

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
YVONNE TOUREILLES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, rise today to honor the contributions of State Representative Yvonne Toureilles of my Congressional District.

Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles was born and raised in Texas. Her father worked as a truck driver while studying to become a pharmacist. With a family on the way, he helped Yvonne's mother finish her degree and become a teacher. Yvonne's parents did more than just tell her that education brings opportunity, they showed her.

She aimed high and graduated with honors from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Later, she enrolled and received a Juris Doctor from the University of Texas School of Law.

After earning her law degree, Yvonne put her education to work for the State of Texas—first learning the process as a researcher at the Texas House of Representatives, then defending Department of Public Safety troopers for several years as an Assistant Attorney General. Yvonne also served as Legal Counsel for the Texas Workforce Commission.

Yvonne has served as Treasurer and Vice-President of the Coastal Bend Bar Association and is a member of the Coastal Bend Women Lawyers Association.

Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles then came home to South Texas to raise her family. After marrying her high school sweetheart, Marc Toureilles, at the Saint Theresa Catholic Church in Premont, they gave birth to their first child, Genevieve, in Alice, Texas. Yvonne now lives and works in Alice where her practice primarily consists of family law.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize State Representative Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT
KERRIGAN SR. AND ROBERT
KERRIGAN JR. ON RECEIVING
THE MICHAEL F. KING JR.
ARMED FORCES VETERAN'S
AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to a father and son who have received the Michael F. King Jr. Armed Forces Veteran's Award from the Quiet Man Society on behalf of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Association of Lackawanna County.

This award is presented annually to local individuals who, after serving in our country's military, returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania and by their actions and involvement in community events exhibited continued service to God, Family and Country.

The award was endowed by The Quiet Man Society in honor of Mr. King, an original member of the Society. Mr. King, a twice-wounded veteran of World War II, is most fondly remembered for the countless hours he selflessly worked on behalf of St. Paul's Church, Holy Rosary Church, Holy Family Residence, the Penn Ridge Club and the Irish American Men's Association.

The previous winners of the Award had each served, as Mr. King, in WWII. The Award Committee, in selecting this year's honorees, has attempted to answer a question pondered not only by our region's WWII veterans but also by our country's Founding Fathers: Would there be individuals in future generations who would answer the "call to arms" to preserve and protect the freedoms and liberties that the prior generations had fought so hard to gain. The Committee believes that the sacrifices, dedication and service that the Kerrigans have given for our country and community provide the answer to that question.

Robert Kerrigan Sr. is a native of Scranton and a 1966 graduate of Holy Rosary High School. He was drafted in August 1968 and served in the U.S. Infantry during the Vietnam War from January 1969 to January 1970. He and his lovely wife, Ellen Bauer Kerrigan, reside in the East Mountain section of Scranton. They have four children: Michael, Robert Jr., Kevin and Colleen.

Mr. Kerrigan Sr. is most widely recognized as a member of Local 81 IBEW, where he has served on the Executive Board for 12 years. In addition, he has been a member of IBEW's Joint Apprentice Training Council for several years. This council has overseen the electrical installation of lighting for numerous charitable organizations, including St. Joseph's Center, Friendship House and the Italian Festival.

Without hesitation, it can be said that the various events held by these groups were successful in large part because of the selfless commitment of Mr. Kerrigan Sr. and all the members of Local 81 IBEW. Because of their efforts, thousands of members of the community have enjoyed themselves at many festivals, and have had the opportunity to contribute to other very worthy causes.

Mr. Kerrigan Sr. is also a member of VFW Post 5209, Veterans of Vietnam Inc., Post 1.

The younger Mr. Kerrigan is a 1997 graduate of Scranton High School. He has attended Penn State University. He joined the U.S. Army Reserves in 2001 and was attached to the 828th Quartermaster Company. He has served with the 233rd Quartermaster Company in Operation Iraqi Freedom from April 2003 through November 2003. Most recently, he was awarded The Army Commendation Medal for Outstanding Duty and Selfless Commitment.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Robert Kerrigan Sr. and Robert Kerrigan

Jr., a father and son who have demonstrated their love of country and who are most deserving of this award.

IN HONOR OF FATHER TARAS
CHUBENKO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father Taras Chubenko on his 25th anniversary as pastor of St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. Father Chubenko celebrated the event at the Dinner and Dance on March 12, 2005, in Carteret, New Jersey.

During his time with the Cathedral, Father Chubenko has worked diligently to help improve St. Demetrius and its services. Under his strong leadership, St. Demetrius has successfully completed various restructuring and renovation projects. Additionally, Father Chubenko is a member of the Diocese's Metropolitan Council and has served as Dean of the New Jersey Deanery. In the past, he held the positions of Consistory Business Administrator and Treasurer of the Diocese for more than seven years.

Father Chubenko is active in many organizations and plays an integral role in the community. For 25 years, he has been the Chaplain to various groups in Carteret, including the Office of Emergency Management, the volunteer fire department, and the police department. At one time the president of the Carteret School Board of Education, he spent a total of nine years as a member of the board. In the past, Father Taras served as the chairperson of the mayor's Children's Relief Fund and 9/11 World Trade Center Scholarship Fund Committee. He has also lent his wisdom and time as the mentor of two mayors of Carteret.

Born in Germany, Father Chubenko and his family immigrated to the United States when he was a child. He studied at St. Sophia's Seminary and became an ordained priest in 1980. That same year, he began his service at St. Demetrius, where he has remained ever since. For his outstanding service, Father Chubenko was promoted to the rank of Proto-Priest in 1982 and later achieved the highest rank of Protopresbyter in 1990.

He and his wife are the proud parents of four sons.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Father Taras Chubenko for his many years of dedicated service to St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and the people of Carteret. His strong leadership and active involvement in the community has helped revitalize the Cathedral and improve the lives of many.

• 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.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A
LEGACY FOR USERS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, my statement on March 10, 2005 during consideration of H. Res. 144 was specifically about my support for the Pascrell/Menendez/LoBiondo Pay-to-Play amendment, rather than the rule itself. Most importantly, I would like to thank Representatives PASCRELL, MENENDEZ, and LOBIONDO for their steadfast work on ensuring that New Jersey maintains the right to reform its ethical standards.

URGING ADDITION OF HEZBOLLAH
TO EUROPEAN UNION'S TER-
RORIST ORGANIZATION LIST

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, four weeks ago the international community was rocked by the untimely death of Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Mr. Hariri was a progressive who worked tirelessly for the unification and stabilization of Lebanon, especially in the face of the continued presence of Syrian forces within his country's borders. In the days since Mr. Hariri's death, the world has watched as hosts of Lebanese have taken to the streets in order to stand up for an autonomous Lebanon. I call upon the European Union to assist this move toward Lebanese self rule by adding Hezbollah to its list of recognized terrorist organizations.

Hezbollah was first organized in response to the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon in 1982 during the Lebanese civil war. It was, and remains, a guerilla group sponsored first and foremost by its Shia ally Iran and by Syria. Its goal is to establish within Lebanon an Islamic republic based upon the model of its Iranian supporter. Though Hezbollah has claimed it means to do so only by the consent of the people, the violence to which the group resorted from the 1980s to the present day have instead revealed the group as a threat not only to the international community, but also to the future stability of Lebanon.

During the final years of the civil war, Hezbollah was responsible for numerous destructive attacks upon both Israeli and western forces based in Lebanon. The most notable of these were the 1984 bombing of the U.S. Embassy resulting to the death of 17 Americans and the 1983 attack of the US Marine barracks in Beirut in which 241 American servicemen lost their lives. The organization's fight was in no way limited to the borders of Lebanon. The group was heavily implicated in the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 from Athens to Rome in 1985 and in attacks of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina. Hezbollah remains the main suspect in a series of approximately thirty kidnappings, including several brutal tortures, of westerners during the 1980s and 90s.

Despite the final withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon in 2000, Hezbollah's inter-

national terrorist activities continue even now. The organization is still active within the southern Lebanese Shab'a farm region. Still supported by both Iran and Syria, Hezbollah operates cells in Europe, Asia, Africa, and both North and South America. According to U.S. intelligence, today Hezbollah is the largest terrorist network on the globe—much larger than even Al Qaida.

Sparked by Hariri's death, both the international and Lebanese communities have cried out for the removal of Syria's last troops within the country. While I too support this effort, I must nonetheless ask how will this ensure stability in Lebanon if a local terrorist group of this magnitude is still allowed to exist within the country's borders? By adding Hezbollah to its list of international terrorist organizations, the European Union would require its member states to freeze all Hezbollah assets and to seek out and arrest its members. By doing so, the EU will help make substantial headway in putting an end to the terrorist group and show its unreserved support for both the security and autonomy of Lebanon.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF HAYS COUNTY COMMIS-
SIONER DEBBIE GONZALES
INGALSBE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Hays County Commissioner Debbie Gonzales Ingalsbe for her accomplishments in public service.

Ms. Ingalsbe comes from a family with a tradition of public service—her father was also a Hays County Commissioner. She is a lifelong resident of San Marcos, and has the distinction of being the first female commissioner in Hays County history.

Ms. Ingalsbe began her career in service as a Deputy Constable after graduating from the Travis County Sheriff's Academy. She has worked tirelessly as commissioner to improve the quality of life in Hays County. She has been especially involved in the issue of health care. She directed all of the county's tobacco settlement funds toward public health, permitting Hays County to build one of the most comprehensive and advanced public health facilities in the State.

Commissioner Ingalsbe continues to give of her time and energy to make the San Marcos area a better place to live. She is a member of a long list of community organizations, including San Marcos EMS, the Hays/Caldwell County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and the San Marcos Area Food Bank. Her commitment to her fellow citizens is laudable.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Hays County Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe.

CONGRATULATING CAROL AND
DAVID GREENWALD AS THEY
RECEIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE
AWARD FROM SELIGMAN J.
STRAUSS LODGE NO. 139 OF
B'NAI B'RITH

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Dr. David Greenwald and Carol Saidman Greenwald of Kingston, who have been selected to receive the Seligman J. Strauss Lodge No. 139 of B'nai B'rith Community Service Award. They received the award at the 59th annual B'nai B'rith Lincoln Day Dinner at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in Plains.

The Community Service Award is presented to outstanding citizens who, by their courageous leadership and dedication on behalf of humanity, have made a valuable contribution to the fabric of our society. David and Carol exemplify these criteria because of their dedication to making their community a better place.

David is the founder of Medical Oncology Associates. He currently serves as Chairman of the Cancer Committee of Wyoming Valley Health Care System and serves on the Board of the Jewish Community Center and the Board of Trustees of Wyoming Seminary. He has served as past President of the Jewish Federation and past Chairman of the United Jewish Campaign of the Wyoming Valley. He is a past Board member of the United Way. David has served as Chief of Hematology/Oncology of Medical Staff of the Wyoming Valley Health Care System. David was a past President of the Medical Staff and was recently elected as President-Elect.

