

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Borough of West View as it celebrates its centennial Anniversary.

West View will turn 100 years old on March 20th, 2005. The community will celebrate during the week of July 10th with a parade, picnics and fireworks that have been planned by the Centennial Celebration Committee. The Committee has been working very hard planning the festivities for over a year and the celebration promises to be a festive event.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the rich history and tradition of the Borough of West View. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to congratulate West View on its 100th anniversary.

HONORING DAVID BENFER, FACHE, 2005 RECIPIENT OF THE TORCH OF LIBERTY AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, in New Haven, Connecticut, friends, family and colleagues will gather to pay tribute to one of our community's most outstanding citizens. I am proud to stand today and join the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League as they honor David Benfer, FACHE with the 2005 Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Award.

Each year, the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League presents the prestigious Torch of Liberty Award to an outstanding leader in the community, recognizing their unique commitment and dedication. As President and Chief Executive Officer of the Saint Raphael Hospital System, David manages one of New Haven's leading employers as well as one of the largest providers of healthcare in Connecticut. During his tenure of six years, Saint Raphael's has furthered its reputation as a clinical pioneer in cardiac, cancer, orthopedic, neurosciences, and geriatric services. The outstanding success of Saint Raphael's is a reflection of the deep commitment that David has demonstrated since his arrival just six years ago.

I have had the opportunity and honor to work with David on a number of projects. I am in awe of his unparalleled dedication. A trustee of the Catholic Health Association, an advocacy organization that represents more than two thousand Catholic healthcare facilities na-

tionwide, David recently asked me to get involved with a very special mission—the "Lend Your Voice" campaign, a national campaign to bring awareness to lawmakers of the seriousness of today's healthcare crisis. As the administrator of a healthcare facility, David knows only too well the plight of uninsured Americans. At a recent event he said, "This is not only a moral responsibility, but it is an economic opportunity to improve health care and reduce costs in the long run by providing care at the appropriate time." It is this leadership and vision that will continue to spark debate and, hopefully, allow for a time when every American is insured.

It is not only his professional contributions that have made David such a special member of our community. Arriving to New Haven only six years ago, David not only took on his responsibilities at Saint Raphael's, but immediately became involved in a number of local service organizations. The New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Community Soup Kitchen and the International Festival of Arts and Ideas are just some of those who benefit from having David as a member of their Boards. It is not often that you find individuals who so quickly and willingly delve into their new communities. With his compassion, generosity, and kind heart, David represents all that a community leader should be.

I am honored to rise today and join his wife, Mary, his three children, family, friends, and colleagues to pay tribute to David Benfer, FACHE for his many invaluable contributions. I cannot think of a more appropriate honor than the Torch of Liberty Award to recognize the generosity and commitment David has shown to our community.

THE SREBRENICA MASSACRE OF 1995, HOUSE RESOLUTION 199

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join our colleague and Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, in cosponsoring House Resolution 199, regarding the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

For us, the congressional debates regarding the nature of the Bosnian conflict and what the United States and the rest of the international community should do about it are increasingly part of history. Now focused on other challenges around the globe, it is easy to forget the prominence of not only Bosnia, but the Balkans as a whole, on our foreign policy agenda.

It would be a mistake, however, to ignore the reality of Srebrenica ten years later to those who were there and experienced the horror of having sons, husbands, fathers taken away never to be seen again. Their loss is made greater by the failure to apprehend and

transfer to The Hague for trial people like Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic who were responsible for orchestrating and implementing the policies of ethnic cleansing.

Following the Srebrenica massacre, the United States ultimately did the right thing by taking the lead in stopping the bloodshed and in facilitating the negotiation of the Dayton Agreement, the tenth anniversary of which will likely be commemorated this November. Thanks in large measure to the persistence of the U.S. Congress and despite the resistance of some authorities particularly in Belgrade and Banja Luka, cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia remains a necessary precondition for improved bilateral ties and integration into NATO and the European Union. Meanwhile, the United States and many other countries have contributed significant resources, including money and personnel, to the region's post-conflict recovery.

It is therefore appropriate that we, as the leaders of the Helsinki Commission, introduce and hopefully pass this resolution on Srebrenica ten years later, not only to join with those who continue to mourn and seek closure, but also to understand why we have done what we have done since then, and, more importantly, to learn the lesson of failing to stand up to those in the world who are willing to slaughter thousands of innocent people. The atrocities committed in and around Srebrenica in July 1995, after all, were allowed to happen in what the United Nations Security Council itself designated as a "safe area."

In confirming the indictments of Mladic and Karadzic, a judge from the international tribunal reviewed the evidence submitted by the prosecutor. His comments were included in the United Nations Secretary General's own report of the fall of Srebrenica, which described the UN's own responsibility for that tragedy. Let me repeat them here:

After Srebrenica fell to besieging Serbian forces in July 1995, a truly terrible massacre of the Muslim population appears to have taken place. The evidence tendered by the Prosecutor describes scenes of unimaginable savagery: thousands of men executed and buried in mass graves, hundreds of men buried alive, men and women mutilated and slaughtered, children killed before their mothers' eyes . . . These are truly scenes from hell, written on the darkest pages of history.

Regardless of one's views of the Yugoslav conflicts—who started the conflicts, why, and what our response should have been—there is no denying that what happened to the people of Srebrenica was a crime for which there are no reasonable explanations, no mitigating circumstances, no question of what happened. As a result, it is inconceivable to me that anybody can defend Radovan Karadzic or Ratko Mladic, let alone protect them from arrest.

There should also be no mistake, Mr. Speaker, that Srebrenica was only the worst of many incidents which took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. Like the

• 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.

shelling of Sarajevo and the camp prisoners at Omarska, the July 1995 events in Srebrenica were part of a larger campaign to destroy a multi-ethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina, which manifested itself in atrocities in towns and villages across the country. It does, indeed, meet the definition of genocide.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the House will express its views regarding this massacre, which may fade in our memories but is all too recent and real to those who witnessed it and survived. Joining them in marking this event 10 years ago may help them to move forward, just as we want southeastern Europe as a whole to move forward. I call on my colleagues to support this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PAYCHECK
FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005 AND THE
FAIR PAY ACT OF 2005

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join my House colleague ROSA DELAURO and Senator HILLARY CLINTON as original cosponsors of the Paycheck Fairness Act and Senator TOM HARKIN as an original cosponsor of the Fair Pay Act. The Equal Pay Act has been a highly successful civil rights statute, but it is creaky with age and to be useful, it must be amended to meet the changed economy in which it must now do its work. The Fair Pay Act also amends the EPA but it picks up where the EPA leaves off.

Huge changes in the economy and the workplace have occurred since the EPA was passed, and most important is the emergence of a highly educated workforce of women with even 75 percent of women with small children working for pay. However, women are vastly underused because of employer steering and because of deeply rooted wage stereotypes that result in pay according to gender and not according to the skills, efforts, responsibilities and working conditions necessary to do the job. We introduce the Fair Pay Act because the pay problems of most women today stem mainly from this sex segregation in the jobs that women and men do. Two-thirds of white women, and three quarters of African American women work in just three areas: sales and clerical, service and factory jobs. Only a combination of more aggressive strategies can break through the ancient societal habits present throughout human time the world over as well as the employer steering of women into women's jobs that is as old as paid employment itself.

The FPA recognizes that if men and women are doing comparable work, they should be paid a comparable wage. If a woman is an emergency services operator, a female-dominated profession, for example, she should be paid no less than a fire dispatcher, a male-dominated profession, simply because each of these jobs has been dominated by one sex. If a woman is a social worker, a traditionally female occupation, she should earn no less than a probation officer, a traditionally male job, simply because of the gender associated with each of these jobs.

The FPA, like the EPA, will not tamper with the market system. As with the EPA, the bur-

den will be on the plaintiff to prove discrimination. She must show that the reason for the disparity is sex or race discrimination, not legitimate market factors. Corrections to achieve comparable pay for men and women are not radical or unprecedented. State employees in almost half the state governments, in red and blue states, have already demonstrated that you can eliminate the part of the pay gap that is due to discrimination. Twenty states have adjusted wages for women, state employees, raising pay for teachers, nurses, clerical workers, librarians, and other female dominated-jobs that paid less than men with comparable jobs. Minnesota, for example, implemented a pay equity plan when they found that similarly skilled female jobs paid 20% less than male jobs. There often will be some portion of the gap that is traceable to market conditions, but twenty states have shown that you can tackle the discrimination gap without interfering with the free market system. The states generally have closed the discrimination gap over a period of four or five years at a one-time cost no more than 3 to 4 percent of payroll.

In addition, routinely, many women workers achieve pay equity through collective bargaining. And countless employers on their own see women shifting out of vital female dominated occupations, and the resulting effects of the shortage of workers, see the unfairness to women, and are raising women's wages with pay equity adjustments. Unequal pay has been built into the way women have been treated since Adam and Eve. To dislodge such deep seated and pervasive treatment, we must go to the source, the female occupations where pay now identifies with gender and always has.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is important simply to meet our obligation to keep existing legislation current. It simply updates the 42-year old Equal Pay Act. Recently, I thought we were seeing progress when the census reported that black college educated women actually earned more than white college-educated women, although the overall the wage gap for black women, at 65 percent, remains considerably larger than the gap for white women.

No explanation was offered for the progress for black women but other data and information suggest that even when women seem to catch up it may not be what we had in mind. I suspect that African American women are represented disproportionately among the 50% of all multiple job holders who are women. I am certain that this progress for African American women also tells a tragic story. The decline in marriageable black men, eaten alive by ghetto life, also means that many college educated black women are likely to be single with no need for even the short time-out for children white women often take that affects their wages.

The best case for a strong and updated EPA occurred here in the Congress in 2003, when the women custodians in the House and Senate won an EPA case after showing that women workers were paid a dollar less for doing the same and similar work as men. Had they not been represented by their union they would have had an almost impossible task using the rules for bringing and sustaining an EPA class action. The FPA simply modernizes the EPA the first of the great civil rights statutes of the 1960s to bring it in line with later passed civil rights statutes. Because I en-

forced the EPA as chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, I know all too well the several ways that this historic legislation needs a 21st century make-over.

We file these two bills today to say start with the Fair Pay Act or start with the Paycheck Fairness Act. Start where you like, but Congress should be ashamed to let another year go by while working families lose more than 200 billion annually—more than \$4,000 per family—because even considering education, age, hours worked and location, women are paid less than they are worth. Let's start this year to make pay worthy of the American women we have asked to go to work.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELAINE
GROTHMANN FOR HER 30 YEARS
OF SERVICE TO THE CONTRA
COSTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN
SERVICES

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career accomplishments of Elaine Grothmann for her 30 years of service to the Contra Costa County Department of Employment and Human Services.

Ms. Grothmann represents the highest standards of professionalism in her life work with the Department. She is respected and trusted by her colleagues for her sincerity, constancy, and the outstanding quality of her work. Her managers know that when Elaine takes on an assignment, the end product is going to be assured, timely, and a credit to the Department.

Over her career, Elaine's work has benefited a wide range of the Department's customers, including dependent children, refugees, foster children, and parents entering and reentering the job market after having received welfare. She has been an innovator and mainstay of programs for CalWORKs participants, creating and implementing services in child care, substance abuse, mental health, and learning disabilities that buoy employability. The training program she spearheaded for CalWORKs participants to become licensed child care providers and preschool teachers is an inspired, lasting design that continues to meet multiple, compatible needs of the participants.

Elaine's respect for those who are served by the Department shows in her work on their behalf and confers respect on the Department. Her creativity, expertise, dedication, and amiability—not to mention her affinity for good times and monthly trips to Disneyland—are going to be missed by everyone who has worked with Elaine and benefited from her good work.

I thank Elaine Grothmann for her career contributions to the Contra Costa County Department of Employment and Human Services, and I wish her a well-deserved retirement in the community she has done so much to improve

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN
RELIEF SERVICES CHARITIES**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise because today marks a very proud day for Virginia's Eighth Congressional district. I am deeply honored to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Christian Relief Services Charities, an international charitable organization located in the heart of my district, founded by a great Virginian and a man I'm proud to call my good friend, Eugene L. Krizek.

Throughout its 20-year history, Christian Relief has held true to one overriding principle: to help those in need both in the United States and around the world.

From this humble objective, Christian Relief has worked to improve the lives of thousands worldwide. No example illustrates this more than the efforts of Christian Relief in Africa. In some of the most poverty stricken regions on the continent, Christian Relief has offered vital development programs that address the long-term sustainability of communities for water, farming, housing, and clinics and hospitals. One particular program has educated African women, their children, and countless orphans. Christian Relief's school construction, vocational and literacy programs, and micro-credit and micro-enterprise opportunities have made it possible that new generations will possess the skills necessary for long-term community survival.

As prosperous and fortunate as our great nation is, poverty and need still exist in American communities and neighborhoods. In our urban areas, the Appalachian region, American Indian reservations, and small towns throughout our country, Christian Relief has learned firsthand how to address the basic needs for food, medicine, and affordable housing of Americans.

This last point, affordable housing, is what Christian Relief has taken special interest in. Its multi-family housing programs confront many of the long-term needs of low-wage working families and individuals caught in the debilitating cycle of poverty. In over 2,800 living units spread across Arizona, Kansas, North Carolina and Virginia, Christian Relief is empowering residents to get actively involved in their own communities and also helping them develop local programs and services to meet specific needs. At the very doorstep of this nation's Capitol, Fairfax County, Christian Relief has coordinated transitional housing for the homeless, working poor, and the disabled. Its "Safe Places Residential Program" provides a hospitable alternative to homelessness for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the challenges that Christian Relief has overcome on American Indian reservations. For decades, they have assisted reservation families with agricultural self-sufficiency programs, culture and language preservation, water, housing, utilities, and youth centers and programs.

In particular, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is the site of one of their most proud accomplishments. With a dire need for water and sustainable agriculture, Christian Relief pro-

vided Pine Ridge with over 300 drilled wells and installed water pumps that have provided a vital inventory of water for twenty years to families living on this remote reservation. The availability of water has allowed families to grow fresh food. Today, tribal members plant over 500 organic gardens each year.

In ending, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my most sincere gratitude to Christian Relief's Founder and President, Eugene Krizek, its Board of Directors and dedicated professional staff. They have truly been at the service of humanity by providing hope in a sometimes unforgiving world. As I reflect on the past twenty years, I am reminded of a thought Albert Einstein offered about the nature of man. He believed that "the value of man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving." Using this as my guide, I realize how blessed we are to have Christian Relief, and I forever understand how immeasurable their value is to mankind.

HONORING SPECIALIST MANUEL
LOPEZ III**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Manuel Lopez III who gave his life in service to our country in Baghdad, Iraq.

Manny, a graduate of North Rockland High School, was a dedicated friend, son, husband, father, and citizen. Throughout his life Manny assumed extraordinary responsibility and always handled it masterfully. With the passing of his father and 4-year-old brother, Manny became the rock on which his mother would lean at an early age. While still a young man, Manny would later assume the role of father and husband, providing a home for wife Kira, and their daughter, Isabella. It was for Kira and Isabella that Manny decided to enlist in the Army, hoping to provide them a better and safer future.

Manny was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, based in Fort Stewart, Georgia. In January of 2005, Manny and his unit were deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On April 1, 2005, Manny was recognized for promotion to Specialist. Less than two weeks later, Manny died when the military vehicle in which he was traveling was struck by a rocket propelled grenade.

