Walsh. Student Manager—Cam Dugger. Head Coach—Billy Emerson and assistants Dave Beach, Tad Davidovich, Jeff Nolan and Tony Salgado.

The Panthers baseball team displayed exemplary sportsmanship throughout the regular season as well as postseason tournaments.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate the baseball team on its successful season. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Paul VI High School for their outstanding and continued success.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A
LEGACY FOR USERS

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes:

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Chairman. I rise today to express my support to an amendment to H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users, offered by my colleague, Representative TOM OSBORNE of Nebraska.

The Osborne Amendment would allow the State of Nebraska the opportunity to revisit a state statute restricting length of vehicles used by custom harvesters during harvest season. The length law in Nebraska has been frozen at 65 feet since 1991. Unfortunately, this restriction does not accommodate much of today's modern custom harvesting equipment which often exceeds this length.

Existing laws in surrounding western states currently permit truck length approximately 15 feet longer than in Nebraska. My home state of South Dakota permits commercial vehicle combinations up to 81 feet, 6 inches in length. This inconsistency in state laws creates a significant obstacle for harvesters, who travel from south to north each year, and must reconfigure their equipment in order to legally transport it through the state of Nebraska into neighboring states. This is a slow, expensive, and unnecessary process.

The Osborne Amendment would enable the State of Nebraska to alleviate much of the burden on custom harvesters during harvest time by creating greater uniformity in length laws throughout western agricultural states. Increasing the efficiency by which custom harvesters travel throughout the Midwest will benefit both producers and consumers and I am pleased to voice my support for this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S CLUB
OF LYONS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding organization in my district, the Women's Club of Lyons on its 50th Anniversary celebration this year.

For five decades, the Women's Club of Lyons has promoted civic responsibility, philanthropy and friendship throughout its community. Chartered in April 1955, the Women's Club aims to encourage its members to become civic minded and socially active with charitable causes and community awareness and development.

From its early days, the Women's Club has branched out into other charitable endeavors, including funding Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League, American Cancer Society, Lyons Food Pantry, youth programs with the Lyons Recreation Department, the Ronald McDonald House, the Constance Morris home for battered women, the Wives and Children Fund of the New York Policemen and Firemen's fund after 9/11, and the Stars and Stripes fund, as well as many other charitable causes.

However, the club still maintains much of its original character as a place for women to form the bonds of friendship and camaraderie through its social activities and monthly meetings which feature speakers discussing important issues of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Western Springs Women's Club and all of its members, past and present, on its 50 years of service to its community.

COMMENDING BERNARD RYAN
FOR EXEMPLARY CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to Mr. Bernard ("Bernie") Ryan of the City of Buffalo who has been selected by the United Irish-American Association to lead The Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13, 2005 as this year's Grand Marshal.

First held on March 17, 1913, the Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade pays tribute to the patron Saint of Ireland and after a short interruption from 1917–1935, the parade has been held every year since 1935, with the exception of the World War II years (1942–1945).

Buffalo, New York, like many other communities throughout the United States, has a large Irish American population and the St. Patrick's Day parade offers Irish Americans along with people from all ethnic backgrounds, an opportunity to celebrate one component of our rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Every year, thousands of people flock to Delaware Avenue in Downtown Buffalo to cheer on fellow citizens, Irish dancers, bands, and civic organizations who march in honor of St. Patrick.

The UIAA's election of Bernie Ryan as this year's Grand Marshal marks a proud moment for Bernie and his family, wife Karen and children Kathleen and Bernard Jay as Bernie embarks upon this once in a lifetime journey.

Four generations have worn the top hat and carried the blackthorn that belonged to Mike Quinn, Buffalo's first grand marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade back in 1913.

Bernie Ryan joins the ranks of other distinguished grand marshals and is honored for a lifetime of exemplary civic involvement.

Bernard served in the U.S. Army on a tour of duty in Vietnam. Upon return, he dedicated himself to family, work and community. He has had a 35 year career at Freezer Queen Foods where he has risen to the position of Controller. He is an active parishioner at St. Martin's Church in South Buffalo where neighborhoods are distinguished not by streets but by the parish to which you belong.

Bernie has always been particularly involved with various Irish organizations. Whether with the Irish Dancing School with whom his daughter Katie was a student, as a Board Member of the Gaelic American Athletic Association or as a member of the Parade Committee, Bernie's presence and commitment is unwavering.

Bernie is proud of his heritage and understands the importance of preserving our unique history as a community. I am proud to call Bernie Ryan my friend and I am pleased to honor him today.

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE LONDON
S. GILES

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Private Landon S. Giles, who died on February 26, 2005, in Iraq. Landon was just 19 years old and from Arkadelphia, Arkansas. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Landon graduated from Arkadelphia High School in May 2004, and left for the army the very next month to serve as an indirect fire infantryman. Landon was assigned to the Army's 6th Squadron, 8th Cav. Reg., 4th Bde., 3rd Inf. Div. based at Ft. Stewart, Georgia.

Landon had a thirst for playing sports and seeking new adventures. He played football in Junior High School, soccer at Arkadelphia High School, he loved to ski and snowboard, he played in local youth league baseball programs, and became a certified scuba diver at the age of 12. He went deep-sea fishing off the coast of Australia, surfed in Hawaii, rode an elephant through parts of Thailand, and even went on a jungle safari.

Joining the army and fighting for his country in Iraq, his family says, was Landon's next life adventure. While his family did not want him to go, there was no stopping Landon once his heart and mind seized upon an idea. He told his sister, Jenny, it was better for him to go than for a man with a wife and children. Landon heard news reports about the human rights violations occurring in Iraq and wanted to help people who were unable to help themselves.

Landon gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a brother,

son, hero, and friend. My deepest condolences go out to his mother, Kim Giles; his father, Alan; two sisters, Jo Ann and Jennifer; stepmother, Cynthia Kay Giles; two step-sisters, Angela and Alana Giles; and a step-brother, Jeremy Giles. I know Landon was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow soldiers, and all those who knew and counted him as a friend.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
ON 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 199, recognizing the contributions of the Marine Corps and the other branches of the United States Armed Forces on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II. The commemoration of these branches of the military, and most importantly the soldiers who fought in this battle, is crucial. We must take into account every day the bravery and dedication that the men and women of the Armed Forces have shown us.

The United States military sent more Marines into Iwo Jima—110,000—than in any other battle in World War II. The Air Force and Navy also played pivotal roles in securing a victory for the United States.

The 36-day battle that began on February 19, 1945 was an arduous campaign for the United States, largely due to the underground bunkers the Japanese had built. These subterranean caves allowed the Japanese to see the Marines, but the U.S. soldiers had no visual on the Japanese. After days of battle and U.S. casualties totaling over 25,000, our troops finally took control of Mount Suribachi, securing victory for the United States of America and the Allied Forces.

The image of soldiers like Mike Strank, Harlon Block, and Franklin Sousley raising our flag in glory, as portrayed by the Iwo Jima Memorial, reminds us of the perseverance and devotion to country exemplified by the Armed Forces. Because of these acts of bravery and dedication, we stand here free today.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude by again reiterating my support for the recognition of the Marine Corps and other branches of the Armed Forces on the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. The characteristics of strength, devotion, and honor ring strong in our hearts today and always, as we recall all those who fell in one of the most important battles in U.S. history.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE CERTIFICATION OF IMET FOR INDONESIA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the certification of International

Military Education and Training (IMET) for Indonesia by Secretary Rice. Since 2004, Foreign Operations Appropriations legislation has indicated that the Secretary of State must determine if Indonesia is eligible to receive IMET funds. According to the law, what determines eligibility is the cooperation of the Indonesian government and armed forces with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation into the August 31, 2002 murders of two American citizens and one Indonesian citizen in Timika, Indonesia. Last year, then-Deputy Secretary of State Armitage defined "cooperation" in the Freeport killings as seeing the case through to "its exhaustion."

Yet the present Secretary of State has indicated that she has certified IMET for Indonesia, despite the fact that the Indonesian authorities have not "cooperated" by any definition of the term. In July 2004, when U.S. investigators notified Indonesian police that they were willing to return to Indonesia to assist in apprehending the only person thus far indicted by a U.S. grand jury, Anthonius Wamang, it took the Indonesian police well over 6 months to respond. Furthermore, Indonesian authorities have not indicted or apprehended Wamang or anyone else. For the first 6 months after the indictment was unsealed in June 2004, Indonesian police did not inform U.S. investigators as to what they were doing in the investigation.

The cooperation—or lack thereof—of the Indonesian government and armed forces with the FBI investigation is further complicated by the initial Indonesian police report, as well as NGO and media investigations, which pointed to Indonesian military involvement in the attack. Wamang also admitted ties to the notorious Special Forces Kopassus in a video interview broadcast in Australia.

Providing IMET now will remove the key U.S. leverage to assure justice is done in the Timika case, on the eve of the return of the FBI team to Indonesia.

Congress prohibited full IMET for Indonesia for years because of its extremely poor human rights record. Indonesia has yet to fulfill these previous conditions on IMET, and human rights violations, especially in Aceh and West Papua, continue.

Furthermore, there has been no justice for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in 1999 in East Timor. The few Indonesian trials were a whitewash; not one Indonesian officer has been held accountable. Indonesia refuses to extradite anyone, including senior military officers, indicted in a separate and credible UN-East Timor justice process. On top of that, there are increasing reports of militia infiltration into East Timor from Indonesia.

The Indonesian armed forces—TNI—are massively corrupt and have direct ties to terrorist groups. The TNI engages in drug running, illegal logging, extortion of U.S. and other domestic and foreign firms, and human trafficking, among others. A number of Islamic jihadist militia that have terrorized and killed thousands within Indonesia collaborate with and are even empowered by the TNI. The TNI operates a shadow government extending from the central government down to the village level. It continues to resist subordination to civilian authority and is a threat to democracy in Indonesia.

While the amount of money for IMET may be small, it has tremendous symbolic value.

The Indonesian military will view any restoration of IMET as an endorsement of business as usual, not as a reward for extremely limited reforms.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER TOMMY ADKISSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding contributions of Bexar County Commissioner of Precinct 4 Tommy Adkisson.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas Commissioner Adkisson earned his law degree, and returned to San Antonio to practice civil law. Commissioner Adkisson's hard work did not go unnoticed; he was named one of the "Top Ten" Legislators by the family law section of the Texas State Bar.

In 1981, he began his political career when he was elected as State Representative of District 57, and he won the District 119 seat in 1985. His career excelled even furthered when he was elected Bexar County Commissioner in 1998.

As County Commissioner he has brought great value to his District, most notably bringing the SBC Center to Precinct 4. He is known for working well with the citizens of the community. While working with the community of Kirby and Gardendale he was able to purchase needed equipment and provide meal assistance for the elderly. He also worked with the citizens of Converse to create the 1st Emergency Service District in Bexar County. Along with his many accomplishments as a public servant, he is also a dedicated husband to his wife Karen.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the many contributions of Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson.

COMMENDING AUGSBURG COLLEGE ON ITS 9TH NCAA DIVISION III NATIONAL TITLE

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to commend Augsburg College on its ninth NCAA Division III national title in school history this weekend at the NCAA Division III National Wrestling Championships.

Augsburg was ranked number one nationally all season long, qualified wrestlers in all 10 weight classes, had five top-seeded wrestlers and finished with a national-record-tying 10 All-Americans.

Augsburg's Division III program is one of only four remaining in the state. Its legacy of championships may perhaps be one of the reasons why the NCAA Division III Championships were hosted this year in Minnesota for the first time.

The team's winning point total is the most ever for Augsburg at the national champion-

ship tournament. It is also the second-highest point total for any championship team in Division III history, accumulating 162.0 points, outdistancing second-place Wartburg (Iowa) with 104.5 points and breaking Wartburg's two-year hold on the national crown.

Coach Jeff Swenson is in his 23rd season at Augsburg. When asked about the program's success, he says the key is keeping it simple: getting rest, training hard and doing everything right. I believe this approach speaks volumes about the program and about the college as well.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Jeff Swenson and the Augsburg student athletes are to be lauded for their pursuit of excellence. I'm certain that their commitment and discipline has reaped rewards of many kinds—one being the title victory.

INTRODUCTION OF BEST HELP FOR RAPE VICTIMS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce an important piece of legislation that will help rape victims across the country avoid unwanted pregnancy, the Best Help for Rape Victims Act.

Recently, the Department of Justice has issued its first-ever medical guidelines for treating sexual-assault victims, the National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination. While otherwise a thorough step-by-step medical treatment guide, the Justice Department omitted any mention of the option of Emergency Contraception, ignoring a crucial opportunity to provide vital and time-sensitive healthcare to victims of rape and sexual assault.

Of the 300,000 women who are sexually assaulted each year, an estimated 25,000 will become pregnant as a result. If Emergency Contraception was regularly offered to rape victims, its 89 percent success rate could avert up to 22,000 unplanned pregnancies every year—many of which may ultimately be terminated in abortion.

The Best Help for Rape Victims Act would address this problem by simply requiring the Department of Justice to include language in the Protocol stating that a victim of sexual assault who is at risk of pregnancy be offered information about Emergency Contraception, and if requested, provide Emergency Contraception to the victim on site.

The vast majority of Americans believe we should be doing everything we can to help rape victims recover from sexual attacks, not withholding important health information from them, and certainly not making fathers out of rapists. Unfortunately, since the Justice Department apparently has a different set of values, we must pass the "Best Help for Rape Victims Act" to protect the health and rights of victims of sexual assault by ensuring that they receive all available information and the best medical care available.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
DOCTOR CARL J. GREEVER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Dr. Carl J. Greever has provided outstanding service and contributions while serving as the Coroner of Jackson County and the Medical Director of the Jackson County Health Department; and

Whereas, Dr. Carl J. Greever served his community through a family practice from 1962 to 2002 and served as the Health Commissioner from 1974 to 1998; and

Whereas, Dr. Carl J. Greever has served his community with dignity and excellent medical care and has been an integral part of the community; and

Whereas, the Jackson County Commissioners proclaimed January 21, 2005, as Dr. Carl J. Greever Day.

Therefore, I join with Dr. Greever's family, friends, the residents of Jackson County, and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in commending Dr. Carl J. Greever for his exceptional work and years of service, and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF SCOTT G.
KAUFMAN

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend, Scott G. Kaufman, who will celebrate his 40th birthday on March 16, 2005.

Scott, a graduate from CUNY Law School in Queens, has lived a successful life serving his community with great honor. Scott, shortly after graduating Law School, became an Assistant District Attorney with the Queens District Attorney's office in 1994. A few years later, Scott took a position with the Surrogate's office and handled a myriad of estate matters in the district.

Soon after, Scott ventured out and became a solo practitioner before rejoining his classmate and friend, Sean Crowley, in the law firm Crowley & Crowley LLP, in 2001.

While tending to his very impressive career, Scott met the lovely Guila Haddad. Before long, Scott was impressing Guila with his famous Rigatoni Alla Vodka and Fileto d' Pomodoro. Nine years later, Scott and Guila are married and have two beautiful children, Jacob and Isabel. With so many accomplishments in his life, he has yet one more to celebrate—his 40th birthday.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Scott, a husband, father, and my friend, on the occasion of his 40th birthday.

IN MEMORY OF WING FAT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a personal friend and close con-

fidante of mine and many of my colleagues. Sadly, on Friday, February 25, 2005 Wing Fat passed away in Sacramento, where he made his home for over half a century.

Wing Fat was born in Canton, China in 1925. He joined his father in America when he was ten years old. In his youth, Mr. Fat attended California State University of Sacramento and served in the United States Air Force.

In 1939, Mr. Fat's father, Frank Fat, opened up his restaurant at 806 L St. in Sacramento. Mr. Fat worked his way up from dishwasher and floor scrubber eventually taking over as restaurant owner and main host, when his father passed away in 1997.

Mr. Fat will be remembered as one of the most well-liked and well-respected members of the Sacramento community. Over the years, the Fat family garnered a large following among Sacramento politicians for their impeccable hospitality and strict discretion. For decades, national and state leaders from both political parties pursued good public policy and practiced the art of politics, all while enjoying the wonderful establishment that Wing and his family made famous throughout California. As such, the family restaurant became a nexus of power as witness to many high-powered negotiations. In his own way, Wing Fat made a difference in improving the lives of Californians, and on a personal note, I counted Wing among my dear friends.

However, Mr. Fat's legacy will also thrive by his involvement in various civic and cultural organizations. In particular, a \$1 million donation to the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation from Mr. Fat and his wife, Chee, last November made possible the start of construction of the Laguna West complex, scheduled to begin this month. This summer, a group of young basketball players will travel to Japan as part of the Foundation's cultural exchange program—a testament to the power and commitment of civic leaders, like Mr. Fat.

My prayers and condolences are with the entire Fat family, who will continue to be a source of inspiration and leadership in the Sacramento community. My fellow colleagues please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Wing Fat, a true friend to generations of California politicians.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREEN
CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DE-
VELOPMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce an important piece of legislation, H.R. 1215, "The Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2005." When I introduced this legislation during the 108th Congress as H.R. 3970, many of my colleagues wondered, what is green chemistry? So again I will start with a brief explanation. Chemical manufacturing is the source of many products upon which we depend such as medicines, plastics, fuels, and fabrics. However, chemical manufacturing has at times resulted in harm to the environment and human health. The goal of green chemistry is to minimize or, ideally, to eliminate this potential harm. It is defined as

chemistry and chemical engineering that designs chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances while producing high quality products through a safe and effective manufacturing process. By factoring the elimination of hazardous byproducts into the design of products and processes, chemists can design chemicals to be safe, just as they can design them to have other properties, such as color or texture.

Many private sector industries have recognized the potential of green chemistry. Along with its inherent human health and environmental advantages, green chemistry can offer many economic advantages. Since the costs of separating waste from products, complying with regulations, disposing of hazardous wastes and liability protection can be large, preventing pollution and waste in the first place is often cheaper than mitigating and cleaning it up later.

In my home state of Georgia, Shaw Industries, Inc. is showing tremendous returns on their investment in green chemistry. Shaw produces carpet tile from their EcoWorx™ compound, which is made from non-toxic starting materials. The carpet tiles are fully recyclable, and Shaw has started to receive the first generation of carpet tiles, introduced in 1999, back in the factory for recycling. Shaw has found that the cost of collection, transportation, and recycling is less than making new carpet tiles from virgin raw materials. Even before Shaw recycled a single carpet tile, they benefited from their investment in green manufacturing. By switching from traditional carpet tile backing to EcoWorx™, Shaw cut the energy needed to produce carpet tiles in half.

Green chemistry offers other advantages in the areas of worker safety and public safety. For example, many chemical processes are conducted at extreme temperature and/or pressure, two conditions that present a risk for workers. Also, many chemical processes involve toxic substances. Green chemistry aims to design processes that can be conducted at or near room temperature and pressure, and that use benign materials. Both of these steps improve working conditions for employees. Chemical factories also pose a potential threat to public safety because of the possibility of an accidental release of toxic materials into the surrounding communities. Green chemistry seeks to replace these toxic substances with safe ones, which would not pose a threat to the public if accidentally released.

Yet despite all of the promise of green chemistry, the Federal government invests very little in this area. The most notable effort is a small grant program run jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Green chemistry research in this program is funded at about \$4 million per year. The Department of Energy (DOE) and National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) also do a small amount of green chemistry research, however the Federal investment in green chemistry is minimal as compared to the overall investment in chemistry. In addition, each of these agencies has an important role to play in developing green chemistry technologies and facilitating their adoption, however, right now, there is little coordination among agencies.

The Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2005 establishes an inter-agency research and development (R&D) program to promote and coordinate Federal green chemistry research, development, demonstration, education and technology transfer activities. The Program would support R&D grants, including grants for university-industry partnerships, support green chemistry research at Federal labs, promote education at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and collect and disseminate information about green chemistry. NSF and EPA would lead an Interagency Working Group to coordinate these activities. The Working Group would also include DOE and NIST, as well as any other agency the President designates. The program is authorized at \$33 million in FY06 rising to \$38 million in FY08 from sums otherwise authorized to be appropriated. This bill does not authorize the expenditure of new money.

This bill provides modest and prudent funding in an area that deserves greater Federal attention. During the 108th Congress, H.R. 3970 passed the House on April 21, 2004 with a strong bipartisan vote of 402–14. I expect similar support this Congress in the House and am pleased to report that Senator SNOWE and Senator ROCKEFELLER plan on introducing identical legislation in the Senate very soon. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and the Senate, as well as with the Administration, and all other interested stakeholders to enact this important legislation.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as soldiers returned home after defeating the tyrannical and oppressive Axis Powers in World War II, the Oregon State Legislature responded to a citizen mandate in creating a new agency to oversee services to veterans, their dependents and survivors. This agency was charged with the sacred duty of caring for Oregon's sons and daughters, husbands and wives, who made the ultimate sacrifice in risking—and sometimes forfeiting—their lives for the cause of freedom.

This month marks the 60th anniversary of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs creation. During that time, the ODVA has assisted Oregon's veterans and their loved ones in obtaining education, securing both service-connected and non-service related disability and survivor benefits, providing home loans with favorable interest rates, enabling appropriate medical care, and generally improving the quality of life for Oregon's veterans.

I rise today to thank the ODVA and its employees for the important service they provide to our state. I am heartened by the ODVA's sixty year record of accomplishment and I look forward to many more years of service to Oregon and its community of veterans.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO TOMIE ZEAN TURNER GREEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, 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 Judge Tomie Zean Turner Green of Hinds County. Educated in Jackson Public Schools, upon completing the 11th grade at Jim Hill School, Judge Green entered Tougaloo College where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree. She earned a Master of Science degree from Jackson State University, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the Mississippi College School of Law.