David is a Magna Cum Laude 1966 graduate of Wilkes University and an Honor graduate of Temple University School of Medicine where he was named to Alpha Omega Alpha, the National Medical School Honor Society. David is a member of the Luzerne County Medical Society, the Pennsylvania Medical Society and a Diplomat of the American College of Physicians with board certifications in both Internal Medicine and the subspecialty of Medical Oncology. He was instrumental in establishing the Medical Oncology Patient Prescription Fund, a charitable endeavor that provides prescription assistance to cancer patients in need.

Carol is a National Certified and Licensed Professional Counselor and a Certified Grief and Death Education Therapist. She is also a Certified Sexual Assault and Domestic Abuse Counselor. She is a counselor at Medical Oncology Associates and a partner in Pierce Counseling, a private practice specializing in individual and family counseling. Additionally, Carol volunteers as a rape crisis counselor for the Victims Resource Center.

Carol was President of Hadassah from 1983–1985, a former President of Wyoming Seminary Upper School Parents Council and a member of the Wyoming Seminary Board of Trustees. She has served as a member of the Temple Israel Board of Trustees and the Boards of Directors of the Jewish Community

Center of Wyoming Valley and the Victims Resource Center. Carol also served as the United Jewish Appeal Campaign Co-Chairperson and Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Wilkes-Barre. Carol is a member of the American Counseling Association, the American Psychological Associations, and the Association of Death Education and Counseling. She is a graduate of the 2000 class of Leadership Wilkes-Barre.

Carol graduated from Wilkes University in 1966 and in 1996 received a Masters degree in Community Counseling from the University of Scranton. She was admitted to Chi Omega Iota, the International Counseling Honor Society, and was listed in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

Carol and David live in Kingston and are the parents of six children: Rachel, who is married to Jay Skaistis; Hannah; Nathaniel; Sarah; Naomi; and Zachary. They have one granddaughter, Talia Rose Skaistis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this couple who has given so much of their time and talents to their community and are most deserving of this award.

CONGRATULATING FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON UNIVERSITY ON THE
2005 NORTHEAST CONFERENCE
CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor and commend the Fairleigh Dickinson University Men's Basketball Team, the Knights, who won the 2005 Northeast Conference Championship (NEC) game on March 9, 2005. The Knights are returning to the 2005 NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1998, and will face number one ranked Illinois on March 17 in Indianapolis.

The Knights hosted the NEC Tournament championship game last Wednesday evening, March 9th, at their home court in Hackensack, NJ where they secured a hard fought win over the Wagner College Seahawks by a score of 58-52. The highlights of the game included Center Andrea Crosariol scoring 18 points, just two points shy of his career high, and junior guard Chad Timberlake scoring 11 points. Senior guard Mensah Peterson scored 7 of his 13 points in the final three minutes, with an impressive 3-point shot made with 24 seconds left on the clock to secure the Knights' triumph.

Head coach, Tom Green has had his fair share of accomplishments during his 22 years at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He has led the Knights to 17 winning seasons, 15 NEC Tournament semi-final appearances and eight NEC Championship games.

Today, Coach Green continues to lead a team of talented and bright young men. Junior forward Gordon Klaiber was named to the All-NEC First Team and senior guard Tamien Trent was selected to the All-NEC Second Team in a vote conducted by the league's head coaches. The duo boasts a combined average of 32 points per game for the highest scoring offense in the NEC during the regular season.

Founded in 1942, Fairleigh Dickinson University, located in my Congressional District, has provided Northern Jersey with a quality level of higher education. The university's sixth president, Dr. J. Michael Adams, serves as an outstanding motivator by encouraging his students to expand their perspective of the world by embracing diversity and utilizing sophisticated technology in order to enact rapid change through education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Adams for his tireless efforts to continually raise the level of education at this fine institution. I also thank Coach Green and the outstanding team members of the Knights for their dedication to their school and for the passion they have for the sport of basketball. I commend the Fairleigh Dickinson University Knights for their stellar season, including the NEC Championship title, and I offer Coach Green and his team the best of luck in the Big Dance.

ENACTMENT OF THE 1965 VOTING
RIGHTS BILL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to draw the attention of the House to a significant event in civil rights history which took place in this very chamber on March 15, forty years ago. It was on that evening, that President Lyndon Johnson addressed a joint session of the Congress to seek the enactment of the 1965 voting rights bill he was about to submit. It was the first time in nineteen years that a president had addressed a joint session to request domestic legislation.

Tumultuous events taking place in Selma, Alabama, had influenced the timing of the President's request. In one of the most stirring appeals of his Presidency, Johnson said:

At times history and fate meet at a single point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord . . . So it was last week in Selma, Alabama . . . What happened at Selma is part of a far larger movement which reaches into every state and section of America. It is the effort of American Negroes to secure for themselves the full blessings of American life. . . . Their cause must be our cause, too. Because it is not just Negroes, but really all of us who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice.

And we shall—overcome!

Those exalted words drawn from the freedom hymn of the civil rights movement, spoken by the President of the United States, to the resounding ovation of the Congress, carried by television around the nation and around the world, marked the crossing of a watershed of civil rights history. It was a clear affirmation that the heart and soul of American leadership was at last committed to the fight for unqualified freedom for all Americans.

Among those seated in the Presidential box that evening of the joint session was LeRoy Collins, the former Governor of Florida, who, with his wife, had been guests of the President and Mrs. Johnson at dinner that evening. This distinction was the President's way of acknowledging the special service rendered by

Collins and the little known Federal agency he headed—the Community Relations Service—which had played an important behind-the-scenes role in Selma, helping to advance the civil rights goals of the protesters, and, at the same time, working to restrain the violence of resistance.

Just nine months earlier Congress had created the Community Relations Service as a part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title Ten of that act called into being a special agency composed of civil rights peace-makers—mediators who would go into troubled communities to conciliate racial conflict and promote voluntary compliance with civil rights laws. Such legislation had first been proposed by Senator Lyndon Johnson seven years earlier.

In the years since Selma, the Community Relation Service, "CRS", has helped every major city and thousands of smaller communities, to resolve tens of thousands of confrontations involving school desegregation, police-minority relations, church burnings, urban violence and countless acts and allegations of racial and ethnic discrimination.

Nevertheless, because this division of the Department of Justice relies on quiet persuasion and skillful negotiation it takes special effort to avoid the limelight. As a result the American public has had little opportunity to know of its extraordinary achievements. In effect, the work of the Community Relations Service has been a missing chapter in America's civil rights history.

I am pleased to report, however, that this oversight has at last been rectified thanks to the efforts of Bertram Levine, a long-time resident of my district, whose history of the Community Relations Service has just been published by the University of Missouri Press. The book is entitled, *Resolving Racial Conflict: The Community Relations Service and Civil Rights (1964-1989)*.

[From the 2004 Fall-Winter Catalogue of the University of Missouri Press]

RESOLVING RACIAL CONFLICT: THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS (1964-1989)

(By Bertram Levine)

In 1964, when the Civil Rights Act was passed, Congress wisely created an agency based in the U.S. Department of Justice to help forestall or resolve racial or ethnic disputes evolving from the act. Mandated by law and by its own methodology to shun publicity, the Community Relations Service developed self-effacement to a fine art. Thus the accomplishments, as well as the shortcomings, of this federal venture into conflict resolution are barely known in official Washington, and even less so by the American public. This first written history of the Community Relations Service uses the experiences of the men and women who sought to resolve the most volatile issues of the day to tell the fascinating story of this unfamiliar agency. This multiracial cadre of conciliation and mediation specialists worked behind the scenes in more than 20,000 confrontations involving racial and ethnic minorities.

From Selma to Montgomery, at the encampment of the Poor Peoples' Campaign in Resurrection City, to the urban riots of the sixties, seventies, and eighties, from the school desegregation battles north and south, at the siege of Wounded Knee, and during the Texas Gulf Coast fishing wars between Southeast Asian refugees and Anglos, these federal peacemakers lessened the atmosphere of racial violence in every major

U.S. city and thousands of small towns. These confrontations ranged from disputes that attracted worldwide attention to the everyday affronts, assaults, and upheavals that marked the nation's adjustment to wider power sharing within an increasingly diverse population. While *Resolving Racial Conflict* examines some of the celebrated breakthroughs that made change possible, it also delves deeply into the countless behind-the-scenes local efforts that converted possibility to reality.

Among the many themes in this book that provide new perspective for understanding racial conflict in America are the effects of protest and conflict in engineering social change; the variety of civil rights views and experiences of African Americans, Native Americans, Asians, and Hispanics; the role of police in minority relations; and the development and refinement of techniques for community conflict resolution from seat-of-the-pants intervention to sophisticated professional practice. *Resolving Racial Conflict* will appeal to students of civil rights and American history in both the general and academic communities, as well as students of alternative dispute resolution and peace and conflict studies.

HONORING NATIONAL WOMEN'S
HISTORY PROJECT AND PRESIDENT
MOLLY MURPHY
MACGREGOR

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Women's History Project, NWHP, and its President and co-founder, Molly Murphy MacGregor of Sonoma County, California, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the organization. The mission of the NWHP is to recognize and celebrate the diverse and historic accomplishments of women by providing information and educational materials and programs.

In 1978 in Sonoma County, Molly originated the plan for the first Women's History Week, which became an annual event. In 1980, she co-founded the NWHP in Santa Rosa, California with Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas, Paula Hammett, and Bette Morgan. NWHP, with the assistance of Sunny Bristol and other supporters, spearheaded the movement for National Women's History Week leading to the designation of March as National Women's History Month in 1987.

Today, the group is known nationally as the only clearinghouse for information and training in multicultural women's history for educators, community organizations, and individuals wanting to expand their understanding of women's contributions to our Nation. The NWHP is in the forefront of national campaigns that call attention to women's achievements and has been recognized by a wide-range of organizations and commissions.

Molly's passion for women's history was first stoked in 1972 when she proposed teaching a semester class on the topic at a high school. A colleague commented that the whole class should take about an hour "because what have women ever done, anyway?" Molly did teach the well-received semester class then enrolled in the history graduate program at Sonoma State University where she created a

multimedia slide show, "We, the Women," which was shown throughout California to enthusiastic reception by women and men.

As president of NWHP, Molly has worked with national women's organizations to build coalitions, develop programs, and encourage them to celebrate their own histories. She and her colleagues Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas, Bonnie Eisenberg and Susanne Otteman have also worked with specialists around the country to integrate a women's perspective into the school curriculum. The NWHP has received funding for this outreach from the U.S. Department of Education and been recognized by the National Education Association, the National Association for Multicultural Education, and the Center for Women Policy Studies.