Only twenty years old, Manny was a true patriot who never stopped providing for his family or his country, and he paid the ultimate price for loyalty to both. Our nation is blessed to have dedicated, talented men and women like Manny Lopez fighting to protect us and others around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Specialist Manuel Lopez III along with all of our nation's other fallen heroes.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY
OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGI-
NEERS INTERNATIONAL**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Society of Automotive Engineers International on its 100th Anniversary, and recognize the exemplary service that the organization provides the 4th District of Pennsylvania.

The Society of Automotive Engineers International is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with nearly 90,000 members in over 97 countries that is dedicated to advancing mobility technology. Members of the Society of Automotive Engineers International have developed technical innovation on all forms of self-propelled vehicles including automobiles, aircraft, and rail systems.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Society of Automotive Engineers International. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of organizations like the Society of Automotive Engineers International which provide such valuable services.

HONORING NANCY BEALS FOR HER
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, this past month family, friends, colleagues, and community leaders gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding woman—someone I consider myself fortunate to call my good friend, Nancy Beals. Nancy has spent a lifetime dedicated to improving our communities and enriching our State. Most individuals associate public service with holding an elected office, however, there are those who simply hold public office, and then there are those like Nancy Beals. An educator, volunteer mentor, advocate, and State representative—Nancy has done it all.

With the multitude of organizations and groups that she has been involved with over the years, it is difficult to put into words what a difference Nancy has made through all of her good work. Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of people like Nancy who so willingly dedicate their time and energies to make them a better place for our children, families, and businesses to live and grow. Whether as a trustee for Spring Glen Church, volunteer for Connecticut Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity, high school teacher, or board member for Partnerships for Adult Daycare and the Hamden Education Foundation—Nancy's efforts on behalf of the community have touched the lives of thousands.

In addition to her myriad of community volunteer activities, Nancy also committed two decades as a local elected official. Serving for 9 years as a member of the Hamden Board of Education and 10 years as a State Representative in Connecticut's General Assembly, she

used her background and experience to make a difference in the lives of the residents of Hamden as well as those throughout the State. With more than a decade of experience working with local and regional offices of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) as well as several years with the Connecticut Department of Education, Nancy focused much of her time on improving the quality of education for Connecticut's children. She served on the Assembly's Task Force on Student Financial Aid, the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of the Library, and the State Advisory Council on Special Education. As a legislator, she was recognized for her efforts, which is reflected by the myriad of awards and commendations she received throughout her tenure. Her distinguished career came to an end when she retired in 2003, however, she left an indelible mark on the institution which will be remembered by her colleagues and will certainly serve as an inspiration for members to come.

For her many invaluable contributions to her community and to the State of Connecticut, I am proud to stand today to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Nancy Beals. With her husband Richard, 3 children, and 9 grandchildren, she is certainly a busy woman, however, I have no doubt that though she no longer serves in public life, she will continue to work on behalf of her community and make a difference in the lives of others.

INTRODUCTION OF SSI
MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides benefits to nearly 7 million elderly and disabled individuals who have few, if any, other resources. While it serves as the primary Federal program that assists low-income elderly and disabled Americans, many of the components of the program have not been updated in decades.

Since the inception of the program in 1972, the general income exclusion, which permits outside income to be added to the SSI benefit without penalty, has been set at \$20. This income exclusion is generally applied to Social Security earnings, which are based on past employment. A second exclusion was also created to allow the first \$65 in monthly earnings to be disregarded from SSI benefits, plus one-half of the remaining earnings. Neither of these provisions, which reward past and current work, have been increased in 33 years. As a result, these income exclusions have lost more than 75 percent of their real value over time. If they had kept pace with inflation over the last three decades, the general exclusion would be worth \$90 a month, rather than \$20; and the earnings exclusion would be worth \$295 a month, rather than \$65.

I am therefore pleased to introduce legislation today—along with Representative JIM McDERMOTT, the Ranking Member of the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee which has jurisdiction over the SSI program—to reduce the disincentives for work, savings and education in the SSI program. The SSI Modernization Act

would reward work by increasing the general income exclusion to \$40 a month and the earned income exclusion to \$130 a month, then index the amounts to inflation in future years. The bill would also increase the SSI asset limit from \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple to \$3,000 for an individual and \$4,500 for a couple. Increasing the resource limits would provide an incentive for individuals to save for their future. Finally, the bill would encourage disabled children to complete high school by delaying the period in which they are required to go through a re-determination process to evaluate whether they remain SSI eligible under the adult program requirements. Because some disabled children may not be able to complete their secondary education before the age of 18, the legislation would delay a recipient's adult SSI re-determination if they are enrolled in secondary education and between the ages of 18 and 21.

Mr. Speaker, the provisions in the SSI program have not been updated in decades. Updating the program by rewarding work, savings and education will help improve the lives of millions of our most vulnerable seniors and disabled Americans who depend on this program to survive. As the Social Security Commissioner declared last spring before our Human Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee, SSI recipients are the "poorest of the poor." Efforts to improve the quality of life for these individuals will go a long way to ensuring that they have a basic level of support. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, DC 34TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION HONORING DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor and pleasure of representing America's oldest, continuously operational gay and lesbian rights organization: the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C. (GLAA). GLAA is a Washington, DC institution in the vanguard of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered civil rights movement. For 34-years, GLAA has remained a tenacious, persistent, and most importantly, respected, advocate for lesbians and gays.

Since 1971, GLAA has fought to improve District government services to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) communities, especially for those services provided by the Metropolitan Police Department, the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, the Department of Health and the Office of Human Rights. In every election year GLAA educates District voters by rating candidates for Mayor, Council, and Board of Education. GLAA outspokenly advocates safe and affirming schools for gay and lesbian youth. GLAA vigorously lobbies this body to defend gay families from undemocratic and discriminatory amendments to the District's budget.

On April 20, GLAA will hold its 34th Anniversary Reception honoring the recipients of its

Distinguished Service Awards for 2005: recently retired Whitman-Walker Clinic executive director Cornelius Baker; the fundraising charity Brother, Help Thyself Inc.; D.C. Council Chairman Linda Cropp; Washington Post columnist Colbert I. King; and lesbian cultural trailblazer Jane Troxell.

GLAA's 34-year fight to secure all the birthrights enjoyed by Americans for the LGBT residents of Washington, D.C. is more poignant as United States citizens living in our nation's capital, who have served honorably in every American war, including the present war in Iraq, are taxed without representation. GLAA's open and forthright advocacy reminds us that LGBT soldiers, who have sworn to protect our country with their lives, must serve in silence, without the open support of their chosen families and communities, neither asking nor telling.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT
McCAFFREY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Robert McCaffrey of Allison Park, PA for his distinguished service during World War II.

Recently, the National Personnel Record Center (NPRC) confirmed Mr. McCaffrey's entitlement to ten medals related to his service. Several of these medals had been misplaced over the past 60 years. While a 1973 fire had destroyed his original service record, an alternate record recently confirmed Mr. McCaffrey's entitlement to these medals. It is my honor to present Mr. McCaffrey with these decorations.

Mr. McCaffrey served in the United States Army from June 1943 until January 1946. During this time, Mr. McCaffrey received the following medals for his service: the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one bronze service star, the World War II Victory Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, the Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar, and the Marksman Badge with Carbine Bar.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Robert McCaffrey. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as Robert who make the communities that they live in truly special.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL WARD
FOR HIS 33 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT
AND HUMAN SERVICES

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career accomplishments of Paul Ward for his 33 years of service to the Contra

Costa County Department of Employment and Human Services.

For three decades, the Department has looked to Mr. Ward for the highest professional standards of analytical support, especially during periods of systems change.

Paul was a major force in developing the information systems necessary for the Department to succeed in its mission to move welfare participants into the workplace. His researched pick for an automated system was chosen by the Department to track the progress of participants toward independence, and he played a significant role in training Department employees to use it.

When impending welfare reform legislation prompted redesign of the benefits program, Paul became a leader for change inside and outside the Department, making presentations about the impacts of reform to fellow employees, other agencies, and local employers, and supporting critical community outreach of the Department Director.

Paul has taken on additional roles as resource to Department leadership inside and outside the organization, writing the Emergency Management Response Plan, staffing the Department Director in the Emergency Operating Center, and acting as Department liaison to other County departments, legislative advocacy associations, and university advanced degree programs.

Throughout his career, Paul has been respected and admired by those he has worked with in the Department and the community for his excellent analytical skills, voice of reason, collegial cooperation, exemplary professional demeanor—and for his dry, intelligent wit.

I thank Paul Ward for his contributions to the Contra Costa County Department of Employment and Human Services, and I wish him well in the community that he has served so well.

RECOGNIZING PETER F. BROWN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding public servant, Peter F. Brown, as he completes more than 24 years of continuous service within the civilian leadership of the Department of Defense, DoD. He began his public service life as a naval architect at the Naval Sea Systems Command, NAVSEA, and is ending it as NAVSEA's Executive Director. Throughout his career, he worked tirelessly to serve America and our Navy and Marine Corps.

Mr. Brown joined NAVSEA in 1981 as Ship Project Manager and then Branch Head for Command and Amphibious ships. In 1987, he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service and assigned as Deputy Program Manager for Amphibious and Combat Support Ships where he directed maintenance and modernization for over 175 surface ships and over 40 intermediate maintenance activities.

Over the next decade, Mr. Brown provided exceptional service to the Navy in a succession of complex and demanding assignments as NAVSEA's corporate planner, civilian manpower manager, Deputy Commander for Fleet Logistics Support, Chief Information Officer,

and Executive Director of the Logistics, Maintenance and Industrial Operations Directorate. He was instrumental in supporting the command's restructuring under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act and its headquarters move to the Washington Navy Yard.

In July 1998, Mr. Brown assumed his current position as the Executive Director of NAVSEA. In this role as the Command's senior civilian executive, he quickly implemented strategic changes in the Navy's largest systems command, comprised of 49,000 civilian and military personnel at 36 geographically dispersed activities with an annual budget of approximately \$20 billion. A number of these changes are being widely adopted across the Department of the Navy and DoD.

Mr. Brown was the Program Team Chair and Product Integrator for a comprehensive DoD team that recommended the creation of a National Security Personnel System, NSPS, Program Executive Office to design and implement the new civilian human resources management system. Based on his team's design, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld agreed to establish the NSPS Program Executive Office, with Mr. Brown assuming the role of interim Program Executive Officer. He was the driving force behind the successful launch of the NSPS program structure. Mr. Brown was instrumental in advancing the One Shipyard concept, which revolutionized the nation's entire ship industrial base to better meet the Navy's Fleet Response Plan requirements in response to the challenge of the Global War on Terror and the dynamic world situation.

Mr. Brown's visionary leadership included the identification of proven private sector programs and processes and their rapid deployment. His active endorsement of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program, VPP, led to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's recent designation as a STAR VPP site, the highest ranking available and the second DoD site to achieve this status and the first Navy site to do so. Mr. Brown is recognized throughout the shipbuilding industry as a leader who can be trusted and is the Navy's sole representative on the Executive Committee of the National Shipbuilding Research Program Advanced Shipbuilding Enterprise.

Mr. Brown has been an exceptional innovator of strategies to solve the most difficult challenges in personnel downsizing, work force renewal, and to reduce costs in acquisition and support of ships, submarines and systems. He provided executive leadership for several initiatives aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Navy's five systems commands under the auspices of the Virtual System Command. He led the migration to common processes, streamlining responsibilities and systems and instituting the adoption of best practices in many key areas. Additionally, these efforts have created a single Fleet distance support solution that provides a conduit for virtually all of the technical and logistics support. These efforts collectively represent over \$6 billion in savings across the Navy over the Future Years Defense Program.

Within NAVSEA, Mr. Brown established a formal control structure for over 166 technical authority areas that are key to the engineering performance and safety of ships, systems, and the sailors who operate them. Nationally recognized individuals known for their professional expertise were assigned as the tech-

nicul authorities in each area. Not only do these individuals represent the ultimate technical authority for their field of expertise, they are responsible to oversee the technical health of the Government, academia, and private sector network that supports that expertise. This approach has been recognized across the Navy for its clarity, effectiveness, and efficiency and has been adopted by other Navy systems commands.

Mr. Brown's visionary approach to challenges allows for the transformation from a "business as usual" mentality into actions that permit innovative improvements in the way the Government and its private industry partners achieve best value products and services. It is, therefore, a pleasure to recognize Mr. Peter F. Brown for his many contributions in a life devoted to our nation's security as he leaves the Department of the Navy. I know my colleagues join me in wishing he and his wife Terri much happiness and fair winds and following seas as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

HONORING SISTER CANDACE INTROCASO

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Sister Candace Introcaso, on being named the seventh President of LaRoche College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sister Introcaso became the President of LaRoche College on July 1, 2004. A member of the Board of Trustees since 2001, Sister Candace takes over an institution, founded by women that believed religion held a very important place in the landscape of higher education. Sister Introcaso brings a very diverse background to her leadership role, having received a B.A. in psychology from Shippensburg University, an M.A. in sociology from Fordham University and Ph.D. in Higher Education from the Claremont Graduate University.

Her experience includes a prior position with LaRoche College from 1986–1991, where she was the Director of Grants and an Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs. From 1997 to 1999, Sister Candace served as the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Heritage College on the Yakima Indian Reservation in Toppenish Washington before moving on to serve as the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. Sister Introcaso will be honored with an Installation Ceremony on Friday, April 8, at 2:30 p.m. on the East Campus of LaRoche College.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Sister Candace Introcaso. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as Sister Introcaso, who make the communities that they live in truly special.

HONORING THE 2005 WOMEN OF VISION AWARD RECIPIENTS: ROSYLN MILSTEIN MEYER AND GLORIA STEINEM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join Women's Health Research at Yale as they honor two outstanding women with their 2005 Women of Vision Award: Gloria Steinem and, my good friend, Roslyn Milstein Meyer. This recognition is a reflection of the contributions these women have made, locally and across the globe.

Author, advocate, and leader, Gloria Steinem has brought issues of concern to women to the forefront of national and international discussion. Her leadership and vision helped to create an atmosphere in which women became empowered and ensured that their voice was heard. Ms. Steinem is an individual who sparked debate and stimulated discussion. Whether it was through her books or her unparalleled activism—and whether or not you agreed with her views—women were encouraged and motivated to act. Hers is a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

While there are many people with good hearts, there are few who combine that heart with a deep commitment to philanthropy and action. Roz Meyer is one of those special people. She captures the best spirit of what it is to be a community leader. She is the co-founder of Leadership, Education, and Athletics in Partnership (LEAP), a nationally recognized program supporting hundreds of young people throughout Connecticut, as well as New Haven's International Festival of Arts and Ideas, an annual celebration of art, culture, and tradition. The success of both of these programs would not have been possible without the support and commitment that Roz provided. Through her advocacy, leadership, and awe-inspiring generosity, she has left an indelible mark on our community.

Whether its impact is on the world or a community, women across the globe touch the lives of people every day. I am honored to stand today and join Women's Health Research at Yale in recognizing the outstanding achievements of Gloria Steinem and Roslyn Milstein Meyer. Through their many contributions, they are a reflection of the very spirit of the Women of Vision Award. I am delighted to extend my sincere congratulations and very best wishes to them on this very special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JEANNE PETREK

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman—a devoted wife, mother, physician, and researcher—Dr. Jeanne Petrek.