Judge Green served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1992–1998 and served as the Vice Chair of Ethics and as sub-chair of the Judiciary A committee. She also served on the Elections, Insurance, the Managed Care and Local & Private Legislation, Constitution and Investigation of State Offices committees. In 1999, Judge Green took the oath of office to become the first woman elected to the Hinds County Circuit Court. Since that time Judge Green has increased the accessibility and efficiency to the court by shifting judicial operations. Since she took the bench, Judge Green has served on the Judiciary Advisory Committee on Rules, and the Supreme Court's Committee on Media and the Courts.

Judge Green is best noted for in Hinds County for her sponsorship and support of the several laws such as the Municipal Public Hazard Law; Illegal Acts on Premises Law; the Professional Licensure and Child Welfare and Child Support Enforcement Act, etc. Additionally, Judge Green has sought legislation to insure fairness for workers injured while on the job; raise the age for minors to legally possess a handgun from 18 to 21 years of age; to build and fund a stadium for Jackson State University; to establish a law school at Jackson State University; and to increase the opportunity and participation of minorities in state contracts for goods and services.

In addition to her dedication and commitment to her career, Judge Green has also expressed the same to her community. Judge Green is currently a member of the St. Peter Baptist Church of Jackson, MS. She is a member of the Magnolia Bar Association, Mississippi Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Hinds County Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity. Other mem-

berships have included: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), MS League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women and Central Mississippi Coalition of 100 Black Women.

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.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID LEE BUCKNAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the hard work of David Lee Bucknam, a dedicated public servant in Colorado who recently passed away.

Mr. Bucknam, who was 60 when he died November 22, 2004, spent 24 years directing the inactive-mine reclamation program of the Colorado Division of Mineral and Geology (Division), sealing abandoned mines and restoring the soil and water they contaminated.

Earlier today, I introduced two bills designed to address the barriers hampering the cleanup of abandoned hardrock mines in Colorado and throughout the west. The introduction of these bills reminded me of Mr. Bucknam and others like him who worked hard to protect the public and promote wise environmental stewardship. Mr. Bucknam worked with me and my staff on this legislation I am introducing today and I would like to take this opportunity to express my posthumous appreciation for his assistance and for all the work he did for Colorado.

Mr. Bucknam was born in Brockport, New York in 1944 and arrived in Lakewood, Colorado when he was 10. He became an avid and skilled mountaineer and skier, getting an early start in the Denver Junior Group of the Colorado Mountain Club in his teens. In the "Juniors" he headed climbing trips and outings, taught mountaineering skills to other teens and adults, and shared his love of the outdoors. He continued to climb throughout the western United States, in the Himalayas, in Canada and in Mexico.

Mr. Bucknam taught junior high history and geography for several years, worked for the Colorado Land Use Commission and then for over 24 years with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. He retired as Director of the Office of Active and Inactive Mines, and when asked what he did, he always smiled and said he "closed up old mines". Under his leadership, Colorado's Inactive Mine Reclamation Program and the Colorado Mine Safety and Training program were nationally recognized. He was a mentor and role-model for many of the employees in the Department. His competence and dedication—coupled with his compassion for his co-workers and his leadership on national issues—made a lasting impact not only on the Division, but the state and the nation as well. In 1990 he served as president of the National Association of Abandoned Mined Land Programs and continued to provide leadership to the Association by serving on several national committees.

During his tenure at the Division, he helped secure access to about 400 abandoned mines

a year out of an estimated 20,000 in the state in order to address the problems they created and reclaim the surrounding land and water. He also helped work on the endless problem of underground coal fires, of which at least 29 subterranean fires still smolder in coal seams throughout Colorado.

Mr. Bucknam's love of the outdoors, his service to his state and community, and his work on addressing the legacy of mining activity are all worthy of recognition. My staff and I wish to express our thoughts and wishes to his family and coworkers.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RICHARD "HEATWAVE" BERLER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Richard Berler of Laredo, TX.

Better known as "Heatwave", Mr. Berler is the chief meteorologist at KGNS-TV in Laredo, TX. This past Monday, February 14th, Berler, 51, celebrated 25 years of reporting and predicting the weather at the station.

Having started at a time when weather forecasts were not considered a serious part of the News, Berler has taken his job to a higher level and positively affected the local community.

Originally from Westport, Connecticut, Berler was first attracted to Laredo for its unique climate. Having always studied climate patterns for a hobby, Berler found it fascinating when he learnt about Laredo hitting 100 degrees as early as the month of February. Laredo is unique for its semiarid and subtropical climate, and it occasionally gets hot dry air from the Mexican Plateau.

After attending college at Florida State University and then working for a small station in Minnesota, Berler found an opening at KGNS in Laredo and jumped at the opportunity. Almost immediately after working, Berler became a meteorologist, taking his own atmospheric readings before every newscast to improve the accuracy of his predictions. He quickly acquired the name "Heatwave" for his enthusiasm and commitment to the weather news. In his 25 years, he has witnessed and reported record highs of 103 °F in February, 105 °F in March, and 110 °F in April.

Mr. Speaker, Heatwave has become an icon as far as the weather is concerned and people look up to him in the community. I thank him for his contributions, and congratulate him on his 25th anniversary at KGNS.

RECOGNIZING THE "TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE BRONX" 2004 CONFERENCE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the efforts of a number of Bronx-based organizations to organize a major en-

ergy and environmental symposium in the Bronx. This event, sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Energy at Bronx Community College and the Bronx Initiative for Energy and the Environment at The Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, will broaden the audience for, and awareness of, renewable and alternative energy technologies.

For many years, the South Bronx has suffered from high levels of pollution, which have led to public health problems in the area. For instance, asthma rates among children are 250 percent higher than in the rest of New York City. The South Bronx can benefit greatly from the use of energy-efficient and clean fuel technologies. Many businesses, developers, and other stakeholders, however, are unaware of both what they can do and where they can go to find these tools. This symposium will answer those questions, and help make the South Bronx a healthier and more environmentally sound place to live.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of this conference cannot be understated. This conference is an opportunity to promote technologies that can improve the energy efficiency of our buildings, prepare our students for the workforce through education and training, and promote practices that will help to strengthen our economy. I am confident that this conference will lead to greater community participation in efforts to improve the quality of life in the Bronx.

I would like to thank the President of Bronx Community College, Dr. Carolyn Grubbs Williams for her leadership on these issues. I also congratulate the Center for Sustainable Energy, the Bronx Initiative for Energy and the Environment, and the Bronx River Research Group for their efforts in making this conference a reality. Lastly, I would like to thank the many other partnership organizations involved in the project, including: Rebuild America program at the U.S. Department of Energy, New York Power Authority, New York State Energy Research & Development Authority, New York City Energy Smart Communities, and several Bronx-based businesses.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating all the parties involved for their dedication to these important environmental and public health issues, and in wishing them continued success in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE ARNO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Stephanie Arno for her commitment to public service and her church.

Stephanie is one of five children born and reared in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn. She was educated in the New York City public schools. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University Center of New York at Binghamton and her Master of Arts in Political Science from Brooklyn College.

Employed with the New York City Department of Probation for the past 16 years, Stephanie began her career as a Probation Officer Trainee in the Kings Adult Investigation

Unit. She rose through the ranks to become Borough Director of her present assignment, Manhattan Alternative to Detention (MATD), Family Court Division.

In 2002, one of Stephanie's noteworthy accomplishments is being the first President and founding member of the New York City Probation Guardians Association, Inc. In 2004, Stephanie was re-elected as President of the New York City Probation Guardians Association, Inc. The Probation Guardians Association, Inc. is a fraternal association for all African-Americans employed in NYC's Probation Department.

A member of the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York, AME, her favorite scripture is from Isaiah 54:2-3, "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords; strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities". [NIV]

The legacy of Stephanie Arno is to be known as someone who understands that every child who proclaims to be a "hard rock" is actually a gem so let us mine our future with delicate hands.

Mr. Speaker, Stephanie Arno has dedicated her professional career to public service through her work in the criminal justice system. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center—one of the premier hospitals in the world—for providing the highest quality of health care to hundreds of thousands of people, for its innovative medical research and for its dedicated work in supporting, housing and developing the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center.

Cedars is one of the largest non-profit academic medical centers in the Western United States. It has more than 1,800 physicians in all medical specialties, more than 8,000 employees and 200 volunteers. The physicians are leaders in basic and clinical research. They teach over 245 residents and fellows in 60 graduate medical education programs.

For the fifth straight two-year period, Cedars-Sinai has been named Southern California's gold standard in health care. In National Research Corporation's 2004 Healthcare Market Guide survey, Los Angeles area residents named Cedars-Sinai the "Most Preferred Hospital for All Health Needs." Cedars-Sinai is internationally renowned for its diagnostics and treatment capabilities and its broad spectrum of programs and breakthroughs in biomedical research and superlative medical education. It ranks among the top 10 non-university hospitals in the nation for its research activities.

The Warschaw family, one of Los Angeles' most prominent, turned to Cedars-Sinai to establish the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer

Center with the mission of advancing the fight against prostate cancer. They did this in honor of their beloved husband and father, Louis Warschaw, who died from this disease.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer in the United States. One in six American men will develop prostate cancer in the course of his lifetime. Each year more than 220,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer and about 28,000 die from the disease. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in men and requires the heavy firepower that Cedars-Sinai can muster.

Patients at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center receive the best medical care possible and access to emerging therapies through its research programs. These programs rely on integrated prostate cancer clinical trials and a research lab that supports pre-clinical and clinical drug studies. In addition to receiving the most technologically advanced care, patients take comfort in knowing that experts from a range of disciplines work together to optimize their treatment.

The Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center's medical oncologists and urologists are nationally recognized experts in prostate cancer. They include: Dr. Stuart Holden, Medical Director for the Center; Dr. David B. Agus, Research Director; Dr. Mitchell E. Gross, Assistant Research Director and Dr. Christopher Nu, Urologic Surgeon. They collaborate with other leading specialists throughout the country, exchanging research and clinical insights and have helped the Center earn its stellar reputation.

Cedars-Sinai's multi-faceted team of medical professionals combat the threat of cancer by bringing together experts in surgery, radiology, radiation therapy, oncology and pathology. The Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center, the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, the Women's Cancer Research Institute, the Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute, the Saul and Joyce Brandman Breast Center, the Gene Therapeutics Research Institute, and the divisions of the Medical, Surgical, Gynecologic, and Pediatric Oncology, all work together with clinical departments across specialties that include medicine, surgery, genetics, gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, imaging, radiation therapy, pathology, and the Cedars-Sinai Outpatient Cancer Center. The results of this high level of coordination and cooperation have made Cedars-Sinai into the incredible institute it is today. I am proud that Cedars is located in Los Angeles and I am thankful for the great work it does.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in saluting the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and the Warschaw family for founding the Louis Warschaw Prostate Cancer Center—one of the Nation's leading research and prostate cancer treatment facilities.

IN COMMEMORATION OF TIBETAN
UPRISING DAY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues and Tibetan commu-

nities around the world to commemorate Tibetan Uprising Day, and to draw attention to the continued serious human rights abuses committed by the People's Republic of China.

On March 10, 1959, in reaction to rumors that the Chinese were planning to kill or kidnap the Dalai Lama, thousands of Tibetan refugees courageously surrounded the Dalai Lama's compound and began calling for the Chinese to leave Tibet. This marked the beginning of the "Lhasa Uprising." On March 17, 1959, fearing that Chinese troops would massacre the thousands of refugees who were refusing orders to disperse, the Dalai Lama disguised himself and took flight to India. Forty-eight hours later, believing the Dalai Lama was still inside, Chinese troops began shelling his compound and other targets in Lhasa, killing thousands of mostly unarmed civilians. Chinese statistics estimate that 87,000 Tibetans from all parts of Tibet were killed, arrested, or deported to labor camps during the 1959 Uprising. Only a small number of the thousands who fled to India survived Chinese military attacks, malnutrition, cold and disease.

Over the past 46 years, Tibetans inside Tibet and in exile around the world have bravely fought against tremendous odds to preserve their religious identity, culture, and history. It is estimated that 1.5 million Tibetans have died as a result of Chinese occupation since 1949 and 6000 monasteries, temples, and other cultural buildings were destroyed. And today, Tibetans, including monks and nuns, are continually persecuted for practicing their religion, and voicing their support for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In fact, five Tibetan monks were jailed by Chinese authorities in February of this year for allegedly publishing politically sensitive poems, and were given sentences of two to three years.

The U.S. government has continually supported Tibetan self-determination, and I am proud of the dedication of the U.S. Congress to drawing attention to the gross human rights abuses committed by the People's Republic of China against the Tibetan people. We must continue to support the dialogue between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the government of China, and remain committed to a peaceful resolution to this tragic conflict, keeping in mind our shared values of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom from tyranny.

I commend to you the statement written by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in commemoration of Tibetan Uprising Day, and I am honored to submit the statement in its entirety for the RECORD.

THE STATEMENT OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI
LAMA ON THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TI-
BETAN NATIONAL UPRISING DAY

On the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the Tibetan People's Uprising, I convey my warm greetings to my fellow Tibetans in Tibet and in exile and to our friends around the world.

During these more than four decades great changes have taken place in Tibet. There has been a great deal of economic progress along with development in infrastructure. The Golmud-Lhasa railway link that is being built is a case in point. However, during the same period much has been written by independent journalists and travelers to Tibet about the real situation in Tibet and not what they have been shown. Most of them portray a very different picture than what the Chinese government claims, clearly criticizing China about the lack of human rights, religious freedom and self-rule in

Tibet. What has actually happened and is still happening is that since the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region the real authority has been solely held by Chinese leaders. As for the Tibetan people, they have been facing suspicions and growing restrictions. The lack of true ethnic equality and harmony based on trust, and the absence of genuine stability in Tibet clearly shows that things are not well in Tibet and that basically there is a problem.

Prominent and respected Tibetan leaders in Tibet have spoken out on this from time to time and even suffered because of their courageous acts. In the early 1960s, the late Panchen Lama outlined the sufferings and aspirations of the Tibetan people in his petition to the Chinese leaders. Baba Phuntsok Wangyal, one of the foremost Tibetan communist leaders, in his recent biography published in English dwells at length on the need to meet the interests of the Tibetan people. In fact, it is clear that most senior Tibetan officials in Tibet deep in their hearts are extremely dissatisfied.

This year the Chinese government will mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region. There will be much fanfare and many commemorative events to celebrate the occasion but these will be meaningless when they do not reflect the ground realities. For example, the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution were celebrated with great pomp as real achievements at the time they took place.

China has made tremendous economic progress during the past more than two decades. China today is not what it was twenty or thirty years ago. Much has changed in China. As a result she has become a major player in the world and China rightly deserves this position. It is a big nation with a huge population and a rich and ancient civilization. However, China's image is tarnished by her human rights records, undemocratic actions, the lack of the rule of law and the unequal implementation of autonomy rights regarding minorities, including the Tibetans. All these are a cause for more suspicion and distrust from the outside world. Internally, they are an obstacle to unity and stability that are of utmost importance to the leaders of the People's Republic of China. In my view, it is important that as China becomes a powerful and respectable nation she should be able to adopt a reasonable policy with confidence.

The world in general, of which China is a part, is changing for the better. In recent times there is definitely a greater awareness and appreciation for peace, non-violence, democracy, justice and environmental protection. The recent unprecedented response from governments and individuals across the world to the tsunami disaster victims reaffirms that the world is truly interdependent and the importance of universal responsibility.

My involvement in the affairs of Tibet is not for the purpose of claiming certain personal rights or political position for myself not attempting to stake claims for the Tibetan administration in exile. In 1992 in a formal announcement I stated clearly that when we return to Tibet with a certain degree of freedom I will not hold any office in the Tibetan government or any other political position and that the present Tibetan administration in exile will be dissolved. Moreover, the Tibetans working in Tibet should carry on the main responsibility of administering Tibet.

I once again want to reassure the Chinese authorities that as long as I am responsible for the affairs of Tibet we remain fully committed to the Middle Way Approach of not seeking independence for Tibet and are willing to remain within the People's Republic

of China. I am convinced that in the long run such an approach is of benefit to the Tibetan people for their material progress. It is encouraging that there is support from various parts of the world for this approach as being reasonable, realistic and of mutual benefit to the Chinese and Tibetans. I am particularly encouraged by the recognition and support that has come from certain quarters of the intellectual circle from within China.

I am happy with our renewed contacts with the Chinese leadership and that the third round of meetings last September shows that gradually our interactions are improving. Now that our elected political leadership is shouldering more responsibility in Tibetan affairs, I have advised them to look into the issues raised by the Chinese side during our third round of talks and to take steps to address or clarify them as needed. We remain hopeful that eventually we will be able to develop the necessary trust and resolve this long-standing issue to our mutual benefit.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express the Tibetan people's gratitude and appreciation to the people and Government of India for their steadfast sympathy and support. I very much feel a part of this nation not only because of the centuries-old religious and cultural ties that India and Tibet enjoyed but also because I and most of the Tibetans in exile lived in India for the past 45 years.

I offer my prayers to the brave men and women of Tibet who gave their lives for the cause of Tibetan freedom.

THE DALAI LAMA,
March 10, 2005.

GENETIC RESEARCH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, over the past 15 years this body has provided almost \$3 billion for genetic research and the sequencing of the human genetic code.

This project, known as the Human Genome Project, has led to more information about diseases and a better understanding of our genetic makeup.

Advances in genetics have already led to the discovery of genetic markers for heart disease, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, many cases of breast cancer, and a wide variety of other diseases. Along with these discoveries, scientists and healthcare professionals are developing new diagnostics which allow for early treatment, personalized medicine, new cures, and targeted preventative medicine.

Currently, there are over 15,500 recognized genetic disorders which affect 13 million Americans. Just two years after the completion of the Human Genome Project, laboratories are offering 1,042 different genetic tests, almost 700 of which are used for diagnostic purposes.

On average, most Americans have six potential harmful genetic mutations and the coming years hold tremendous promise as a flood of new tests and treatments reach the marketplace. Unfortunately, these new abilities to predict and manage disease also provide opportunities for the misuse of this information. Should individuals and their families run a risk of losing insurance policies and jobs, many may choose not to take advantage of these new healthcare technologies.

Without appropriate protections, this perceived threat could stop Americans from learning about their individual healthcare risks and taking steps which could prevent life-threatening conditions later in life.

For these reasons, I am pleased to support the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2005 which was introduced today by Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT. This legislation would provide the protections needed to insure that the use of genetic information continues to advance medical treatments and improve our nation's health by prohibiting the improper use of genetic information in employment and health insurance. I look forward to working with my Colleagues on this important issue.

THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIBETAN NATIONAL UPRISING DAY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today is the 46th Anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising Day. We honor the many brave Tibetans who sacrificed their lives fighting for freedom, and we demand that the Chinese government release all prisoners of conscience including Tenzin Delek Rinpoche and the 11th Panchen Lama. I am proud that my constituents in San Francisco organize a peace rally and march commemorating this day every year.

When China's People's Liberation Army invaded Tibet in 1949, Tibet was an independent state. The Chinese government imposed an agreement on Tibet recognizing Tibet's autonomy over its internal affairs. But, as the Chinese government consolidated their control, they repeatedly violated the treaty and open resistance to Chinese repression grew.

On March 10, 1959, the people of Lhasa assembled together and called for the Chinese to leave Tibet, thus marking the beginning of the uprising. The Chinese crackdown was harsh. An estimated 87,000 Tibetans were killed, arrested, or deported to labor camps.

In the years since the People's Uprising, more than 1 million Tibetans have been killed and more than 6,000 monasteries and irreplaceable jewels of Tibetan culture have been destroyed. We know that Tibetans are routinely imprisoned and tortured for nonviolently expressing their views. Beatings, prolonged exposure to extreme heat and cold, electroshock, sleep and food deprivation, and forced labor are among the techniques used to torture Tibetan political prisoners.

Last month, the U.S. State Department published its annual "Country Reports on Human Rights." The section on Tibet states that "[Chinese] authorities continued to commit serious human rights abuses, including extra-judicial killing, torture, arbitrary arrest, detention without public trial, and lengthy detention of Tibetans for peacefully expressing their political or religious views."

The Chinese government has not won the hearts and minds of the Tibetan people. Tibetans are as devoted to their traditional beliefs as ever, and the bond between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people is fundamental and unbreakable. Attempts to drive a wedge between the Dalai Lama and the Ti-

betan people have failed and have been counterproductive for the Chinese government.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the key to peace and stability in Tibet. Envoys of the Dalai Lama have traveled to China and Tibet three times in recent years to continue discussions with Chinese authorities on a permanent negotiated settlement. While open dialogue is a positive first step, it is time for the Chinese government to follow through with substance and not just process. It is time for China to take a step forward into a modern, open and free society.

The survival of the Tibetan identity is an issue of urgent U.S. and international concern. If we are not committed to meeting the challenge of Tibet then we cannot be consistent when we talk about human rights in any other place in the world.

As we honor the brave and heroic Tibetan people, we must heed the guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He is a constant reminder that the crisis in Tibet is a challenge to the conscience of the world. We have not forgotten the people of Tibet in their struggle. Troops can crush a protest, but they can never extinguish the flame of freedom that burns in every human heart.

PAUL AND JEAN AMOS PERFORMANCE STUDIO DEDICATION AT WSRE-TV

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it was a pleasure to celebrate a significant milestone in WSRE-TV's history last week as they dedicated their new performance studio in honor of Paul and Jean Amos.

Public television provides valuable commercial-free educational, informational, and cultural programming for communities all across the country. Here in our own backyard, WSRE-TV does a wonderful job of fulfilling the programming needs and interests of the Emerald Coast. As a local viewer and supporter I believe they keep residents connected with the local community, the Nation, and the world in a way that no other outlet can or does.