Molly has been honored by numerous groups including the California Commission on the Status of Women, the Sonoma County NAACP, and the Giraffe foundation (for "sticking her neck out). In 1999 she was chosen as one of three appointments from the White House to the Women's Progress Commission.

Mr. Speaker, as a long-time resident of Sonoma County, it has been my pleasure to work with Molly Murphy MacGregor and the National Women's History Project to promote understanding and appreciation of the role of women in our culture. Their vision has helped create a legacy that everyone in this country can honor and appreciate.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD,
KEEGAN RILEY SHAW

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today, my wife Emilie and I are celebrating the arrival of our 15th Grandchild—Keegan Riley Shaw. This morning at 7:51 a.m., two days before St. Patrick's Day, our son and daughter-in-law, J.C. and Angela Shaw, gave birth to this 7-pound, 10-ounce baby boy.

There is a special bond between Grandparents and Grandchildren. We are truly blessed.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF BEXAR COUNTY CONSTABLE
JIMMY WILLBORN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Constable Jimmy Willborn for his exceptional career in law enforcement.

Jimmy Willborn has served in law enforcement for more than 40 years. He holds a Master Peace Officers License, and for 31 years, he worked to keep his fellow citizens safe as a member of the San Antonio Police Department.

During his career, he has been a consistent advocate for better law enforcement. He is the founder of the Blue Santa program, and the former Director of the Texas Narcotics Control Program. He helped to build connections with

other law enforcement agencies as the Secretary/Treasurer of CLEAT, the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas. He put his expertise to work as a developer of the National and State Control Policy for Drug and Violent Crimes, in 1994 and 1995.

Jimmy Willborn currently serves as Constable for Precinct 2 of Bexar County, Texas. He also works as a lobbyist for the South West Texas Constable's and Justice of the Peace Association, attempting to help legislators craft bills that will strengthen the Texas Law enforcement community. He is currently lobbying in support of bills that will help to keep Texas' children safe by creating reduced-speed school zones around high schools.

Mr. Speaker, Constable Jimmy Willborn is a dedicated guardian for the people of Bexar County, and his community is safer and stronger as a result of his presence. I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize his service.

CONGRATULATING RON D'ELISEO
ON BEING HONORED AS PERSON
OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Ron D'Eliseo, who was recognized at a reception on February 20, 2005 at The Grammercy Ballroom in Pittston. The Sunday Dispatch chose Ron D'Eliseo as the Greater Pittston Person of the Year for 2004.

Ron D'Eliseo and his wife Brenda have three children, Robert, Ronnie and Christen. Robert, who will be nine years old in July, has autism. Ron chose to channel his heartache into finding a way to help others. He decided to raise money for autism awareness and research, organizing a motorcycle benefit cruise called the Ride for Robert. The benefit has Robert riding with Ron on his American Iron Horse Texas Chopper or his old Harley Davidson.

The Earthly Angels Autism Fund of the Luzerne Foundation is a result of the Ride for Robert. The Ride, now in its sixth year, has helped raise more than \$40,000. Ron's efforts have helped parents of autistic children understand this devastating illness. He established and maintains a library at Milestone's in Wyoming.

Through Earthly Angels, Ron has helped sponsor autistic children learn to ride horses at a summer camp, a swimming program at the Greater Pittston YMCA and a music therapy program at St. Joseph's Center in Scranton. More recently, Earthly Angels made a donation to the family of an autistic boy from Williamsport, Pennsylvania, who died from cold weather exposure when he wandered away from home.

Ron is planning an autism conference and dinner in 2006. Ron also is active in his church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Pittston.

Ron D'Eliseo is an everyday hero who took his pain and used it to help others. A humble man, I know that Ron does not take credit for what he has done. Instead, he praises his

family and friends, people who have supported his cause, and perhaps most of all, Robert.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this father who has given so much of himself.

HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation. We have absolutely no constitutional authority to establish a commission to "assist" parliaments throughout the world. Despite all the high-sounding rhetoric surrounding this legislation, we should not fool ourselves. This is nothing more than yet another scheme to funnel United States tax dollars to foreign governments. It is an international welfare scheme and an open door to more U.S. meddling in the internal affairs of foreign countries.

How can we tell an American family struggling to pay its bills that it must pay more taxes so a foreign parliament can purchase fancy plasma screen televisions, or the latest computer equipment, or ultra-modern communications equipment? Can anyone here justify this?

Mr. Speaker, this bill will do more than just take money from Americans. This commission will enable members of Congress and congressional staff employees to travel the world meddling in the affairs of foreign governing bodies. It is counterproductive to tell other nations how they should govern themselves, as even if we come loaded with dollars to hand out, our meddling is always resented by the local population—just as we would resent a foreign government telling us how to govern ourselves. Don't we have enough of our own problems to solve without going abroad in search of foreign parliaments to aid?

I urge my colleagues to reject this wasteful and counterproductive scheme.

THE RADIOPROTECTANT
PROCUREMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Radioprotectant Procurement Act of 2005. This bill directs the Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security to review all potentially viable radiation countermeasures and to move toward procurement of those which the government deems safe and effective against a nuclear or radiological attack.

The threat of a radiological or nuclear attack is one of the gravest faced by the United States. The results of such an attack could be catastrophic, causing death, widespread radiation sickness, economic hardship and at the very least, tremendous strain on public health resources. These effects could be mitigated if the proper radiation countermeasures are rapidly administered.

Currently, the medical options for responding to acute radiation exposure are very limited. Decontamination of individuals through showering and changing clothes is currently the main tool we have to "treat" large numbers of actual or suspected casualties. But this does little to prevent or mitigate the radiation sickness caused by initial radiation exposure or radioactive fallout.

The good news is that there are a number of drugs and other medical countermeasures that have the potential to counteract the health effects of radiation exposure. The Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute is now testing at least one product that might actually slow or stop the destruction of bone marrow caused by radiation and resulting diminution of the body's immune system—a leading cause of sickness and death from irradiation. Unfortunately, no such radioprotectants are stockpiled in amounts adequate enough to be effective against large-scale nuclear or radiological attacks.

In 2004, President George W. Bush signed into law the Project Bioshield Act of 2004, authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct and support research and development of effective countermeasures. The Radioprotectant Procurement Act seeks to accelerate these efforts, as every day that passes without progress in obtaining a needed countermeasure is another day that we remain vulnerable against that threat.

If we can give people a drug that will keep them alive and healthy after being exposed to high levels of radiation, then I think we should do everything we reasonably can to get that drug purchased and distributed as quickly as possible.

The bill I am introducing today calls upon the Federal Government to do just that, and to move as expeditiously as possible in this regard. I look forward to continuing to work with the Administration and my colleagues in this body to make sure that these new and innovative medical countermeasures continue to be responsibly but quickly developed, tested, and stockpiled. The American people deserve nothing less.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring and enacting this important bill.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION
AGAINST THE CANADIAN SEAL
HUNT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I join many of my colleagues and 8.5 million members of the Humane Society of the United States in designating March 15th as the International Day of Action Against the Canadian Seal Hunt. Across the world in 50 cities, citizens will be coming together at Canadian Embassies and Consulates to call for an end to the horrific slaughter of harp and hooded seals.

The Canadian seal hunt season runs from November 15th to May 15th and occurs off the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador. Anyone with a commercial sealing license or provincial hunting license can take part in the seal hunt.

The Canadian government has authorized the killing of over 300,000 seals this year alone, and 975,000 from 2003–2005. They have also helped to pay for this hunt with \$20 million in subsidies provided to the sealing industry between 1995 and 2001. While there are quotas in place, they are not enforced by the government. According to the Humane Society of the United States the number of seals killed in 2002 surpassed the quota by more than 37,000 seals, and in 2004, by nearly 16,000. These numbers do not take into account the number of seals who were wounded and perished later.

While this season's seal hunt opened on November 15, 2004, the bulk of the killings will begin taking place in the next few weeks as new seal pups are born. These new seal pups are called "beaters" by the hunters. While hunters do kill adult seals, an estimated 95 percent of those killed are twelve days to twelve months old. These seals, who are either clubbed or shot to death, are killed primarily for their skins.

In 1991, an independent team of veterinarians found that the seal hunt did not adhere to Canada's animal welfare regulations. Most disturbing of their findings is that 42 percent of the seals they studied had likely been skinned alive while conscious. This high percentage of live skinning alone is a disturbing number, but combined with the other details of the seal hunt it is clear that it is time for an end to this practice.

The Canadian fishing industry claims that the seal hunt needs to continue because they eat too many cod and adversely impact the fish population. However, two Canadian government marine scientists have stated clearly that the true cause of cod depletion was over fishing. They also noted that, "the consensus among the international community is that seals are not responsible for the collapse in cod stocks."

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans Minister hailed the seal hunt by saying it will harvest "a valuable natural resource." Harp and hooded seals are not a natural resource, but animals that should not have to endure the suffering inflicted through the government authorized seal hunt.

I join with not only the Humane Society of the United States, but also with Greenpeace, Nova Scotia Humane Society and the World Society for the Protection of Animals, among many other organizations, in calling for the Canadian government to end this barbaric and inhumane practice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 14, 2005, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 66, 67, and 68. The votes I missed include rollcall No. 66 on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 135, providing for the establishment of a commission in the House of Representatives to assist parliaments in emerging democracies; rollcall No. 67 on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 101, urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European

Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations; and on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to S. 384, to extend the existence of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group for two years.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 66, 67, and 68.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROBERT PUENTE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Puente for his distinguished career in public service.

Robert Puente is currently serving his eighth term in the Texas Legislature. He is Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee and serves on the Local Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Puente is especially involved in ensuring that Texas always has an adequate water supply; he is co-chair of the Study Commission for Water on Environmental Flows, and is a member of the Texas Water Advisory Council.

Mr. Puente is a proud product of the Texas higher educational system. He graduated from St. Mary's University in San Antonio with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, and he received his Doctorate in Jurisprudence from the University of Texas Law School in 1982.

Included among Mr. Puente's many legislative accomplishments are his work on the passage of the Edwards Aquifer Authority legislation and the establishment of the Aquifer Authority's elected board, and his support for SB1, which implemented a comprehensive water plan for the state.

Representative Puente continues to live in San Antonio with his wife, Carmen Puente, and his three children. In addition to his legislative activities, he finds the time to participate in a number of different community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Robert Puente's farsighted legislative work has helped secure the future of San Antonio and our great state of Texas, and I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize him here.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House on Monday, March 14th, due to a previous and unavoidable commitment. Therefore, I was unable to vote on H. Res. 135 (Rollcall No. 66), H. Res. 101 (Rollcall No. 67), and S. 384 (Rollcall No. 68). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three measures considered before the House.