Dr. Petrek, born in Youngstown, Ohio, pioneered the field of surgical oncology during a

time when very few women practiced such a demanding specialty. She received her medical degree from Chase Western Reserve in Cleveland and served on the faculty of Emory University School of Medicine in Georgia before joining the staff at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Center in 1978.

As director of the surgical program at the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center, Dr. Petrek became a leading expert on lymphedema and pregnancy-related breast cancer. In a field where most physicians focus on survival and the ability to extend life, Dr. Petrek chose to study how to improve the quality of life for cancer survivors, particularly after treatment. She also went on to study the links between surgery and lymphedema, which ultimately led to the development of surgical procedures that spare lymph nodes.

Dr. Petrek treated more than 4,000 women during her career in a specialty in which doctors normally handle about 400 patients. She was a true patient advocate and embodied the very best of what science and the medical profession can achieve.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Jeanne Petrek whose life will be remembered as one in which her determination to make a difference through her work was only matched by her devotion to her family. Her passing is a tremendous loss to her husband, her children, her colleagues, and her community, and she will be remembered in the hearts and minds of the thousands whose lives she touched.

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY L. STOCKWELL

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the House of Representatives the life accomplishments of a dedicated man. A man who has made a difference in so many lives that he should be recognized here today.

Harvey L. Stockwell, 87, of Garden Grove, California, was a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel with combat service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He died Feb. 28, 2005, of pulmonary complications at St. Joseph's Hospital in Orange, California.

Brother to Warren Stockwell, Harvey Lee "Bud" Stockwell was born in Irving Park, a suburb of Chicago, Illinois, on June 10, 1917, to Archie Lee and Anna Helen Stockwell.

He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1940 with a bachelor's degree in Geology and married Mary Lenore Lamb on August 21, 1943.

When our Nation was called into a second world war, Colonel Stockwell answered the call of duty. He started military life as an enlisted soldier in the US Army Corps of Engineers and quickly advanced to the rank of Corporal. His leadership ability earned him selection to Officer Candidate School where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army Engineers and was sent overseas to fight, where he continued to lead.

Col. Stockwell was not a tall man in physical stature. But it was the quality of his character that defined the essence of his size. In that manner, he was a giant. A line of poetry from

Emily Dickinson defines his character well: "We never know how high we are until called upon to rise, and if our plan is true to form, our statures touch the skies."

During the 40th commemoration of the landing at Normandy in 1984, President Ronald Reagan described the character of the men who fought to preserve our freedom. In his address from France, President Reagan said, "These are the champions who helped free a continent. These are the heroes who helped win the war." Col. Stockwell was a champion and a hero. He helped make it possible for our Nation's flag to continue flying in all of its glory, long may she wave.

After World War II, he left military service for the private sector in Chicago, Illinois where he then answered our Nation's call again by reentering the service and fighting in the Korean War. This time, he stayed in uniform and was one of our Nation's first military advisors to serve in Vietnam.

Col. Stockwell was an honorable man who served our Nation faithfully in an honorable profession. He retired from the Army in 1966 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel after 25 years of active military service, and traded one form of honorable service for another when he headed up the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in Long Beach, California. There, for over 15 years, he instilled in thousands of students the values that have made our Nation great, values such as selfless service, loyalty and honor. He influenced generations of young people who, without his mentoring, may not have gone to college and on to successful careers in military service and professional civilian life. They never would have known how high they could reach until he called upon them to rise, and their statures touched the skies.

One of the high schools where he taught in Long Beach—Polytechnic High School—established an annual leadership award in his name to the most-deserving member of Junior ROTC there who exemplifies good leadership, military bearing and the ability to teach subordinates basic military knowledge. The recipient receives a gold medal whose name is inscribed on a perpetual plaque displayed in the unit; May 2005 will be the 21st award of the honor.

Col. Stockwell also gave his guidance and approval for a family scholarship to be established in Phoenix, Arizona. The name of the scholarship is the Stockwell Family Leadership Award and will be awarded to the most deserving graduate of Arizona Project Challenge, which graduates two classes each year. The Arizona National Guard runs Project Challenge as an alternative to high school for at-risk youth between the ages of 16 and 18. Most of the program's graduates receive their GED certificates and go on to institutions of higher learning, and this scholarship will help some deserving young people achieve their goals. Thanks to him, the statures of even more young people will reach to touch the skies. The first award of the scholarship will be made in June 2005 in his memory, and the memories of his son Robert and his brother Warren. They, too, served our Nation faithfully in uniform during times of war and peace. Their legacy of service lives.

Col. Stockwell's health began to decline about 15 years ago. It seemed the worse his health became, the taller he stood in stature. Poor leg circulation and breathing difficulties

forced him to limit his walks from the front door to his flagpole in the front yard to continue raising the Stars and Stripes at 8 a.m., and then lower the flag at 5 p.m., a daily vigil he maintained faithfully year after year until a few weeks ago when he no longer had the strength. At that point, he retired the flag. His family has recently installed a lighting system at his home, where his wife continues to live, so Colonel Stockwell's flag may continue to fly.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Stockwell is being laid to rest today at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. I ask that these comments be submitted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that they, like the flag that continues to fly in front of Colonel Stockwell's yard, may remain a permanent tribute to this great man.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WILLIAM
L. McCARRIER

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate William L. McCarrier on his election to the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite of Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

William has been active in the Masonic community for almost 40 years, and has served as the commander in chief of the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley New Castle, and as the vice president of the New Castle Benefit Fund. William has also served as a county commissioner for Butler County, and is a trustee of the Butler County Community College.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring William McCarrier. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as William who make the communities that they live in truly special.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
MUST RESTORE BALANCE BETWEEN
PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AND PROVIDING PATIENT
ACCESS TO NEEDED MEDICATIONS

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I think there is little doubt that our law enforcement agencies should conduct themselves, in fulfilling their founding purpose, in a manner that is consistent with their mission of serving the American people. In this light, I am submitting for the record an article by Radley Balko, a policy analyst with the Cato Institute, entitled "Bush Should Feel Doctors' Pain". The article suggests that the need to protect patients, while attempting to prevent diversion and misuse of prescription drugs is arguably out of balance.

There is no doubt that prescription drug abuse, particularly the abuse of prescription

pain medications, is a serious public health problem. I have been one of the most vocal advocates on the necessity of this body to address the abuse of prescription medication by patients, crack down on the practice of "doctor shopping" and prosecute those medical professionals that harm responsible pain management by violating their responsibility to the highest standards of their profession.

Consequently, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) should absolutely take appropriate steps to stop criminals from diverting these medications and exploiting those who would abuse them. But, it must also recognize that over 30 million Americans suffer chronic pain and need access to proper pain management by legitimate medical practitioners if they are to lead normal and productive lives.

However, in its seemingly single-minded pursuit of "bad doctors," the DEA appears to be showing its lack of proper understanding, inability, or unwillingness, to strike a proper balance between these two public policy goals. I am worried that this failure is scaring responsible doctors away from prescribing legitimate patients from obtaining needed medications, causing these patients and those who love and care for them untold harm and unnecessary distress.

Congressmen WHITFIELD, PALLONE, STRICKLAND, and I have introduced H.R. 1132, a bill that would assist and encourage the States to establish a controlled substance monitoring program. These Prescription Monitoring Programs would assist physicians, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals by providing them with prescribing information that would help them to detect abuse and diversion tactics and prevent "doctor shopping". This legislation also would permit law enforcement to review this prescribing data, but only where they certify that the requested information is related to an individual investigation involving the unlawful diversion or misuse of schedule II, III, or IV substances, and that such information will further the purpose of their investigation.

It appeared that the DEA realized it should not, indeed could not, dictate proper medical practice in the prescribing of pain medications. Last August, after working with a panel of distinguished physicians specializing in pain management, the DEA published guidelines for physicians who treat pain with opioids. These guidelines were designed to assure legitimate medical practitioners that they would not face prosecution simply because they prescribed such medications or treated a large number of patients in pain. Given the disturbing trend of doctors shying away from prescribing necessary medication due in large part to the issues discussed, the DEA should not act in a way that would further limit patients' access to needed pain management medications.

Within weeks, the DEA abruptly withdrew these guidelines without explanation in a transparent attempt to avoid jeopardizing a pending high profile prosecution. Strong objections came from the medical community and from 30 state Attorneys General. I am also including a copy of their letter sent to the DEA in which they raise their objections.

However, the DEA has not relented in its pursuit of doctors it considers to be practicing bad medicine in a field of practice that is still evolving and requires a certain latitude for the exercise of sound medical judgment. In effect, the DEA is doing the very thing it should not

do, determine what is acceptable medical practice.

The chilling effect the DEA's actions are having on physicians engaged in the legitimate practice of medicine is undeniable. Effective pain management has become all too difficult to obtain because many doctors are afraid to prescribe adequate levels of opioids for fear of investigation and prosecution. This is simply unacceptable, as a member of the healthcare community for over thirty years and a patient who has known the need for proper pain management.

Yes, the DEA should continue to work with the appropriate state and local authorities to pursue those who abuse the trust that was placed in them when they obtained a medical license. Yes, we should be cracking down on those patients who seek to circumvent and abuse the system to abuse prescription medications. But the DEA must lead the charge to restore the balance between these different but certainly not mutually exclusive public health goals. By assuring legitimate medical practitioners that they will not be investigated or prosecuted simply because they prescribe a certain kind of medication or have a successful practice, will better serve the American people, particularly those many millions who are needlessly suffering in pain.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
ATTORNEYS GENERAL,

Washington, DC, January 19, 2005.

KAREN P. TANDY,

Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, Alexandria, VA.

DEAR Ms. TANDY: We, the undersigned Attorneys General, write to express our concern about recent DEA actions with respect to prescription pain medication policy and to request a joint meeting with you. Having consulted with your Agency about our respective views, we were surprised to learn that DEA has apparently shifted its policy regarding the balancing of legitimate prescription of pain medication with enforcement to prevent diversion, without consulting those of us with similar responsibilities in the states. We are concerned that state and federal policies are diverging with respect to the relative emphasis on ensuring the availability of prescription pain medications to those who need them.

Subsequent to DEA endorsement of the 2001 Joint Consensus Statement supporting balance between the treatment of pain and enforcement against diversion and abuse of prescription pain medications, the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) in 2003 adopted a Resolution Calling for a Balanced Approach to Promoting Pain Relief and Preventing Abuse of Pain Medications (copy attached). Both these documents reflected a consensus among law enforcement agencies, health care practitioners, and patient advocates that the prevention of drug abuse is an important societal goal that can and should be pursued without hindering proper patient care.

The Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Health Care Professionals and Law Enforcement Personnel issued in 2004 appeared to be consistent with these principles, so we were surprised when they were withdrawn. The Interim Policy Statement, "Dispensing of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain" which was published in the Federal Register on November 16, 2004 emphasizes enforcement, and seems likely to have a chilling effect on physicians engaged in the legitimate practice of medicine. As Attorneys General have worked to remove barriers to quality care for citizens of our states at the end of life, we have learned that

adequate pain management is often difficult to obtain because many physicians fear investigations and enforcement actions if they prescribe adequate levels of opioids or have many patients with prescriptions for pain medications. We are working to address these concerns while ensuring that individuals who do divert or abuse drugs are prosecuted. There are many nuances of the interactions of medical practice, end of life concerns, definitions of abuse and addiction, and enforcement considerations that make balance difficult in practice. But we believe this balance is very important to our citizens, who deserve the best pain relief available to alleviate suffering, particularly at the end of life.

We understand that DEA issued a "Solicitation for Comments on Dispensing of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain" in the Federal Register yesterday. We would like to discuss these issues with you to better understand DEA's position with respect to the practice of medicine for those who need prescription pain medication. We hope that together we can find ways to prevent abuse and diversion without infringing on the legitimate practice of medicine or exerting a chilling effect on the willingness of physicians to treat patients who are in pain. And we hope that state and federal policies will be complementary rather than divergent.

Lynne Ross, Executive Director of NAAG, will contact you soon to arrange a meeting at a mutually agreeable time, hopefully in March when Attorneys General will be in Washington, DC to attend the March 14-16 NAAG Spring Meeting. We hope to meet with you soon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Drew Edmondson, Attorney General of Oklahoma; Gregg Renkes, Attorney General of Alaska; Mike Beebe, Attorney General of Arkansas; Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General of Connecticut; Thurbert E. Baker, Attorney General of Georgia; Tom Miller, Attorney General of Iowa; Gregory D. Stumbo, Attorney General of Kentucky; Terry Goddard, Attorney General of Arizona; Bill Lockyer, Attorney General of California; Robert Spagnoletti, Attorney General of District of Columbia; Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of Illinois; Phill Kline, Attorney General of Kansas; Charles Foti, Attorney General of Louisiana; Steven Rowe, Attorney General of Maine; Michael A. Cox, Attorney General of Michigan; Jeremiah Nixon, Attorney General of Missouri; Jon Bruning, Attorney General of Nebraska; Wayne Stenehjem, Attorney General of North Dakota; Roberto Sánchez Ramos, Attorney General of Puerto Rico; Joseph Curran Jr., Attorney General of Maryland; Mike Hatch, Attorney General of Minnesota; Mike McGrath, Attorney General of Montana; Patricia Madrid, Attorney General of New Mexico; Hardy Myers, Attorney General of Oregon; Patrick C. Lynch, Attorney General of Rhode Island; Henry McMaster, Attorney General of South Carolina; Mark Shurtleff, Attorney General of Utah; Darrel McGraw, Attorney General of West Virginia; Paul Summers, Attorney General of Tennessee; William Sorrell, Attorney General of Vermont.

BUSH SHOULD FEEL DOCTORS' PAIN

(By Radley Balko)

Since the late 1990s, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has allied with state

and local law enforcement agencies to stamp out abuse of the painkiller OxyContin. Citing rises in emergency room episodes and overdoses associated with the drug (both of which have been roundly disparaged by critics), the DEA insists its "Operation OxyContin" is a necessary reaction to the diversion of the prescription narcotic for street use.

Unfortunately, despite frequent robberies and burglaries of pharmacies, doctors' offices, and warehouses where prescription medications are stored and sold, the DEA has focused a troubling amount of time and resources on the prescriptions issued by practicing physicians. It's easy to see why. Doctors keep records. They pay taxes. They take notes. They're an easier target than common drug dealers. Doctors also often aren't aware of asset forfeiture laws. A physician's considerable assets can be divided up among the various law enforcement agencies investigating him before he's ever brought to trial.

Over the last several years, hundreds of physicians have been put on trial for charges ranging from health insurance fraud to drug distribution, even to manslaughter and murder for over-prescribing prescription narcotics. Many times, investigators seize a doctor's house, office, and bank account, leaving him no resources with which to defend himself. A few doctors have been convicted. Many have been acquitted. Others were left with no choice but to settle.

All of this has been happening just as the field of chronic pain management has made some remarkable progress. The development of opium-based narcotics like OxyContin (also known as "opioids") has been a Godsend to the estimated 30 million Americans who suffer from chronic pain. Opioids are safe, effective, and, contrary to conventional wisdom, very rarely lead to accidental addiction when taken properly. Most of the medical literature puts the rate of such addiction at less than one percent.

The DEA's campaign puts law enforcement officials in the troubling position of determining what is acceptable medical practice in a field that's dynamic, still emerging, and relatively experimental. The very fact that any course of treatment "beyond the normal practice of medicine" can be cause for cops to launch a career-ending investigation is enough in itself to stifle innovation in palliative therapy.