As we celebrated the dedication of the Jean and Paul Amos performance studio, we recognized that WSRE transcends the typical operation of a public television station. Very few PBS stations around the country can accommodate their viewers within their physical structure. This performance studio is perfect to host forums and engage the public in direct participation to discuss issues important to the community. In keeping with WSRE's mission, former General Manager Allan Pizzato had the foresight to construct this facility to bring the community into WSRE, so it could truly act as a mirror reflecting the interests of the community.

Public broadcasting stations are transforming their mission in order to fulfill the niche of the community and the broadcast world. Just like the Internet is not just used for data gathering, but is now used as a telephone service, cable companies are now offering high speed Internet, and telephone companies are starting to offer cable. Just as

these service providers strive to keep up with growing demands, public television stations must do the same.

Years ago, WSRE recognized the need for change and responded quickly. PBS as an organization continues to provide the core base of educational programming and services, but WSRE-TV takes that service to another level. They understand that with cable's niche program offerings that the role of public broadcasting must become more comprehensive, expanding into community outreach programs such as reading services for the blind, educational offerings and instructional courses transmitted over multi-casted digital channels, educational outreach activities such as the national teacher training institute to provide professional development for teachers, and also services that provide resources for daycare providers to help prepare children for school.

Telecommunications is rapidly changing every day. The possibilities are truly limitless. It gives me tremendous pride, both personally and as a member of the Congressional Public Broadcasting Caucus, to know that my public television station is not only keeping up; it's going above and beyond the basic services required of it.

Under Sandy Cesaretti Ray's dynamic leadership and ingenuity, WSRE-TV continues to achieve its mission, bringing high quality services to its viewers. The panhandle is very fortunate to have had such quality leadership here over the past 35 years. Playing such an important part in the life of our community, I want to thank them for their commitment to excellence, and my sincere gratitude to the Amoses for their generous, heartfelt gift.

**TIBET: 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF
TIBETAN UPRISING DAY**

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today is the 46th anniversary of the Tibetans who died opposing the Chinese occupation, and all Tibetans who suffered due to their religious, political or cultural beliefs or activities.

In 1949 communist China invaded Tibet. The Tibetan people rose up to revolt against Communist rule. In 1959 thousands of Tibetan refugees surrounded the compound of His Holiness the Dalai Lama out of fear he would be killed. In order to try to save his people the Dalai Lama fled to India. His people stayed and were attacked by the Chinese. Thousands of unarmed civilians were killed. During the 1959 uprising an estimated 87,000 Tibetans were killed, arrested, or deported to labor camps.

The harsh brutality still exists in Tibet today. The People's Republic of China does not tolerate Tibetan freedom in any form. Each year thousands of innocent people are imprisoned or put to death under a system plagued with corruption and secrecy. Many Buddhist monks and nuns are in detention for peacefully exercising their right to free expression, association and religion.

I have visited Tibet and I was shocked and saddened by the repression of the Tibetan people. They live in fear that they will be killed, will disappear or will be tortured for ex-

pressing their political and religious beliefs. The Chinese government routinely refuses to allow independent international human rights monitors, including the United Nations, to conduct an investigation into the human rights situation in Tibet.

As co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I had the honor of meeting His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 2003. He is a man of great wisdom and vision who has the sole purpose for his people and his country to live free from oppression. He has worked for more than 40 years to promote self-determination for the Tibetan people. The United States stands with him and supports a negotiated settlement through dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, this day is to remind the world that the Tibetan people have been denied freedom for more than half a century. The clock is ticking for Tibet. I know one day we will be able to celebrate the anniversary of Tibetan Freedom Day.

**INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1220, VET-
ERANS' COMPENSATION COST-
OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF
2005**

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce H.R. 1220, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005.

Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member LANE EVANS, as well as JEFF MILLER of Florida and SHELLEY BERKLEY, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, respectively, join me as original cosponsors of the bill.

H.R. 1220 would provide a cost-of-living adjustment to veterans' benefits effective December 1, 2005. This would positively affect more than 2.9 million service-connected veterans and survivors of service-connected veterans. Additionally, the bill codifies the current disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) rates.

The VA Committee periodically reviews the service-connected disability compensation and DIC programs to ensure that the benefits provide reasonable and adequate compensation for disabled veterans and their families. Based on this review, Congress acts annually to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in compensation and DIC benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has consistently provided increases in these rates for every fiscal year since 1976. The adjustment in cost-of-living is reflective of the economic changes annually. This is especially important to those veterans living on a fixed income. The Administration's fiscal year 2006 budget submission includes funding for a projected 2.3 percent increase.

In support of our veterans, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF BEXAR COUNTY COMMIS-
SIONER LYLE LARSEN**

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions made to the 28th district by Bexar County Commissioner Lyle Larsen.

Commissioner Larsen's career has been highlighted by numerous political appointments beginning in 1991 when he was elected to the San Antonio City Council, and held this position until 1995. In 1996 he was elected by the constituents of Bexar County Precinct 3 to the seat of County Commissioner, which he holds to this day. In 2000 he was appointed by then Governor George W. Bush to the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

Bexar County Commissioner Lyle Larsen has fiercely worked with fellow county officials to improve the operation of Bexar County, by monitoring the procedures of department heads. As a member of the Commissioners Court he faces the demanding job of overseeing budgetary, tax, and revenue decisions for positions that are not regulated by elected officials.

It requires an immense knowledge of County Government to be able to govern such a vast territory, and Commissioner Larsen has demonstrated that he can quite eloquently oversee and govern Bexar County.

Commissioner Larsen has not only worked as a diligent officer for Bexar County residents, but has also made notable contributions during his time in public office, especially his work in criminal and juvenile area.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the dedication and hard work of Bexar County Commissioner Lyle Larsen.

**IN MEMORY OF MR. JOHN
CRIVELLO**

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John "Bricky" Crivello, who passed away at his home on March 4, 2005. All of us who knew John's lifelong devotion to fishermen's rights, his friends and family, and any official who had a say in the matter, will be remembered within the Monterey community.

Born in Monterey, CA in 1911, Bricky played football, baseball, basketball, golf and track at Monterey High School. During this period he was nicknamed "Bricky" because of his red hair—a name that would remain with him for the next 70 years. After high school Bricky was a fisherman for a short time, but soon joined the Monterey fishing industry. For more than 60 years, he worked as the business agent for the local branch of the International Fisherman's Union.

He was an advocate for more than 900 local fisherman during the industry's boom of the 1940's and 1950's. Although the industry shrank, Bricky remained working in the industry through his 80s. Because he represented

hundreds of fisherman, many political candidates seeking support and votes visited John's small Monterey office on the wharf.

Bricky worked with my father, the late Senator Fred Farr to draft and advocate legislation that allowed California's fisherman to collect unemployment benefits. This was one of Bricky's proudest achievements. A proud Italian-American, John also supported the predominantly Italian-American fishing community. He was instrumental in establishing and getting approval from the City of Monterey to have the bocce ball courts created which are still in use today.

Bricky was endearingly referred to within his community as a "character". He was a friend to everyone and very dedicated to his work and fishermen's rights. He was always talking about the plight of the fishermen never having enough money to make it, needing more tonnage and unemployment. Everyone within the community loved Bricky.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to remember Bricky for his honor, humanity, and love for Monterey Bay and its people. John consistently was helpful and loyal as a friend, husband, father and advocate. Our thoughts go out to his family, Kathryn Alkire, John Crivello, and JoAnn Crivello. He was a good friend to me, taking the time to talk about the old days, about my father, and about his love for golfing at Rancho Cañada. I will miss him greatly, but know his life will continue to inspire those he touched.

PEACE CORPS: A MODEL FOR
HOPE

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize that last week was National Peace Corps Week and to applaud the thousands of Americans who have represented the U.S. since 1961 in the Peace Corps in 138 countries. Emblematic of the idealism of America are the 15 volunteers from my district in Southeast Iowa who are currently serving on four continents, in desert villages, mountain towns and city centers from Ukraine to Panama and Morocco.

A Peace Corps volunteer is charged with three missions: the first is to help the people of host countries in meeting their need for trained professionals; the second is to help promote understanding of America around the world; and the third is to help expand American understanding of other peoples and countries.

Thus, the job of the Peace Corps volunteer is not over when their assignment is completed. Volunteers maintain a duty to share their grasp of the people, the language and the culture of the countries in which they served.

Not long ago, in a speech at Yale University, the first Peace Corps Director, Sargent Shriver, declared that he wanted to add a fourth goal: to "bind all human beings together in a common cause to assure peace and survival for all."

No mission is more altruistic; nor more consequential. Geopolitical realists might consider such majesty of purpose to be naive. Actually,

there is no rational alternative in a world where history has known few generations unaffected by the strife of war; where the creation of weapons of mass destruction has increased the vulnerability of the human race. As Einstein noted, splitting the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking. It is the capacity to think that, at its best, characterizes mankind, but, at its least impressive, has yet to be harnessed in such a way as to give confidence that modern man can live with modern technology.

It is in the context of concern for the common fate of all mankind the Peace Corps stands out as the singular institution in American society that provides a model for hope and a cause for optimism.

INTRODUCTON OF LEGISLATION
MAKING AERIAL FIREFIGHTERS
ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL DEATH
BENEFITS

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, in April 1997, John Hirth of Buffalo, Wyoming, and his copilot lost their lives when their air tanker crashed near Blandburg, Pennsylvania. They were on a firefighting mission for a government agency, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

At the time, John was making an aerial scouting of the fire, referred to as a dry run. Fire conditions were gusty, and turbulent wind patterns resulted from the fire itself.

Immediately after dropping the fire retardant, their tanker encountered smoke which affected visibility.

Just as the air tanker flew out of the smoke, its right wing hit an oak tree which stood above the tree line. The aircraft rolled 90 degrees left and flew into the mountainside a quarter mile from the initial tree strike, exploding on impact and instantly killing John and his copilot.

In the mid-1990s, John tried to obtain life insurance through various agencies. He was turned down due to his occupation as an aerial firefighter.

At the time of his death, the business still had to meet payments on the 1997 fire contract operation (which included liability insurance, contract-paid pilots, fuel, oil, parts, etc.), as well as on a second tanker and one spray-er aircraft.

The financial loss from this crash was so devastating that his wife, Connie, did not have the money to pay for her husband's funeral.

While this is heartbreaking to us, it is a very stark reality that many families face when aerial firefighters are lost in the line of duty.

The fact is that the vast majority of those pilots lost were serving under a government contract at the time. They were providing aerial fire suppression services for the government when they lost their lives.

My reason for being here today is to correct a provision in law that is blatantly unfair.

I am re-introducing legislation that will provide some financial security to aerial firefighters and their families.

This legislation recognizes all pilots and crew involved in aerial fire suppression as

public safety officers. In doing so, the bill makes these deserving individuals eligible for death benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, also known as PSOB.

Under current law, aerial firefighters who are under contract with the government are not afforded these benefits simply because they work for private companies that contract with the government.

However, without these contract pilots and crew, the federal government would not have the capabilities to deal with wild land fires.

This legislation is a matter of common sense. Aerial firefighters are public safety officers in every sense of the word. With dedication and enthusiasm, they protect our natural resources, our communities, and often our very lives.

Every day, when our men and women in the Armed Forces go out to do their job, they say to us, "I am willing to risk my life for you today." Our local police officers say it as well and, yes, my friends, so too do aerial firefighters.

John Hirth was the primary wage earner in his air tanker business and his family. If PSOB had been available to them at the time of John's death, the financial hardships endured by his wife could have been minimized.

It is time we start giving back to aerial firefighters because, if we don't, we will be losing a valuable resource. With no aerial firefighters to protect our natural resources, where will we turn?

I don't think any of us want to face that question, so let's make sure we don't. Please support this legislation. It is the right thing to do.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TER-
RORIST APPREHENSION RECORD
RETENTION ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the bipartisan "Terrorist Apprehension Record Retention Act of 2005" or "TARR Act," legislation designed to make it much easier for State and Federal counterterrorism officials to track known or suspected members of a terrorist organization who attempt to purchase dangerous firearms here in the U.S. I am joined by Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut.

According to a recently released Government Accountability Office ("GAO") report, over the course of a nine-month span last year, a total of fifty-six (56) firearm purchase attempts were made by individuals designated as known or suspected terrorists by the Federal Government. In forty-seven (47) of those cases, State and Federal authorities were forced to permit such transactions to proceed because officials were unable to find any disqualifying information (such as a prior felony conviction or court-determined 'mental defect') in the individual applicant's background. Under current law, neither suspected nor actual membership in a terrorist organization is a sufficient ground, in and of itself, to prevent such a purchase from taking place.

Even more troubling than this apparent loophole in our current system of gun laws is

the confusion which ensued after such transactions occurred. The GAO specifically determined that, in such instances, the Department of Justice's information-sharing procedures failed to adequately "address the specific types of information from NICS transactions that can or should be provided to Federal counterterrorism officials or the sources from which such information can be obtained."

The TARR Act seeks to correct this problem by making two simple, yet important, changes in current law. First, the bill would require all information regarding such transactions to be shared with all appropriate counterterrorism officials at the State and Federal level. Secondly, it would impose a ten year retention requirement on any records related to those transactions. In sum, the bill proposes two modest changes which—in the long run—will go along way towards keeping our homeland truly secure.

I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
GERTRUDE A. YOUNG

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, 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 Gertrude Anderson Young of Warren County. Mrs. Young was born to the late Mr. Wanzie Anderson and Josephine Anderson.

Mrs. Young is a 1973 honor graduate of North Vicksburg High School, a 1976 honor graduate of Mississippi Valley State University where she received a degree in Nursing, a 1983 Hinds Community College honor graduate, and 1999 honor graduate of Alcorn State University.

Mrs. Young has worked as a Registered Nurse for 20 years. Mrs. Young is noted in Warren County for creating a 24-hour hotline and weekly radio program for teens called "Talk to Me". In addition, she was elected as the first woman to serve as Warren County Election Commissioner of District 3. Presently, she is a published writer and she serves as the City of Vicksburg's first female elected official as North Ward Alderman and Mayor Pro-Tem.

Mrs. Young is the 1996 recipient of the State's Child Advocate of the Year award and the Fannie Lou Hamer award. She was inducted into the 2001–2003 Who's Who Among

American Women. Mrs. Young is a member of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as an Associate Minister. She is the former president of the Mississippi Black Caucus of Local Elected Official (MBC–LEO) and she is a member of numerous local, State, and Federal boards and organizations including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

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.

APPRECIATION FOR ALEC
FRENCH'S SERVICE ON THE JU-
DICIAARY COMMITTEE STAFF
MARCH 10, 2005

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BERMAN, and I would like to commend and thank Alec French for his tremendous contribution as Minority Counsel to the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property. During his five years of service to the Subcommittee, Alec was well-liked by the Members and his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We are sad to see him leave our staff.

Without our system of copyright, trademark, and patent protection for innovations, consumers would not be able to enjoy movies, music, or new technology. Over the last five years, Alec was an invaluable member of our team and he played a crucial role in helping us to protect creative works and to establish the parameters of intellectual property rights. At the same time, Alec made sure that we listened to the needs of all parties involved, namely copyright owners and copyright users, so that decisions of policy were balanced appropriately.

Because of Alec's service, Congress was able to pass into law several bills on these issues, including the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act of 2004, Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2004, the Intellectual Property Protection and Courts Amendments Act of 2004, and the Small Webcaster Settlement Act of 2002. He also shepherded numerous bills that passed the House, including the United States Patent and Trademark Fee Modernization Act of 2004, the Piracy Deterrence and Education Act of 2004, Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act of 2001, Patent and Trademark Office Authorization Act of 2002, Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2001, and Madrid Protocol Implementation Act.

Alec also was instrumental in working with our third branch of the government, the Judiciary. He helped protect the privacy of judges and their staffs, made sure that judges were compensated fairly, and ensured that the courts would have the resources they need to continue serving the American public.

We thank Alec for his exceptional service to Congress and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "SECURITY AND FAIRNESS ENHANCEMENT (SAFE) FOR AMERICA ACT"

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Security and Fairness Enhancement (SAFE) for America Act." This much-needed legislation eliminates the controversial visa lottery program, through which 50,000 aliens are chosen at random to come and live permanently in the United States based on pure luck. The visa lottery program threatens national security, results in the unfair administration of our nation's immigration laws, and encourages a cottage industry for fraudulent opportunists.

Because winners of the visa lottery are chosen at random, the visa lottery program presents a serious national security threat. A perfect example of the system gone awry is the case of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the Egyptian national who killed two and wounded three during a shooting spree at Los Angeles International Airport in July of 2002. He was allowed to apply for lawful permanent resident status in 1997 because of his wife's status as a visa lottery winner.

The State Department's Inspector General has even weighed in on the national security threat posed by the visa lottery program. In a report issued in September of 2003, the Office of Inspector General stated that the visa lottery program contains "significant threats to national security from entry of hostile intelligence officers, criminals, and terrorists into the United States as permanent residents." Even if improvements were made to the visa lottery program, nothing would prevent terrorist organizations or foreign intelligence agencies from having members apply for the program who do not have criminal backgrounds. These types of organized efforts would never be detected, even if significant background checks and counter-fraud measures were enacted within the program.

Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals that have existing connections with family members lawfully residing in the United States or with U.S. employers. These types of relationships help ensure that immigrants entering our country have a stake in continuing America's success and have needed skills to contribute to our nation's economy. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without meeting such criteria.

In addition, the visa lottery program is unfair to immigrants who comply with the United States' immigration laws. The visa lottery program does not expressly prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive visas through the program. Thus, the program treats foreign nationals that comply with our laws the same as those that blatantly violate our laws. In addition, most family-sponsored immigrants currently face a wait of years to obtain visas, yet the lottery program pushes 50,000 random immigrants with no particular family ties, job skills or education ahead of these family and employer-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait. This sends the wrong

message to those who wish to enter our great country and to the international community as a whole.

Furthermore, the visa lottery program is wrought with fraud. A report released by the Center for Immigration Studies states that it is commonplace for foreign nationals to apply for the lottery program multiple times using many different aliases. In addition, the visa lottery program has spawned a cottage industry featuring sponsors in the U.S. who falsely promise success to applicants in exchange for large sums of money. Ill-informed foreign nationals are willing to pay top dollar for the "guarantee" of lawful permanent resident status in the U.S.

The State Department's Office of Inspector General confirms these allegations of widespread fraud in its September report. Specifically, the report states that the visa lottery program is "subject to widespread abuse" and that "identity fraud is endemic, and fraudulent documents are commonplace." Furthermore, the report also reveals that the State Department found that 364,000 duplicate applications were detected in the 2003 visa lottery alone.

In addition, the visa lottery program is also by its very nature discriminatory. The complex formula for assigning visas under the program arbitrarily disqualifies natives from countries that send more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. within a five-year period, which excludes nationals from countries such as Mexico, Canada, China and others.

The visa lottery program represents what is wrong with our country's immigration system. My legislation would eliminate the visa lottery program. The removal of this controversial program will help ensure our nation's security, make the administration of our immigration laws more consistent and fair, and help reduce immigration fraud and opportunism.

FREEDOM FOR ANTONIO RAMÓN
DÍAZ SÁNCHEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Antonio Ramón Díaz Sánchez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Díaz Sánchez is an electrician by profession. He is also a member of the Christian Liberation Movement. Mr. Díaz Sánchez is a peaceful activist in the cause of liberty who desires to exercise his basic human rights. Unfortunately, the nightmare that is the Castro regime continues to violently oppress the men and women of Cuba, including those that bravely illuminate the atrocities committed against the Cuban people for the world to see.

Unfortunately, in March 2003, as part of the dictatorship's heinous crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists, Mr. Díaz Sánchez was arrested. Simply because of his courageous pro-democracy activities, Mr. Díaz Sánchez was subjected to a sham trial where he was sentenced to 14 years in the totalitarian gulag.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Díaz Sánchez has continued to advocate for

freedom and justice while locked in the hellish squalor of Castro's gulag. He has participated in two hunger strikes to draw attention to the depravity of the conditions that political prisoners are subjected to in the gulag: including denial of medical attention, beatings, and severe malnutrition. He has courageously risked harm to himself in order to bring a semblance of humane treatment to those confined in the horror that is the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ramón Díaz Sánchez, is an electrician who now shines a light of dignity and courage on the abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Antonio Ramón Díaz Sánchez, and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

RULING IN PADILLA CASE: A
PROPER CHECK ON ATTEMPTED
DENIAL OF DUE PROCESS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, terrorism must be fought, but we must resist the temptation to answer the extremism of terrorists with denials of the very principles the terrorists are attacking.

That is why many of us have been so concerned about the way the Administration has dealt with two American citizens they identified as "enemy combatants."

Last year, the Supreme Court ruled that one, Yaser Hamdi, must be tried or released. But it found a technical reason to avoid a similar decision regarding the other, saying that the case had been brought in the wrong district court.

Now the case has been renewed in the correct district court, and has brought a ruling that an editorial in the Rocky Mountain News says "dealt, one hopes, a fatal blow to the assertion of an unchecked presidential power to jail a citizen indefinitely and with no access to due process."

I share that hope.

For the information of our colleagues, here is the complete text of the editorial:

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Mar. 2, 2005]

JUSTICE, FINALLY, FOR JOSÉ PADILLA

The most egregious assertion of power in the Bush administration's war on terror was the president's right to jail any American indefinitely without trial. The president merely had to designate that person an "enemy combatant." That unwelcome unilateral expansion of presidential prerogatives was used only twice—on Yaser Esam Hamdi, a U.S.-born Saudi; and José Padilla, an American petty criminal.