TRIBUTE TO WING KAI FAT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to an old friend and a wonderful man, Wing Kai Fat. He passed away on Friday, February 25th after a full, rich life, at the age of 79. We should all be so lucky as to have the many close friends and the large and loving family that he did.

Wing Fat was born in Canton, China in 1925. When he was ten years old, along with his father he emigrated to America, settling in Sacramento. As a young adult, he served in the U.S. Air Force and graduated from Sacramento State University. For sixty-six years, Wing Fat worked in "Frank Fat's," his legendary father's restaurant, until his retirement just a few years ago. Before his retirement, the very successful Fat family restaurant business grew to include ten restaurants.

Wing Fat and "Frank Fat's" were mainstays in the Sacramento political and cultural communities. A well-known location for political deal-making, the restaurant was renowned as much for Wing Fat's personality as it was for the great food. Wing Fat was a truly warm man, whose affectionate laugh and inviting presence always made those around him feel welcome and comfortable. Although he had much to boast, he was remembered as "one of the humblest men you could ever meet." His warmth and humility were matched only by his tact; his motto was "You listen, but you never tell." When he passed away he took decades of private political information with him, gleaned from years of being a trusted host to the Sacramento political community. It is no surprise that Wing Fat became such a successful restaurateur and that his business became a trusted venue for those involved in Sacramento politics.

Mr. Fat generously shared his successes with his friends and his community. In addition to the counsel he offered countless mayors and council members, Mr. Fat founded a number of local cultural and civic organizations that will contribute to the Sacramento area for years to come. In November 2004, Mr. Fat culminated his truly generous philanthropic career with a \$1 million dollar donation to the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation to build a new sports center in Laguna.

Mr. Speaker, Sacramento has lost a civic treasure and a wonderful man. Although it will never be the same without Wing Fat, he leaves behind a wonderful family, friends whose lives he touched, restaurants that continue to provide a warm place for people to gather, and charitable work and donations that will enrich Sacramento for years to come. I am honored to have an opportunity here to say not only "goodbye" to Mr. Fat, but also to say "thank you."

RECOGNIZING BENNETT COLLEGE
ON THE OCCASION OF PRESIDENT
JOHNNETTA B. COLE'S APPEARANCE
BEFORE THE TIDEWATER ALUMNAE
CHAPTER,
MARCH 18-19, 2005

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bennett College and its President Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, on the occasion of her appearance before the Tidewater Alumnae Chapter for its annual White Breakfast on March 19, 2005.

Bennett College is an historically black college and university founded in 1873 in Greensboro, North Carolina through the inspiration of newly emancipated slaves. Instruction was first held in the basement of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church until the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church assumed responsibility for support of the school in 1874. Through a \$10,000 gift from philanthropist Lyman Bennett the school was able to prosper and grow, and the school was renamed in his honor. In 1926, the school was reorganized as a college for women, a role that it continues to serve today. In 1989, Bennett College had the distinction of having First Lady Barbara Bush as its commencement speaker.

For over 130 years, Bennett College has served the needs of the African American community in North Carolina and its surrounding area. Since 1930, Bennett College has graduated over 5,000 women, many serving in the education profession. My home city of Chesapeake, Virginia has been particularly reliant on the service of Bennett College alumnae as career teachers in the Chesapeake Public School System. I am grateful to Bennett College for this contribution to my congressional district.

In 2002, the esteemed Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole became the 14th president of Bennett College. Her career as a college university professor and administrator spans over three decades. In 1987, she made history as the first African American woman to serve as president of Spelman College. In 2004, she made history again as the first African American woman to serve as chair of the board of the United Way of America. I am proud to have her visit my district and applaud the Tidewater Alumnae Chapter of Bennett College for bringing her to Virginia on the occasion of their annual White Breakfast.

The Tidewater Alumnae Chapter has distinguished itself in southeastern Virginia through its contribution to the community. Among their members are many present and former teachers of the Chesapeake Public School System. Their professional contribution to my district is significant, and I thank them for their accomplishments on the occasion of their annual White Breakfast.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Bennett College, Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole and the Tidewater Alumnae Chapter of Bennett College for their record of service and contribution to our Nation and to my district. It is truly my honor and privilege to recognize Bennett College, Dr. Cole and the Tidewater

Alumnae Chapter in the United States House of Representatives on this day.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF STATE SENATOR KEN
ARMBRISTER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Texas State Senator Ken Armbrister, of my Congressional District.

Ken Armbrister began his public service career in law enforcement. After graduating from Sam Houston State University, he attended the FBI National Academy. He served as a police officer for 14 years, and rose to the rank of Captain and Director of the Victoria Regional Police Academy. He was honored with the Defender of the Peace award by the Sam Houston State University College of Criminal Justice, and was twice named a Top Ten Crime Fighter by the Greater Dallas Crime Commission.

Mr. Armbrister was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1983, and to the Texas Senate in 1987. He served as President Pro Tempore, as acting governor, and was honored as one of the Best Legislators in Texas. He currently serves on the Senate Committees on Business and Commerce, Government Organization, and State Affairs, and is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. He continues to work at the forefront of critical legislation, and authored the landmark legislation that established the Edwards Aquifer Authority that provided for the water needs of a 26 county area of South Texas.

Ken Armbrister repaid the trust of the people of Texas with a lifetime of dedicated and effective public service. He is an inspiration to the people of the community, of what and show's man's commitment and energy can accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize State Senator Ken Armbrister.

RECOGNIZING NEW JERSEY LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSO-
CIATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Jersey State Law Enforcement Officers Association. Since 1938, the New Jersey Law Enforcement Officers Association and its members have worked to keep New Jersey safe from criminals and have sought to recognize those officers who go above and beyond the call of duty.

Our law enforcement officers risk their lives daily by placing the safety of others before themselves. We must never forget the sacrifice of our fallen officers who have given all to protect our families and communities.

Our local law enforcement officers are now a part of the front line in the battle to keep America safe from terrorist threats and on a daily basis confront the specter of further attacks. We must recognize the crucial role our local law enforcement plays in the War on Terror and provide them the support they need to keep us safe.

The New Jersey State Law Enforcement Officers Association, in recognition of the importance of coordinating law enforcement, numbers Federal, State, County and Municipal Law Enforcement agents in its membership. By working together professionally and with the association, our law enforcement officers can easily share information about criminal threats.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our law enforcement officers and with their families. We owe a great debt to those who work to keep us safe and it is only fitting that Congress recognize the work of these guardians of peace.

LEGISLATION CONDEMNING RELI-
GIOUS PERSECUTION AND INTOL-
ERANCE IN INDIA

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce this Resolution to condemn the alleged statements and actions of complacency by the government authorities in Gujarat, led by Chief Minister Narendra Modi, in the face of the religious persecution of the Gujarati people.

In February of 2002, India experienced its greatest human rights crisis in a decade: orchestrated violence against Muslims in the state of Gujarat that claimed at least 2,000 lives in a matter of days. Three years after that horrific incident, Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister of Gujarat has been indicted by various Indian and International human rights organizations for lending his hand to the violence.

Mr. Modi himself has not been shy about proudly professing his anti-Christian, anti-Muslim, and anti-tribal stances. He has repeatedly dehumanized the Muslim population of his state by accusing them of treachery; he has actively sought to interfere in the practice of the Christian faith in Gujarat, and he has caused wide-scale displacement of indigenous populations in the State in the face of stiff popular resistance. I find Mr. Modi's actions to be of the most reprehensible sort.

In an article in the Hindu Times on March 2, 2005, former Indian President K.R. Narayanan stated that "there was a 'conspiracy' between the BJP governments at the Centre and the state behind the 2002 Gujarat riots . . .". Further, a number of Indian human rights organizations, international human rights organizations, and a former Supreme Court Justice all recognize Chief Minister Modi's complicity in the violence.

He has attacked Muslims and Christians with vile venom, and according to both India's highest court and many international human rights groups, has condoned terrible, violent religious hate crimes, all the while, shielding those said to have committed them. In fact, in

a scathing indictment of Mr. Modi, the Supreme Court of India referred to the Chief Minister and his government as "the modern day Neros". Moreover, in a recent unprecedented order, the Supreme Court of India ordered the reopening of all the criminal cases that Mr. Modi has closed, regarding over 2,000 police cases in which the non-Hindu victims filed reports of rapes, killings, and destruction of their property.

Such actions by high ranking government officials of any religion are unacceptable and must not be tolerated.

I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning religious intolerance and promoting religious freedom, so that others may see what our great democracy stands for.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE
CARLOS URESTI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker rise to recognize State Representative Carlos I. Uresti for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Representative Uresti is a native of San Antonio, and a graduate of McCollum High School. He continued his education by earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Teacher's Certificate from Saint Mary's University. After graduation he served four years in the United States Marine Corps, where he was awarded the Naval Achievement Medal. When his service to the Marines was over he returned to San Antonio and enrolled at Saint Mary's school of Law, where he received his law degree in 1992. He is currently is a partner at the Law Offices of Gonzales Hoblit & Ferguson.

In June 1997 Carlos Uresti was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. He honorably serves as Chairman of the Committee of Human Services, and as a member on the Committee on Elections and Select Committee on Healthcare Expenditures. As a former Marine, he is proud to serve as a member of the Texas House Veterans Coalition and the United States Marine Corps League.

During his time in office, Representative Carlos Uresti fought to prevent child abuse and neglect. He was instrumental in the creation of Bexar County's Blue Ribbon Task Force, a coalition that brings community members together to fight the cause against child abuse, and is a member of numerous organizations that help educate our youth.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Carlos I. Uresti is a credit to his community and I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of this great public servant.

THANKING MARY D. WATTS FOR
HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in April 2005, we rise to thank

Ms. Mary D. Watts for 26 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives.

Mary began serving the United States House of Representatives in 1979 as a Technical Support Specialist working at House Information Systems. Milestones during her career at the House include conducting the first evaluations for office fax machines in 1980 and Personal Computers in 1984. She was instrumental in establishing training and support for House staff to make use of the new technologies associated with desktop computers.

As the Division Manager for the Customer Services Group, Mary managed the House computer helpdesk staff, Field Service Technicians and System Integrators providing technical support, and consulting services to every Member, Committee and Leadership office of the House.

Managing the day-to-day operations of the Technical Support Branch, Mary is responsible for information technology solutions and support services for 12,000 personal computers and over 4,000 BlackBerry wireless devices in Washington, DC and more than 950 district offices across this country.