The high-profile arrests and prosecutions of physicians (up to 200 per year, by one estimate) have caused many doctors to under-prescribe or refuse to see new patients. It corrupts the candor necessary for an effective doctor-patient relationship. Many physicians have left palliative therapy for less controversial practice. The Village Voice reports that medical schools are now advising students to avoid pain management practice altogether.

To calm its critics, the DEA commissioned several pain specialists to work with federal officials to put together a set of guidelines for physicians who treat pain with opioids. These guidelines were posted on the agency's website, and most doctors were led to believe that following the recommendations would keep them safe from prosecution. For a short time, experts, doctors, and drug warriors had reached a compromise.

But it didn't last long. Late last year the guidelines mysteriously disappeared from the DEA's website. Their removal coincided with the trial of Virginia pain specialist, Dr. William Hurwitz, whose attorneys had attempted—and failed—to admit the guidelines as evidence on the belief that Hurwitz's practice conformed to their parameters. Hurwitz was eventually convicted, and faces a life sentence later this month.

A few weeks after Hurwitz's judge refused to admit the guidelines as evidence, the DEA renounced the contents of the brochure, and in a brief explanatory note made clear that the agency wasn't bound by any standards or practices when it came to determining what physicians it would investigate. The agency essentially declared it had carte blanche to launch an inquiry.

The renunciation sent shockwaves through the medical community. One doctor told the Washington Post that "over 90 percent" of patients and doctors could be subject to prosecution under the DEA's new rules. Rebecca J. Patchin, who serves on the board of the American Medical Association, told the Post, "Doctors hear what's happening to other physicians, and that makes them very reluctant to prescribe opioids that patients might well need."

David Jorenson, the academic pain specialist who headed up the committee that authored the original guidelines, sent the agency a sharply-worded rebuke. Three professional associations representing pain specialists followed with a letter of their own. And last January, the National Association of State Attorneys General also sent a letter to the DEA, expressing concern that the agency was overstepping its bounds, and interfering with the legitimate treatment of pain. The letter was signed by 30 AGs from both parties.

The DEA remains obstinate, insisting its revocation of the guidelines did not represent a shift in policy, and that its pursuit of doctors should have no effect on legitimate pain treatment, despite that the experts it originally consulted say otherwise.

The attorneys general letter to the DEA in particular presents a challenge for the Bush administration. The White House claims to value the principles of local rule, states' rights, and federalism. But those principles seem to flitter away when it comes to drug policy. The Justice Department, for example, has repeatedly gone to court to prevent states from allowing physician-assisted suicide and medicinal marijuana, in some cases going so far as raiding convalescent centers and asserting the supremacy of federal law in prosecuting those who grow marijuana in states where it's permitted.

Thirty state AGs have said that federal drug policy is interfering with legitimate medical practice. The White House now has two choices. It could order the DEA to end its pursuit of physicians, and leave medical policy to state governments and medical boards, where it belongs.

Or it could stand by the DEA's troubling anti-opioid campaign, and watch as more well-intentioned physicians go to jail, and millions of Americans continue to endure unnecessary grief.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Lansing State Journal and its more than 500 employees and retirees who are this year celebrating 150 years of publishing a newspaper in Michigan's capital city, Lansing.

As the sesquicentennial year progresses, the newspaper is revisiting its history and looking forward to the future.

Recently, the president and publisher, Michael G. Kane, wrote in a message to readers: "Through 150 years, 16 publishers, seven name changes, five building locations, and more than 45,000 editions, we have been the eyes and ears of mid-Michigan. And a remarkable community it is: capital of the great state of Michigan, home of one of the nation's great universities, and birthplace of an automobile industry."

Clearly, the newspaper leadership and its staff understands that in one of the most diverse regions of the state, the Lansing State Journal is called on to fulfill its responsibility as community mirror, historian, and monitor. From birth to death, the Lansing State Journal chronicles the important milestones in the lives of the people who live and work in mid-Michigan, captures in print and picture the ebb and flow of life in each community throughout the region, and serves as a key element in the mid-Michigan marketplace.

From the reception desk to the newsroom and advertising department, to the press room and the circulation office and distribution team, the people who produce a newspaper every day of every year are truly part of the heartbeat of the mid-Michigan region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Lansing State Journal and its employees and retirees for all they have accomplished. May we extend best wishes for the future, and express our respect and appreciation for their important role in the community.

RECOGNIZING A STATEMENT BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN, SPIRITUAL LEADER OF CONGREGATION BETH CHAVERIM IN VIRGINIA BEACH

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a statement by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia in recognition of the hope of peace created by recent Middle East developments.

I have been witness to remarkable developments in the Middle East with far-reaching implications, giving that volatile and violent region and the world at large renewed hope for peaceful transformation following four and a half years of the bloody Second Intifada now formally ended.

As a member of the Rabbinical Council of ARZA, the Association of The Reform Zionists of America, serving the million and a half Jews of Reform Judaism, our delegation was at Israel's Knesset when German President Horst Kohler accompanied by Israeli President Moshe Katzav entered to address the parliamentary body on the 40th anniversary of Israeli-German diplomatic relations. Sixty years since the death camps' liberation it was still too trying for a few of Israel's elected representatives to hear the language used by the Holocaust's perpetrators though Germany has become Israel's close friend.

Yet this historic opportunity, the first for a German president on an official state visit with the German flag decorating Jerusalem's streets, is an appreciated lesson that peace can follow a painful past. It also alerts us that fears and vulnerabilities simmer just

below the surface, mindful of the global rise in anti-Semitism and the apprehension concerning ultimate Arab intentions. In our discussions with Knesset members of both the coalition and opposition, we were exposed to Israel's vibrant democracy that hopefully will spread throughout the Middle East.

Equally significant was to watch Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's motorcade speed through Israel's Capital. Her poignant presence so closely following her installation in office was a clear signal to all concerned that the United States led by President George W. Bush placed the settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict high on its agenda of concerns, to enabling both sides to reach that elusive peace which involves the traumatic disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank along with further trying concessions for the two long-embattled peoples. Chairman Abu Mazen's immediate and fateful challenge is to prevail upon militant Palestinians to end the terrorism of suicide bombings and rocket launchings that might derail progress as in the past. However, Jewish extremists pose danger of their own, recalling Prime Minister Rabin's 1995 assassination.

I was glued to Israeli T.V. as the Sharon Summit with Prime Minister Sharon, Chairman Abu Mazen, President Mubarak and King Abdullah gathered with evident determination to break through the vicious cycle of death and despair. Both Sharon and Abu Mazen vowed to immediately cease all military operations with Egypt and Jordan committing to returning their ambassadors to Israel. When Sharon heartfeltdly spoke these unforgettable words, "to kindle for all the region's nations a first light of hope," I whispered my own "Amen."

Our warm meeting in Tel-Aviv with American Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer was an illuminating experience, as we were briefed by a Middle East expert on the arena's shifting dynamics. He expressed cautious optimism following Arafat's departure, the one who was the stalling obstacle at Camp David 2000 and beyond. We toured various segments of the "security barrier," and in Jerusalem we were guided by Colonel (Res.) Danny Terza, the project's head administrator for the Ministry of Defense who has been responsible for its complex erection in a city with multi religious and ethnic layers that he successfully dialogued with to avoid hard feelings. The cement part of the fence, only 4.5 percent of it, is designed to be dismantled when called upon. Its purpose of blocking terrorist infiltrations has proved itself over ninety percent.

We held a memorial service in the Nahalal cemetery of the Jesreel valley for Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon, who perished along with his heroic fellow crew members of the Columbia shuttle two years ago. Ilan, who participated as a pilot in 1981 in destroying Iraq's nuclear facility and whose mother survived Auschwitz, will remain an enduring symbol of courage and creativity. Our group of rabbis also paid respect at the Abukasis home in the town of Sderot, who lost their seventeen year old daughter Ella, an exemplary young woman, in a rocket attack on January 15 from neighboring Gaza. The heroic high school senior was killed while she saved the life of her wounded ten year old brother Tamir, protecting him with her own body.

Let the day come soon when the children of both parties to the tragic conflict will grow up to fulfill their soaring dreams. After all, it is their birthright and the best guarantee for lasting peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERTRUDE BAGNALL

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Gertrude Bagnall for her courageous and selfless actions, which resulted in the rescue of a human life.

Mrs. Bagnall, with little regard to her own safety, raced into a church building in Farrell, Pennsylvania that had, moments earlier, exploded. Gertrude rushed to the aid of Pastor Barbara McCrae and parishioner Bruce Davis. She was able to assist Pastor Barbara McCrae from the building and into a waiting ambulance. Gertrude uncovered Mr. Davis from debris that had fallen on him in the explosion, allowing him to be rescued by emergency workers that arrived on the scene. Gertrude's bravery will be recognized at the "Celebrate a Hero" banquet to be held in her honor on Saturday, March 19, 2005 at the Hermitage Fire Hall.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Gertrude Bagnall. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as Gertrude that display such selflessness and courage.

HONORING HENRIETTA VILLAESCUSA

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Henrietta Villaescusa, who passed away at the age of 84 on March 6, 2005, in Tucson, Arizona. As we join her family and friends who mourn her loss, I would like to acknowledge Henrietta for her remarkable contributions to public health, the nursing profession and the Hispanic community.

Henrietta Villaescusa was a pioneering Latina at a time when Hispanic women were not widely represented in the nursing field. Henrietta served as the only Hispanic public health supervising nurse for the Los Angeles City Health Department. She later broke boundaries in the federal government as the first Hispanic nurse to serve as Health Administrator for the Health Services Administration and the first Mexican-American Chief Nurse Consultant in the Office of Maternal and Child Health. Henrietta eventually rose to the position of chief nurse of the Division of Maternal and Child Health, where she was responsible for all nursing aspects of the nation's maternal and children's health programs.

Henrietta's work was not limited to America. She helped improve health care in Latin America through her work at the Alliance for Progress, the President's Office of Community Development and the Agency for International Development.

Nor was her work limited by her retirement. After officially retiring in 1985, Henrietta was asked by the Surgeon General to help develop

the Hispanic Health Initiative. President Reagan's Health and Human Services Secretary appointed her to the Task Force on Minority Health to advocate for Hispanic health needs. Henrietta also edited the first Hispanic Health Bibliography, which highlighted Hispanic health research needs and the need to prepare more Hispanic health professionals to conduct such research.

Henrietta gave so much of herself to assist others. She mentored Hispanic leaders and shared her vision with the federal government, local community health programs in Los Angeles, and organizations including the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organization and the Mexican American National Women's Association.

Her accomplishments as a Latina, nurse and activist for others less fortunate are truly extraordinary. She will be greatly missed by those whose lives she touched.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN RABIN

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special constituent, Mary Ann Rabin, on the occasion of her receipt of the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction. This award is the OWBA's highest award for professional excellence and is bestowed annually on a deserving attorney who exhibits leadership in the areas of advancing the status and interests of women and in improving the legal profession in the State of Ohio. It gives me great pleasure to wish Ms. Rabin my warmest congratulations on this truly special occasion.

Mary Ann (Mickey) Rabin is a nationally recognized bankruptcy practitioner and a founding partner of Rabin & Rabin Co., L.P.A. She practices law with two of her three children. Ms. Rabin received her J.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1978 and her A.B. degree in music in 1956 from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ms. Rabin is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, a member of the Bankruptcy Trustees for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio since 1983, a life member of the Eighth Judicial Conference, and a founding member of the Ohio Women's Bar Association.

Ms. Rabin is a dedicated community activist devoting hours of pro bono work to local organizations including serving on the board of the Cleveland Legal Aid Society.

On April 29, 2005, OWBA President Halle M. Hebert will be presenting Ms. Rabin with the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction at its Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

It gives me great pleasure to rise today, Mr. Speaker, and join the OWBA in congratulating Mary Ann Rabin and wishing her continued success.

KEN-CREST CENTERS CENTENNIAL

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, 2005 marks Ken-Crest Centers' centennial celebration. For the past 100 years, this faith-based, non-profit organization, which was started by the Lutheran Church in Plymouth Meeting, PA, has been dedicated to the concept of bringing ability to life.

Throughout its history, Ken-Crest has pioneered services for the most vulnerable, including the terminally-ill, the abandoned, and the disabled. Ken-Crest began its work in 1905, leading the fight against tuberculosis in the Kensington section of Philadelphia by providing the children of infected families with a safe refuge.

As a former social worker, I am inspired by the story of Sister Maria Roeck, a Lutheran Church deaconess and German immigrant, who founded Ken-Crest, originally called the Kensington Dispensary. Sister Roeck was called to action by the loss of loved ones to tuberculosis. She passionately battled the so-called "white plague" that decimated her beloved Kensington; abiding by the motto "to cure sometimes, to relieve often, to comfort always."

In the 1950s, as tuberculosis became better contained, Ken-Crest took on a new mission—providing for the mentally retarded and those with developmental disabilities. Its success has made it the largest community-based provider of assistance to people with disabilities in the Philadelphia region, serving more than 6,400 people at 350 locations.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Ken-Crest on more than 100 years of outstanding service. I know their good work and mission will continue for many years to come.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PREGNANCY CARE CENTERS

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Pregnancy Care Centers on its 20th Anniversary, and recognize the exemplary performance of service that the organization provides the 4th District of Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1985, the Pregnancy Care Centers have provided over 7,000 women with free pregnancy tests, and have counseled its clients to find alternatives to abortion. The Pregnancy Care Centers have helped to teach the message of abstinence and have provided post abortion Bible studies to dozens of women who have sought healing and forgiveness.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Pregnancy Care Centers. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of organizations like the Pregnancy Care Centers which provide such valuable services.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS'
RIGHTS WEEK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, last week I stood unified with my constituents in Jamestown in observing National Crime Victims' Rights week.

Every person, male, female, children and adults alike have the right to be free from violent acts not only in the community in which they live but also in their homes. This week and every week to follow let us stand strong as one to break the cycle of violence in America.

Our wonderful Jamestown community has been blessed with Thelma Samuelson, Chairperson for the Chautauqua County Victims' Rights Week Effort and the numerous individuals and organizations that gave of their time to support the effort to ensure justice in all of our lives.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do to make Jamestown a better place to work, play and raise a family. Your efforts do not just benefit Jamestown but they also reflect upon Chautauqua County, New York State and all over the United States.

“MODERN DAY MOSES”

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Congressman STEVE KING for his excellent speech, included here for the RECORD, addressing courts' attacks on religion in the United States. Our Constitution never intended for religion to be eliminated from the public square, but that is what judges are forcing upon us. I appreciate Congressman KING's eloquent statement on the judicial assault on religion.

[From the desk of Congressman Steve King, Iowa, Fifth District, Mar. 6, 2005]

MODERN DAY MOSES

I turned my eyes away from "In God We Trust," engraved deeply in the stone above the Speaker's chair, and walked under the direct stone gaze of Moses, as I left the chambers of the United States House of Representatives. I walked through statuary hall in the U.S. Capitol where Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were among the first presidents to attend regular church services. The House Chaplain had given the opening prayer to start the legislative day and our member's chapel in the capitol was open for morning meditation as I walked briskly across the capitol grounds to the Supreme Court. The cases of *Van Orden v. Perry* and *McCreary County, Kentucky v. ACLU*, were to be heard this day. I went expecting to hear profound Constitutional arguments before the only court created by the Constitution, the Supreme Court.