Hamdi was captured in Afghanistan in 2001, sent to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and then shipped to a Navy brig when the feds learned he could claim U.S. citizenship. Last June, the Supreme Court ruled that the administration had to either try him or release him, and even though Hamdi, now 24, was presumably so dangerous that he had to spend over two years in solitary, the administration

tamely sent him back to his parents in Saudi Arabia on the grounds that he no longer had any information to give.

Padilla, now 34, wasn't so lucky. Even though an appeals court had ruled that Padilla, too, should be tried or released, the Supreme Court said his case should have been filed in South Carolina instead of New York. Now a federal judge in South Carolina, Henry Floyd, has ruled and dealt, one hopes, a fatal blow to the assertion of an unchecked presidential power to jail a citizen indefinitely and with no access to due process—a judge, lawyer, habeas corpus, charges, a trial, all the basic constitutional safeguards.

"The court finds that the president has no power, neither express nor implied, neither constitutional nor statutory, to hold petitioner as an enemy combatant," Floyd wrote.

Well said.

HONORING SALVADOR A.
MERCADO'S SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a citizen of the 28th District of Texas, Salvador A. Mercado, and his 28 years of service to the Department of Transportation.

In 1972 Salvador began his career with the Department of Transportation in Laredo, Texas. He then decided to further his education by attending the University of Texas at Austin, earning a degree in civil engineering. After he received his degree, he was able to move up at the Department of Transportation, and eventually became deputy district engineer.

During his time at the Transportation Department Salvador was able to apply his attention to detail to help establish Transportation Gateway, one of the 18t urban centers of its kind.

His professional demeanor assisted him as he made the critical decision of recruiting 20 engineering assistants for the district.

District safety has always been a main concern of Salvador's, and he has established different programs such as "El Protector," Spring Break rest stops, South Texas Fiber Optics Loop System, a Haz-Mat Task Force, traffic safety booths at local festivals, and the initiation of Construction Career Days to aid the community.

Salvador's willingness to work has not been overlooked by his peers; in 1996 he received the Gilchrist Award which honors outstanding achievement in Highway Engineering. This award is so prestigious that Salvador is only the second Hispanic engineer to ever be presented with this award.

Upon retirement Salvador will begin working in the private sector and I'm convinced will play an imperative role in whatever venture he decides to pursue.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the many contributions of Salvador A. Mercado.

TRIBUTE TO MR. HANS HAGEMAN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, during this month dedicated to the celebration of Black History, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Hans Hageman, an outstanding individual who has dedicated most of his life to helping children in East Harlem, NY.

Hans is the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Harbor, Inc., a 67 year old multi-service youth organization located in East Harlem. The Harbor's mission is to empower children and their families to become full, productive participants in society through education, cultural awareness and social services.

A lifelong East Harlem resident, Hans is a graduate of the Collegiate School for Boys, Princeton University, Columbia University Law School, and the U.S. Army 101st Airmobile Air Assault School. As former Chief Counsel for the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, he worked on solutions addressing long term and entrenched problems facing the East Harlem Community. Frustrated by the familiar faces he saw coming through the system, he realized that to truly impact the social pathology in East Harlem, he must reach out to the children of the community and help guide them before they fell victim to the cycles of poverty, violence and crime.

This strong belief motivated him to return to Exodus House, one of the nation's first residential drug rehabilitation centers, with a 30 year history of serving the East Harlem Community which was founded by his parents Reverend Dr. Lynn and Mrs. Leola Hageman. In September of 1993 Hans and his brother Ivan opened the East Harlem School at Exodus House, an independent intermediate school on the Exodus House site designed to more fully address the needs of at risk children and their families.

Hans has also served as Minority Chief Counsel and Staff Director to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution and as an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of Special Narcotics Prosecution of New York's County District Attorneys Office.

Hans is the recipient of the 2001 Essence Award; the Robin Hood Foundation's Hero Award; the East-Harlem Urban Center's Community Service Award; the Black Princeton Alumni Community Service Award and numerous others.

Mr. Speaker, this past week we bid farewell to Ossie Davis, a great American who was a strong voice for social justice and human dignity. Ossie, who got his start in Harlem, may be best remembered for the moving Eulogy he delivered at the funeral of Malcolm X. In speaking of Malcolm's relationship to Harlem he said: "For Harlem has ever been gracious to those who have loved her, have fought her and have defended her honor . . ."

During this month devoted to the celebration of Black history I want to pay tribute not only to these two great sons of Harlem but also to those who continue to work on behalf of those who are voiceless. In that spirit I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring another son of Harlem who continues to love her, fight her and defend her honor, Mr. Hans Hageman.

A TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA ANN JONES-WYNN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Patricia Ann Jones-Wynn in recognition of her strong commitment to her family, church and community.

Patricia, the oldest of eight children born to the late Willoughby and Maranda R. Jones, hails from Hamilton, North Carolina. She graduated with honors from West Martin High School in Oak City, North Carolina. Pat holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Secretarial Science, with a minor in Library Science from North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina.

Upon graduation from college in 1962, Patricia relocated to Brooklyn, New York where she married Ernest W. Wynn, her childhood sweetheart. In Brooklyn, she commenced her professional career as a secretary for the Brooklyn Tuberculosis Association. Following the birth of her first child, Patricia embarked on the more challenging and rewarding career of a full time homemaker. In 1965 she gave birth to her second child.

In 1973, with her children older and less dependent on her, Pat resumed her professional career by taking a position as the Administrative Assistant to Dr. William A. Jones, Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. In this capacity, she not only performed secretarial and administrative duties, but she was also the coordinator of the church newsletter. Her duties also required extensive national and international travel. Pat continues to be an active, contributing member of the Bethany Baptist Church congregation. She is a member of the Bethany Choir, the North Carolina Club and the Scholarship Council where she is an aggressive fund-raiser for the graduating high school students.

Upon leaving Bethany as an employee, she began work as a Principal Administrative Assistant for the Health and Hospital Corporation at Woodhull Hospital. Later, she secured employment with Paul J. Cooper Center for Human Services, (a human resource organization that works with the mentally challenged) where she worked until her retirement as Secretary to the CEO. Pat is a member of the Vanguard Independent Democratic Association and works each year with the Board of Elections.

For Patricia's family and friend, she is a mentor, a confidant and one who is always there in a time of need. On her daily walks, she visits the sick and shut-in members of her congregation and community. She has cared for sick and terminally ill relatives and friends in her home and is committed to her mission to follow God's call to "serve."

Patricia has been married to Deacon Ernest Wynn for 42 years and is the mother of two children, Kalin Lamont and Kecia Nadine, mother-in-law to Stacey Patrice and grandmother to Anastasia and Maya.

Mr. Speaker, Patricia Ann Jones-Wynn has chosen to dedicate herself to her family, church and community in all the choices she has made throughout her life. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

THE RONALD REAGAN ALZHEIMER'S BREAKTHROUGH ACT OF 2005

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Bipartisan Alzheimer's Disease Congressional Task Force, I rise today to introduce multi-faceted legislation to boost the federal commitment to Alzheimer's research and help patients and family members currently struggling with the disease.

This wide-ranging legislation attacks the problem of Alzheimer's disease on every front, and includes proposals to double our nation's biomedical research on Alzheimer's, improve clinical practice and training for promising gerontologists, enhance patient education, expand innovative state Alzheimer's caregiver support programs, and increase training for law enforcement officials who interact with dementia-afflicted patients.

As some of my colleagues know, I was first elected to Congress in 1980, when President Ronald Reagan was elected to his first term as President. The legislation is named for our former President who died last year after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

I believe that it is fitting and appropriate that this important legislation be dedicated to the most famous Alzheimer's patient and one of our greatest Presidents. Throughout his remarkable life, President Reagan endured many hardships including an assassination attempt and a bout with cancer. His terminal struggle with Alzheimer's disease has greatly increased awareness of the disease, and the importance of developing breakthrough therapies to help patients and families affected by it.

I am joined in introducing the legislation today by Rep. ED MARKEY (D-MA), who serves as my Co-Chairman of the Alzheimer's Disease Congressional Task Force that the two of us founded in June 1999. The Task Force includes approximately 190 members. Also joining the effort is physician and Congressman MIKE BURGESS (R-TX), Chairman of the Republican House Policy Committee's Subcommittee on Health, and who serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee, where the legislation will be referred. In the Senate, a companion measure was introduced today by Senator BOND (R-MO) and BARBARA MIKULSKI (D-MD).

The Alzheimer's Association, which is the largest worldwide research, advocacy, and research support organization devoted to helping Alzheimer's patients, has strongly endorsed the "Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act" and worked closely with both House and Senate sponsors when drafting it.

The centerpiece of the bill seeks to double funding for ethical biomedical research on Alzheimer's disease at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from \$700 million to \$1.4 billion. We believe that funding is needed to meet the demand of numerous unfunded studies that could lead to a breakthrough.

Recent increases in Congressional funding for Alzheimer's research has put us at the cusp of some amazing breakthroughs. The level of scientific interest in dementia research

has grown significantly as understanding of the disease process improves. But the main NIH institute doing the research has reported that only 15 percent of scientifically merit-worthy grant applications are being funded. This means that 85 percent of qualified grant proposals—studies that could hold the key to delaying the symptoms or curing the disease—are not being systematically explored. A few years ago, we were funding 25 percent of the worthwhile grants. This is a completely unacceptable state of affairs, and our legislation seeks to remedy this problem.

I want to emphasize to my colleagues that an up-front investment in research will not only help improve the quality of life for millions of Americans, but will also help save the federal government hundreds of billions of dollars in Medicare and Medicaid spending over the next half-century.

In addition to doubling our investment in Alzheimer's research at the NIH, the Smith-Markey-Burgess legislation also supports a number of other important Alzheimer's-related initiatives. These include:

Establishing an Alzheimer's disease prevention initiative.

Expanding and improving clinical research on Alzheimer's disease.

Systematic research on Alzheimer's disease care.

National summit on Alzheimer's disease.

Education and assistance for caregivers and their families.

Grants to expand needed respite care programs.

A public education campaign.

Improving Project Safe Return to help locate Alzheimer's patients who become disoriented and wander from their home.

In conclusion, the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act offers a comprehensive approach for treating current Alzheimer's patients and researching potential cures to reduce the number of those who will struggle with this disease in the future. We will be working overtime to secure passage of this critical legislation. I urge my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring it.

CONGRATULATING THE WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Winnetka Park District on 100 years of service to our community.

In 1904, a group of concerned citizens wanted to restore a piece of land in front of the village train station, which had been strewn with debris from the local livery stable. This small band of citizens came together and collected the \$8,548.30 needed to purchase what is now Station Park.

From those humble beginnings, the Winnetka Park District has developed into 28 park sites that represent more than 244 acres of land. The lands under the control of the Park District include some of the most beautiful shoreline of Lake Michigan. And from the initial investment of \$8,548.30, the district now boasts a \$9 million annual operating budget.

Through these 100 years, with the needs and desires of the public in mind, the

Winnetka Park District has added new facilities to meet the continually growing population. Now, nearly 14,500 citizens enjoy the Park District's facilities, which include an 18-hole championship golf course plus a par-3 course, the first indoor tennis facilities in the Chicago area, platform tennis courts, an indoor ice arena, two outdoor rinks, four public beaches, a skate park, and a 142-acre expanse of playfield.

The Winnetka Park District also runs hundreds of recreation programs, from day camps, to athletics, to classes. The district plans special events throughout the year, and thousands partake annually in skating, tennis and golf lessons.

For one hundred years the Winnetka Park District worked to provide a balance of quality recreational and leisure opportunities to a growing community, while protecting the natural resources and open spaces for the benefit of future generations. I hope that the next hundred years is as successful.

IN MEMORY OF JIMMY RIDDLE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Jimmy Riddle, from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his contributions to his community, country and other nations. Mr. Riddle was working for SOC-SMG, which disposes of munitions in Iraq, when an explosive was detonated within his convoy, which took his life and that of a co-worker. Mr. Riddle was 53 years old.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Mr. Riddle's life today. Jimmy Riddle consistently served others throughout his life. He joined the Marine Corps while in college and was stationed in Japan shortly after the Vietnam War. After serving for our country, Mr. Riddle became an officer for both the Sulphur Springs and Carrollton Police Departments in Texas.

In addition to his career, he spent considerable time with his family and promoted the ideals of being a servant to his children. As a result, his son Chris joined the U.S. Navy. Recently, Mr. Riddle was working as a defense contractor in Bosnia during which time he was able to see his son Chris for the first time in two years. Shortly after this meeting, Chris was killed by a drunk driver. Always looking to serve others, Mr. Riddle joined the SOC-SMG and went to Iraq. Just as in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Qatar, the people in Iraq appreciated Mr. Riddle and respected him for his kind-heartedness and devotion to helping others.

It was my honor to represent Jimmy. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He was best described by his fellow workers as an "unsung hero."

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHED BASKETWEAVER, MRS. SUE COLEMAN

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a truly remarkable woman, Sue Coleman. Mrs. Coleman is a member of the Washo nation on the Dresslerville Reservation in my home state of Nevada. Mrs. Coleman is nationally known as a master in the art of basket weaving. Her art is not only known in Nevada, but throughout the nation.

Mrs. Coleman comes from a long line of distinguished basket weavers. She learned the art of weaving through her mother, Theresa Smokey Jackson. Together with her mother, Mrs. Coleman gathered willow, stripped, cleaned and made thread by splitting the willows in three sections with their teeth. With the wisdom and guidance of her mother, Mrs. Coleman has a very diverse portfolio of artistic designs. These include; cradleboards, round baskets, burden baskets, seed beaters and winnowing trays all of which are true weaves of the Washo tradition.

Mrs. Coleman has received many prestigious awards for her art, and has won over forty first place ribbons for her baskets in many western art competitions. In 2002, she was awarded the prestigious Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in Folk Arts. She is also part of the committee that is organizing the Folklife Festival that will be held on the National Mall in 2006. In addition to her many other roles, Mrs. Coleman has the honor to be part of the committee for the Smithsonian Museum's "Carriers of Culture: Contemporary Native Baskets". One of her hand-crafted baskets is even part of the Smithsonian's permanent collection and will be included in a travel exhibit that will feature the finest baskets made by Native Americans.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the passing of her mother, Mrs. Coleman promised that she would continue the tradition that they enjoyed together and pass weaving along to future generations, so that this wonderful art will never be forgotten. It is clear that with her with passion and dedication to this rich cultural art that she will continue to honor her mother's wishes. I am proud to have this opportunity to acknowledge her work.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL OF CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL WEST WITH REGARD TO "THE FEINSTEIN YOUTH HUNGER BRIGADE PROGRAM"

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Student Council of Cranston High School West for their participation for the third consecutive year in "The Feinstein Youth Hunger Brigade Program." Through this year-long community service project, these students will raise awareness of hunger in Rhode

Island by distributing a newsletter to elected officials and by collecting and distributing non-perishable food items to a local agency of their choice. The students have chosen St. Vincent de Paul's Emergency Food Center to be the beneficiary of this year's donations.

Already, the students of Cranston High School West have far exceeded the goals they initially set. Originally planning to collect an impressive 2,260 items for donation, the students worked together to collect an astounding 3,163 non-perishable food items throughout the course of their first food drive in December. The students are currently working on a second drive set to take place in April. They hope to surpass their previous record during this spring's drive.

The non-perishables that the students have delivered to St. Vincent de Paul are crucial to the fight against hunger in Rhode Island. Many of our local shelters and food centers find themselves continually dependent upon the goodwill of students like those at Cranston High School West to be able to provide for those in need. The contributions by this very generous group of students will certainly put St. Vincent de Paul in a position to meet the needs of those less fortunate in the community.

I am thrilled and honored to recognize these individuals today. It is through the efforts of students like those at Cranston High School West that we not only fight the current hunger epidemic, but provide hope for the future as well. The students at Cranston High School West have nobly taken on a serious problem in their community and are facing it head on. I am confident that these students will serve as an inspiration for other Rhode Island young people and that leaves me optimistic about the future fight against hunger.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope our colleagues will join me in commending the Student Council of Cranston High School West.

PEACE CORPS: A MODEL FOR
HOPE

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize that last week was National Peace Corps Week and to applaud the thousands of Americans who have represented the U.S. since 1961 in the Peace Corps in 138 countries. Emblematic of the idealism of America are the 15 volunteers from my district in Southeast Iowa who are currently serving on four continents, in desert villages, mountain towns and city centers from Ukraine to Panama and Morocco.

A Peace Corps volunteer is charged with three missions: the first is to help the people of host countries in meeting their need for trained professionals; the second is to help promote understanding of America around the world; and the third is to help expand American understanding of other peoples and countries.

Thus, the job of the Peace Corps volunteer is not over when their assignment is completed. Volunteers maintain a duty to share their grasp of the people, the language and the culture of the countries in which they served.

Not long ago, in a speech at Yale University, the first Peace Corps Director, Sargent Shriver, declared that he wanted to add a fourth goal: to "bind all human beings together in a common cause to assure peace and survival for all"

No mission is more altruistic; nor more consequential. Geopolitical realists might consider such majesty of purpose to be naive. Actually, there is no rational alternative in a world where history has known few generations unaffected by the strife of war; where the creation of weapons of mass destruction has increased the vulnerability of the human race. As Einstein noted, splitting the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking. It is the capacity to think that, at its best, characterizes mankind, but, at its least impressive, has yet to be harnessed in such a way as to give confidence that modern man can live with modern technology.

In this context of concern for the common fate of all mankind, the Peace Corps stands out as the singular institution in American society that provides a model for hope and a cause for optimism.

INTRODUCING THE MEDICAL BILLS
INTEREST RATE RELIEF ACT OF
2005

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medical Bills Interest Rate Relief Act, a bill to protect Americans from going bankrupt due to high medical costs. Many families and individuals are forced deep into debt by the combination of large medical bills and excessively high interest rates.

The Journal Health Affairs recently reported that over two million people are financially ruined by health care costs every year, and these debtors are 42 percent more likely than other debtors to experience lapses in coverage. In fact, many of those bankrupted are middle class and have insurance, and so do not qualify for additional assistance.

A constituent of mine from Margate, Florida was faced with just this situation. He was unable to fully meet the repayment schedule demanded by the hospital. Because he had insurance, he was also unable to qualify for further assistance. The hospital reported him to his credit bureau, which then raised his interest rate to an astronomical level, pushing his financial stability to the very edge of bankruptcy.

My constituent is currently selling his home in order to avoid bankruptcy. This is simply unfair. My constituent did not overspend on luxury gifts, buy a fancy car, or take extended vacations. Instead, his family was slammed by an unpredictable and unpreventable medical catastrophe that was no fault of their own. There should be a level of protection for them and the millions of other Americans who struggle to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, credit card issuers tie interest rates to the timely repayment of debt. But many Americans, such as my constituent, are faced with sudden, extremely high medical expenses that simply cannot be repaid within the

same constraints as ordinary expenses. Thus, their credit card interest rates may rise dramatically, resulting in an even more burdensome financial situation.

My legislation alleviates this problem by requiring credit card companies to maintain the lowest interest rates possible for persons repaying medical care costs, based on the customers' previous credit rating prior to incurring those costs. My bill further protects patients and families by prohibiting hospitals from reporting for 5 years patients who cannot meet the mandated repayment schedule, provided that those patients demonstrate good faith by maintaining a repayment of 20 percent of their medical expenses. This ensures that patients receive some level of protection from imminent financial disaster while hospitals are also assured of recovering debt.

The extraordinarily high cost of medical care is an enormous burden on American families. Unfortunately, many medical expenses are unforeseen, and the expenses associated with emergency catastrophic care can literally destroy a family's finances. Our constituents should never have to choose between the health and life of a loved one and the financial constraints of medical care.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to protect all Americans from the crushing burden of medical costs.

HONORING THE EXCEPTIONAL
COURAGE OF BEN MOYER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible citizen of the 28th district of Texas. Ben Moyer of Seguin, Texas demonstrated exceptional courage when he saved a man's life last June.

Ben Moyer a senior at Seguin High School in Seguin, TX, has been swimming for most of his life. Last summer while he was working at the local water park Schlitterbahn of Texas, Ben jumped into a dangerous section of the Comal River and pulled a man to safety.

Ben did not even notice the injury he had sustained when his foot was caught in some rocks; he simply pulled it free and continued with his mission. It was not until after he pulled the man to safety that he realized that he had broken his own leg in this heroic deed.

Ben was aware of the dangers that would come with being a deep water lifeguard, but credited his Boy Scout life guarding classes and Schlitterbahn training classes with enabling him with the skills necessary for this rescue.

This notable act of courage demonstrates Ben's desire to help others, which will come in handy for Ben's aspirations to enter the Naval Academy in Annapolis after graduation. And to eventually reach his goal of flying helicopters.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad I had this opportunity to recognize the act of bravery and termination of Ben Moyer.

CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL
PEACE CORP WEEK

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 44th Anniversary of the Peace Corp and to also recognize National Peace Corp Week, which was officially celebrated February 28 to March 6, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, in 1961, President John F. Kennedy courageously challenged American citizens during his inauguration speech to "ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man." This, along with a speech then Senator Kennedy gave in October 1960 to the graduating students of the University of Michigan, daring them to be agents of peace and freedom by living and working abroad, became the guiding principles of what the Peace Corp has become today.

In countries where poverty is rampant and development lacking, American volunteers, through the work of the Peace Corp, have helped bring medicine to the sick, education to the illiterate, and skills training to the poor. American Peace Corp volunteers accomplish this by living two years of their lives away from their family, away from their loved ones among the people who need their help the most. They are there in the morning, when the farm needs irrigation; during the day, when the children need guidance; and at night, when the community comes together to share the day's experiences. They are there not only as volunteers, but also as advocates and friends.