Mary's contributions while serving the United States House of Representatives have been significant. Her passionate customer service, organizational knowledge and personnel management skills earned her the reputation among her colleagues and customers as a person with a calm demeanor and respect for everyone.

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

SMALL COMMUNITY OPTIONS FOR REGULATORY EQUITY ACT

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Small Community Options for Regulatory Equity Act. Rural communities across my state and elsewhere are being unfairly burdened by Environmental Protection Agency regulations that have questionable benefit.

While we all want to ensure a clean, safe drinking water supply for our communities, we must remember that fiscal restraints sometimes require tradeoffs and accommodations. Many small communities believe that EPA regulations will do more harm than good by wasting limited public health funds complying with standards that do little to advance the interests of public health.

For those of you who may have forgotten the arsenic debate of just a few years ago, let me refresh your memory. The Safe Drinking Water Act was used in the past to clean up pollution caused by previous business practices. Now the EPA is using the act to clean up Mother Nature herself. Arsenic is a naturally occurring component in the soil and water of many Western states, including Idaho. Using questionable science, the EPA has committed to ensuring all domestic water sys-

tems meet the arbitrary 10 parts-per-billion standard for arsenic—no matter how small those systems are. This is down from the 50 parts-per-billion standard set in 1975.

When the Safe Drinking Water Act was passed, Congress provided flexibility for EPA to determine whether it is economically or technologically feasible to obtain a certain level of reduced contamination. Essentially, the act states that if it's too expensive, smaller systems simply need to get as close to the standard as they reasonably can. Unfortunately EPA has decided not to use that flexibility. EPA has determined that paying \$1,000 per year per user for the smaller water systems to meet the arsenic standard is affordable.

We know that many of our rural communities have low-income residents who make difficult decisions each month. They must choose which bills to pay and which to put off. These folks aren't worried about the cable bill; they're worried about being able to cover their heat, food, power and even prescription drug costs every month. And when faced with those choices, they'll choose to pay their water bill first. But the EPA—in its infinite wisdom—has decided to place a higher priority on marginal reductions in arsenic level than such basic needs as food and shelter.

That is unacceptable, which is why I am introducing legislation today to allow small and rural communities, those under 10,000 in population, to choose whether they want EPA to enforce regulations on naturally occurring contaminants. If the eligible community determines it is too costly to comply with the rule, it can request an exemption from the regulation, which EPA must grant.

No one is talking about removing all the arsenic from the water. We are talking about removing parts per billion, which is removing a very small amount of something that is barely even there. There is no bright line of concentration at the parts-per-billion level beyond which arsenic becomes unsafe. EPA views 9.9 parts-per-billion as safe and 10.1 as unsafe, despite the fact that there is little health difference between such small differences. EPA can't determine how much arsenic ingestion above the federal standard is harmful. While EPA has said that arsenic concentrations above its standard don't necessarily present an unreasonable risk to health, concentrations above 10 parts-per-billion do create a significant financial burden for small communities.

This mandate doesn't consider the unintended consequences and it can't balance competing local priorities. Local communities are in the best position to determine where their scarce resources need to go. EPA is not going to the communities and suggesting ways they can comply or technology they can use. Rather than being a good partner, EPA is once again just an enforcer, and is waiting until 2006 to impose fines on communities that are not in compliance. Such one-size-fits-all government "solutions" do nothing to make the water cleaner. They only provoke bitterness and stifle cooperation.

One small community in Idaho already has had to lay off its only police officer in order to afford studies and other requirements related to complying with the arsenic regulation. Now we are asking people to choose between real public safety and a theoretical health benefit. Further compounding the problem for this rural community, the EPA recently denied its re-

quest for a compliance extension, as provided for in the agency's own regulation. Community leaders know they can't comply by 2006 and are trying to do the right thing—but EPA refuses to help them.

We are supposed to have a democratic process here in the United States. In this case, the EPA is overriding the will of local citizens. I believe it's time to put the power back into the hands of those most impacted to determine what truly is best for them.

I remain concerned that this regulation will have very adverse economic impacts on thousands of rural communities across the nation, without addressing legitimate human health concerns. Since there is no economically feasible way for small communities to meet this standard and the standard may result in no health benefits, I support allowing each eligible rural community to decide whether to comply. I encourage you to join me in cosponsoring the Small Community Options for Regulatory Equity Act.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE EDMUND KUEMPEL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Texas State Representative Edmund Kuempel of my Congressional District for his exceptional career in public service.

Mr. Kuempel was born and raised in Austin, Texas, and received his Bachelor of Arts in Business from Texas Lutheran College in Seguin. He was first elected to the Texas State Legislature in 1983, and is currently the Chairman of the House Administration Committee.

He has received numerous awards for his legislative work, including the Man of the Year Award from the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association, the Career Achievement Award from the Texas Chamber of Commerce, the Leader of Excellence Award from the Free Market Committee, and the Texas Chamber of Commerce Legislative Leadership Award.

Edmund Kuempel continues to serve the people of Wilson, Gonzales, and Guadalupe Counties with his hard work and dedication. He is a credit to the Texas State Legislature, and his dedication to his state and country are admirable.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the many achievements of State Representative Edmund Kuempel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that on rollcall vote No. 67, I would like the record to reflect that I inadvertently voted "nay." I would like the record to reflect that I intended to vote "yea."

URGING THE EUROPEAN UNION TO
ADD HEZBOLLAH TO THE EU'S
LIST OF TERRORIST ORGANIZA-
TIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 101, a resolution urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's list of terrorist organizations.

Over the past two decades, Hezbollah has been synonymous with terror, suicide bombings and kidnappings. This Iran-backed, Lebanese-based terrorist group serves as an umbrella organization of radical Islamic Shiite groups and entities. Hezbollah, which the U.S. government estimates consists of several thousand militants, has balked at recent U.N. Security Council resolutions requiring it to disarm. This terrorist group is responsible for nearly 200 attacks since 1982 that have killed more than 800 people. Its political rhetoric includes calls for the destruction of the State of Israel. Most recently, both Israeli and Palestinian officials noted an alarming increase in Hezbollah support for terrorism in the Palestinian territories. The organization enjoys funding of \$10 million to \$20 million monthly from Iran, a country that continues to seek a nuclear weapon.

U.S. intelligence has shown that Hezbollah cells operate in Europe, Africa, South America, and North America. Hezbollah's reported involvement in the 1983 suicide bombing attack that killed 241 United States Marines in Beirut and other acts of atrocities begs its inclusion to the European Union's list of terrorist organizations.

Mr. Speaker, a critical part of the war on terror is identifying terrorist threats and the organizations and people who carry out acts of atrocity. I am encouraged by the European Union Parliament's passing of a resolution urging the European Union leadership and the member governments to list Hezbollah as a terrorist entity. I applaud this step and hope that it leads to the inclusion of Hezbollah on the European Union's list of terrorist organizations.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
RYAN GUILLEN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Representative Ryan Guillen for his commitment to building a better future for South Texas.

Ryan Guillen is a native of Starr County, with deep roots in the Texas business community. Before entering public service, he worked as a commodities trader, a rancher, a teacher, and an independent small businessman. This experience helped to shape his priorities: in

the legislature, he acted to help teachers, firefighters and policemen with low interest loans, authored a bill to lower taxes for the disabled and elderly, and passed legislation to reform government in his county.

Representative Guillen was elected to the Texas House in November, 2002, and quickly distinguished himself. He was named Freshman Legislator of the Year by the Freshman Democratic Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives, and passed more bills than any other member of the first-term Democratic class. He is the only Democrat appointed to the Legislative Council Board, a powerful committee which oversees the internal operations of the Texas Legislature.

He has been especially committed to the issue of education. He fought to restore cuts to teacher insurance, authored a bill to increase school district funding in Texas by \$1.2 billion dollars, and worked to protect the rights of all Texas children to an equal, high quality education.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Guillen has distinguished himself as a passionate and effective legislator, and he has a bright future ahead of him. I am proud to have the chance to recognize his work.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. JOSEPH
HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS ON
THEIR INDIANA CLASS 3A GIRLS
STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPION-
SHIP

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the South Bend St. Joseph's High School Indians on their Indiana High School Athletic Association Girls Basketball Class 3A state championship.

For the second time in three years, the St. Joe Indians' girls basketball team found themselves at the Conesco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana for the state championship game. As the final game horn sounded on Saturday March 5, 2005, the Indians won by a score of 70-57 defeating Corydon Central High School.

Over 9,000 fans witnessed a 24-10 run in the fourth quarter allowing the Indians to bring home St. Joseph County's first state championship in girls basketball. This victory capped off a 25-1 record for the season.

I would like to acknowledge Head Coach Mike Megyese and Assistant Coaches Lou Megyese, Dan Applegate, Clem Litka and Brad Dunlap on an extraordinary season.

As their many fans know, this team has been led by an outstanding group of seniors who have taken St. Joseph's to an incredible 83-18 record during their four years.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Second Congressional District, I would like to congratulate South Bend's newest champions including seniors Aimee Litka, Corey Jo Keim, Katie St. Clair, Erin Newsom; juniors Melissa Lechlitner, Ashley Miller, Becky Newsom; sophomores Sydney Smallbone, Kristen Dockery; and freshmen DeBorah Wilson and Cary Wernitz.

Student Managers Sarah Pendl, Katie Dunlap, Christie Nurkowski, Courtney Szymanski, Gary Paczesny and Erin Rempala

also deserve a special congratulation for their contributions to the team.

Mr. Speaker, I know that everyone in St. Joseph County including the Diocese of Fort Wayne—South Bend Superintendent Michelle Hittie, the St. Joseph High School staff including Principal Daniel Swygart, Athletic Director Frank Pomarico, Assistant Athletic Director Kristi Beechy, and all of the St. Joseph Indians' parents and fans are extremely proud of the accomplishment these young women have achieved.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Indians of St. Joseph High School on winning the county's first ever girls state basketball championship.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND
REHABILITATION ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Civic Participation and Rehabilitation Act of 2005, legislation that will provide persons who have been released from incarceration the right to vote in Federal elections.

With just two states, Maine and Vermont, placing no restrictions on the voting rights of offenders or ex-offenders, the United States may have the most restrictive disenfranchisement policy in the world. Such prohibitions on the right to vote undermine both the voting system and the fundamental rights of ex-offenders. This legislation will serve to clarify and expand voting rights, as well as assist former felons with their reintegration into our democracy.