I walked up the steps of the high courthouse. From the top of the pediment, looming, larger than life, Moses gazes down, holding the Ten Commandments. All who pause here and all who enter here are on notice, this is a nation built upon a moral foundation, a nation of laws, not of men, a nation

founded upon the belief in "the laws of Nature and Nature's God." I climbed the long steps, walked past the huge columns, stepped out of the sunlight and into the presence of a security guard. I introduced myself to the guard who replied, "I'm Moses and I'll escort you to your seat." "Moses! Moses?" I responded. The guard smiled and nodded his head. "There couldn't be a better person to lead me to hear the Ten Commandments cases," I said.

Modern day Moses led me to the chambers, through the huge oak double doors, engraved with the Ten Commandments, and to my seat in the chambers. The courtroom was soon full when we all stood to the Supreme Court Marshal's announcement, "The Honorable Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! . . . God save the United States and this Honorable Court!" The justices filed in and were seated. On the frieze above them and to their left, sculpted in stone, stands Moses with the Ten Commandments.

It is a rare privilege to be in the presence of the most powerful and unaccountable shapers of American society that our nation has ever seen. The oral arguments before the Supreme Court in the two cases before it will likely determine if there will be changes in whether and under what circumstances religious displays can be placed on public property. As I listened to the questions and remarks from the justices, I considered the implications of what had become of our Constitutional right to religious freedom and the Constitution itself. A growing uneasiness slowly turned into a sinking feeling in my stomach.

Before I get to the cases at hand, I remind you that the Constitution is written to protect the rights of the minority against the will of the majority and the rights of the majority against the whim of the court. Without the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the will of the majority would be imposed on the minority. Put simply, a pure democracy is two coyotes and a sheep taking a vote on what's for dinner. The Founders understood this and rejected democracy in favor of their new invention, a Constitutional Republic. Our Republic is a unique design of the carefully balanced executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The three branches of government were not designed to be "separate but equal" branches but three carefully balanced branches, the weakest of which is the judicial branch. They were to function together so that the will of the majority could not overturn Constitutional guarantees. The Founders were concerned about the power of an unchecked court so they put limits on its power. The Supreme Court's Constitutional charge is to rule on the letter and the intent of the Constitution, "with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make." (Article III, Section 2. United States Constitution)

The question before the court was, "do the displays of the Ten Commandments violate the "establishment clause?" "Do the displays violate the separation of church and state implied in the Constitution?" Those of us who came to the Supreme Court expecting to hear profound Constitutional arguments were sadly disappointed. To my ear, no justice referenced the Constitution or quoted from it or asked a question directed to the text of our foundational document. The questions were, "What is the context of the display?" "Was it a religious display, secular, or historical?" "What was the intent of those who displayed them? Religious? Secular? Historical?" "How would the display be perceived by a reasonable person? Religious? Secular? Historical?" "Is anyone offended by the Ten Commandments?" All pro-religious freedom arguments were carefully and nar-

rowly designed to preserve the two displays in question before the court. One in Texas and one in Kentucky. There was no effort made in oral argument that might have expanded religious freedom by establishing a precedent that would provide for true Constitutional religious freedom. The entirety of the oral arguments before the court and the interest of the justices were focused on issues that cannot be found in the text of the Constitution.

The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; . . ." There are initially only two qualifying questions to be asked of a religious display. One, did Congress, or any of the states (14th amendment), make a law that established a religion? The obvious answer is no. The Constitution has not been violated if Congress has made no law to establish a religion. There is no need to deliberate further. Case closed. For the sake of argument, the second question is, did Congress or any of the states prohibit the free exercise of religion? Again the answer is no. Again the case is closed because no Congressional or state action prohibited the free exercise of religion although the court has done so many times and may well be poised to do so again. Sadly, these two elemental and operative questions were not asked or answered, yet they are the qualifiers that must be met before any religious freedom case can be Constitutionally argued beyond these two points.

Since 1963, in the case of *Murray v. Curlett* when the Supreme Court ordered prayer out of the public schools, there have been a series of decisions that have diminished religious liberty, one creative, convoluted, extra-constitutional case at a time, until the basis of a "Constitutional" decision is distorted beyond the recognition of even those of us who have lived through and with the changes. Imagine how astonished and irate our Founding Fathers would be if they were alive to see the magnitude to which unelected judges have warped our sacred constitutional covenant with their original intent. James Madison, the father of our Constitution, attended church services in the capitol rotunda where regular Sunday church services were held for 60 years. I can hear Madison now, "We gave you an amendment process! Why didn't you use it? Why would you honor the opinions of appointed judges who dishonor the Constitution?"

In case after case, the courts have ruled against the letter and the intent of the Constitution to the effect of diminishing religious freedom until they have now painted themselves into a legal corner. If their case precedents are to be the path, there is no way out of the room to the door marked "Constitutional Guarantees" because of the principle called *stare decisis*, Latin for: to stand by things that have been settled. Because of their activist arrogance, for the justices, the wet paint of case law precedent never dries, therefore we can't walk back across the paint through the doorway to our guaranteed Constitutional freedoms. Consequently our freedoms are reduced with each stroke of the activist's pen until they are no longer recognizable and the Constitution becomes meaningless.

Last fall, in a small and private meeting, I asked Chief Justice Rehnquist, whom I admire, this question, "If the Constitution doesn't mean what it says, and as the courts move us further and further from original intent (of the Constitution), what protects the rights of the minority from the will of the majority and what protects the will of the people from the whim of the courts? And, considering the prevalent "living breathing

Constitution" decisions, hasn't the Constitution just become a transitional document that has guided our nation from 1789 into this 'enlightened' era where judges direct our civilization from the bench? Is the Constitution now an artifact of history?" The core of Chief Justice Rehnquist's answer was, "I acknowledge your point."

To acknowledge my point concedes that the Constitution has become meaningless, become an artifact of history, as far as the courts are concerned. Constitutional law is taught in law schools across the land without teaching the Constitution itself. Constitutional law is too often a course study about how to amend the Constitution through litigation. In fact, we had a law professor before the House Committee on the Judiciary who testified, "You give me a favorable judge and I will write law for the entire United States of America, in a single courtroom on a single case."

Our Nation has suffered through more than forty years of activist judges wandering in their anti-religion desert, a desert hostile to Christians and Jews and devoid of Constitutional boundaries. Let my people go! It will take another Moses to lead us out of the desert and back to the Promised Land of our Founding Fathers, a land wisely provided for and abundantly blessed by God.

IN HONOR OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Equal Pay Day.

Today I join the millions of women workers and local advocates across America to fight for justice and fairness in our wages. Today symbolizes the day when women have to work longer hours each week for the same amount of pay that a man would earn in just 5 working days.

It is disappointing to know that it has been 40 years since President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act in 1963, yet the wage gap between men and women persists. Forty years ago, women who worked full-time made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men. In 2004, women earned 77 cents to the dollar. The wage gap has barely narrowed in these past 40 years, even though women have the same education, skills and experience as men.

The disparity in wages between women of color and white men is even worse. In 2003, Asian Pacific American women earned 80 cents for every dollar that men earned. African American women earned only 66 cents and Hispanic American women earned 59 cents for every dollar that men earned.

Although working women in my home State of California are farther along the road to equal pay than women in many States, the wage gap is still there. In 2000, California's working women earned only 82.5 percent as much per hour as men.

At the current rate of change, working women in California won't have equal pay until 2044. Nationwide, women won't achieve equal pay until 2050.

It is distressing to know that it will take 87 years since the Equal Pay Act before there is pay equity.

Now is the time for our country to fix this problem and to move forward in addressing this issue.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I have joined with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Native American Caucus, the Women's Caucus and Democratic Leadership to move forward in addressing this problem by cosponsoring the Paycheck Fairness Act.

The Paycheck Fairness Act, introduced by Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO would take the steps needed to eliminate gender based wage discrimination and ensure that women will finally earn what men earn for doing the same job.

I urge you to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

We must remember that equal pay isn't just a women's issue—when women get equal pay, their family incomes rise and the whole family benefits. Equal pay is about fairness.

CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING
OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences on the passing of Pope John Paul II. For families such as mine, the Pope represented a connection with the larger human community. We felt blessed by his faith, compassion, and the simplicity that he preached in words and deed. As a public figure he not only represented the Roman Catholic Church, but also was a symbol of liberation and strength. Pope John Paul II embodied the spiritual virtue of innocence that allows us, as humans to be loved, respected, and forgiven.

My district, the 47th Congressional District of California, is home to many practicing Catholics who followed and believed in Pope John Paul II, as my family and I did. The Pope was an amazing example of one man who strengthened the hearts and souls of people. John Paul's trust and belief in us, allowed us to trust and believe in others.

John Paul II visited the state of California twice in his life, once in 1976, as Cardinal and the second time in 1987, as Pope. By way of his many travels around the world, he reached out to people, regardless of race, religion, or politics. Pope John Paul II was a leader in uniting nations and people. He believed that through love, we can attain understanding, which can conquer the divisions that still plague the world today. The Pope saw Christian faith as truly Catholic, as truly universal:

“ . . . Christ is Anglo and Hispanic, Christ is Chinese and black, Christ is Vietnamese and Irish, Christ is Korean and Italian, Christ is Japanese and Filipino, Christ is native American, Croatian, Samoan, and many other ethnic groups. . . ”

Up to his final days, through his great personal suffering, he maintained his dignity. The passing of Pope John Paul II is a great loss to the global community. He will be missed and his memory will be kept sacred in our hearts.

TRIBUTE TO JAY CUTLER

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Jay B. Cutler—a dedicated advocate of mental health parity, a talented attorney, and a dear friend. Jay passed away on March 4, 2005 at the age of 74. He was a passionate and skillful advocate of the causes he believed in and was recognized as such by all his peers.

A native of New York, Jay graduated from New York University, as a business major, and Brooklyn Law School. He served in the Korean War in Army Intelligence before moving to Washington, DC, where he dedicated his life to improving the treatment for persons suffering from mental illness and substance abuse. He began his career in Public Service Television production and for the former U.S. Senator Jacob Javits as Staff Director of the Senate's Human Resources Committee. He was the lead Senate staff member in the drafting, introduction and passage of the landmark Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616) that established the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Jay joined the American Psychiatric Association in 1978, to begin a 25-year career as Director of Government Relations. He helped broaden Medicare coverage for the treatment of mental illness and blocked government efforts to steer mentally ill patients towards cheaper and less effective medications. Recognized for his remarkable dedication to the education about and destigmatization of mental illness not only to legislators, but also to the public, Jay's involvement helped to change the view of such issues in the public. Thanks to people like him, the Nation has made a remarkable transition from the long-held and destructive view that mental illness and substance abuse are character flaws. He advocated the idea that they are diseases which can and should receive the best treatment that medical sciences can provide. His commitment has been at the core of a profound shift in public awareness and understanding of these disorders.

As an APA lobbyist, Jay had direct impact on virtually every major bill on health policy and mental illness and substance abuse treatment legislation over more than 25 years. The expansion of the Community Mental Health Centers Program, the exemption of psychiatric hospitals and units from the Medicare prospective payment methodology, ensuring their fiscal viability for nearly 20 years, and the increased funding for veterans', children's and Indian mental health services are among the numerous legislative achievements Jay carried on in his career. His role in passing mental health legislation was well depicted in Eric Redman's book, *The Dance of Legislation*, which followed the development of the National Health Service Corps. It featured Jay as one of its subjects and it makes clear with regards to this major legislation that a great deal would not have happened without his dedication.

Over the years, Jay Cutler became synonymous with the cause of mental health parity

and was well known by many Members of Congress. By combining his tremendous experience with a charm and wit that he generously shared with all whom he encountered, Jay was extremely effective. Because of his relentless efforts, millions of Americans received better care. His commitment to protecting patient confidentiality and broadening coverage for psychiatric and substance abuse treatment make him a role model for others to emulate.

Jay was not only a committed and effective advocate; he was an excellent teacher. It was my great privilege to work closely with Jay on numerous occasions and learn from his immense knowledge. He taught me a great deal about mental health policy and the history of behavioral health. And I can assure you that every lesson from Jay Cutler, just like every encounter of any kind with Jay Cutler, was a joy.

While being always at the forefront of efforts to eliminate discrimination against mental illness, Jay remained a loving husband and father. He understood the importance of being a doting father and grandfather, as well as a devoted husband. As in his professional activity, Jay Cutler was respected and appreciated by his friends and relatives.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing condolences to Jay's wife, Randy, his two daughters, Hollie S. Cutler and Perri E. Cutler, and his granddaughter, Makayla Lipsetts. We are deeply saddened by his death, and we are warmed by the memory of his remarkable life.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
ROBERT H. MCKINNEY

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the position of Chairman of First Indiana Corporation, I rise today to commend Robert H. McKinney for his distinguished career of service to our country and his and my hometown community.

First Indiana Corporation is a publicly traded holding company that operates the First Indiana Bank, the largest homegrown bank in Indianapolis. It was established in 1915 by Mr. McKinney's father, the highly respected E. Kirk McKinney.

It is entirely and delightfully fitting that tribute be paid to Robert McKinney and his illustrious career as a devoted national and local public servant who is truly an inspiring community leader.

His achievements are breathtaking.

A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, the Naval Justice School, and the Indiana University School of Law, Mr. McKinney served in the Pacific during World War II and the Korean War. He has received Honorary Doctorates of Law from Marian College and Butler University. He has served as a member of the Indiana University Board of Trustees.

Bob McKinney has served as chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, the

Federal Savings & Loan Insurance Corporation, and the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. He has also served as the presidential-appointed director of the Federal National Mortgage Association. Following his federal service, he returned to Indianapolis where he was instrumental in securing federal grants for the revitalization of Indianapolis neighborhoods, most notably the 29th Street corridor on the Near Westside.

Bob McKinney was appointed by U.S. Senator EVAN BAYH to the Naval & Merchant Marine Academy Selection Committee, and by the Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives to the Government Efficiency Commission of the State of Indiana.

Our honoree is a member of the Presidential Advisory Board for Cuba and director of the minority investment fund Lynx Capital Corporation. He is a trustee of the Hudson Institute, the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, the Indiana University Foundation, and the Sierra Club Foundation.

In our mutual hometown of Indianapolis, Bob McKinney is the director of several civic organizations including the Indianapolis Economic Club, the Indianapolis and Indiana Chambers of Commerce, and the Indianapolis Committee on Foreign Relations, as well as the Chief Executives Organization and the World Presidents' Organization. He has served as director of the Young Lawyers Section of the ABA, director of the Indiana State Bar, and treasurer and director of the Indianapolis Bar Association.

McKinney is the recipient of the 1994 Junior Achievement Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame Award, the 1995 Hoosier Heritage Award, the 1999 Indiana University Academy of Law Alumni Fellows Award, and the 2000 Indianapolis Archdiocese Spirit of Service Award, and, well, he's just a very nice guy.

Robert McKinney's involvement in national politics began when he became the Indiana chair of John F. Kennedy's presidential committee. He has subsequently served as chairman of the Indiana presidential campaigns of Candidates Muskie, Carter, and Mondale, serving also as a member of the Indiana delegations to the National Democratic Conventions beginning in 1972.

Bob McKinney and his wife Arlene "Skip" McKinney live in Indianapolis and have five children and five grandchildren. On behalf of my fellow citizens of Indianapolis and the Seventh Congressional District of Indiana, I thank this great man for his service to our country and his warm friendship to me. Knowing Bob McKinney as I do, I am sure his retirement means even more work for his community and his company. That said, I wish him continued happiness with his wonderful wife "Skip" and the rest of his family during a long, long time in his brand of retirement.

THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN HEALTH COMMUNICATION

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the role of librar-

ies in addressing the health information needs of the American people. In doing so, I also recognize the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, NCLIS, for its efforts in encouraging libraries to play a key role in educating American citizens about healthy lifestyles.

The Commission is a permanent, independent agency of the United States Government, established with Public Law 91-345, 20 U.S.C. 150 et seq. signed July 20, 1970. The law includes the following statement of policy:

SEC. 2. The Congress hereby affirms that library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people of the United States are essential to achieve national goals and to utilize most effectively the Nation's educational resources and that the Federal Government will cooperate with State and local governments and public and private agencies in assuring optimum provision of such services.

The Commission's purpose is stated in the legislation: "The Commission shall have the primary responsibility for developing or recommending overall plans for, and advising the appropriate governments and agencies on, the policy set forth in section 2." As its first function, the Commission is charged to advise the President and the Congress on the implementation of national policy with respect to library and information science.

One of the Commission's current goals is to strengthen the relevance of the libraries and information science in the lives of the American people. Toward this goal, the Commission has undertaken an initiative designed to recognize libraries as their communities' knowledge source for consumer health information.

The overarching objective of this initiative, referred to as the NCLIS Libraries and Health Communication Initiative, is to identify best practices in libraries that excel in providing health information, and to publish these best practices for the benefit of all library managers and information providers. As part of this effort, and to meet its statutory responsibility, the Commission will then provide policy advice to the President and the Congress recommending how national policy in this area can be implemented.

In order to identify best practices, the Commission has developed an awards program that recognizes libraries that have successfully created or participated in exemplary programs in the delivery of consumer health information. On May 2, at a reception at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, MD the Commission will announce a major award. This award, the 2006 NCLIS Health Award for Libraries, is designed to mobilize the resources of libraries to help citizens learn how to live healthy lifestyles and to provide citizens with consumer health information, particularly when they require health information in a critical or unusual situation. The purpose of the award is to encourage libraries to put forward their best efforts in matching the Nation's critical need for authoritative, unbiased, and readily available consumer health information with a practical means of responding to that need. Libraries in every community are already providing citizens with a wide variety of consumer-focused information. The provision of consumer health information falls naturally in libraries' information-delivery function.

This Commission initiative is of particular benefit to the American people, for it provides citizens with quality consumer health information through their libraries, trusted sources of information that are already acknowledged and respected for the quality of the information they provide. We already know that health information that results in lifestyle improvements lowers costs for health care. Additionally, the initiative will benefit the entire library and information science profession and related profession, businesses, and industries, as it provides documented best practices that can be adapted and replicated and, when required, customized for particular local needs. As stated above, a specific product of the initiative will be the development of a recommended statement of policy on the subject of libraries as health communication centers for American citizens, to be delivered to the President and the Congress as required by Pub. L. 91-345.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CLEAR TITLE TO TWO PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED ALONG THE RIO GRANDE IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Albuquerque Biological Park Title Clarification Act on behalf of myself and Representative UDALL and Representative PEARCE. This legislation would assist the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico (City) clear title to two parcels of land located along the Rio Grande.

The Albuquerque Biological Park is a distinctive environmental museum comprising four facilities: Albuquerque Aquarium, Rio Grande Botanic Garden, Rio Grande Zoo and Tingley Beach Aquatic Park. In 1997, as part of an effort to improve these facilities, the City purchased two properties from the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) for \$3,875,000.

The City had been leasing the first property, Tingley Beach, from MRGCD since 1931. The City had been leasing the second property, San Gabriel Park, from the MRGCD since 1963. Both properties had been used as public parks.

In 2000, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation interrupted the City's plans when it asserted that it had acquired ownership of all of MRGCD's property associated with the Middle Rio Grande Project in 1953. This called into question the validity the City's title to the properties. The City cannot move forward with its plans to improve the properties until the titles are cleared.

The legislation is narrowly drafted to affect only the two properties at issue and leaves the main dispute concerning title to project works for the courts to decide. This important legislation will allow the City to move forward with a project that will provide residents and visitors with exciting new recreational opportunities.

U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN SEEKS MAJOR CHANGES IN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to a courageous speech given on April 7 by my good friend, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, to Delegates attending this year's U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva. In this speech the Secretary-General outlined his plans to shut down the hopelessly discredited forum and replace it with a smaller Human Rights Council that is explicitly intended to exclude human rights violators like the Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Cuba.

During the past few years, many of us in the House of Representatives have been outraged that the designated global forum for identifying and censuring the world's most egregious violators of basic human rights had become a haven for the world's worst tyrannies. Thus it is refreshing to see that Secretary-General Annan has recognized that its overhaul must be an integral piece of U.N. structural reform. In his speech to the Commission in Geneva last week, the Secretary-General called on the U.N. to do more to promote and protect fundamental rights and freedoms by stating that "unless we re-make our human rights machinery, we may be unable to renew public confidence in the United Nations itself." He also asserted that "At the same time, the Commission's ability to perform its tasks has been overtaken by new needs, and undermined by the politicization of its sessions and the selectivity of its work. We have reached a point at which the Commission's declining credibility has cast a shadow on the reputation of the United Nations system as a whole, and where piecemeal reforms will not be enough."

As Members of Congress, we have an opportunity to demonstrate U.S. leadership by helping the U.N. address today's most critical human rights challenges. I commend the Secretary-General's recommendations to create a more efficient and accountable human rights body and urge you to join me in supporting his efforts. In the coming weeks and months I will be working with my colleagues in the International Relations Committee, with the Secretary-General and with the Administration to ensure that the Secretary-General's bold plans to restructure the U.N.'s human rights mechanisms are implemented in a way that supports his goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire text of the Secretary-General's historic address be placed in the RECORD.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ADDRESS TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, GENEVA, APRIL 7, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like you I am deeply conscious of what we have all lost with the passing of Pope John Paul II. His was an irreplaceable voice speaking out for peace, for religious freedom, and for mutual respect and understanding between people of different faiths. Even as we mourn his loss, I hope all of us who are concerned with human rights can pledge ourselves to preserve those aspects of his legacy.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, One year ago today, we stood together in this Commission in silent tribute to the memory

of the victims of genocide in Rwanda. We recalled again our collective failure to protect hundreds of thousands of defenseless people. And we resolved to act more decisively to ensure that such a denial of our common humanity is never allowed to happen again.

Today we have reached another moment when we must prove our commitment.

First, because of the appalling suffering in Darfur. Valiant efforts have been made to deliver humanitarian assistance. I am glad the Security Council has now agreed, both to impose sanctions on individuals who commit violations of international humanitarian or human rights law, and to ask the International Criminal Court to play its essential role in lifting the veil of impunity and holding to account those accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. And I think we should all be grateful to the troops deployed by the African Union, whose presence—wherever it is felt—is definitely helping to protect the population from further crimes. But in its present form that force is clearly not sufficient to provide security throughout such a vast territory. And meanwhile, there has been hardly any progress towards a political settlement. For all of us, as individuals and as an institution, this situation is a test. For thousands of men, women and children, our response is already too late.

But today I am also thinking of victims whose plight is not so well known. I have in mind the weak, the poor and the vulnerable. I am thinking of all people who are denied their human rights, or who may yet fall prey to violence and oppression. To all, our responsibility under the Charter is clear: we must do more to promote and protect fundamental rights and freedoms, whenever and wherever they occur.

Indeed, nobody has a monopoly on human rights virtue. Abuses are found in rich countries as well as poor. Women in a wide range of countries continue to enjoy less than their full rights. Whether committed in the name of religion, ethnicity or state security, violations have a claim on our conscience. Whether carried out in public or in more insidious ways, breaches must compel us to stand up for the right of all human beings to be treated with dignity and respect.

Human rights are at the core of the package of proposals I have just put before the Member States in my report, "In Larger Freedom." I argue that we will not enjoy development without security, or security without development. But I also stress that we will not enjoy either without universal respect for human rights. Unless all these causes are advanced, none will succeed. And unless we re-make our human rights machinery, we may be unable to renew public confidence in the United Nations itself.

The cause of human rights has entered a new era. For much of the past 60 years, our focus has been on articulating, codifying and enshrining rights. That effort produced a remarkable framework of laws, standards and mechanisms—the Universal Declaration, the international covenants, and much else. Such work needs to continue in some areas. But the era of declaration is now giving way, as it should, to an era of implementation.

The recommendations I have put forward reflect this evolution. Most of all, they attempt to build a United Nations that can fulfill the promise of the Charter. Thus I have proposed major changes in the three central pillars of the United Nations human rights system: the treaty bodies, the Office of the High Commissioner and the inter-governmental machinery. Let me take them each in turn.

The seven treaty bodies are the independent guardians of the rights and protections that have been negotiated and accepted

over the years. Their dialogue with States emphasizes accountability, and their recommendations provide clear guidance on the steps needed for full compliance. The treaty body system has helped to create national constituencies for the implementation of human rights. But the system must be streamlined and strengthened, so that the treaty bodies can better carry out their mandates. And urgent measures must be taken to enable them to function as a strong, unified system.

I have also called on the membership to strengthen the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The role of the Office has expanded greatly. In addition to its long-standing advocacy work, today it is also engaged in conflict prevention and crisis response. And where once much of its energies were devoted to servicing the human rights bodies, today it also offers wide-ranging technical assistance.

Yet the Office remains ill-equipped in some key respects. It cannot, for example, carry out proper early warning, even though human rights violations are often the first indicators of instability. The High Commissioner and her staff continue to work admirably within real constraints. They would be the first to acknowledge shortcomings, and they are best placed to identify ways to overcome them. Accordingly, I have asked the High Commissioner to submit a plan of action by 20 May. I expect a request for additional resources to figure prominently in her recommendations. As central as human rights are in our work, the United Nations allocates just two percent of its regular budget to that programme. We need to scale up to meet the growing challenges that confront us.

I turn now to the most dramatic of my proposals. As you know, I have recommended that Member States replace the Commission on Human Rights with a smaller Human Rights Council.

The Commission in its current form has some notable strengths. It can take action on country situations. It can appoint rapporteurs and other experts. And it works closely with civil society groups.

At the same time, the Commission's ability to perform its tasks has been overtaken by new needs, and undermined by the politicization of its sessions and the selectivity of its work. We have reached a point at which the Commission's declining credibility has cast a shadow on the reputation of the United Nations system as a whole, and where piecemeal reforms will not be enough.

A Human Rights Council would offer a fresh start. My basic premise is that the main intergovernmental body concerned with human rights should have a status, authority and capability commensurate with the importance of its work. The United Nations already has councils that deal with its two other main purposes, security and development. So creating a full-fledged council for human rights offers conceptual and architectural clarity. But what is most important is for the new body to be able to carry out the tasks required of it.

I have proposed that the Council be a standing body, able to meet when necessary rather than for only six weeks each year as at present. It should have an explicitly defined function as a chamber of peer review. Its main task would be to evaluate the fulfillment by all states of all their human rights obligations. This would give concrete expression to the principle that human rights are universal and indivisible. Equal attention will have to be given to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as to the right to development. And it should be equipped to give technical assistance to States, and policy advice to states and UN bodies alike.

Under such a system, every Member State could come up for review on a periodic basis. Any such rotation should not, however, impede the Council from dealing with massive and gross violations that might occur. Indeed, the Council will have to be able to bring urgent crises to the attention of the world community.

The new Human Rights Council must be a society of the committed. It must be more accountable and more representative. That is why I have suggested that members be elected by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly, and that those elected should have a solid record of commitment to the highest human rights standards. Being elected by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly should help make members more accountable, and the body as a whole more representative.

A Council will not overcome all the tensions that accompany our handling of human rights. A degree of tension is inherent in the issues. But the Council would allow for a more comprehensive and objective approach. And ultimately it would produce more effective assistance and protections, and that is the yardstick by which we should be measured. I urge Member States to reach early agreement in principle to establish a Human Rights Council. They can then turn to the details such as its size, composition and mandate; its relationship with other UN bodies; and how to retain the best of the existing mechanisms, such as the special rapporteurs and the close ties with NGOs. Consultations with the High Commissioner would naturally be a very central part of this process, and she stands ready to assist. Let us all do our part to make this happen, and show that the United Nations takes the cause of human rights as seriously as it does those of security and development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Human rights are the core of the United Nations' identity. Men and women everywhere expect us to uphold universal ideals. They need us to be their ally and protector. They want to believe we can help unmask bigotry and defend the rights of the weak and voiceless.

For too long now, we have indulged this view of our own capabilities. But the gap between what we seem to promise, and what we actually deliver, has grown. The answer is not to draw back from an ambitious human rights agenda, but to make the improvements that will enable our machinery to live up to the world's expectations.

Our constituents will not understand or accept any excuse if we fail to act. So let us show them that we understand what is at stake.

Thank you very much.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MOON HERNANDEZ, BOWIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Moon Hernandez, Bowie Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Hernandez is currently a second grade teacher at Bowie Elementary. She received her teaching degree from Texas A&M University, making her the first of five children in her family to graduate college.

Mrs. Hernandez has served on the District Education Improvement Committee for the last

four years and is presently the Literacy Link Lead teacher for the second grade teachers at Bowie. She has served as the second grade team leader and as a technology presenter at the TCEA 23rd Annual Convention.

Mrs. Hernandez's goal in teaching is to help children become independent thinkers so that they can be better prepared for the real world. She credits her mother, who would not let her miss a day of school even as a young child, as her inspiration for learning and teaching.

She works tirelessly to provide her students with superior problem solving skills and confidence in themselves.

Mrs. Hernandez is an incredible contributor to her community and to her students, and I am honored to have the chance to recognize her here today.

REGARDING H. CON. RES. 34

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, on April 5, 2005, we short-circuited debate and used a suspension motion to honor Yogi Bajan. It has since come to my attention that Mr. Bajan is a controversial figure. Had I known of the controversy surrounding him, I would not have voted in favor of this suspension of the House's normal legislative process.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of the words of the first President of the United States, George Washington, whose words are worth repeating at this time: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country."

Republican priorities:

Many of them talk about protecting veterans and making sure veterans have the support they need when returning from protecting this country's freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Yesterday, the House passed H.R. 8, to make permanent the repeal of the estate tax. This bill will cost the American taxpayer \$290 billion over the next ten years. The cost over the first ten years could go to \$1 trillion.

Let me repeat that: \$1 trillion.

That is a huge cost to all of us.

The bill gives a tax break to the wealthiest 3/10 of 1 percent of estates, while imposing a new capital gains tax on most, including those of small business owners and farmers.

At the same time, the Republicans passed a budget that calls for \$800 million in cuts to the VA over the next five years.

Clearly, the Republicans are attempting to balance the budget on the backs of veterans'

health care, and on the backs of the widows and orphans of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country's freedom.

Today, this same house will vote on bankruptcy legislation that does nothing to protect our veterans.

These brave men and women are serving their country in Iraq and Afghanistan, while at home, their lives and livelihoods are going down the drain. Many of these people have gone into debt and the circumstances of their debt occurred either before, during or after their active duty. This bill does not help these people.

Many of our service members—especially, the citizen soldiers of the Guard and Reserve forces, could face terrible financial problems because they do not qualify for a narrow protection of debt incurred while on duty if S. 256 becomes law.