Mr. Speaker, because of these dedicated and compassionate young men and women and because of their desire to promote equality and knowledge among those less fortunate, the volunteers of the Peace Corp have helped to build a positive image of America around the world, even during some of the most trying times in our nation's foreign policies. As ambassadors of American ideals, they have allowed nations around the globe to gain a better understanding of our country, and have in turn taught us about the cultures and practices of other nations.

As current Peace Corp volunteers, scattered over 72 countries, carry on the legacy of those before them, I stand here today to applaud all the progress and achievements the Peace Corp has accomplished to date.

On the 44th Anniversary of this uniquely American institution, I urge the volunteers of the Peace Corp to remember their responsibility to the world and to the nation they represent. I urge them to maintain the idealism that brought them to countries such as Albania, Niger, El Salvador, Uzbekistan, and East Timor. And in return, I ask my colleagues to help promote the same ideals of peace and freedom within our Nation.

Let us not forget the poor and the unfortunate inside and outside our borders, let us not forget the underprivileged, and let us continue to fight for equality for all.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF ROTARY INTER-
NATIONAL

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, the world's first service club, and to mark the 52nd year of the Rotary Club of Great Neck.

Since their establishment on February 23, 1905, by Paul P. Harris, the members of Rotary International have been completely dedicated to fulfilling the goal of their motto: service above self. Over the past 100 years, Rotarians have been providing humanitarian services in communities, workplaces, and throughout the world. In doing so, Rotarians have developed numerous community service projects that assist communities in responding to the critical issues they face, including hunger, poverty, illiteracy, vocational and career development, the environment, and protecting at risk children.

The popularity of Rotary International has quickly spread throughout the world, with clubs forming across the United States and on six continents. Currently, there are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians who belong to more than 31,000 Rotary clubs in 166 different countries.

The Rotary Club of Great Neck was chartered in 1953, and since then their members have been very active in local and international humanitarian projects. Each November, the Rotary Club of Great Neck holds a Thanksgiving Turkey Drive, where volunteers pack more than 26 tons of food into complete Thanksgiving dinners and distribute them to needy families in the New York metropolitan area. The Great Neck club is also very active in the Gift of Life Program, which provides life saving open-heart surgery to needy children across the world, at no cost to them or their families. Great Neck Rotarians also work with and mentor local students on a weekly basis, teaching them about the joys of giving back to the community and assisting the students with their own service projects.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Great Neck, and Rotarians across the world for their continued and dedicated service. These fine men and women selflessly volunteer their time to help make our world a better place, and their contributions are immeasurable. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Rotary International as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

THE SCIENCE OF FREEZING'S
BENEFITS FOR FOOD SAFETY

HON. C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the hope that a scientific review article may spur research that could benefit public health. Specifically, Douglas L. Archer, Ph.D. authored a paper titled, "Freezing: An underutilized food

safety technology?" which was published in the January 15, 2004, International Journal of Food Microbiology.

The article has attracted attention over the past year, including a presentation today by Dr. Archer for the House Frozen Food Caucus, of which I am co-chairman. I would like to submit for the record the abstract of Dr. Archer's article, and emphasize its conclusion: "Through research, it seems possible that freezing may in the future be used to reliably reduce populations of food-borne pathogens as well as to preserve foods."

Mr. Speaker, I call this article and this opportunity for improving public health to the attention of my colleagues and to the research community.

[From the International Journal of Food Microbiology, 2004]

FREEZING: AN UNDERUTILIZED FOOD SAFETY TECHNOLOGY?

(By Douglas L. Archer)

Freezing is an ancient technology for preserving foods. Freezing halts the activities of spoilage microorganisms in and on foods and can preserve some microorganisms for long periods of time. Frozen foods have an excellent overall safety record. The few outbreaks of food-borne illness associated with frozen foods indicate that some, but not all human pathogens are killed by commercial freezing processes. Freezing kills microorganisms by physical and chemical effects and possibly through induced genetic changes. Research is needed to better understand the physical and chemical interactions of various food matrices with the microbial cell during freezing and holding at frozen temperatures. The literature suggests that many pathogenic microorganisms may be sublethally injured by freezing, so research should be done to determine how to prevent injured cells from resuscitating and becoming infectious. Studies on the genetics of microbial stress suggest that the induction of resistance to specific stresses may be counteracted by, for example, simple chemicals. Research is needed to better understand how resistance to the lethal effect of freezing is induced in human pathogens and means by which it can be counteracted in specific foods. Through research, it seems possible that freezing may in the future be used to reliably reduce populations of food-borne pathogens as well as to preserve foods.

HARRIET TUBMAN'S BIRTHDAY

HON. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, as the bells of freedom toll around the globe, it seems appropriate to honor one of America's noble freedom fighters. And so today, in recognition of the memory and continuing legacy of a true founder of American freedom, I am introducing a resolution to designate March 10, 1990, as "Harriet Tubman Day."

Harriet Tubman was born on the eastern shore of Maryland around 1820 and escaped from slavery in 1849. Her freedom, however, was not the beginning of her fight. Even as a child slave, she battled against slavery and injustice. One day, she was ordered by an overseer to help him tie up another slave who was to be beaten. She defied that order and allowed the fellow slave to escape. Bun in the

process, Harriet Tubman paid a high price for her defiance and her convictions. She was inflicted with a wound so severe that it would cause health problems for the rest of her life. The beating was not the first, nor would it be the last. But despite that cruel scar and despite the deep scars of slavery, Harriet Tubman still pursued. With a vigor difficult to image, she pursued her seemingly distant dreams and the buried promise of freedom.

Her own freedom was not good enough, though—others were still enslaved. A year after her own escape, Harriet Tubman became a conductor on the underground railroad. She was so successful—she alone led about 300 slaves to freedom—that a bounty, with a horrifying sentence of torture until death, was offered for her capture. Yet, she continued to travel the route of the underground railroad, telling fellow conductor Thomas Garrett that she “ventured only where God sent: and bragging years later that she had “never run off track or lost a passenger.” Time and time again whenever Harriet Tubman encountered unbeatable odds or insurmountable obstacles, she beat them and surmounted them, forging a path of service, spirit, and strength for all of us to follow.

Through her service—as a conductor on the underground railroad, as a soldier and a tender of soldiers, and as a speaker for those who could not speak for themselves—Harriet Tubman gave hope to countless slaves who referred to her as their “Moses” and who, because of her, realized that they would one day be led from oppression to the promised land of freedom. Through her strength—a strength that compelled her to risk her own freedom so that others could experience it—Harriet Tubman provided an inspiration of liberty, justice and opportunity that serves us still. The service, spirit and strength of Harriet Tubman represents in timeless eloquence much of what is best in us, as Americans and as human beings.

Mr. President, slavery was the darkest chapter in American history. But, out of the darkness of persecution in South Africa came the light of Nelson Mandela. And, out of the darkness of slavery in America came the light of Harriet Tubman.

Today, that light is kept alive by the Harriet Tubman Historical Society, located in my hometown of Wilmington, DE. Harriet Tubman Day is the brainchild of its executive director, Vivian Abdur-Rahim. The widespread support this commemorative has received around the country—19 states and several citizens have already endorsed it—is a result of Vivian's tireless tenacity. She has made a tremendous investment toward establishing this day of recognition and tribute, and I am proud to ask the Senate to add its support to such a worthy and important effort.

CONGRATULATING PILOT STEVE FOSSETT AND THE COMMUNITY OF SALINA, KS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Steve Fossett, pilot of the Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer, and all those who

assisted him during his successful world record-setting flight around the world last week.

Steve Fossett flew the first solo, non-stop, non-refueled aerial circumnavigation of the globe in a jet aircraft, completing the record-setting flight in 67 hours and one minute, with an average speed of nearly 300 miles per hour. This feat began on Monday, February 28, 2005, and ended Wednesday, March 3, 2005, at the renowned “America's Fuel Stop,” the Salina Municipal Airport, Kansas, USA. With aviation pioneers like Earhart, Beech and Cessna to its credit, it is only fitting that today's modern aviation pioneer chose Kansas as the location to set his world record.

Mr. Fossett is an accomplished adventurer, having set numerous world records in aviation and sailing. In fact, Mr. Fossett owns the world record for the number of world records held, with a total of 62, to date. Collaborating with Sir Richard Branson, famed British entrepreneur and founder of the Virgin Group of companies, he embarked on this around-the-world voyage, aiming to set world records in speed around the world without stopping or refueling, distance over a close circuit without landing, and distance without landing. The Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer, the plane Mr. Fossett flew for this trek, was specially designed to be lightweight, aerodynamic, and fuel-efficient.

Mr. Fossett encountered several obstacles during his flight, including the failure of his plane's navigation system and the discovery of a fuel shortage. However, his perseverance and determination to succeed, despite the challenges, have earned him yet another notation in the record books.

I am also proud of those who assisted Mr. Fossett and the Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer, especially the talented and dedicated staff of Dr. Dennis Kuhlman, Dean of the College of Technology and Aviation at Kansas State University at Salina. K-State at Salina is one of the top aviation schools in the nation, boasting excellent facilities for student use, which also helped to attract Mr. Fossett. The efforts of K-State at Salina to train aviation mechanics and pilots are helping to ensure safe air transportation into the next generation.

In addition, I extend sincere congratulations to the Salina Airport Authority Board of Directors, Mr. Tim Rogers, Executive Director, and the many fine airport staff members. While the airport's 12,300 ft. runway was a significant factor in the site selection for this historic attempt, it didn't hurt that the Salina Airport Authority has established expertise in the areas of airfield security, ground handling, equipment and media services.

Other significant contributors to the mission were the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, led by Mr. Gerald Cook, President/CEO, and staff; and, the City of Salina, Mr. Monte Shadwick, Mayor; Mr. Dennis Kissinger, City Manager, and staff. This was truly a collaborative effort, of magnificent proportions, befitting a record-setting feat.

I join the world in congratulating Steve Fossett and honoring the contributions of the greater Salina community on a job well done.

HONORING BOB LANIER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the 80th birthday of Bob Lanier, former Mayor of Houston and a dedicated public servant. Bob may not have entered politics until after his 66th birthday, but he certainly made up for lost time in the 14 years that followed.

Bob had a distinguished career before he ran for Mayor of Houston. He served in the Navy during World War II, graduated from the University of Texas Law School with high honors, and chaired the Texas Highway Commission and Houston's Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Bob has been the recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Hubert Humphrey Civil Rights Award, the Bond Market Association's Distinguished Public Service Award, and a place in the Texas Transportation Hall of Honor.

Respected and admired by Americans on both sides of the aisle, Bob served the people of Houston exceptionally well during his three terms. They returned him to office in 1993 with over 91 percent of the vote, and he left office with a remarkable 78 percent approval rating.

Within his first 90 days in office, “Mayor Bob,” as he was affectionately known, added 655 police officers, leading to a dramatic reduction in the city's crime rate. He was also known for revitalizing several areas of Houston, transforming them into vibrant engines of the city's economy.

Further, he made tremendous strides in environmental preservation. He and his wonderful wife Elyse won two national awards for clean up and beautification of the city. President Clinton summed up Bob's contributions to the city when he said, “He was a magnificent mayor.”

Bob received many accolades during his six years as mayor, but perhaps most fitting was when Texas Monthly named him one of three top Texas mayors of the 20th century.

Bob and Elyse are enjoying their retirement, and I am sure that their seven children and ten grandchildren will be a big part of helping them continue to enjoy it.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Bob a very happy 80th birthday, and I hope that I can share in the celebration of many happy returns.

REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL TIME OUT DAY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a House resolution recognizing the goals and ideas of the National Time Out Day, which the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) and over 50 other health care organizations are celebrating on June 22, 2005 to promote the adoption of a new protocol for preventing medical errors in the operating room.

The number of individuals who are affected by medical errors is astounding. In 2000, the Institute of Medicine released a report entitled "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System." The report revealed that between 44,000 and 98,000 hospitalized people in the U.S. die each year due to medical errors, and thousands of others suffer injury or illness as a result of preventable errors. To address this problem, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations has developed a universal protocol which calls for surgical teams to call a "time out" before surgeries begin in order to verify the patient's identity, the procedure to be performed, and the site of the procedure. The Joint Commission has required nurses, surgeons and hospitals throughout the country to adopt this protocol effective July 1, 2004, in order to curb the alarming number of deaths and injuries due to medical errors.

AORN has created an Internet website and distributed 55,000 tool kits to healthcare professionals to help them implement the universal protocol, and they are celebrating National Time Out Day on June 23 to promote the protocol and its adoption. National Time Out Day has been endorsed by a distinguished group of healthcare organizations, including the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Hospital Association, and the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management.

Mr. Speaker, ultimately, this issue is about health care access and patient safety. I think it is important for Congress to recognize and congratulate perioperative nurses and representatives of surgical teams for working together to reduce medical errors and to ensure the improved health and safety of surgical patients. Fewer medical errors will result in better outcomes for patients, fewer medical malpractice suits, which in turn will help keep malpractice insurance rates and health care premiums down. I urge the House to adopt the resolution.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY WORK OF EDDIE AGUILAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary work of Eddie Aguilar of Seguin, Texas for his dedication and commitment to community service. Eddie Aguilar has made the people of my Congressional district proud, by tirelessly dedicating his time to many non-profit organizations.

Mr. Aguilar is a self-proclaimed "full-time volunteer," since his retirement from military service. He has been an active volunteer with the Salvation Army, The Cranny, and the Guadalupe Family Violence Shelter. The life lessons that Eddie gained while he served two years in the United States Army, and fifteen years as a U.S. Marine have aided him when he volunteered his help during times of disaster; such as floods and fires that have affected his community.

Eddie also holds the position as disaster relief coordinator with the Salvation Army, and he formally served as a board member of the Guadalupe Family Violence Shelter and The

Cranny. His work with the women's shelter and various children's groups has not gone overlooked.

Mr. Aguilar was honored by the Seguin community when Councilwoman Jo Anne Sutherland nominated him for the 2004 Time Warner Hometown hero award, many of his family and friends were in attendance when he accepted this award during a banquet in San Antonio, Texas. Honorees of this award are considered to be among the best of the community, and it is an opportunity to honor the area's un-sung heroes.

Aguilar takes no credit for his work, and praises his 78-year-old mother as being his constant inspiration. He recognizes his mother with instilling in him the belief of making a difference in someone's life and to think of others well-being ahead of his own.

I believe Mr. Aguilar has the qualities that make up a great citizen of Seguin. He demonstrates great dedication to community service, and I am further impressed by the little credit he wishes to receive for his work.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud I have had this opportunity to recognize the noble service of Eddie Aguilar.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF JOHN K. FINLEY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and community of Mayor John K. Finley; and

Whereas, Mayor Finley was a father, counselor, leader, friend, and mentor to thousands and will be deeply missed. His achievements and example will be always remembered; and

Whereas, Mayor Finley was a member of the West Virginia Fire Association, Ohio Fire Chief Association, and the Ohio Firemen's Association. He was the longest active member of the M&M Volunteer Fire Department; and

Whereas, Mayor Finley was a charter member and Elder of the Church of the Gospel Ministry in McConnelsville, and also a former member of the First Presbyterian Church of McConnelsville, where he served as Sunday School superintendent and treasurer; and

Whereas, Mayor Finley lived his life as a servant of the people as mayor and councilman of McConnelsville for more than 31 years, during which, his proudest accomplishments were the establishment of the Hawk Missile Site, the McConnelsville Swimming Pool, and updating McConnelsville's water and sewer systems; and

Whereas, the understanding and caring to which he gave to others will stand as a monument to a truly fine person. His life and dedication gave joy to all who knew him.

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Mayor John Finley.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TED JEFFERSON

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise during this month devoted to the celebration of Black History to pay tribute to Mr. Ted Jefferson, an outstanding individual who has been actively involved in my community for more than 40 years.

For the past 18 years, Ted has served as the Executive Director of the Bronx Shepards Restoration Corporation. He has been a leading force in the Bronx in providing affordable housing through rehabilitation or new construction.

The Bronx Shepard's Organization offers home ownership opportunities to first time home buyers, a weatherization program with an annual budget of over 1.5 million dollars and a variety of other programs that are of direct benefit to residents of the Bronx community. An example of Ted's leadership was the construction of the Daniel Nickerson Arms building, a home for the frail and elderly. He led Bronx Shepards in developing what began as a vision into what now stands as a model of how the government, the private sector and the local community can overcome insurmountable odds when working together.

Ted has also served the community as a volunteer with the Morris Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association, the Webster Action Committee, Community Board #13, Community Board #6, the Twin Parks Association, the Community Advisory Board of the Local Initiative Support Corporation and the Bronx Borough President's transition team. He is presently a member of the board of the Marcella Brown Foundation and the President of Black United Leadership in the Bronx.

Ted's philosophy is to develop a vision for the Bronx in which all of its residents have the opportunity to enhance their quality of life through the development of educational, social, economic and housing opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month we honor individuals such as Harriett Tubman, and Rosa Parks; African Americans who sacrificed their own well-being so that all Americans could have the opportunity to enjoy the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Today I want to honor not only these great Americans but also those who in the spirit of selflessness, continue to help others achieve a better life. I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Ted Jefferson for his outstanding service to the people of my community.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN BUSTER EDWARDS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding South Carolinian who has dedicated his life to protecting our nation's citizens. It is with great pleasure that I commend South Carolina's State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Captain Buster Edwards as he retires from a second career in public service.

Captain Edwards was born in North Charleston, South Carolina and has returned to his native area, now making his home in Summerville. As a young 17-year-old graduate of Chicora High School, Captain Edwards joined the United States Marine Corps. After five months of Basic Training he was sent to South Vietnam where he served as an infantry soldier from November 1967 to June 1969. He was awarded two Purple Hearts for wounds he received during his tour.

Upon returning to the States, Captain Edwards spent another 20 years in the Marine Corps serving at Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune, and Twentynine Palms. While on active duty, he furthered his education eventually earning a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the College of Charleston. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1987.

After his first career serving in the military, Captain Edwards sought to use his talents in law enforcement. He began his second career with SLED as a latent fingerprint technician in the forensic laboratory. Captain Edwards steadily rose through the ranks from lab technician to Field Agent, Lieutenant, and finally Captain. In this last position, he served as the Special Agent-in-Charge overseeing SLED's operations in the Low Country Region of South Carolina. On February 18, 2005, Captain Edwards retired from this second career to focus on his personal passions in life.

Captain Edwards is an active member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Ladson, South Carolina, and helps organize crime prevention and awareness activities in his community. Captain Edwards has received several awards from the United Negro College Fund for his ongoing volunteer work to raise money for college scholarships. And has been very helpful to me as a member of my 6th Congressional District Advisory Committee that helps select the nominees I recommend to the U.S. Military Academies each year.

Captain Edwards has two adult children, three grandchildren, and a son-in-law and daughter-in-law.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the accomplishments of Captain Buster Edwards and congratulating him upon his retirement. His selfless dedication on behalf of his state and his country deserve commendation.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF ROBERT P. HENRY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose 35 years of public service to the City of Los Angeles serves as an example to us all. I would like to acknowledge this outstanding gentleman whose reputation for hard work, enthusiasm, and diligence is well deserved.

Since beginning his career in 1970 Mr. Henry has worn many different "hats" within the Harbor Department. In each role he demonstrated an exceptional degree of competency and innovation.

In 1982, Mr. Henry established the Harbor Department's first word processing center. This groundbreaking project provided typing

support to the entire department. Mr. Henry's visionary thinking and leadership is evident in his taking on the task of bringing the popular Red Cars back to the Los Angeles area. Years of research, regulations, and endless paperwork culminated in the 2003 successful launch of the Port of Los Angeles Waterfront Red Car Line, which carries hundreds of happy passengers each week.

Mr. Henry's commitment to the City of Los Angeles goes beyond his years of dedicated service in the Harbor Department. Throughout his career he also found the time for community work, donating hundreds of hours to make recordings for the blind and dyslexic. Mr. Henry set a high standard for stellar public service to the Harbor Department, the city, and his fellow citizens. His family, neighbors, and indeed the entire community of Los Angeles are all enriched by his years of dedication and service.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to express my thanks, and that of a grateful city, to Robert P. Henry for 35 years of dedication and public service.

A TRIBUTE TO AILEEN ROSA-
ARROYO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Aileen Rosa-Arroyo who has dedicated her career to educating our children from toddler to adulthood.

Aileen was born in Brooklyn, New York on November 9, 1962 and is the daughter of Judith Valentin and Gilberto Rosa. She is happily married to Miguel Angel Arroyo, Jr. of Long Beach, N.Y. and is the proud mother of three beautiful children, Alexandra, 14, Isabella Angelica 3 and Christopher Michael who is 10 months old. They reside with their children in Island Park, New York and are surrounded by loving and doting grandparents, Miguel and Lily Arroyo.

Early in her education, Aileen distinguished herself as an excellent student. Graduating from the elite Mary Louis Academy in Jamaica Estates, New York, she majored in English, Spanish and Music. She was then awarded a four-year scholarship for academic excellence to St. John's University, where she studied Communication Arts & Sciences, and did an internship at a television station in production and sales. Her graduate work is in Early Childhood & Elementary Education, completing a Master's Degree in Education and post-graduate work in Bilingual Education and English as a Second Language from Long Island University. Understanding the need for role models in a position of leadership in the educational field and in her community, she then went on to do her second Master's Degree in Supervision and Administration at The College of New Rochelle.