This past November it was estimated that approximately 2.3 percent of the voting age population, about 5 million people, were prohibited from voting because of state felon disenfranchisement laws. While it is undeniable that this group of disqualified voters was large enough to influence the outcome of close elections, partisan concerns obscure the fact that our varied, state-by-state approaches to ex-offender voting rights leads to confusion and disenfranchisement of legitimate voters under these existing laws. In the past two election cycles, flawed voter purges have deprived legitimate voters of their rights. Moreover, in Ohio, an erroneous interpretation of state law by the Secretary of State deprived thousands of ex-felons of even the right to register. Only federal law can conclusively resolve the ambiguities in this area plaguing our voting system.

In addition to tainting this country's fundamental principle of the right to vote, denying voting rights to ex-offenders denies them of the opportunity to fully participate and contribute to their society. Disenfranchisement laws isolate and alienate ex-offenders, and serve as one more obstacle in their attempt to successfully reintegrate into society. Restricting voting rights, a critical tool of self-empowerment, can only lead to higher rates of recidivism, community apathy, and other social ills. We fail not just ex-offenders by denying them the right to vote, but the rest of a society that has struggled throughout its history to be legitimate and inclusive. Just like poll taxes and literacy tests prevented an entire class of

citizens, namely African Americans, from integrating into society after centuries of slavery, felon disenfranchisement laws prevent ex-offenders from reintegrating into society after retribution.

Statistics on felon disenfranchisement indicate that Congressional action is clearly warranted. The Sentencing Project estimates that 4.7 million Americans, or 1 in 43 adults, have currently or permanently lost the right to vote as a result of a felony conviction. 1.4 million or 13 percent of African American men are disenfranchised, a rate seven times the national average. Given current rates of incarceration, 3 in 10 of the next generation of African American men can expect to be disenfranchised at some point in their lifetime. An estimated 676,730 women are currently ineligible to vote as a result of a felony conviction. These statistics have prompted state responses. Most recently, Alabama, Nevada, Wyoming, and Connecticut, have adopted legislation that expands voting rights for ex-felons. We must now act at the Federal level.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
RUTH MCCLENDON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Representative Ruth Jones McClendon for her dedicated service to the people of Texas.

Ruth McClendon has been a tremendous advocate for public safety and public health in the State of Texas. She is the creator of the Neighborhood Cellular on Patrol program, which has won acclaim from President George W. Bush for its effectiveness in reducing crime. She founded the Community Crime Prevention Network to fight neighborhood crime, sponsored legislation to support community policing and increase penalties for church burnings, and hosted a seminar with constituents to help them respond to gang activity.

While in the legislature, Representative McClendon passed two children's asthma bills, for which she received the American Lung Association of Texas Public Policy Award for 2001. She created a medical academy to prepare medical students to practice in inner city neighborhoods, and worked to pass a bill to dedicate \$400 million for a pediatric cancer center in San Antonio.

Her legislative activity has brought her numerous awards, including listings in the World's Who's Who of Women and Who's Who in Texas. She is a graduate of Texas Southern University, and holds an honorary doctorate from Guadalupe College Theological Seminary. She was the first African-American woman elected to the San Antonio City Council, and was named a 2003 Headliner by the San Antonio Chapter of Women in Communications.

Mr. Speaker, Ruth Jones McClendon has been a tireless and effective public servant, and a role model and guardian for her community. She deserves our gratitude, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize her for her work.

SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to the great South Park High School in Buffalo, New York which this year is celebrating 90 years of excellence in educating Western New York's young people.

Ninety-one years ago this week, on St. Patrick's Day, the people of South Buffalo broke ground at 150 Southside Parkway for the construction of what would become City of Buffalo Public School Number 206.

That same year, on June 1st, the cornerstone was placed at PS 206, also known as South Park High School, marking the institution as the fifth public high school built in the City of Buffalo.

On September 7, 1915, the doors of South Park opened; welcoming 680 students and 32 faculty members.

Home of the Sparks, the South Park faithful proudly display their school spirit through the black and red tradition.

Over the last nine decades the teachers and administrators at South Park have motivated, nurtured and educated thousands of Buffalo's youth, preparing each for the road ahead and providing all with the tools necessary to pursue a limitless future.

I am proud to call myself an alumnus of South Park and grateful for the wealth of knowledge and values I have obtained through my experiences at the school.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of Buffalo's South Park High School and wish the institution continued success in installing pride and excellence in Western New York young people for decades to come.

CONGRATULATING BETTY MILLER
ON RECEIVING THE JOSEPH F.
SAPORITO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Betty Miller, who was recognized at a reception held February 20, 2005, at the Grammercy Ballroom in Pittston. The Sunday Dispatch has chosen Betty Miller as the recipient of the Joseph F. Saporito Lifetime of Service Award.

My good friend Betty Miller is a selfless woman who has devoted her life to making life better for others. Of all her accomplishments—and there are many—Betty is perhaps proudest of the Wyoming Monument Association. She is in her 47th year as president of this organization, and she was preceded by her mother-in-law. Sarah Perkins Miller was president for 35 years.

The Association has more than 350 members—all women—many of whom are direct descendants of those who died in the Wyoming Massacre of July 3, 1778. Betty's ances-

tors, William Reynolds and Elias Roberts, are listed on the Monument among the victims of the Wyoming Massacre.

The first attempts to build a memorial date back to 1809. In the spring of 1841, the women of Luzerne County came together under the name Ladies Luzerne Monumental Association and raised the money for the monument. In 1860, the State of Pennsylvania gave the title to the land to the Wyoming Monument Association.

I was pleased to work with Betty in getting the Wyoming Monument rightfully listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Betty is proud of the Monument and proud of the role women have played in its history.

Betty became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution 60 years ago. She has served as the First Vice President General of the national organization, making her the highest-ranked Pennsylvania member ever. Betty just stepped down after her second stint as chair of the Wyoming Valley Chapter.

Betty has served as state president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Pennsylvania, president of the Wyoming Woman's Club, and chair of the board of the Luzerne County Library System.

Betty has been actively involved with the Greater Pittston Salvation Army Advisory Board for 22 years and served as chair of the board on two occasions. During the latest Red Kettle Campaign, Betty—at the age of 88—rang a bell for the Salvation Army for 6 days in a row, from 9 in the morning to 5 in the evening.

In 1976, she was appointed to the Bicentennial Commission and participated in planning the nation's observance of its 200th anniversary. She received a special commendation from the governor for her role in the Bicentennial.

Betty volunteers at the Veterans' Administration Hospital. Betty was presented with the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Membership Award by the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia and later received the Humanitarian Award for "distinguished service to her fellow man."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this fine lady who has given so much of herself. She is most deserving of accolades from The Sunday Dispatch.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND
WORK OF SERBIAN PRIME MINISTER
ZORAN DJINDJIC

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on March 12, 2003, Serbia's Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic was brutally assassinated in broad day light on the streets of Belgrade, Serbia.

As Serbia's first democratically-elected, non-communist Prime Minister following the fall of Slobodan Milosevic, Zoran Djindjic brought to his office and the people of Serbia more than democracy and freedom—he brought with him the hopes and dreams of the Serbian people. Under the oppressive rule of tyrannical dictators and autocrats, the Serbian people were emotionally and physically battered and scarred by years of ethnic civil-war and bombings. Prime Minister Djindjic promised them a better future filled with peace and prosperity.

Along with other democratic allies, and anti-war protesters, Zoran Djindjic effectively protested and toppled the corrupt regime of Slobodan Milosevic through a steadfast, determined, yet peaceful process.

Along with his fellow reformers, Mr. Djindjic created the Democratic Party, and led it to a series of successful electoral victories, ultimately culminating in Mr. Djindjic's ascension to the post of Prime Minister of Serbia on January 25, 2001.

During his 2 years in office, Prime Minister Djindjic worked tirelessly to shed the image of a "backward" Serbia. Under his effective leadership, Prime Minister Djindjic systematically realigned Serbia with the Western ideals of democracy, reform and capitalism.

Through a heroic and selfless act of courage, Prime Minister Djindjic arrested and extradited the man he helped remove from power, and sent Slobodan Milosevic, and his fellow fugitive war criminals to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague (ICTY) where they were indicted and tried.

Prime Minister Djindjic went to great lengths to bring foreign investment and capital back into Serbia's economy by embracing free market concepts, thus laying the groundwork for Serbia's long-term fiscal security and prosperity.

In addition, Prime Minister Djindjic advanced Serbia's relationship with the Trans-Atlantic community. By centering Serbia's foreign policy initiatives, Prime Minister Djindjic has positioned Serbia to become a working and peaceful member of the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Mr. Djindjic worked relentlessly to improve the lives of everyday Serbs through economic development, structural and political reform, and an open, and peaceful foreign policy.

Unfortunately for the people of Serbia, Mr. Djindjic's work was cut short by an assassin's bullet outside his office on March 12, 2003.

So, on this day, let the House of Representatives remember the life and work of Mr. Zoran Djindjic, Prime Minister of Serbia, and let us hope and pray for a better and more prosperous future for the people of Serbia, and the whole Balkan region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 10, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and could not cast a vote on final passage of H.R. 3—the Transportation Equity Act. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATE SENATOR JEFF WENTWORTH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Texas State Senator Jeff Wentworth.

Senator Wentworth has deep roots in Texas. A fourth generation Texan, he graduated from Alamo Heights High School, went to college at Texas A&M, and received his law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law. He has been serving the public in many capacities for most of his adult life: his previous employment includes one year as a university system regent; six years as a county commissioner, three years as a congressional assistant, and three years as an Army counterintelligence officer.

He served five years in the Texas House of Representatives, and was first elected to the Texas Senate in 1992. He is currently the Senate President Pro Tempore, and Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He chairs the Texas Legislative Tourism Caucus, and remains a practicing lawyer, with the firm of Loeffler Tuggey Pauerstein Rosenthal, LLP.

Senator Wentworth is now in his fifth term, and continues to work tirelessly for the more than 700,000 constituents in his district. Jeff Wentworth is a genuine American success story, and a tremendous advocate for the people of San Antonio and for all the people of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of State Senator Jeff Wentworth.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE L. BLUMENBERG

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Anne L. Blumenberg, founder of the Community Law Center in Baltimore. Anne, who recently retired as the Law Center's long-time executive director, has been instrumental in developing legal strategies to empower neighborhoods and communities.

Anne is a remarkable woman who has dedicated her life to improving our community. Over the years, she has performed groundbreaking work in the areas of low-income housing acquisition, community-based planning, coalition building and community advocacy. Through her efforts, the Community Law Center has become a leading advocacy organization for community and economic development in distressed neighborhoods. She has led the way in fighting predatory real estate practices that have been so destructive to many Baltimore neighborhoods.