Since 9/11, approximately half a million Reservists and Guardsmen have been called to active duty: Some more than once. Hundreds of thousands of Reservists and National Guardsmen are currently activated in support of ongoing military operations. According to the National Guard, 4 out of 10 members of the National Guard and Reserve forces lose income when they leave their civilian jobs for active duty.

The people of this country need to see what policies the republicans actually vote for. They talk the talk very well, but do not walk the walk or roll the roll for our veterans, who have sacrificed their bodies for this Nation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEGAN NEBGEN, GOODNIGHT JUNIOR HIGH TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Megan Nebgen, Goodnight Junior High Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Nebgen is the coach of the Dancin' Stars Team at Goodnight, a position she has held for the past two years. She is well-qualified for the position, having received a Bachelor of Science in Dance from Texas State University. She has brought energy and initiative to Goodnight, establishing the first Contest Team at the school.

Megan Nebgen believes that dance can be an excellent venue for growth for girls, teaching them to express themselves through movement and building their self-esteem. Her girls have won many awards in competition, but Mrs. Nebgen believes that the confidence and pride that the girls get from the dance program is their most important reward.

She believes that dance can help students in the rest of their lives, citing the fact that most of her students improve their marks in school when they are enrolled. Mrs. Nebgen also believes that team competitive dance can teach an important civic virtue: teamwork. Mrs. Nebgen herself is a team player within her school, taking time from her schedule to participate in both the Campus Management Team and the Veteran's Day Committee.

Mrs. Nebgen has made an important contribution to the health and happiness of the

girls under her mentorship. Her work in dance benefits her whole community, and I am proud to have had the chance to recognize her here today.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIE GARY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Willie E. Gary for his work as an outstanding trial attorney, philanthropist and community activist.

Attorney Willie E. Gary is living the American Dream. Once a migrant worker, now a multi-millionaire attorney, Gary earned his reputation as "The Giant Killer" by representing little-known clients against major corporations. Gary's amazing success has earned him national recognition as a leading trial attorney. Along the way he has handled some of the largest jury awards and settlements in U.S. history, winning more than 150 cases valued in excess of \$1 million each.

His remarkable legal career and tireless work on behalf of his clients has been well documented on "60 Minutes", "CBS Evening News", "The Oprah Winfrey Show", ABC's "World News Tonight" with Peter Jennings, and CBS's "The Early Show" with Bryant Gumbel. In May 2002, he was featured in Ebony magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans". Forbes Magazine has listed him as one of the "Top 50 attorneys in the U.S."

Gary has also been featured in such national media publications as The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Boston Globe, Black Enterprise, The New Yorker and The National Law Journal.

But Willie Gary's triumphant rise to the top is no overnight success story.

His vast appeal stems from his desire to be the best and a passionate work ethic he learned through his humble beginnings. One of 11 children of Turner and Mary Gary, Willie Gary was born July 12, 1947 in Eastman, Georgia, and raised in migrant farming communities in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas.

His unwavering desire to earn a college education ultimately led him to Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina where the all-state high school football player would earn an athletic scholarship after being told there was no room for him on the team. Gary went on to become the co-captain of Shaw's football team during the 1969, 1970 and 1971 seasons.

Earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Gary went on to North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina where he earned a Juris Doctorate in 1974. Upon earning his law degree, Gary returned to Florida where his childhood sweetheart, Gloria soon became his wife.

Gary was admitted to the Florida Bar and opened his hometown's first African-American law firm with Gloria's assistance. His practice has since grown into the thriving national partnership known as Gary, Williams, Parenti, Finney, Lewis, McManus, Watson & Sperando, P.L., consisting of 37 attorneys, a team of paralegals, a professional staff of 120 including six nurses two full-time investigators,

an administrator, a certified public accountant, a public relations director, a general counsel, human resources director, and a full administrative staff.

Gary is a member of the National Bar Associations, the American Bar Association, American Trial Lawyers Associations, Florida Academy of Trial Lawyers Association, Martin and St. Lucie County Bar Associations and the Million Dollar Verdict Club.

Gary's scope of interest extends far beyond the courtroom.

He is chairman of the Black Family Channel, the nation's first African-American owned and operated 24-hour cable channel that is devoted to wholesome "family values" programming for urban viewers. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, the network's vision is to provide intelligent, family-oriented programming that embraces values in business, entertainment, sports, ministries and government. Gary also hosts a weekly talk show on the Black Family Channel featuring personal interviews with prominent guests.

Known as a businessman, churchman, humanitarian and philanthropist, Gary is deeply involved in charity and civic work. He is committed to enhancing the lives of young people through education.

In 1991, Gary donated \$10.1 million to his alma mater, Shaw University. He has also donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to dozens of Historically Black Colleges and Universities throughout the U.S. In 1994, he and his wife, Gloria, formed The Gary Foundation to carry out this formidable task. The Gary Foundation provides scholarships, direction and other resources to youth, so they can realize their dreams of achieving a higher education.

His national television campaign, "Education is Power," encourages children to stay in school and be the best that they can be. In addition to being a lawyer, a philanthropist, a media mogul and a motivational speaker, Gary continues to serve on the board of trustees of numerous universities and foundations. He has received honorary doctorates from dozens of colleges and universities.

His extensive community activities include membership in the NAACP, Florida Guardsmen, Inc, Urban League, Civitan International, the United Way of Martin County and Martin Memorial Hospital Foundation Council, and many others.

Willie and his wife Gloria have four sons, Kenneth, Sekou, Ali, and Kobie. Mr. Speaker, Willie Gary has continued to demonstrate through his work as an attorney and his commitment and generosity in helping others that he is more than worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF KYLE WILSON, PRIDE HIGH
SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions of PRIDE High School Teacher of the Year, Kyle Wilson.

Mr. Wilson has been a teacher at PRIDE, an alternative school for at-risk students, for fifteen years. He was one of the original team

of teachers who founded PRIDE High School. He has two Bachelor's degrees, in Psychology and Biology, and he uses his training to teach his students how to explore the world around them as scientists.

Kyle Wilson gives his students real-world science experience by involving them in the PHS Hydrosphere Monitors, a campus organization which protects the environment by testing the water quality of the Blanco River. The PHS Hydrosphere Monitors work together with Texas State University, which compiles the water quality information from various schools to create a picture of water quality throughout the state. This project not only provides the State with valuable data; it also promotes the attitudes and social values conducive to scientific learning, and teaches students the value of volunteering for a cause larger than themselves.

Mr. Wilson has won many awards for his work. He was named Texas Watch "Outstanding Monitor" in 2002, has been recognized by the National Science Teachers Association, and was Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year in 2005. This is the second time he has received the Teacher of the Year Award from his school. He has done a tremendous amount for the children of the State of Texas, and I am happy to have the opportunity to thank him here today.

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL KEMP
NALL

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Daniel Kemp Nall of Sheridan. Dan passed away on Friday, March 4th at the age of 85. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Dan was born on April 28, 1919 in Sheridan, and remained a citizen of Grant County for almost his entire life. Dan attended Henderson State Teachers College, and received bachelor degrees in history and physical education. Dan also earned a master's degree in History from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Dan served his country during World War II in the United States Navy. Upon returning to Sheridan, his career path took him to education and coaching, including tenures at Hendrix College, Morrilton High School, and Sheridan High School.

After Dan retired from education, he was extremely active in the Democratic Party of Arkansas and Senior Democrats of Arkansas. Dan served as Sergeant-of-Arms in the Arkansas State Senate during my time there, where I had the privilege of knowing Dan and counting him as a friend.

Dan's commitment to the Sheridan community and to our state did not stop with public education. He served as President of the Arkansas Athletic Association and as Postmaster of Sheridan. He also worked as a member of the Grant County Museum Board of Directors in its founding and was named Board Member Emeritus in February 2004.

Daniel Kemp Nall will forever be remembered as a terrific husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Dan's wife,

Muriel Cole Slaughter, passed away in 2001. My deepest condolences go out to Dan's son, Judge Kemp Nall and his wife Denise, his daughters Susan Nall Perry, and Dian Nall Taylor and her husband Tommy Taylor, his 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He will be missed by his family and all those who knew him and thought of him as a friend. I will continue to keep Dan and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

HONORING BERKELEY CITY
COUNCILMEMBER MARGARET
BRELAND

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of former Berkeley City Councilmember Margaret Breland of Berkeley, California. Serving the people of West Berkeley first as a private citizen and then as a public servant, Margaret devoted most of her adult life to improving conditions in a community she saw to be underrepresented and often overlooked. Margaret retired from the Berkeley City Council in November of 2004, and after a long battle with breast cancer, passed away on April 7, 2005.

Though Margaret was originally from Beaumont, Texas, she spent the majority of her life in Berkeley after moving there as a child with her family. The oldest of four children, she was counted on by her mother to help run the household. After graduating from Berkeley High School, Margaret became a licensed vocational nurse, an occupation in which she served for 27 years.

Margaret retired early from her work as a nurse to care for her mother in the late 1980s, but became increasingly involved in community and public service activities at Liberty Hill Missionary Baptist Church, where she was a member. As chairperson of Liberty Hill's scholarship committee, she raised thousands of dollars every year to ensure that every church member attending college received at least \$1,000 in financial assistance.

Margaret also made sure that members of her church remained informed through her work and that of others who served on the congregation's Christian Social Concern Committee. One of the ways in which Margaret first became known to the public in Berkeley was through spearheading the ultimately successful campaign to install a traffic light at Ninth Street and University Avenue, an effort aimed at protecting children crossing the street on their way to and from the church. Margaret continued to advocate for the safety of children and others in her neighborhood not only through her work at Liberty Hill, but also as the chair of both the Human Welfare Action Committee and the West Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corporation, and through her involvement with the West Berkeley Area Plan Committee, the West Berkeley Community Cares Services Bank and the Community Advisory Board.

After several years of advocating on behalf of the residents of West Berkeley, in the mid-1990s Margaret decided to seek public office, and was elected as the District 2 representative to the Berkeley City Council in 1996. In

her first term, she secured over one and a half million dollars in funding for projects and facilities located in her district, working to make up for funding gaps that she felt had long been ignored. Regardless of the challenges she faced, Margaret worked tirelessly to provide affordable housing, access to healthcare, police and fire protection resources and support for youth in her district. Though she struggled with her illness for much of the second half of her time in office, she remained steadfastly committed to serving her constituents, demanding daily briefings and making efforts to go to City Hall even as her condition and treatments diminished her physical strength. Margaret's devotion to serving her constituents earned her a reputation as a candid and straightforward representative of the people, someone who was truly dedicated to serving as a voice for those without the means to advocate for themselves.

On April 15, 2005, Margaret Breland's life and legacy will be honored at her own Liberty Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Berkeley, California. It is with great sorrow but also with great pride that I add my voice to all those that have joined together today to pay tribute to Margaret and the spirit of selflessness that she embodied. Margaret's commitment to and concern for others set her apart as an elected official and as a human being. The generosity that led her to serve others throughout her life is an inspiration to all of us to follow her example in giving back to our communities, our country and our world.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF DEBORAH RODRIGUEZ, DE
ZAVALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the enormous contributions of Deborah Rodriguez to the students of De Zavala Elementary School.

A long time Texan, Mrs. Rodriguez graduated from San Marcos High School and later went on to receive her teaching degree from Texas State University. She is certified in Bilingual Education and teaches first and second grade bilingual students.

Mrs. Rodriguez credits her husband for becoming a teacher, as he comes from a family of teachers and educators. She also gives credit to the many teachers who she had when she was younger and beginning to learn English.

Mrs. Rodriguez began to teach in 1997 when her youngest child began kindergarten. She is an avid believer in her students knowing and learning to speak more than one language, because she regrets that she started school speaking only Spanish. Her mother, who spoke and read to her in both languages and gave her a strong foundation in reading and writing, is the reason why she loves to do these things today.

Deborah Rodriguez is one of San Marcos' outstanding educators and I am very proud to have had this opportunity to recognize her today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 2005, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 107 and "no" on rollcall vote No. 108.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE REVI-
TALIZING CITIES THROUGH
PARKS ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I introduce legislation, the Revitalizing Cities Through Parks Enhancement Act, that would establish a \$10 million grant program for qualified, non-profit, community groups, allowing them to lease municipally-owned vacant lots and transform these areas into parks. These vacant lots often are areas of heavy drug-trafficking. Parks and gardens created with the grants will not only provide safe places to gather, but will increase property values as well. The grants will be available from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to groups who have met standards of financial security, and who have histories of serving their communities. To further ensure that these grants are used to make lasting positive changes, land improved and made into open community space under this legislation must be available for use as open space from the local government for at least seven years.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF YVONNE DELGADO, TRAVIS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Yvonne Delgado, Travis Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Delgado is a Deaf Education Teacher at Travis Elementary. She holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master's Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders/Deafness Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She has been the Lead Deaf Education Teacher at Travis since 1997, putting her philosophy to work for the benefit of her students.

As Lead Deaf Education Teacher, Mrs. Delgado oversees the Deaf Education team of three teachers and three interpreters, as well as managing the cases of five to ten students and working as a classroom teacher herself. In addition, she provides training and expertise to the general education staff on deaf education issues, equipment, and modifications.

Mrs. Delgado has wanted to be a teacher since she was a child, and has always had a

keen interest in sign language. She is absolutely committed to her students, getting to know them outside of school and treating them as members of her family. She works constantly to provide her students with better communication skills and confidence in themselves. She is a tremendous contributor to her community and to her students, and I am honored to have the chance to recognize her here today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
SPORTSMANSHIP IN HUNTING ACT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Representative CHRIS SHAYS and 17 other members, introduced the Sportsmanship in Hunting Act of 2005. This bill, similar to a bill I introduced last congress, gets at an issue that many would be surprised to learn even occurs: the "hunting" of an animal inside an enclosed area, a fence. By halting the interstate shipment of captive exotic mammals for the purpose of being shot in a fenced enclosure for entertainment or for trophy, the bill we introduced today will lead to significant reductions in "canned hunt" operations.

At more than 1,000 of these commercial "canned hunt" operations around the country, trophy hunters pay a fee to shoot captive exotic mammals—animals that have often lived their lives being fed by hand and thus have no fear of humans. Simply stated, there could be no easier target. Canned hunting ranches know this and can therefore offer guaranteed trophies, touting a "No Kill, No Pay" policy.

Who supports canned hunt operations? Not rank-and-file hunters. In fact, in a poll of their readership described in the July 2003 issue, the editors of *Field and Stream* magazine reported that 65 percent of sportsmen oppose canned hunts. Additionally, lifelong hunters in Montana, including members of the Montana Bowhunters Association, spearheaded a state ballot initiative in 2000 that led to a ban on shooting animals in fenced enclosures. In addition to Montana, 23 states have full or partial bans on canned hunts for mammals. The momentum to address canned hunt operations is no surprise given that an element of hunting that so many sportsmen hold dear, that of the "fair chase," is absolutely absent under canned hunt conditions. The time is long overdue for the federal government to participate in efforts to end this despicable practice.

By halting the interstate transport of non-indigenous mammals used in canned hunts, the Sportsmanship in Hunting Act will curb a practice so egregious that hunters and animal advocates alike view it as unfair and inhumane. This bill is supported by numerous local and national groups representing more than ten million Americans.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage my colleagues to join me in putting a lid on canned hunts.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR.
SAMUEL PROCTOR MASSIE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding life of Dr. Samuel P. Massie, who passed away at the age of 85 on April 10, 2005.