Aileen is the Director of Education & Administration of one of the largest child-care facilities in the City of New York, The Grand St. Settlement Child & Family Center located in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. The facility services toddlers, pre-school and school-age children and has Head Start and Universal

Pre-K Programs. She is an accomplished educator, holding NYS Permanent Licenses and Permanent Certifications in Supervision & Administration, Early Childhood & Elementary Education, Bilingual Education and Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. Her experience spans from pre-k to college, having worked as a teacher in the NYC and Long Island public schools for over 15 years and as a professor at both Touro and Boricua Colleges.

Aileen has always been an active leader in our community. She has been honored three times with the Caritas Citation for Community Service and The American Legion Award for Community Service. She has received numerous decorations from the New York City Police Department for Dedicated Service, and the New York State Senate has presented her two citations for Community Service and Outstanding Leadership. The University of The State of New York has bestowed upon her Recognition for Professional Achievement. She is a member of the American Federation of School Administrators, the Council of Administrators & Supervisors, the New York State Association for Bilingual Educators, and Phi Delta Kappa Education Fraternity. Aileen has organized and implemented educational and training programs for children, teens and parents, and staff development for colleagues. She has spent her life giving to others. Her role as an outstanding educator and community leader impacts the lives of many in a positive fashion.

Mr. Speaker, Aileen Rosa-Arroyo has been a leader in her community by ensuring that every member of her community has the opportunity to be educated and succeed. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

RECOGNITION OF DR. KENNETH L.
SAUNDERS, SR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a dedicated member of my community, Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, Sr. Next month, Dr. Saunders will be celebrating his 16th pastoral anniversary at the North Stelton A.M.E. Church. He has emerged over the years as a community leader as well as a dedicated member of his congregation. Under his committed administration, the congregation at North Stelton has more than doubled.

In addition to serving his community through the church, Dr. Saunders works as State Parole Board Commissioner, Chaplain of the local police department, and New Brunswick Theological Seminary Trustee. He has received numerous accolades including Senatorial commendation, the humanitarian of the year award from the Rutgers University School of Medicine and Dentistry, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. award from the local chapter of the NAACP.

Dr. Saunders is also devoted to his family life. He has been married to Sister Shirley Harris Saunders for 25 years and is the proud

father of Kenneth L. Saunders, Jr. The efforts of Dr. Saunders in the community and the church have benefited many citizens throughout his career.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, Sr., an exemplary citizen that I am proud to represent here in Congress.

AN EXCERPT FROM DR. ARNOLD S. RELMAN'S NEW REPUBLIC ARTICLE: "THE HEALTH OF NATIONS"

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an excellent article recently published in the *New Republic*. It has been apparent for years that free market solutions will do nothing to ameliorate the healthcare crisis in our nation. This article, authored by Arnold S. Relman, M.D., the former editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, shows us exactly why market forces hinder, not help our attempts to reform the system.

In his article, Dr. Relman explains how free market approaches—focused on consumer driven health care and individually purchased high deductible health plans—will only exacerbate the problem of the uninsured. The only thing that is empowered by these solutions is blatant discrimination against the sick and poor who will not have affordable access to care. We already have 45 million uninsured in this country, and according to Dr. Relman that number will only continue to grow if we continue down this dangerous path.

Dr. Relman proposes a solution that isn't politically popular but would fix the myriad problems in our current system. It starts with a "tax-supported national budget for the delivery of a defined and comprehensive set of essential services to all citizens at a price we can afford." This universal system would rely on networks of not-for-profit providers supplying all the care covered under the national plan. A new federal agency would administer the plan, generating huge economies of scale and reducing spending by billions. This is the only real solution to our current crisis, and I commend Dr. Relman for taking a tough stand on this difficult issue.

It is with pleasure that I submit the attached excerpts from the article, "The Health of Nations," for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The article originally appeared in the March 7, 2005 edition of the *New Republic*.

[From the *New Republic*, March 7, 2005]

EXCERPTS FROM: THE HEALTH OF NATIONS

(By Arnold S. Relman)

In this past election season, our dysfunctional and extravagantly expensive health care system was pushed off the front pages by concerns about the candidates, the fight against terrorism, and the war in Iraq. And yet the health system's problems will not go away; sooner or later we will have to solve them or face disastrous consequences. Over the past four decades (starting just before the arrival of Medicare and Medicaid), both the system itself and ideas about how it should be reformed have changed a lot, but

an equitable, efficient, and affordable arrangement still eludes us.

During the past four decades our health policies have failed to meet national needs because they have been heavily influenced by the delusion that medical care is essentially a business. This delusion stubbornly persists, and current proposals for a more "consumer-driven" health system are likely to make our predicament even worse. I wish to examine these proposals and to explain why I think they are fundamentally flawed. A different kind of approach could solve our problems, but it would mean a major reform of the entire system, not only the way it is financed and insured, but also how physicians are organized in practice and how they are paid. Since such a reform would threaten the financial interests of investors, insurers, and many vendors and providers of health services, the short-term political prospects for such reform are not very good. But I am convinced that a complete overhaul is inevitable, because in the long run nothing else is likely to work . . .

. . . In 1963, a seminal analysis of the medical care system as a market was published in the *American Economic Review* by the distinguished economist Kenneth J. Arrow. He argued that the medical care system was set apart from other markets by several special characteristics, including these: a demand for service that was irregular and unpredictable, and was often associated with what he called an "assault on personal integrity" (because it tended to arise from serious illness or injury); a supply of services that did not simply respond to the desires of buyers, but was mainly shaped by the professional judgment of physicians about the medical needs of patients (Arrow pointed out that doctors differ from vendors of most other services because they are expected to place a primary concern for the patient's welfare above considerations of profit); a limitation on the entry of providers into the market, resulting from the high costs, the restrictions, and the exacting standards of medical education and professional licensure; a relative insensitivity to prices; and a near absence of price competition.

But perhaps the most important of Arrow's insights was the recognition of what he called the "uncertainty" inherent in medical services. By this he meant the great asymmetry of information between provider and buyer concerning the need for, and the probable consequences of, a medical service or a course of medical action. Since patients usually know little about the technical aspects of medicine and are often sick and frightened, they cannot independently choose their own medical services the way that consumers choose most services in the usual market. As a result, patients must trust physicians to choose what services they need, not just to provide the services. To protect the interests of patients in such circumstances, Arrow contended, society has had to rely on non-market mechanisms (such as professional educational requirements and state licensure) rather than on the discipline of the market and the choices of informed buyers.

Of course, another conclusion could have been drawn from Arrow's analysis (though he apparently did not draw it). It is that medical care is not really a "market" at all in the classical economic sense, and therefore that the basic theories of economics are not relevant to the discussion of the first principles of health care. But our society assumes that market economics applies to virtually all human activity involving the exchange of goods or services for money, and this dogma is rarely questioned. Most economists would acknowledge that medical care is an imperfect or idiosyncratic market, but

still they believe that it is a market, and that it should therefore obey economic predictions . . .

. . . In 1980, in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, I described this changing face of American health care as the "new medical-industrial complex." The term was derived, of course, from the language that President Eisenhower had used ("military-industrial complex") when warning the nation, as he was retiring, about the growing influence of arms manufacturers over American political and economic policies. Referring to Arrow's analysis, I suggested that market-driven health care would simply add to the explosion of medical expenditures and the growing problems of inequity and variable quality. I was also worried that this uncontrolled industrial transformation would undermine the professional values of physicians, which are surely an essential ingredient of any decent medical care system. Financial incentives were replacing the service ethic of doctors and hospitals, as the providers of care began to compete for market share and larger income. Yet competition on the basis of the price and quality of services—an essential characteristic of most free markets—was little in evidence, demonstrating again the truth of Arrow's argument that the medical care market was different . . .

. . . In an increasingly profit-driven and entrepreneurial medical market, piecework payment for specialized outpatient services stimulated an even greater fragmentation of medical care and a greater use of individually billable items of outpatient technological service. Less attention was given to the continuity and the integration of care, and to preventive medicine. Decreased payments to primary-care physicians and increased pressure on them to see more patients reduced the time that they spent with each patient. As a consequence of all these developments, the quality of primary care suffered, and the difference between the quality of average medical care and the best medical care widened, even as per capita expenditures rose and the number of uninsured and underinsured patients increased. This quality "gap" was the subject of a major report in 2001 from the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, which described the many deficiencies in the way patients were being treated and suggested how their medical care could be improved. Unfortunately, the experts preparing the report were not asked to consider how the system itself might be restructured to facilitate the needed improvements.

And so we now live with a seriously defective medical care system, based more heavily on market incentives than the health care regime of any other country in the world. The commercial tone is set by investor-owned insurance companies (the major share of the private insurance market), investor-owned hospitals (about 15 percent of all community hospitals), and investor-owned ambulatory-care facilities and nursing homes (the great majority of both these markets). The behavior of many of the so-called "not-for-profit" health care facilities is not much different from that of their investor-owned competitors, because they have to survive in the same unforgiving marketplace, which is indifferent to the social values that originally motivated most health care institutions. As for American physicians, their attitude toward their profession has also been changed by the new medical marketplace. To a degree greater than anywhere else in the world, our doctors think of themselves as competitive business people. As such, they own or invest in diagnostic and therapeutic facilities (including specialty hospitals), they form investor-owned medical

groups, and they advertise their services to the public . . .

. . . Our failure to address the glaring deficiencies and inequities in our health care system is nothing to be proud of. A growing number of people are losing their private health insurance. There are now more than 45 million Americans without coverage. Much of this is due to the loss of good jobs, but high costs are also a significant factor. The financial burdens of those who are insured increase steadily, as hard-pressed employers reduce covered benefits and increase the fraction of insurance costs being shifted to beneficiaries. Rising health costs are threatening the financial stability and competitiveness of many American businesses, and are discouraging the hiring of new full-time workers. The government is also shifting insurance costs to Medicare beneficiaries, as exemplified by the recent large increase in the premium charged for coverage of outpatient medical services and physicians' care ("Part B").

What really astonishes me is that so many conservative business and health policy experts continue to hold an unshakable faith in a market solution for our system's major problems. They believe that market forces have not been allowed to contain costs or to improve access and quality because of government regulation, and because of badly designed insurance that prevents consumers from playing an appropriate role. They think that the consumers of medical care in both public and private insurance systems have not had enough influence on the supply of services and have not been sufficiently involved in price negotiations with providers. These days the "free market" is held to be the solution to most social and economic problems, and it is commonly believed that in health care the most important missing ingredient of a free market is the traditional consumer who has the incentive and the ability to bargain for the desired price and quality of services. So it shouldn't be surprising that the idea for improving our health care system that is currently most popular is so called "consumer-driven health care," or CDHC.

The term "consumer-driven health care" is used to mean a market for medical care in which patients, as the "consumers" of medical services, would have a lot more responsibility for choosing those services and would share more of the costs. In the most fully developed proposals, providers of medical care (physicians, hospitals, clinics, and so on) would compete for patients on the basis of quality, price, and convenience—not simply for market share, as they do now. Patients, like consumers in any service market, would have access to all the information they need to make their own health care choices. They would choose and own their insurance plans. They would select not only their health care providers, but also the particular medical services they want. Since they would share more of the costs, they would have an incentive to make prudent choices and to demand higher quality. The net result, it is claimed, would be a better, less expensive health care system . . .

. . . The assumption of the CDHC system is that such a plan would moderate health care inflation by encouraging patients to become more prudent consumers of elective and non-catastrophic health services, because they would be spending money they otherwise could invest in their savings account. It is also assumed that in competing for business, the providers of medical care would try to make their services more attractive to patients by improving quality and convenience, as well as by moderating their prices . . .

. . . There are compelling reasons, I think, to predict that they will not. For a start,

high-deductible insurance is not likely to produce reductions in expenditures, except among low- and modest income families, who would feel financial pressure to cut their doctor visits and their use of other medical services. There is good experimental evidence that high deductibles have such selective effects, which expose the most vulnerable patients to greater health risks. Higher earning beneficiaries would not feel such pressure and would continue to use all medical services freely. Whatever reductions in total expenditures might occur would be achieved largely through reducing services to those with lower earnings. Adjusting the size of the deductible in approved plans to the income of the beneficiaries might ameliorate that injustice, but it would add to administrative costs and would be virtually impossible to do properly—given the difficulties in making fair assessments of financial need.

If people were allowed to select whatever insurance plan they wanted, the inequity would probably increase in another way. Healthy, young families would choose the least expensive plans with the highest allowable deductible, and those with health problems would be forced to choose plans with the lowest allowable deductibles but higher premiums. The premiums or the required co-payments of the latter plans would spiral upward because of the greater use of services by sicker beneficiaries, so it would become even harder for those with the greatest need for insurance to afford coverage. In this way, one of the most important values of insurance—the sharing of risks over a broad population base—would be lost. Adjusting the contribution of employer or government to the health status of the beneficiaries has been suggested as a means of avoiding this problem, but the relatively primitive state of the art of risk adjustment and the difficulty in applying it to families make this solution unlikely. It also would add greatly to administrative costs . . .

. . . The CDHC plans that are now being advocated by believers in the magic of markets shift to patients not only a large part of the responsibility for being their own doctors, but also the burden of paying more of the cost—and that burden would be heaviest on the poorest and sickest of our citizens. This is surely a denial of the ethical principle underlying universal coverage and the sharing of costs. But the major payers, government and employers, are no longer willing or able to shoulder health care's rising costs, and so they are promoting CDHC. They may justify their views by arguing that it makes sense to shift more of the costs to patients because patients are in the best position to put the brakes on health cost inflation. This might be a reasonable argument if medical care were like other services in other markets—but it is not.

For all these reasons, then, "consumer-driven" plans are unrealistic and unfair, and they are not likely to be politically viable in the long run. There is some understandable support for the idea that individuals should be more responsible for the cost of elective or optional medical services, but most people believe that the availability of needed services should not depend on ability to pay. We are a wealthy society, and decency requires that we make equitable arrangements to ensure at least minimally adequate health care for all—a goal that is beyond the scope of market forces. . . .

. . . When that time comes, we should be prepared to replace a failed market-based system with a better one that can deliver the health care we need. What kind of system might that be? The question cannot be confidently answered in any detail before the market-based system has run its course, and

before there has been some preliminary experience with non-market-based models—perhaps at first in a few states. Still, a few general principles and objectives can be proposed now, based on what we have learned from our experience during the past four decades and on what we know about the essential nature of medical care.

First, since we cannot rely on the free play of markets to control costs or guarantee universal coverage, we should establish a tax-supported national budget for the delivery of a defined and comprehensive set of essential services to all citizens at a price we can afford. Employers should pay an appropriate part of the tax for their employees. These services should include both acute and long-term care, and they should be exclusively reimbursed through a single-payer national insurance plan, with other elective and non-essential services paid out of pocket or through privately purchased insurance. No services covered by the national plan should also be covered by private insurance plans, but the latter could insure services, such as "aesthetic" plastic surgery and private hospital rooms, that would not be covered by the national plan. There should be no billing by providers and no piecework payment in the single-payer plan, thus eliminating the huge business costs and the colossal hassle of the present billing and payment systems in multiple public and private insurance plans.

Second, not-for-profit, prepaid multi-specialty groups of physicians should provide all necessary medical care on the approved list of insured services. The physicians in the groups should be paid salaries from a pool of money that would be a defined percentage of the total patient income received by the group from the central payer. The groups should be privately managed but publicly accountable for the quality of their services, and they should be expected to use standardized information technology that could be integrated into a national data system. They should be indemnified against losses due to adverse selection or other costs beyond their control, assisted with start-up and technology expenses, and exempted from anti-trust restrictions. They should compete for patients on the basis of the quality of their services. All groups should be open to all citizens, although the number of members for a given-sized group should be regulated to ensure an appropriate ratio of doctors to patients.

Third, patients should be free to choose their own physician group and to switch membership at specified intervals, but everyone must be included in the national plan and belong to a group—including politicians. (Lawmakers are unlikely to neglect the needs of a health care system that provides care for themselves and their families.)

Physicians should be free to join any group that wanted them and to change their affiliation, but they should not provide services outside the national system that are covered by the latter.

Fourth, all health care facilities (whether privately or publicly owned) that provide services covered by the central insurance plan should be not-for-profit, and should compete on the basis of national quality standards for patients referred by the physicians in the medical practice groups. Facilities should be paid, and monitored for their performance, by the central plan. They should have no financial alliances with the physicians or the management of the medical groups. Teaching facilities should be separately funded by the national plan and be paid for their extra costs, including education. Budgets in all facilities should include salaries for full- and part-time clinicians providing essential services.

Fifth, the health care system should be overseen by a National Health Care Agency,

which should be a public-private hybrid resembling the Federal Reserve System. It should be independently responsible for managing its budget and establishing administrative policy, but should report to a congressional oversight committee and to the public. It is essential that the plan be sufficiently independent of congressional and administration management to be protected from political manipulation and annual budgetary struggles. . . .

. . . Our present medical care system lacks the structure and incentives to improve the quality of care. A not-for-profit system of salaried physicians, who work together in groups that have no financial incentive to do more or less than is medically appropriate, who compete with other medical groups only on the basis of quality and their attractiveness to patients, and whose results are publicly accountable, could be expected to deliver the kind of health care we need. The quality of care would also be improved by a system of competing not-for-profit facilities that are held to national standards.

As for access and equity, the plan outlined here would guarantee universal coverage for all essential services and would allow employers and individuals to share in the costs through an earmarked and graduated tax. The government would be expected to pay the costs of today's uninsured, as well as the contributions it now makes to government insurance programs. Given the large savings expected in this system, the change in net costs to government should be minimal. . . .

. . . A real solution to our crisis will not be found until the public, the medical profession, and the government reject the prevailing delusion that health care is best left to market forces. Kenneth Arrow had it right in 1963 when he said that we need to depend on "non-market" mechanisms to make our health care system work properly. Once it is acknowledged that the market is inherently unable to deliver the kind of health care system we need, we can begin to develop the "nonmarket" arrangements for the system we want. This time the medical profession and the public it is supposed to serve will have to be involved in the effort. It will be difficult, but it will not be impossible.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues attention an anti-secession bill that is currently under consideration in The People's Republic of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee. Although the language of the draft of this law has not been made public, many Taiwanese are troubled. They are concerned that if such legislation is passed it may lead to future military action against them if Taipei does not succumb to Beijing's One China principle. This proposal should concern the United States because of our commitment to help preserve a democratic Taiwan.

However, Beijing should be commended for its recent conciliatory gestures that appear aimed at lowering tensions across the Taiwan Strait. These include the first non-stop, cross-strait charter flights between the mainland and Taiwan for the February Lunar New Year holiday and the dispatch of two senior Chinese officials to the funeral of Koo Chen-fu who headed Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation. Yet

the impending law could prove counterproductive to these actions in several ways.

The proposed law could result in China taking military action against Taiwan if it appears to Beijing that Taiwan is moving toward independence. Most Taiwanese would like to peacefully co-exist with the mainland, if creative ways to do so can be negotiated between Beijing and Taipei.

The status of hundreds of thousands of Taiwanese living in China could also become uncertain as a result of this legislation. Some have questioned whether this means that statements interpreted as supporting Taiwan could be the legal basis for charges of treason or other criminal actions—a scenario causing deep concern in the Taiwanese business community on the mainland.

Furthermore, the law has received a negative reaction from the citizens of Taiwan and could lead to increasing support for the very independence moves it seeks to deter. This legislation will not encourage negotiations that are needed to attain a peaceful resolution to tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

President Bush clearly stated that the basic tenets of his foreign policy will be the expansion of democracy and freedom across the globe. It is my hope that the Bush Administration will encourage China not to pass the proposed antiseccession law.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR. CLIFF McKARNS ON HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. NEY Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Cliff McKarns was born on February 19, 1920, and is celebrating his 85th birthday; and

Whereas, Cliff McKarns, a World War II Veteran who is to be commended for his great service to our nation; and

Whereas, Cliff McKarns is a retired farmer and employee of Summitville Tile in Summitville, Ohio; and

Whereas, Cliff McKarns is loved and appreciated by all his family members.

Therefore, I join with the family of Mr. Cliff McKarns and the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in wishing Mr. Cliff McKarns a very happy 85th birthday.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER PAUL ELIZONDO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Bexar County Commissioner Paul Elizondo for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Paul Elizondo began public life as a music teacher in the Edgewood and San Antonio public school districts. He was a member of a wide variety of professional organizations, including the National Education Association,

the Texas Classroom Teachers Association, and the Music Educators National Conference.

He was first elected to the State House of Representatives in 1978, and served for four years, working on the Public Education, State Affairs, and Constitutional Amendments committees. In 1983, he made the transition to county service. He was elected Commissioner for Precinct 2, and has been serving San Antonio as a Bexar County Commissioner for over 20 years.

He has been involved in a wide variety of community organizations, including the Center for Health Care Services, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Private Industry Council, and the National Council of Community Mental Health centers. An energetic public servant, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and a beloved teacher he is an inspiration to the community.

Mr. Speaker, Bexar County Commissioner Paul Elizondo is a credit to his community and a tremendous resource to his county.

H. RES. 16, NATIONAL MANUFACTURING WEEK

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak favorably on House Resolution 16, supporting the goals of National Manufacturing Week, congratulating manufacturers and their employees for their contributions to growth and innovation, and recognizing the challenges facing the manufacturing sector.

The American manufacturing industry has been a key to our economic success in the past, and will continue to be a key to our economic success in the future. As a member of the Congressional Manufacturing Task Force, I have focused on how the federal government can most effectively help small and medium sized manufacturers compete and grow in western Wisconsin and throughout the country. Through good investments and smart practices, the federal government can better assist American companies and help our nation keep its economic edge.