A graduate of Catholic University's Columbus School of Law, Anne founded the Community Law Center in 1983, becoming its executive director in 1986. The Community Law Center's philosophy has been that access to

lawyers could help revitalize neighborhoods. Initially, most of the work focused on public safety. In recent years, that focus has shifted to real estate and economic development. The Center's successes include: enactment of legislation giving community groups legal standing in drug nuisance cases and legal action against owners of vacant properties.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Anne L. Blumenberg for her work in helping neighborhoods and communities maintain some degree of control over their destinies.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JENNIFER GRODSKY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Jennifer Grodsky, a dedicated, intelligent and compassionate woman whom I have been very fortunate to have as my Legislative Director for the past four years.

Jennifer joined my office shortly after I was elected to Congress in 2000. Having received excellent training as a Legislative Assistant for former Congressman Julian Dixon of California, Jennifer quickly assumed her role as Legislative Director with great ease and competence. She played an instrumental part in establishing my office protocol and creating a strong legislative staff.

As Legislative Director, Jennifer has coordinated my legislative agenda with much success. She has overseen my introduction of numerous bills, including two which have become law. Her extensive knowledge of the legislative process and a wide array of public policy issues has proved invaluable to my office. Since Jennifer's first day in the office, she has approached each and every task I have given her with the utmost professionalism and dedication.

Jennifer's keen understanding of the health care challenges facing my district and the nation has been particularly important to me as a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Task Force on Health. Jennifer has organized numerous briefings and events to heighten awareness about accessing affordable health care and persisting racial and ethnic health disparities, including spearheading very successful events sponsored by the Congressional Hispanic, Black, and Asian Pacific American Caucuses in Los Angeles, California, and Miami, Florida. Jennifer played a lead role in developing the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act, the Democratic Caucus' comprehensive bill to address racial and ethnic health disparities, and shares my strong concern for the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic. Her passion for improving our nation's health care system, particularly for the Latino and other minority communities, is one of Jennifer's strongest attributes.

As my appropriations staffer for the past four years, Jennifer has helped me to secure millions of dollars in federal assistance for important projects in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley, including the expansion of the Azusa Health Clinic and the development of computer training classes at Project Amiga

in South El Monte. These projects have, and will continue to make, an enormous difference in the lives of families living in the 32nd Congressional District of California.

Jennifer's intelligence, kindness, and professionalism have earned her the trust and respect of her colleagues. She has served as a mentor to all of the staff, teaching them about the legislative process and various public policy issues with patience and understanding, earning the nickname "Mama Grodsky" among my staff.

Jennifer's departure from my office will be a tremendous loss to my staff and me. While I am sad to see Jennifer leave my office, I am proud of her new career advancement as the Director of Federal Affairs for the University of Southern California. As a Magna Cum Laude graduate and proud alumnus of this renowned university, Jennifer will be an invaluable asset to her new office. The University of Southern California will be very fortunate to have such a talented and bright young woman to lead its new Washington, DC, office. I join my staff in Washington, DC, and district offices in El Monte and East Los Angeles in wishing Jennifer the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 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.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my support for language in H.R. 3 which would permit states to exempt certain hybrid vehicles from high occupancy vehicle regulations.

The legislation provides that alternative fuel vehicles as well as vehicles that achieve a highway fuel economy rating of 45 miles per gallon or greater may be exempted from HOV requirements through September 29, 2009.

I would like to insert into the record a memo prepared at my request by the Congressional Research Service which analyzes the HOV provisions of H.R. 3 with respect to the treatment of hybrid vehicles.

It is important to note that based on my conversations with the authors of this legislation as well as this memo, the language of H.R. 3 would permit states the flexibility regulate when and where hybrid vehicles would be exempt from HOV regulations within the state.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important that the States have the flexibility to regulate the hybrid use of HOV lanes within their state—both in terms of where hybrids will be permitted in HOV lanes and when they may be permitted. The language in H.R. 3 seems to achieve this purpose.

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE,
Washington, DC, March 9, 2005.

Hon. BRAD SHERMAN.

HYBRID VEHICLE ACCESS TO HOV LANES
UNDER H.R. 3

As you requested, this memorandum provides an analysis of the high occupancy vehi-

cle (HOV) provisions in the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (H.R. 3), as reported in the House. Specifically, you asked about the treatment of hybrid vehicles in H.R. 3.

Section 1208 of the bill adds a new Section 168 to Title 23 of the United States Code. Section 18(b)(4) would allow—but not require—states to exempt "low emission and energy efficient vehicles" from HOV requirements through September 29, 2009. The bill does not specifically address hybrid vehicles: instead, the bill provides that alternative fuel vehicles as well as vehicles that achieve a highway fuel economy rating of 45 miles per gallon or greater may be exempted. Eligible vehicles must also meet the new Tier 2 light vehicle emissions standards, and must be certified by the Environmental Protection Agency. It should be noted that a state must actively establish a program to exempt vehicles—the exemption is not automatic.

Further, you asked whether states would have the authority to exempt vehicles from specific HOV lanes at specific times, or whether the state would be required to exempt vehicles from all HOV lanes. The section on vehicle exemptions states that "the State agency may allow vehicles certified as low emission and energy-efficient vehicles . . . to use the HOV facility . . ." In this and several other subsections, the bill refers to an "HOV facility" in the singular. The Federal Highway Administration treats every separate section of highway as a separate "HOV facility." For example, in Virginia the HOV lanes outside of the Capital Beltway in Interstate 66, the lanes inside of the beltway on I-66, and the lanes on I-95/I-395 are all treated as separate facilities. The restrictions on time and minimum occupancy differ for all three facilities. Because of these distinctions, it appears that states could choose to exempt vehicles from one facility (i.e. highway) and not another.

What is less clear is whether states could designate specific lanes (within a facility) and times. The bill requires states to "establishes procedures for enforcing the restrictions on the use of the facility by such vehicles." This would seem to grant the state latitude in determining when and where low emission and energy efficient vehicles could be exempted from the HOV restrictions. However, allowing compliant vehicles exemptions at some times but not others—or in some lanes but not others—would add a level of complexity to the enforcement of HOV restrictions. It therefore seems an open question whether states would choose to exempt compliant vehicles from restrictions on all state HOV facilities, or on specific facilities without specifying which lanes could be used or at what time.

It should be noted that H.R. 3, as introduced, would have required states to charge tolls for all vehicles exempted from the HOV restrictions. The version as reported allows such tolls, but does not require them. It should also be noted that states would be required to limit or discontinue the exemptions, if they were found to decrease traffic flow along the HOV lanes.

Sincerely,

BRAD YACOBUCCI,
*Specialist in Energy Policy Resources,
Sciences and Industry Division.*

INTRODUCTION OF PROTECTION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, last year, using the 9/11 Commission Report as a guide, we passed the National Intelligence Reform Act. In addition to reorganizing our nation's intelligence system, it created a Civil Liberties Board. Unfortunately, this newly created Civil Liberties Board is only a shell of what is needed in order to be effective. Therefore we are introducing "The Protection of Civil Liberties Act" to amend the current board. With the exception of making the Board an independent agency, this bill would reinstate the provisions that were taken out in conference. These commonsense provisions give the Board the authority it needs. Specifically the bill:

1. Gives the Board subpoena power. Currently the board needs the permission of the Attorney General to issue a subpoena. Also, the Board lacks access to the private contractors who currently perform many critical intelligence functions.

2. Creates the Board as an independent agency in the executive branch. Currently the board is in the Executive Office of the President.

3. Requires that all 5 members of the Board be confirmed by the Senate. Currently only the Chair and the Vice Chair will be confirmed.

4. Requires that no more than 3 members can be from the same political party. Currently there is no provision that ensures a bipartisan Board.

5. Sets a term for Board members at 6 years. Currently members will serve at the pleasure of the President.

6. Creates the chairman as a full-time member of the Board. This increases the likelihood that the Board will meet regularly.

7. Restores the qualifications of Board members that were originally included in the Senate bill. This would require that members have prior experience with protecting civil liberties, among other things. Currently there are no such requirements.

8. Restores reporting requirements to Congress. One of the main recommendations of the 9/11 Commission was the need for more Congressional Oversight. Restoring the reporting requirement language requiring semi-annual reports helps achieve this goal.

9. Requires each executive department or agency with law enforcement or antiterrorism functions should designate a privacy and civil liberties officer. Currently the law only expresses a sense of Congress that a privacy and civil liberties officer be established.

This is important legislation and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE RADIOPROTECTANT DRUG

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a pressing national

need. The resolution I present here is a recognition of our responsibility to protect the American people from the horrors of radiation exposure as best we can.

In this era of terrorism, the ultimate fear has always been the detonation of either a nuclear or radiological device in an American city by terrorists. Even a low-yield nuclear device is capable of causing large-scale damage.

After a blast occurs the radiation that follows is also an enormous concern.

We cannot counter the effects of a thermonuclear explosion. However, science is developing countermeasures to the medical effects of radiation exposure. These whole-body drugs, known as radioprotectants, represent a great step forward in protecting American citizens from the horrors of terrorism in the nuclear age.

This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that these drugs, if proven safe and effective, should be purchased and stockpiled by the federal government at the earliest possible opportunity under Project Bioshield.

This resolution recognizes the potential these drugs stand for, and is the first step toward appropriating the first effective medical countermeasures to radiation sickness. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution as part of our responsibility to safeguard American lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of March 10th until the morning of March 15th, I was part of an official congressional delegation to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. The delegation also had official events in Guam and Hawaii. Due to my absence I was not able to make the following votes and would like the record to indicate that I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote number 62. I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes number 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, and 68.

TRIBUTE TO FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, AN OUTSTANDING HBCU AND A TRULY GREAT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Florida Memorial College, which will become Florida Memorial University during campus ceremonies to be held on Friday, March 18, 2005.

Founded in 1879 as the Florida Baptist Institute in Live Oak, Florida under the aegis of the Baptist Church and the leadership of the Rev. Matthew Gilbert, Florida Memorial is one of the oldest academic centers in Florida. It was later transferred to Jacksonville in 1892 as the Florida Baptist Academy. It was on this campus that faculty member J. Rosamond John-

son and his brother James Weldon Johnson co-wrote "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," which is now known as the Negro National Anthem.

In 1968 the College moved to Miami, Florida where it has grown to include a student body of 1,378 students from all over Florida, the Nation and the Caribbean. President Dr. Albert E. Smith has provided inspired leadership of the institution and its 66-member faculty. Dr. Smith has been very effective in attracting talented professors and students, and in shaping one of Florida's most beautiful college campuses.

Florida Memorial offers thirty-eight degree programs through its seven academic divisions. It is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and is recognized by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSB) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Throughout its glorious history, Florida Memorial has graduated thousands of professionals who have made history and are making productive, innovative contributions to this Nation and the world. It is for this reason that this transformation from Florida Memorial College to Florida Memorial University is genuinely deserved, for it manifests in no small measure the excellence of its programs and its significance in our community.