We need to invest in proven programs that help small and medium sized businesses, such as the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). The MEP provides our manufacturers with the tools to compete in a competitive marketplace. It increases our country's manufacturing productivity and competitiveness, resulting in expanded economic activity and an enhanced tax base. It aids in the creation and retention of well-paying manufacturing jobs for American workers, and it is vital to our nation's small manufacturers. That is why I have supported level funding of \$109 million for the MEP in FY 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support House Resolution 16, supporting the goals of National Manufacturing Week, and I congratulate American manufacturers for their contributions to our economic success.

HOW WE CAN HELP AFRICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the plight of Sub-Saharan Africa is one that has concerned our country for some time now. Africa faces many challenges that potentially threaten long-term stability, including the world's most serious HIV/AIDS pandemic, widespread rural and urban poverty, and civil and ethnic conflict. In constant dollar terms, incomes in Africa are only about \$100 higher than in 1960.

With so many problems facing the continent, many Americans may wonder what they themselves can do to help. This question was addressed in a recent news release from Julius E. Coles, President of Africare. Africare is the oldest and largest African-American organization dedicated to African development. While his organization oversees the distribution of millions of dollars to projects across Africa, Mr. Coles has offered in this release some simple steps that average Americans can take in the effort to help Africa. In short, he advocates that Americans get to know Africa—its history, people, food, languages, music, and current events.

In so doing they will be gaining the knowledge and understanding necessary to advocate effectively for Africa to their elected officials. With large African communities in most cities, Americans have ample opportunity to get to know Africa without even leaving home. Americans should also begin to invest in companies and ventures that engage in sustainable and mutually beneficial investment in Africa, or take the extra step to buy products made in Africa.

In addition, Americans should remember to donate to reputable charity and nonprofit organizations that operate in Africa. As governmental capacity in most African nations is lacking, the non-profit sector serves an important role in providing assistance to those in need. Again I thank Mr. Coles for his release, it clearly reminds us that we all can help Africa, we need only take the first simple step.

[From Africare, Feb. 25, 2005]

10 WAYS YOU CAN HELP AFRICA

(By Julius E. Coles)

WASHINGTON, DC.—I have worked with Africa for nearly 40 years; and as a result, I am often approached by people here in the United States who want to help the people of Africa but who also feel overwhelmed. It may be the continent's vast size that intimidates, or the depth of some of its challenges, or the media reports that highlight Africa's problems but minimize the progress that has been made. "Can I really make a difference?" people ask. "Yes," I always tell them, "you can."

As I write these words, Black History Month is nearing its end. We have celebrated the achievements of our African-American community and honored our hereditary roots in Africa. Now, I propose that we Americans continue the celebration by committing ourselves to help Africa year-round. What follows are 10 ways in which you—an individual, a family, a member of a social or civic group, a small business, a church, a school—can do just that.

Read. The more you know about Africa, the better you can motivate others to help. Read a survey of African history since the

dawn of humankind more than 200,000 years ago. Read a book about black African leaders, from the Kushite pharaohs of ancient Egypt to the giants of 20th century independence (Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Leopold Senghor of Senegal, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and more). Follow African current events on Web sites like AllAfrica (allafrica.com), BBC News (newsbbc.co.uk/2/hi/afica) and CNN (www.cnn.com/WORLD/africa/archive).

Teach, learn. If you're a teacher, plan a lesson or special project about Africa. If you're a parent, look for a fun "African experience" your family can share. If you're a student, do a research paper on Africa or start an Africa Club with your friends. If your school has African students, have a special assembly and ask them to speak.

Write. Voice your views and perspectives on Africa-related issues. Write a letter to your senator, member of congress, or state or local government official. Share your concerns with companies engaged in Africa. Author a guest editorial for your community or school newspaper, or a posting to your favorite Internet message board.

Speak. If you've traveled or worked in Africa, give a talk to a group you belong to. If you've never been to Africa, arrange for an African immigrant who lives in your community to speak.

Travel. If you have the means, visit Africa. Consider a group trip: traveling in groups can add to the fun as well as reduce the costs (group discounts are often substantial); as much as possible, do business with African vendors for transport, lodging and tours. While in Africa, absorb the beautiful scenery and cultural sites—but also take the time to meet local people, learn about their lives and understand the development challenges that they face. Finally, stay connected, and committed, once you return home. For example, if you visited a drought-prone country, involve your friends in raising funds for water wells.

See, hear, eat . . . enjoy! African culture is accessible in most American cities. You can see an African film (Afric-sur-Seine, The Gods Must Be Crazy) or a film about Africa (Hotel Rwanda, The Lost Boys of the Sudan, Cry Freedom). Attend a performance of African music or dance. Visit an African art museum. Eat at an African restaurant. Enjoy and appreciate the incredible variety of cultures that are "African" and share those enthusiasms with others.

Meet. Almost every city and many smaller communities in the United States are home to first-generation Africans. Find opportunities to meet your African neighbors, to learn from them and to invite their participation in local organizations. Reach out especially to new arrivals, who might welcome your help finding housing and jobs and generally adjusting to American life.

Invest. You may be in a position to invest in an African business or to join a group of investors with African interests (there are growing numbers of African investment funds you might want to explore). On the other hand, even the simple act of buying African art in an American store helps to support the artists and their families in Africa. Depending on where you work, you might also engage your employer in African investment or trade.

Donate. Make a charitable donation to one of the many reputable organizations assisting Africa. Your gift may be large or small. Usually you can give online. You can support special projects or offer to help "where needed most" in Africa. You can give individually; you can organize a fund raiser; you can give in your workplace.

Share. Send this article to 10 people, and ask each to send it on to 10 more—and en-

courage all recipients to help Africa this year in one of the nine other ways presented above.

**HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA
ON TIBETAN UPRISING DAY****HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I request the attached copy of the annual statement of His Holiness the Dalai Lama marking March 10, 2005 as the 46th anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising of 1959 be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On March 10, 1959, the people of the Tibetan capital of Lhasa surrounded the home of the Dalai Lama in a brave effort to protect him from the Peoples' Liberation Army's guns that were trained on his compound from across the river. These Tibetans refused to leave even after the Chinese artillery fire began falling. On March 17, 1959, the Dalai Lama fled into exile in a futile effort to protect them; thousands died during the Chinese assault on the city, and thousands more died as the PLA moved to suppress a nationwide uprising against their increasingly repressive occupation of Tibet.

Despite China's history of aggression and brutality, the Dalai Lama has worked for more than forty years to promote Tibetan self-determination through non-violent means. I am proud that the U.S. Congress is a beacon of support for the Tibetan struggle. As the lead sponsor of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, I was pleased to see the Congress come together recently in support of a strong U.S. policy on Tibet.

The Dalai Lama's release of his annual March 10 statement today highlights key points regarding for the Tibetan people and the world. Four decades of Chinese-led economic and social changes in Tibet have not primarily benefitted the Tibetan people. There continues to be instability in Tibet not because of "splittist activities", but because of a profound lack of human rights, religious freedom and self-rule on the ground in Tibet. China itself has made tremendous economic progress during the past twenty or thirty years, but China's image in the world remains tarnished by her human rights records, undemocratic actions, the lack of the rule of law and the unequal implementation of autonomy rights regarding minorities. The renewed contact between the Tibetan and Chinese leadership, including the third round of meetings last September, are resulting in gradually improving interactions. It is my hope the future will continue to see improvements in the dialog.

**THE STATEMENT OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI
LAMA ON THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TIBETAN NATIONAL UPRISING DAY**

On the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the Tibetan People's Uprising, I convey my warm greetings to my fellow Tibetans in Tibet and in exile and to our friends around the world.

During these more than four decades great changes have taken place in Tibet. There has been a great deal of economic progress along with development in infrastructure. The Golmud-Lhasa railway link that is being built is a case in point. However, during the

same period much has been written by independent journalists and travelers to Tibet about the real situation in Tibet and not what they have been shown. Most of them portray a very different picture than what the Chinese government claims, clearly criticizing China about the lack of human rights, religious freedom and self-rule in Tibet. What has actually happened and is still happening is that since the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region the real authority has been solely held by Chinese leaders. As for the Tibetan people, they have been facing suspicions and growing restrictions. The lack of true ethnic equality and harmony based on trust, and the absence of genuine stability in Tibet clearly shows that things are not well in Tibet and that basically there is a problem.

Prominent and respected Tibetan leaders in Tibet have spoken out on this from time to time and even suffered because of their courageous acts. In the early 1960s, the late Panchen Lama outlined the sufferings and aspirations of the Tibetan people in his petition to the Chinese leaders. Baba Phuntsok Wangyal, one of the foremost Tibetan communist leaders, in his recent biography published in English dwells at length on the need to meet the interests of the Tibetan people. In fact, it is clear that most senior Tibetan officials in Tibet deep in their hearts are extremely dissatisfied.

This year the Chinese government will mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region. There will be much fanfare and many commemorative events to celebrate the occasion but these will be meaningless when they do not reflect the ground realities. For example, the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution were celebrated with great pomp as real achievements at the time they took place.

China has made tremendous economic progress during the past more than two decades. China today is not what it was twenty or thirty years ago. Much has changed in China. As a result she has become a major player in the world and China rightly deserves this position. It is a big nation with a huge population and a rich and ancient civilization. However, China's image is tarnished by her human rights records, undemocratic actions, the lack of the rule of law and the unequal implementation of autonomy rights regarding minorities, including the Tibetans. All these are a cause for more suspicion and distrust from the outside world. Internally, they are an obstacle to unity and stability that are of utmost importance to the leaders of the People's Republic of China. In my view, it is important that as China becomes a powerful and respectable nation she should be able to adopt a reasonable policy with confidence.

The world in general, of which China is a part, is changing for the better. In recent times there is definitely a greater awareness and appreciation for peace, non-violence, democracy, justice and environmental protection. The recent unprecedented response from governments and individuals across the world to the tsunami disaster victims reaffirms that the world is truly interdependent and the importance of universal responsibility.

My involvement in the affairs of Tibet is not for the purpose of claiming certain personal rights or political position for myself nor attempting to stake claims for the Tibetan administration in exile. In 1992 in a formal announcement I stated clearly that when we return to Tibet with a certain degree of freedom I will not hold any office in the Tibetan government or any other political position and that the present Tibetan administration in exile will be dissolved.

Moreover, the Tibetans working in Tibet should carry on the main responsibility of administering Tibet.

I once again want to reassure the Chinese authorities that as long as I am responsible for the affairs of Tibet we remain fully committed to the Middle Way Approach of not seeking independence for Tibet and are willing to remain within the People's Republic of China. I am convinced that in the long run such an approach is of benefit to the Tibetan people for their material progress. It is encouraging that there is support from various parts of the world for this approach as being reasonable, realistic and of mutual benefit to the Chinese and Tibetans. I am particularly encouraged by the recognition and support that has come from certain quarters of the intellectual circle from within China.

I am happy with our renewed contacts with the Chinese leadership and that the third round of meetings last September shows that gradually our interactions are improving. Now that our elected political leadership is shouldering more responsibility in Tibetan affairs, I have advised them to look into the issues raised by the Chinese side during our third round of talks and to take steps to address or clarify them as needed. We remain hopeful that eventually we will be able to develop the necessary trust and resolve this long-standing issue to our mutual benefit.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express the Tibetan people's gratitude and appreciation to the people and Government of India for their steadfast sympathy and support. I very much feel a part of this nation not only because of the centuries-old religious and cultural ties that India and Tibet enjoyed but also because I and most of the Tibetans in exile lived in India for the past 45 years.

I offer my prayers to the brave men and women of Tibet who gave their lives for the cause of Tibetan freedom.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CATHY STROUD

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise during this month dedicated to the celebration of Black History to pay tribute to Ms. Cathy Stroud, an outstanding woman who has dedicated her life to empowering others.

Cathy was born in New Bern, North Carolina. She attended J.T. Barber High School and received her bachelors degree from Livingston College. For the past 18 years she has served as the Tenant Association president for her building. In this role she works as a liaison between tenants and management helping to resolve disputes that may arise between the two.

Committed to uplifting the people of her community, Cathy serves as Executive Director of River Watch Inc., a neighborhood network center, which is committed to developing and implementing educational and training programs to empower residents of the Bronx. She also directs a youth activity center that provides homework assistance, fun activities and trips for community youth.

A widowed mother of three, grandmother of seven and adopted grandmother of four, Cathy still finds the time and energy to serve as the New York State Committeewoman of the 77 AD and be an active church official at Refuge Temple Annex.

Mr. Speaker, during this month of February in which we celebrate Black History it is important that we give extra praise and recognition to African American women, who overcame not only racial discrimination but gender discrimination as well. Strong women such as Mary McCloud Bethune, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, who was also known as Moses on the account that she led so many of her people to freedom. I believe that we have an obligation to continue not only to recognize these strong influential women for the many contributions they have made to American society but also to recognize the women of today who overcome oppression in order to lead the people of their community from the bondage of despair. In that spirit, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Cathy Stroud.

HONORING JAMES O. PEOPLES, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of Foss Avenue Baptist Church, in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, to honor James O. Peoples, Jr., for 48 years of dedicated service as the Church's Director of Music. On Sunday, March 13, 2005, the congregation of Foss Avenue will recognize Mr. Peoples' accomplishments during a celebration, which will include a musical program and reception, to be held at the church.

James Peoples, Jr. has been blessed with a natural talent and passion for music. His obvious abilities were refined as he studied Management and Music at C.S. Mott Community College, and later Music Theory at Cook Conservatory of Music. James's education did not end there, as he spent 11 years under the direction of various professionals in a wide array of styles including opera, classical, and lyrical melodies and harmony.

Since 1956, Mr. Peoples has performed the Lord's work as Director of Music for Foss Avenue Baptist Church. As Director, he has managed over 200 voices and staff, and recorded three albums. In addition, from 1987 to 1992, he served simultaneously as Director of Music for the Wolverine State Baptist Convention and Musical Director of the National Baptist Convention. Mr. Peoples has also acted as Director of the Flint Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Peoples is best noted for his work with anthems, hymns and spiritual arrangements. He has conducted music workshops throughout the state, and in March 2003, he was recognized as Music Director of the Year by the Wolverine Baptist Convention Women's Auxiliary. Aside from being an outstanding leader and role model, Mr. Peoples is also a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, Psalms 66:1-2 says: "Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honor of his name: make his praise glorious." For 48 years, the members of Foss Avenue Baptist Church have indeed made a joyful noise, and it is because of people like James Peoples, Jr. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in honoring Mr. Peoples' contributions to spreading the Lord's word.

SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the parish of Smyrna Baptist Church on their 200 years of history. Located in Chenango County, New York, the Smyrna Baptist Church has become not only a religious institution, but also a historical institution in Central New York.

Founded on the 22nd day of December 1804, by Joseph Tobey, Joel Ellis, Samuel Barber, and others, the Church began as a group dedicated to prayer, meeting in the personal residences of Church members. As the parish expanded, their need for a larger meeting place led them to assemble in the town schoolhouse. And finally to serve its ever-growing congregation, the Church purchased a piece of property in 1837 where it has remained for the past 167 years.

I congratulate the Smyrna Baptist Church on their 200th Anniversary and their continued role in the community. I also congratulate Pastor Dale Sanders, under whose leadership and spiritual guidance, the Church celebrates this momentous occasion.

SECURITY AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION HAS DUTY TO DELAY MANDATORY EXPENSING OF STOCK OPTIONS

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, today we are facing a problem that if gone unchecked will have a detrimental effect on business's ability to create jobs and opportunity. In June, small and large companies will be subject to mandatory expensing of their stock options as required by the Financial Accounting Standards Board. If businesses are forced to adhere to this untested and risky expensing method, it could hamper our growing economy at a time when it is crucial to sustain growth and create jobs, not stop it.

It is important that businesses continue to be able to use this valuable tool to attract employees to the market. Expensing of stock options will cause a blow to small business's investment and innovation. It will harm a market that uses stock options as a tool to recruit high quality employees to small firms. These innovators would be lost to larger, more established companies.

Stock options serve as a tool to drive innovation and creativity by linking company success to employee success. The Security and Exchange Commission has the duty to delay this plan until the valuation methods can be improved; I urge them to do so.

IN MEMORY OF DEACON MOSES
SUMMERVILLE**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a devoted and well-respected Arkansan, Deacon Moses Summerville.

A native of Portland, Arkansas and the youngest of 12 children, Deacon Summerville married the late Lenora Vaughn on December 16, 1940. After accepting a job with the Crossett Lumber Company, Deacon Summerville and his young family moved to Crossett. Deacon Summerville quickly became involved with the First Baptist Church; later changing his membership to the young New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as Deacon and Trustee.

As a young child, Deacon Summerville had an avid interest in vocal music. He became involved with the music ministry at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and started singing bass in the Senior Choir, later becoming director of the choir. Deacon Summerville founded the Keystone Gospel Singers, and the group sung on stage with many famous quartet groups including the Staple Sisters. Deacon Summerville also taught music through the Southeast Arkansas District Association using the shape-note music notation for vocal music, and was honored by the American Quartet Convention in Alabama for his music ability.

In addition to music, Deacon Summerville had a profound interest in the welfare of Ashley County. A hunter and gardener at a time when most people raised vegetables out of necessity, Deacon Summerville devoted both time and effort to supplement the meals of many local residents. He raised fresh vegetables in his garden, and for years brought home many squirrels, rabbits and coons to Sunday Fried Chicken Dinners.

I extend my deepest and sincere sympathies to Deacon Summerville's five children, Ruby, Annie Pearl, Willie T., Sarah, and Bertha Sue, his friends, and colleagues. I will continue to keep Deacon Summerville and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

COMMENDING SALLY SMITH FOR EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SERVICE AS CHAIR OF THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary public service of Sally Smith, a resident of the Chautauqua County town of Pomfret, upon the occasion of her retirement as Chair of the Chautauqua County Democratic Committee.

Sally's dedication to public service has been manifest, and her commitment to the residents

of her town and her county has been outstanding.

Sally served for many years as an employee at Fredonia State College. During that time, Sally served as Director of the Region 6 Political Action Committee for the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA). At the same time, Sally served as Chair of her hometown Democratic Party committee.

In January 2003, after her election as First Vice Chair of the Chautauqua County Democratic Committee, Sally was elevated to Chair after the resignation of the incumbent, being elected to that position in full in June of that year. She was re-elected Chair in September 2004.

Sally's tenure as Chair has by all objective analysis been a rousing success. Sally oversaw the re-election of the Chautauqua County Legislature's Democratic Majority in 2003, an election which also saw success for Democrats at every local level, from village trustees to county legislators. In 2004, Sally was part of a coalition of party leaders that helped elect a Democrat to Congress from Chautauqua County for the first time since 1984, which was the last election for Congress won by former Representative Stan Lundine of Jamestown.

Sally has never forgotten her roots as the leader of a rural county. In April 2004, Sally and the Chautauqua County Democrats hosted the New York State Democratic Rural Conference in Jamestown, putting the statewide spotlight on Jamestown and Chautauqua County. Later that year, when Senator JOHN EDWARDS of North Carolina visited the world-renowned Chautauqua Institution to prepare for his the Vice Presidential debate, Sally and other Democrats—many of whom had never participated locally before—organized a Democratic march and rally at Fredonia State College in support of the Democratic ticket.

On a strictly personal level, it has been nothing short of a delight to work with Sally. A consummate professional a someone with a steadfast affection and connection to both her community as well as the Democratic Party, my time in working with Sally Smith has always been characterized by her support for working men and women in Western New York, about the dignity and her refusal to allow her community to be taken for granted.

Her work on behalf of her community has been without fanfare, but has been tremendously effective.

Now in her retired years, Sally and her husband Dan want to enjoy more personal time with friends and family, prompting her to resign her post as Chair, turning over the reins to another great Democrat, Chautauqua County Legislature Chairman Keith Ahlstrom. As Sally leaves active service as County Chair—but remains as Pomfret Town Chair—we must pause to consider the contributions she has made, not just to the Democratic Party in general, but to the people of her community, her county and to western New York as well. Chautauqua County is a better place because of Sally Smith's commitment to public service, and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor her today.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN ANTONIO MAYOR ED GARZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza.

A native of San Antonio, Garza is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, and still lives in the same historic Woodlawn Lake neighborhood where he grew up. He attended the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture. He has retained his connection with Texas' colleges, serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio and at St. Mary's University.

Mr. Garza has had a tremendously productive career in public service. He served two terms as District 7 Representative on the San Antonio City Council, where he focused on economic, urban, and human development. He was elected Mayor of San Antonio, and re-elected in 2003.

Following the attacks of September 11, Mayor Garza collaborated with other local elected officials to create one of the nation's first comprehensive city-county antiterrorism plans, leading CNN to recognize San Antonio as the second most prepared city in the country, after New York. He has worked to ensure that San Antonio remains a defense leader, and to constantly reform city government to make it more efficient and responsive.

Mayor Garza has volunteered his time to advocate for health and fitness in San Antonio. He has helped raise awareness for organizations such as the American Diabetes Association and the Cystic Fibrosis foundation, and has raised money for the Cancer Therapy and Research Center and the San Antonio Children's Shelter.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Garza is an exemplary public servant. His work has made San Antonio safer, healthier, more efficient and more prosperous. I am proud to have the chance to thank him here today for all he has done for his fellow Texans.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING COMMANDER GRADY JAY WILLIAMS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Commander Williams is a life member of the Sons of AMVETS Squadron 95; and

Whereas, Commander Williams has held all offices at the local level and was instrumental in projects such as Adopt a Highway, Christmas Baskets for the needy, and the 'Thank a Vet' program; and

Whereas, Commander Williams also served as the Sons of AMVETS 12th District as 1st Vice Membership and Commander, during which time he developed a positive rapport

with veterans' facilities in Ohio and worked with the program 'Robes for Vets,' which places a warm bathrobe for each veteran in each of the Veterans Affairs facilities in Ohio; and

Whereas, Commander Williams is a loving husband to his wife, Cindy, and father to his children, Britney, Sarah, and Cassie.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in commending Commander Grady Jay Williams for his unwavering service to the Sons of AMVETS.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF WHISPERING OAKS COUNCIL WOMEN OF DISTINCTION: KAY LLEWELLYN, REBECCA JOWORSKI CORTEZ, THERESE SCHEY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three outstanding women in my district whose contributions to their communities have been recognized by an outstanding organization in my district.