My best wishes to President Smith, his staff, faculty, student body and alumni on this great achievement. It is thrilling to imagine what this great institution will achieve in the next 124 years.

A TRIBUTE TO SAM LAMANTIA JR.

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay special tribute to Sam Lamantia Jr., a man with a heart of gold who has spent 27 years raising money to help abused children. Sam is a master barber in Baltimore, and in 1978 he almost single-handedly started the Ed Block Courage Awards.

Sam Lamantia conceived of the award as a way to help abused children in Baltimore. Named for Ed Block, the athletic trainer for the Baltimore Colts, the award was first designed to honor one Baltimore Colt player a year. Since then, 17 Ed Block Courage Houses have opened in NFL cities around the Nation, helping abused children and their families.

Sam moved with his family from Italy to Baltimore as a young child. In Baltimore, he grew up playing and loving sports. As an adult, Sam and his boyhood friends from the Eastside Athletic Club began sponsoring sports teams and giving back to local charities. Eventually, they conceived of the Ed Block Courage Award, and Sam talked many of his clients who were members of the Baltimore Colts into helping. Sam's vision of giving back to the community has now grown to include 28 NFL teams and their players.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Sam Lamantia Jr., a true hero who has found a way to help bring hope back into the lives of abused children.

RECOGNIZING VERIZON'S HISPANIC SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the California Chapter of Verizon's Hispanic Support Organization for hosting the 7th Annual Hispanic Support Organization National Conference. Since its establishment in 1988, the Hispanic Support Organization, a Verizon employee resource group, has been working to advance the professional needs of Hispanic employees, improve the communities where Hispanics live in, and support Verizon's initiatives in the Hispanic community.

It is my pleasure to recognize groups like Verizon's Hispanic Support Organization for their service to the professional development of our Latino community. This year's theme for the conference is called: "Construyendo Nuestro Futuro y Destino/Building Our Future and Our Destiny." The Hispanic Support Organization has been doing this kind of investment in our community for more than 16 years. With the growth of the Hispanic community in the United States, it is important that organizations keep providing opportunities for the personal and professional development of Hispanics.

Verizon's Hispanic Support Organization has done an outstanding job with their mentorship program and scholarship program, while at the same time providing financial assistance to organizations that serve the needs of the Hispanic community. The intellectual and social benefit that the Hispanic Support Organization provides to its members fosters an environment of support and encourages the creation of leaders in our community. I wish the Hispanic Support Organization much success at its conference in Los Angeles this week and in the future.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR H.R. 1292—SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING CORRECTION

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, Chapter 21 of title 38, United States Code, provides for grants to adapt or acquire suitable housing for certain severely disabled veterans, including veterans who are unable to ambulate without assistance. The maximum grant amount for a severely disabled veteran is \$50,000.

Public Law 108-183 extended eligibility for the adaptive housing grant to severely disabled servicemembers who have not yet been processed for discharge from military service, but who will qualify for the benefit upon discharge due to the severity of their disabilities. Prior to Public Law 108-183, qualifying servicemembers were not allowed to apply for or receive the grant until they were actually discharged from military service.

Section 401 of S. 2486, Public Law 108-454, extends eligibility for specially adapted housing grants to veterans with permanent and total service-connected disabilities due to

the loss, or loss of use, of both arms at or above both elbows.

An inadvertent error occurred in the drafting of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004, which the Committee discovered too late to be corrected without jeopardizing passage of the same bill in both the House and Senate before adjournment. The error resulted in the omission of the change made by Public Law 108-183 for catastrophically disabled servicemembers. H.R. 1292 serves to correct that oversight.

Mr. Speaker, this is a necessary correction to ensure the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to assist those severely disabled servicemembers who require their homes be adapted to their disability. I urge my colleagues to support it.

HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION RESOLUTION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was pleased to vote in support of the resolution (H. Res. 135) sponsored by U.S. Representative DAVID DREIER from California. Adoption of this measure will establish the House Democracy Assistance Commission.

This new internal commission of House members will work closely with our legislative counterparts in other fledgling democracies to encourage the development of democratic processes and institutions. In addition, it will expand information exchanges and the sharing of first-hand knowledge of the inner workings of functioning democracies. Finally, this new commission will provide recommendations to the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development on what types of material assistance, such as modern automation, information technology, and library systems will most help our counterpart parliamentarians to more effectively perform their vital tasks of representation and democratic participation.

The work that this commission will perform has already been validated in prior similar efforts. Between 1990 and 1996, the informal "Frost-Solomon Task Force" provided invaluable technical assistance and equipment to Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Russia. The creation of this new commission will build upon that solid precedent in enhancing democratic institution-building where democratic engagement and republican government are new to what had previously been undemocratic societies.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE
AIRMEN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce my recent introduction of legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the

Tuskegee Airmen. The Congressional Gold Medal was first awarded over 200 years ago to Americans whose courage and determination in battle exemplified the spirit of our nation.

In keeping with this tradition, I am honored to join with Senator LEVIN in concurrently introducing this legislation to bestow Congress' highest honor to this deserving group of individuals.

The Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II. In so doing, they helped to destroy the racist conceptions of their time, and set in motion the eventual desegregation of the Armed Services.

Before 1940, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military. However, the great threat posed by the Nazis, and the demands of Black Americans for full citizenship, including the right to fight for their country as patriots, persuaded the American government to provide an opportunity for African Americans to serve, even though in segregated units.

The Airmen completed 15,500 missions, destroyed 260 enemy aircraft, sank one enemy destroyer, and demolished numerous enemy installations. They also would have the WWII distinction of never losing a bomber under their escort, despite flying in some of the enemies' most heavily defended areas.

During their World War II service, the Airmen would earn 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, 8 Purple Hearts, and 14 Bronze Stars. At the war's end they had not only helped to defeat the Germans, they helped to set in motion the eventual desegregation of the Armed Services a few years later.

The Tuskegee Airmen were patriots in the truest sense of the word. Their belief in themselves, and in the promise of America, gave them the strength to overcome incredible obstacles, and accomplish what was then considered impossible. Their courage inspired a generation, and their determination strengthened a nation.

The Tuskegee Airmen deserve an honor befitting their contribution to our country, so I respectfully urge my fellow colleagues to support this legislation.

IN CELEBRATION OF ARTS
ADVOCACY DAY 2005

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Arts Advocacy Day. As Congress considers the budget and appropriations bills for fiscal year 2006, the importance of the arts should be recognized for a number of reasons.

First, the arts contribute significantly to local economic development. As of January 2005 in the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio there were 1,212 arts-related businesses that employed 10,174 people. This data, from Dun & Bradstreet, indicates that between 2004 and 2005, arts-related businesses grew at a faster rate than total U.S. business growth. At the same time, as total U.S. jobs shrank by 1.9

percent, the decline in arts-related businesses was 0.8 percent, in other words less than half that rate. Arts-related businesses are clearly good for business and good for the economy. But the arts have greater effects than these.

An examination of SAT scores from the College Board in the period 2002 through 2004 reflects a startling effect. Data from Ohio students that studied Art History, Dance, Drama, Music, Photography/Film, or Studio Art reflected higher Verbal and Math SAT scores than students that didn't study any of these subjects. To further quantify this effect, let me provide an example: Ohio students in music performance reflected a Mean Verbal SAT score of 554 in 2004 and a Mean Math score of 552. In contrast, Ohio students not exposed to arts courses demonstrated a 2004 Mean Verbal SAT score of 497 and a Mean Math score of 511. This forty point differential benefit is very easy to understand. Nationally, similar effects were reflected in the test scores of students that studied a variety of arts disciplines: Art History, Dance, Drama, Photography/Film, or Studio Art.

As schools focus on raising test scores, the importance of arts cannot be overstated. But conflicting attitudes and practices exist in Ohio's schools. A 2000 survey by the Ohio Alliance For Arts Education reflected that more than 70 percent of those surveyed in Ohio's public schools believed that music and visual arts are as important as other academic subjects. Yet, in practice over 11 years, public schools demonstrated overall reductions in arts and music education. Fewer private schools (than public schools) required achievement in the arts as a graduation requirement. But a higher percentage of private schools believed that creative writing, music, visual arts, and drama are as important as other academic subjects. Here, theory and practice don't match.

It is clear that the arts enhance student ability. During this time of enhanced accountability and high stakes academic testing, it would make sense to ensure that every child, kindergarten through twelfth grade, is provided an opportunity to participate in the arts. Many school districts are experiencing financial difficulty. To that end, instead of punishing schools for failing test scores, we should provide them with the resources needed to implement quality arts education programs—which correlate with increased test scores. Arts education enhances literacy. And we should go further than haphazardly sticking in a few programs here and there. Quality matters. We must be concerned about the quality of subject matter as well as teacher training and development.

The No Child Left Behind Act, NCLB, has recognized the arts as a core academic subject, making arts programs eligible for inclusion in broad funding categories such as teacher training, school reform, and technology. In spite of this designation, NCLB has led to the erosion of arts education. Economically disadvantaged schools don't have sufficient resources to cover enhanced intensive math and English studies, and quality arts education programs. A 2004 report by the Council for Basic Education found that "the greatest erosion of the curriculum is occurring in schools with high minority populations—the very populations whose access to such a curriculum has been historically most limited." We

must do better. The arts impart discipline, improve literacy, and enhance cultural understanding. If we have determined that students and teachers need to be held accountable, we must also ensure that schools, particularly schools that serve disadvantaged students, have adequate resources to provide strong instruction in math and English, as well as the arts. Complex problems like student achievement require varied solutions and rich curricula.

Finally, as Congress considers the fiscal year 2006 appropriations bills, we should support increases in public funding. Each dollar of funding to the National Endowment for the Arts leverages at least \$7 from other sources to support full time jobs. This returns revenue to the Federal Government in income taxes at a rate of nearly eight to one. That's not a bad investment. Public spending on the humanities through programs such as the National Endowment for the Humanities initiative We The People, advances understanding of American history, culture, and values. Increasingly, we live in an interdependent world in which cultural understanding is a key aspect of cooperative efforts ranging from economic development to security cooperation.

I salute the arts industries and cultural organizations of the Eleventh District of Ohio as well as the individual artists, educators, and advocates. I thank the arts community for effectively conveying its importance on Arts Advocacy Day, and hope that we as a Congress continue to demonstrate a level of support that will enable the arts to thrive.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 4

2 p.m.
Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine strategic forces and nuclear weapons issues in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006; to be followed by a closed hearing in SR-232A.
SR-222

APRIL 6

10 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles F. Conner, of Indiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.
SR-328A

APRIL 14

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

APRIL 21

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

SEPTEMBER 20

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