Kay Llewellyn, Rebecca Joworski Cortez and Therese Schey were named Women of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Whispering Oaks Council. This prestigious award, bestowed annually for the past 12 years, recognizes three community, business and educational leaders who are role models for young women.

Ms. Llewellyn has taught sixth grade at Pleasantdale Middle School in Burr Ridge for 23 years, specializing in science instruction. She has also counseled young women from less advantaged backgrounds to help them establish educational and career goals. Her advice to young women is simple, yet timeless: "Being true to yourself and your beliefs and morals is never easy. But in the end that's what makes one a stronger person."

Ms. Cortez is a graphic designer with the world renowned Field Museum and has worked with several Chicago museums and the Brookfield Zoo in my District. She has volunteered extensively at Forest Road School in La Grange Park, especially with sixth grade art classes in developing an annual Art Legacy Project. She believes that "Young women today—and young men, for that matter—need to value themselves and be aware of their self-worth. They need to respect themselves and have the courage to walk away from wrong choices."

Ms. Schey represents the highest level of community service. She has lent her time and talents to several organizations including: the American Legion Robert E. Coulter Post Ladies Auxiliary; the Girl Scouts; the Countryside Women's Club; the Parent and Community Network; and she coordinated a drive to supply American troops in Iraq with a few comfort items, like sun block. Ms. Schey also finds time to serve as a part-time director of the St. Cletus School After Care Program. She tells young women that "You need to have faith, confidence and trust in yourself. Keep yourself informed by reading, use of the Internet and staying aware of what is going on around you."

Mr. Speaker, I salute these three Women of Distinction, and give them my best wishes for continued success as role models for our young people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on March 8 and 9, 2005. I was absent to attend the funeral of a relative back in South Dakota. I submit this statement today to establish for the record how I would have voted had I been present for these votes.

On March 8, 2005, the House of Representatives held three votes.

The first vote held was on approval of House Journal. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The second vote was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to the H.R. 133, a resolution providing funds for continuing expenses of standing and select committees of the House of Representatives during the month of April, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The final vote was on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the H.R. 122, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the study of languages and supporting the designation of a Year of Languages. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

On March 9, 2005, the House of Representatives held five votes.

The first vote held was roll No. 56 on an amendment by Mr. CONAWAY which would have exempted commercial motor vehicle operators working in field operations for the natural gas and oil industry from Federal hours-of-service rules. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The second vote held was roll No. 57, on an amendment by Mr. MORAN of Kansas to expand the types of agricultural commodities covered by the bill's exemption from the 2003 hours-of-service regulations to include livestock, food, feed, fiber and other farm products. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The third vote held was roll No. 58, on an amendment by Mr. OSBORNE of Nebraska that would grant the State of Nebraska the authority to harmonize its vehicle length limits with those of surrounding states during the grain harvest season. I strongly support this amendment and, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The fourth vote was roll No. 59, on an amendment by Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota that would have prevented States and localities from collecting tolls on exiting highways. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The fifth vote was roll No. 60, on an amendment by Mr. GRAVES that would have eliminated "vicarious liability" language under certain State laws for motor vehicle rental and leasing companies. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on that question.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA AND WASHINGTON, DC—ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate The Women's Center of Northern Virginia and Washington DC on the 20th anniversary of its Annual Leadership Conference.

The Women's Center, which celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, has been a resource for women in the workplace from its beginnings. The Center's first conference in 1985 was titled "On the Job Issues for Working Women." Held at the Vienna Community Center, the conference addressed four related areas of professional development: career strategy; development of management skills; networking and mentoring; and work relationships. It was at this event that the Center's hallmark program, The Information and Career Advisory Network (ICAN) was introduced. ICAN makes a customized network of professionals available to each of its participants. As the number of women in management positions grew, so, too, did the scope of the Annual Conference. Recent titles included "The Global Community of Women," "The Economic Equity of Women," "Caregiving in a Time of Change," and "Women Leaders, Changing the Dynamic." With this year's Conference, "Women in Leadership: Your Success Portfolio," the Women's Center continues its legacy of relevance and diversity by addressing the multiple definitions of and opportunities for leadership now available to women.

As the scope and size of the Annual Leadership Conference grew, so did the services of The Women's Center. Founded as a counseling and educational organization in 1974, the Center now offers a wide range of services and programs addressing the psychological, career, financial and legal issues of women and families. Counseling services, including group therapy and support groups, are now offered to women, couples, families and children. The Center's Information and Referral Service, which acts as a resource gateway for local human service issues, handles about 25,000 calls a year. The Center provides over 50,000 hours of direct client services annually, with approximately 75% at reduced or no fee.

In 2004 The Women's Center was named Non-profit Organization of the Year by the Vienna-Tyson's Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Also in 2004 The Women's Center opened an appropriations-funded, Washington, DC location. This location focuses on psychotherapy/counseling and career-related services. Bilingual, reduced and no-fee services are provided to clients through partnerships with 12 social and human service agencies located throughout the District. The Women's Center is currently serving as the central support organization of the DC Cash Campaign, an initiative providing free tax preparation and asset-building services to the residents of Wards 5, 7 and 8 in the District.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate The Women's Center on its comprehensive range

of services and unique contribution to the community. On the occasion of this 20th Annual Leadership Conference, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this outstanding and distinguished organization.

**BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
AURELIA JONES-TAYLOR**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, 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 Aurelia Jones-Taylor of Coahoma County. In 1989, Ms. Taylor met the challenge to journey to Clarksdale, Coahoma County, MS to assume the position of Executive Director for the Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc. after completion of her training for a community health center director at John-Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Upon her arrival, the center, founded in 1979, was operating on a \$190,000 grant. It had lost several Federal grants, the books were in bad shape, many of the staff had left and there were numbers of other administrative problems. The Clarksdale office had closed, only leaving the Tunica office functioning with limited services on limited funding. Ms. Taylor's first task was to build a strong, cooperative management team with good skills. Secondly, she had to develop proposals and write grants to fund the diverse programs needed to serve the community.

Today, the Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc., operates clinically in six counties from 10 sites (to include school-based clinics and a mobile medical unit) with over 150 employees on a \$10M budget. Among those facilities are two new structures—one erected in 1995 in Tunica, MS—approximately 5,900 square feet and the newest facility in Clarksdale, MS—approximately 12,000 square feet.

In addition, Aurelia has built a rural general public transportation program under the name Delta Area Rural Transit System in seven rural Northwest MS Delta counties generating over 207,000 trips per year. These services include employee work routes, TANF eligible work-activity services, elderly and disabled human needs services, healthcare non-emergency transit, mental health work activity, shopping and other social services needs.

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.

**BILLS TO ASSIST ABANDONED
HARDROCK MINES RECLAMATION**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing legislation designed to help promote the cleanup of abandoned and inactive hardrock mines that are a menace to the environment and public health throughout the country, but especially in the west. I introduced a bill aimed at that result in the 107th Congress, and in the 108th introduced a revised version that incorporated a number of changes developed in consultation with interested parties, including representatives of the Western Governors' Association, the hardrock mining industry, and environmental groups.

Today, I am introducing two separate but complementary bills that together include the provisions of the bill I introduced in the 108th Congress. This two-bill approach reflects the fact that while the Resources Committee has jurisdiction over the proposed funding legislation, the provisions dealing with liability fall within the responsibility of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. In other words, while the one-bill approach had the virtue of being comprehensive, the two-bill approach may facilitate Congressional action. But it remains the fact that both bills are equally necessary for a complete response to the problem.

The background: For over one hundred years, miners and prospectors have searched for and developed valuable "hardrock" minerals—gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, and others. Hardrock mining has played a key role in the history of Colorado and other states, and the resulting mineral wealth has been an important aspect of our economy and the development of essential products. However, as all westerners know, this history has too often been marked by a series of "boom" times followed by a "bust" when mines were no longer profitable. When these busts came, too often the miners would abandon their workings and move on, seeking riches over the next mountain. The resulting legacy of unsafe open mine shafts and acid mine drainages can be seen throughout the country and especially on the western public lands where mineral development was encouraged to help settle our region.

The problems: The problems caused by abandoned and inactive mines are very real and very large—including acidic water draining from old tunnels, heavy metals leaching into streams killing fish and tainting water supplies, open vertical mine shafts, dangerous highwalls, large open pits, waste rock piles that are unsightly and dangerous, and hazardous dilapidated structures.

And, unfortunately, many of our current environmental laws, designed to mitigate the impact from operating hardrock mines, are of limited effectiveness when applied to abandoned and inactive mines. As a result, many of these old mines go on polluting streams and rivers and potentially risking the health of people who live nearby or downstream.

Obstacles to cleanups: Right now there are two serious obstacles to progress. One is a serious lack of funds for cleaning up sites for which no private person or entity can be held liable. The other obstacle is legal. While the Clean Water Act is one of the most effective and important of our environmental laws, as applied it can mean that someone undertaking to clean up an abandoned or inactive mine will be exposed to the same liability that would apply to a party responsible for creating the site's problems in the first place. As a result, would-be "good Samaritans" understandably have been unwilling to volunteer their services to clean up abandoned and inactive mines.

Unless these fiscal and legal obstacles are overcome, often the only route to clean up abandoned mines will be to place them on the nation's Superfund list. Colorado has experience with that approach, so Coloradans know that while it can be effective it also has shortcomings. For one thing, just being placed on the Superfund list does not guarantee prompt cleanup. The site will have to get in line behind other listed sites and await the availability of financial resources. In addition, as many communities within or near Superfund sites know, listing an area on the Superfund list can create concerns about stigmatizing an area and potentially harming nearby property values.

We need to develop an alternative approach that will mean we are not left only with the options of doing nothing or creating additional Superfund sites—because while in some cases the Superfund approach may make the most sense, in many others there could be a more direct and effective way to remedy the problem.

Western Governors want action: The Governors of our western States have recognized the need for action to address this serious problem. The Western Governors' Association has several times adopted resolutions on the subject, such as the one of June, 2004 entitled "Cleaning Up Abandoned Mines" sponsored by Governor Bill Owens of Colorado along with Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico and Governor Kenny Guinn of Nevada.

Outline of the two bills: My two bills are based directly on those recommendations by the Western Governors. One addresses the lack of resources, while the other deals with the liability risks to those doing cleanups.

Bill to provide funds for cleanups: To help fund cleanup projects, one bill—entitled the "Abandoned Hardrock Mines Reclamation Funding Act"—would create a reclamation fund paid for by a modest fee applied to existing hardrock mining operations. The fund would be used by the Secretary of the Interior to assist projects to reclaim and restore lands and waters adversely affected by abandoned or inactive hardrock mines.

A similar method already exists to fund cleanup of abandoned coal mines. The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) provides for fees on coal production. Those fees are deposited into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and used to fund reclamation of sites that had been mined for coal and then abandoned before enactment of SMCRA. Similarly, my bill provides for fees on mineral production from producing hardrock mines.

In developing this bill, I have followed the lead of a 1999 resolution of the Western Gov-

ernors Association. That resolution notes that "While society has benefited broadly from the metal mining industry, problems created by some abandoned mine lands [are] a significant national concern. . . [and] industry can play an important role in the resolution of these problems through funding mechanisms" as well as in other ways.

In accord with that suggestion, the bill provides for fees on producing hardrock mines on federal lands or lands that were federal before issuance of a mining-law patent. Fees would be paid to the Secretary of the Interior and would be deposited in a new Abandoned Minerals Mine Reclamation Fund in the U.S. Treasury. Money in that fund would earn interest and would be available for reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines and associated sites.

In developing the bill, I decided that a one-fee-fits-all approach would not be fair. Instead, the bill provides for only modest fees and a sliding scale based on the ability of mines to pay.

Mines Exempt From Fees—To begin with, the bill would entirely exempt mines with gross proceeds of less than \$500,000 per year. That means many—probably most—small operations, such as Alaskan prospectors working individual placer claims, will not be liable for any fees.

Calculation of Fees—For more lucrative mines, fees would be based on the ratio of net proceeds to gross proceeds. If a mine's net proceeds were under 10% of gross proceeds, the fee would be 2 percent of the net proceeds. For mines with net proceeds of at least 10 percent but less than 18 percent of gross proceeds, the fee would be 2.5 percent of net proceeds. Mines where the net proceeds were at least 18 percent but less than 26 percent of gross proceeds would pay a fee of 3 percent of net proceeds. If the net proceeds were at least 26 percent but less than 34 percent of gross proceeds, the fee would be 3.5 percent of net proceeds. Where the net proceeds were at least 34 percent but less than 42 percent of gross proceeds the fee would be 4 percent of net proceeds. Mines with net proceeds equal to at least 42 percent but less than 50 percent of gross proceeds would pay a fee of 4.5 percent of net proceeds. And mines whose net proceeds were 50 percent or more of the gross proceeds would pay a fee of 5 percent of the net proceeds.

For the purpose of calculating these fees, the bill defines gross proceeds as the value of any extracted hardrock minerals that are sold, exchanged for good or services, exported ready for use or sale, or initially used in manufacture or service. Net proceeds are defined as how much of the gross proceeds remain after deducting the costs of mine development; mineral extraction; transporting minerals for smelting or similar processing; mineral processing; marketing and delivery to customers; maintenance and repairs of machinery and facilities; depreciation; insurance on mine facilities and equipment; insurance for employees; and royalties and taxes.

Based on Nevada Model—This way of calculating fees resembles one used by Nevada, which collects similar production-based fees from mines in that state. However, the fees in my bill are more moderate than those set by the Nevada law in one important respect—Nevada imposes its maximum fee rate on all mines with net proceeds of \$5 million or more,

regardless of the ratio between those net proceeds and the gross proceeds. My bill does not do that—instead, all of its fees are based on the ratio. In other words, under my bill a mine with earnings (i.e., net proceeds) of more than \$5 million per year still might pay the minimum fee if those earnings were less than 10 percent of the gross proceeds.

Offset Provision—Under current law, the United States does not receive royalties from production of hardrock minerals from federal lands. Over the years, there have been frequent proposals to establish royalties for hardrock production, in order to provide a greater return to the American people. I think there are strong arguments in favor of such an approach. Accordingly, this bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to reduce payments under this title so as to offset any royalties hardrock producers may pay in the future pursuant to changes in current law. This is intended to avoid the chance that implementation of a royalty would result in inequitable treatment of a producer covered by both the royalty and Title I of this bill.

Estimated Proceeds From Fees and Use of Fund—There are not sufficient data available to say exactly how much money the fees would bring into the new reclamation fund each year. However, the United States Geological Survey does have information about the number of operating copper and gold mines and the State of Nevada has data about the money raised by their similar fee system. By extrapolating from those data, it is possible to estimate that the fees provided for in my bill would generate about \$40 million annually for the Abandoned Minerals Mine Reclamation Fund.

Funds in the new reclamation fund would be available for appropriation for grants to States to complete inventories of abandoned hardrock mine sites, as mentioned above. A state with sites covered by the bill could receive a grant of up to \$2 million annually for this purpose. In addition, money from the fund would be available for cleanup work at eligible sites.

To be eligible, a site would have to be within a state subject to operation of the general mining laws that has completed its statewide inventory. Within those states, eligible sites would be those—(1) where former hardrock-mining activities had permanently ceased as of the date of the bill's enactment; (2) that are not on the National Priorities List under the Superfund law; (3) for which there are no identifiable owners or operators; and (4) that lack sufficient minerals to make further mining, re-mining, or reprocessing of minerals economically feasible. Sites designated for remedial action under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 or subject to planned or ongoing response or natural resource damage action under the Superfund law would not be eligible for cleanup funding from the new reclamation fund.

The Interior Department could use money from the fund to do cleanup work itself or could authorize use of the money for cleanup work by a holder of one of the new "good Samaritan" permits provided for in the other bill I am introducing today. Among eligible sites, priorities for funding would be based on the presence and severity of threats to public health, safety, general welfare, or property from the effects of past mining and the improvement that cleanup work could make in

restoration of degraded water and other resources. The first priority would be for sites where effects of past mining pose an extreme danger. After that, priorities would be sites where past mining has resulted in adverse effects (but not extreme danger) and then those where past mining has not led to equally serious consequences but where cleanup work would have a beneficial effect.

Further, the bill recognizes that in Colorado and other states there are often concentrations of abandoned mining sites that vary in the severity of their threat to the public health and the environment but that can and should be dealt with in a comprehensive manner. Therefore, it provides that sites of varying priority should be dealt with at the same time when feasible and appropriate.

Bill to provide protection for "Good Samaritans": To help encourage the efforts of "good Samaritans," the second bill—entitled the "Abandoned Hardrock Mines Reclamation Facilitation Act"—would create a new program under the Clean Water Act under which qualifying individuals and entities could obtain permits to conduct cleanups of abandoned or inactive hardrock mines.

These permits would give some liability protection to those volunteering to clean up these sites, while also requiring the permit holders to meet certain requirements.

The bill specifies who can secure these permits, what would be required by way of a cleanup plan, and the extent of liability exposure. Notably, unlike regular Clean Water Act point-source ("NPDES") permits, these new permits would not require meeting specific standards for specific pollutants and would not impose liabilities for monitoring or long-term maintenance and operations. These permits would terminate upon completion of cleanup, if a regular Clean Water Act permit is issued for the same site, or if a permit holder encounters unforeseen conditions beyond the holder's control. I think this would encourage efforts to fix problems like those at the Pennsylvania Mine.

Together, these two bills can help address problems that have frustrated federal and state agencies throughout the country. As population growth continues near these old mines, more and more risks to public health and safety are likely to occur. We simply must begin to address this issue—not only to improve the environment, but also to ensure that our water supplies are safe and usable.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SHAUN BELLE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise during this month devoted to the celebration of Black

History to pay tribute to Mr. Shaun Belle, an outstanding individual who continues to be a great asset to the people of my community.

Shaun is the president and CEO of the Mount Hope Housing Company, a community organization that develops and manages affordable housing as well as provides sustainable programs such as youth services, employment and job training for youth, real estate development, and family asset building.

Shaun has held several key financial and management positions in various corporations and previously served as Chief Financial Officer for Mount Hope and its affiliate corporations. He is actively involved in community revitalization and redevelopment in the Tri-State area. In addition to his leadership at Mt. Hope, Shaun serves as chairman of Comprehensive Community Revitalization Inc.; Board Treasurer for The Institute for Urban Family Health; Board Director of the Primary Care Development Corporation and he is a former board member of the Bronx Area Health Education Center.

Shaun holds degrees in Economics and Business Management from Howard University and is a graduate of the Columbia University Institute for Non-Profit Management. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School's Executive Education Program.

Throughout his career Shaun has helped to revitalize not only dilapidated areas of the Bronx but also the lives of people in those areas. As a direct result of his efforts more young people in the Bronx have the necessary skills to hold a job and more parents are able to provide better lives for their families.

Mr. Speaker, during the month of February it has been our tradition as a nation to honor the achievements and contributions of legendary African Americans such as Dr. King, Robert Smalls, and Dr. Carver; leaders who dedicated their lives to uplifting not only their people but their nation as well. I believe that it is important that we continue not only to recognize these great Americans but also to pay homage to those who continue in their footsteps today, dedicating their lives to uplifting this nation. In that spirit I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Shaun Belle for his outstanding service to the people of my community.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
SEAN WYATT DILLON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Matthew and Elizabeth Dillon are celebrating the arrival of their son, Sean Wyatt Dillon; and

Whereas, Sean Wyatt Dillon was born on January 6, 2005 and weighed eight pounds and two ounces; and

Whereas, Matthew and Elizabeth Dillon are proud to welcome their new son into their home; and

Whereas, Sean Wyatt Dillon will be a blessed addition to his family, bringing love, joy, and happiness for many years to come.

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and Congressional Staff in celebrating with Matthew and Elizabeth Dillon the birth of Sean Wyatt Dillon.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
BEXAR COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-
COLLECTOR SYLVIA S. ROMO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sylvia S. Romo for her extraordinary accomplishments in business and her exemplary record of public service.

Sylvia Romo was the first woman to be elected to the Office of the Tax Assessor-Collector of Bexar County. She is the first Latina elected to any countywide executive post. Her commitment, expertise, and innovation resulted in a better and more responsive tax system for her constituents.

Sylvia Romo distinguished herself during two terms in the Texas House of Representatives. She was the first freshman member of the body to pass a major constitutional amendment, and one of only three women ever to serve on the prestigious Ways and Means Committee. She authored more than 92 bills, and worked tirelessly to promote business growth and to protect the interests of women and disadvantaged businesses.

Ms. Romo is an inspiring business leader in her community. A graduate of the University of Texas at San Antonio, she worked for more than 20 years as a certified public accountant. She is now the President of her own accounting firm, Sylvia Romo and Associates, Ltd, which has been recognized for excellence by state and local business organizations.

She served as an advisor to the President's Advisory Committee on Women's Business Ownership, and was named one of the Top Women of the Decade in the United States by the Business and Professional Women's Foundation of New York City.

Mr. Speaker, a lifelong San Antonio resident and mother of four sons, Ms. Romo is truly one of the outstanding members of her community. She has been a great friend to the people of San Antonio, and a shining example of what one woman's intelligence, generosity, and dedication can accomplish.