Dr. Massie, a chemistry professor, was the first African American to teach at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

As a young graduate student, Dr. Massie worked on the Manhattan Project where he and other scientists made liquid compounds of Uranium for the making of an atomic bomb. He also conducted pioneering silicon chemistry research and investigated antibacterial agents. Dr. Massie held the patent for chemical agents effective in battling gonorrhea. Additionally, he received awards for research in combating malaria and meningitis, worked on drugs to fight herpes and cancer and developed protective foams against nerve gases.

Dr. Massie was a former professor at several historically black colleges including my alma mater, Fisk University. Dr. Massie was instrumental in encouraging African American and other minority students to pursue science careers.

Samuel Proctor Massie Jr. was born in North Little Rock, Arkansas, the son of two schoolteachers. It is purported that he could read at a third grade level by the time he entered the first grade. He graduated high school at the age of 13 and went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude in chemistry from Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) in 1936. He then received a Master's degree in Chemistry from Fisk University in 1940.

I met Dr. Massie when I was a student at Fisk University, where he was teaching physical chemistry. It was an extremely difficult class and as a boy who had received an education in the rural, segregated south, all of this was unfamiliar territory. I was failing his class and Dr. Massie came to me and said, "Young man, you're going to fail this class, sign this card and drop the class." I did, and Dr. Massie credits himself as the reason I became a lawyer.

Dr. Massie was a remarkable chemist, academician, and friend. His accomplishments are too many to mention and the lives he's impacted too numerous to count. He will forever be remembered for his character and his extraordinary work.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF GAYLE RHOADES, SAN
MARCOS HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the countless contributions of Gayle Rhoades, San Marcos High School Teacher of the Year.

Gayle Rhoades has a Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi State University. She has been teaching Academic Biology and Pre-AP Biology at San Marcos High School for the past four years. She combines tough discipline and dedication to helping individual students into an effective teaching strategy.

Ms. Rhoades has recently proved herself in one of her school's toughest assignments, as a teacher in the PASS program. PASS is a program for second and third year freshman repeaters. Many of the students in the program have persistent attendance and discipline problems, and are resistant to authority and advice. Ms. Rhoades has dealt with these students with firmness and patience, and her efforts have paid off. Many of her students credit her with putting them on a path to graduation and success in the face of considerable odds.

Ms. Gayle Rhoades has been a tremendous role model and source of support for her students, and an excellent resource for her school system and community. She has taken up challenging assignments without complaint, and changed numerous lives for the better. She represents the best of our public education system, and I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize her here.

DEATH TAX REPEAL
PERMANENCY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8, the Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005. This bill would put an end to the estate tax, commonly referred to as the death tax.

My only disappointment in voting to eliminate the death tax this year is that we must again wait for the Senate to follow suit. The House has already voted to permanently repeal this tax in both the 107th Congress and the 108th Congress. Unfortunately, the Senate has not been able to pass this permanent repeal.

I am very pleased, however, that the House has once again listened to the people and will try to nail the coffin shut on the death tax. Asking families to pay taxes on what is left behind when a loved one dies is simply not the right way for a government to collect taxes.

Throughout our history, Americans have worked vigorously to achieve great success despite extraordinary hardships. Farmers have tilled the earth, inventors have exercised their ingenuity, builders have constructed, entrepreneurs have established businesses, and in the process of becoming successful, wealth is created. When a person successfully pursues a dream and wisely manages resources over a lifetime, the federal government should not reward those accomplishments by seizing a significant portion of what he intended to pass along to the family.

As is often the case, family farmers or small business owners make plans to pass the family business to their children after they die. Unfortunately, due to burdensome death taxes, there are countless examples of families who have been forced to sell the business or purchase it back from the government.

As a result, a business that has been in a family for generations can be lost overnight because of the enormous burden of the death tax. And when a business leaves its family roots, there can be a loss of pride in the fundamental traditions that helped make the business successful. This is not the legacy parents want to leave their children and grandchildren.

Aside from the harmful effects the death tax has on family small businesses, there is an inherent injustice in re-taxing assets. Because taxes have already been paid on accumulated gains over a lifetime, the death tax constitutes a double taxation. Re-taxing a person's assets when they die is equivalent to purchasing from the government what already belongs to a family.

Resources that otherwise would have been utilized to hire more employees or invest in capital are underused when families are forced to make alternative plans for dealing with the death tax. This results in fewer jobs and a less robust economy.

According to the Joint Economic Committee, the death tax results in a reduction of stock in the economy by nearly \$500 billion. When businesses cease to grow efficiently, fewer jobs are made available to the unemployed.

South-central Kansas has experienced several years of high unemployment following the economic downturn after 9/11. We must do all we can to help bring jobs back to those who need them. Permanently eliminating the death tax is one way we can help the economy fully rebound, which means more high-quality, high-paying jobs for Americans.

Because small businesses are so important in providing jobs for Americans, the death tax is a tax on jobs. Small, family-owned businesses are especially vulnerable to the death tax because most small-business owners have the entire value of their business in their estate.

According to one study, more than 70 percent of family businesses do not survive the second generation, and 87 percent do not make it to the third generation. The threat of the death tax forces small-business owners to pay for expensive "estate planning" just to keep the business in the family. Instead of helping families maintain and grow their small businesses, the Federal Government will be able to seize about half the business unless the death tax is repealed.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in once again voting to end this tax that has caused so much harm to so many American families.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND WORK OF OFFICER STEVEN ZOURKAS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Steven Zourkas, devoted husband, father, brother, friend and dedicated public servant. Mr. Zourkas' commitment to the safety of residents defined his four-year tenure of outstanding public service as a police officer with the Village of Niles. He also served as an evidence technician with the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force.

Mr. Zourkas graduated from Niles North High School. A former paramedic, Mr. Zourkas joined the Niles Police Department four years ago and rose to become one of the department's top auto accident investigators. The Niles Village Board recently honored Zourkas at their March 22, 2005, meeting for helping to solve a burglary.

Friends and colleagues said they will remember Mr. Zourkas for his tremendous personality and utmost dedication to his job. Mr. Zourkas died after losing control of his police car to avoid hitting a pedestrian. Mr. Zourkas saved a man's life but in the process lost his own. Mr. Zourkas is believed to be the first Niles police officer to die in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. Steven Zourkas. As a police officer, Mr. Zourkas dedicated his professional life to the safety of his officers and the security and safety of the entire Village of Niles. I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Ivy; his beloved sons, Andrew and John; his beloved parents, Anthony and Elaine Zourkas; his beloved brothers, Anthony and George; and also to his extended family and many friends. His courage and kindness will live on forever within the hearts and memories of his family, friends, and the public he so faithfully served.

I commend my Colleagues' attention to the article remembering Mr. Zourkas, which was published in the Niles Journal on April 13, 2005.

[From the Niles Journal, Apr. 13, 2005]

"HE'LL BE SORELY MISSED"—NILES POLICE REMEMBER FIRST OFFICER TO DIE IN LINE OF DUTY

(By Michael Sebastian)

During a damp and cool Tuesday morning more than 250 squad cars from various Illinois police departments followed a somber procession through Niles to Elmwood Cemetery in River Grove where the first Village of Niles police officer to die in the line of duty was laid to rest.

Niles police Officer Steven Zourkas, 33, was killed early last Friday (Apr. 8) while traveling in his squad car west along Golf Road. Zourkas was heading to a disturbance call that was reportedly between a cab driver and passenger at Omega Restaurant, 9100 W. Golf Rd., when he lost control of his squad car and crossed over into the east bound lanes of traffic on Golf Road. The car slid to a violent halt in the Highland Towers condominium parking lot after it turned over on its passenger side and struck two parked cars. The accident, which occurred in the 8800 block of Golf Road, snarled traffic last Friday morning for hours. Emergency workers crowded the scene as radio and television news helicopters hovered above.

Officials said Officer Zourkas died at the scene from injuries associated with the accident. He was 33 years old and a member of the Niles Police Dept. for the past four years. He is survived by his wife and a five month old son. Officials would only say Zourkas was from a "far northwest suburb."

As accident investigators from the Cook County Sheriff's office continue to piece the morning's events together, reports have indicated that Zourkas swerved his squad car to avoid a pedestrian who was stepping off the curb on Golf Road as the officer approached. Although this could not be confirmed with police by press time, Niles Mayor Nicholas Blase said this pedestrian came to the Niles Police Dept. last week to tell officials he was the man that stepped from the curb.

Niles police Sgt. James Elenz noted last week that Zourkas was among the department's top auto accident investigators.

Flags have flown at half staff in Niles since the tragic accident occurred last Friday. Black and purple cloth is draped over the entrance to the Niles Police Station, at Touhy and Milwaukee Avenues, in honor of Zourkas. Niles police personnel are also wearing black armbands in memory of their fallen member.

Friday's accident marks the first time in Village of Niles history that a police officer died in the line of duty. Village Manager Mary Kay Morrissey said social workers and grief counselors have been available to help those mourning Zourkas' death. Members of the second and third shifts have shuffled their schedules so the officers who worked with Zourkas during the first shift, which lasts into the morning's wee hours, can begin coping with the loss. According to Blase, a female officer at the department is continuing to help Zourkas' wife as she mourns the loss of her husband.

"He was one of those very well liked policeman—exceptionally so," Mayor Blase said.

Members of the police department are describing Zourkas as man with a tremendous personality who was very dedicated to his job.

"Everyone liked him," Blase said about Zourkas. "He was a very able guy and because of that the tragedy intensifies."

"So many people are grieving."

"He'll be sorely missed."

The funeral held Tuesday was an appropriate send-off for Zourkas, said Niles fire Deputy Chief Barry Mueller, who, along with numerous others from the village, attended the ceremonies. Two fire engines from Elmwood Park crossed their ladders at the entrance of the cemetery in River Grove. A large American flag was draped from the ladders. Later, about 25 bagpipers played, Mueller said.

Village Manager Mary Kay Morrissey said being part of the enormous line of mourners driving from the funeral mass to the cemetery was unlike anything she'd ever seen before. Squad cars with their lights activated stretched as far as most in the procession line could see. Blase estimated that at least one hundred Illinois police departments, probably more, were represented during the funeral. Some downstate communities sent representatives to the ceremony, he said.

Streets in each community the funeral procession passed were blocked by various police departments, officials said. Even ramps leading to and from I-90 were blocked to make way for the mourners.

Morrissey praised the Niles Police Dept. for organizing the funeral during this difficult time. "There's certain protocol you follow when someone is killed in action," Morrissey explained. "I'm very proud of the way the police came together."

Visitation took place at Colonial Wojciechowski Funeral Home, 8025 W. Golf Rd., on Monday (Apr. 11). Tuesday the line of mourners proceeded from the funeral home to St. Isaac Jogues Church at 8149 Golf Road for a funeral mass. Various lanes of traffic on Golf Road were blocked-off Tuesday from about Washington Avenue to Milwaukee Avenue, according to Morrissey. Streets leading into Golf Road were also closed, officials said.

The funeral procession traveled from St. Isaac Jogues south along Milwaukee Avenue to Touhy Avenue so Zourkas could once more pass the Niles Police Dept. The car then drove along Touhy Avenue to Cumberland then south to Belmont Avenue and the cemetery.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF HULDA KERCHEVILLE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service of Hulda Kercheville of Hernandez Intermediate School. Hulda Kercheville grew up in Martindale, Texas. As the eldest of six children, she spent much of her youth helping her parents care for her of siblings.

Mrs. Kercheville has chosen to lead a life filled with good examples for our children. She is no stranger to hard work, having served as both an educator and a former Hays County Constable.

Hulda Kercheville has taught our kids for the last thirty-five years. She is retiring from Hernandez Intermediate School, and receiving the honorary distinction of Teacher of the Year.

Hulda Kercheville survives her husband Jack Kercheville. Her four children: Michael, Cheryl, Mary, and Jaclyn, now have children and grandchildren of their own.

It is an honor to recognize the hard work and dedication of Hulda Kercheville. Her passion for the education of our students has inspired generations of Texans.

HONORING SUPER BOWL XXXIX'S
MOST VALUABLE PLAYER,
DEION BRANCH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise in recognition of an outstanding athlete and a beloved Georgian, Mr. Deion Branch, Super Bowl XXXIX's Most Valuable Player. Earlier this year we recognized the New England Patriots when they won Super Bowl XXXIX, their third Super Bowl victory in four years. Only one other team has ever won the Lombardi Trophy so many times in so few years, yet no other receiver in history has put together back-to-back performances like Deion Branch.

In Super Bowl XXXVIII, which the Patriots won 32-29 over the Carolina Panthers, Deion Branch caught 10 passes for 143 yards, including the game's first touchdown and the catch that set up the Patriot's winning field goal. He should have won MVP then, but this year he bested even himself, tying the Super Bowl record with 11 catches for a total of 133 yards.

From the days when he was deemed too small for middle school football, to his years on the Monroe High School team, to the University of Louisville, to his historic career in professional football, Deion Branch has made up for what he lacks in size with a spirit and a talent that defines him as one of the best to ever play the game.

This Saturday, April 23, 2005, we will be observing "Deion Branch Day" in the City of Albany, with all of the pomp and circumstance due our hometown hero. But here in these hallowed walls, I rise on behalf of the city of Albany, Georgia, the 2nd Congressional Dis-

trict and football fans everywhere to recognize his outstanding achievement and to wish him continued success in his already remarkable career.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act.

The bankruptcy bill before us today is the product of years of bipartisan discussions and compromises, and while this legislation is not perfect, it is a serious, good faith effort to reform our bankruptcy laws and reduce the worst abuses in the consumer bankruptcy system. The House has passed substantially similar legislation with strong majorities in each of the last four Congresses, and the Senate followed suit last month when it passed S. 256 by a 3-1 margin. Bankruptcy filings have increased by 70 percent over the last decade, and last year alone Americans filed over 1.6 million consumer bankruptcy petitions. S. 256 will not eliminate bankruptcy filings in our country, but it is a necessary effort to change the status quo and ensure that only those debtors who most need the bankruptcy system will be able to use it.

S. 256 would raise the repayment priority of domestic support obligations, including alimony and child support, from seventh to first, and would make failure to pay domestic support obligations a cause for conversion or dismissal of a debtor's case.

S. 256 would also protect tax-exempt retirement savings accounts from creditors' claims. The bill expressly upholds the Supreme Court's recent ruling that creditors may not seize Individual Retirement Accounts [IRAs] when people file for bankruptcy, ensuring protection for retirement accounts relied upon by millions of Americans. Consequently, IRAs now join 401(k)s, Social Security, and other benefits tied to age, illness or disability that are afforded protection under bankruptcy law.

Further, S. 256 would make non-dischargeable credit card purchases of \$500 or more, if made within 90 days of filing for bankruptcy, and all cash advances that total \$750 or more, if made within 70 days of filing. Sometimes consumers who know that they will have to file for bankruptcy protection make excessive purchases on credit with the full knowledge that they will never have to repay this debt. Approximately \$4 billion in consumer debt is erased each year through bankruptcy, and this discharged debt increases the costs of goods and services for all consumers. Retailers pass on to consumers the costs that are lost to bankruptcy, and the means test included in S. 256 could save between \$4 billion and \$5 billion of this discharged debt.

Additionally, the bill seeks to tighten the homestead exemption by limiting the amount of equity a homeowner could protect if a piece of property in a homestead exemption state is purchased within the 40-month period prior to

a bankruptcy filing. Bankruptcy filers convicted of a range of crimes, including fraud, violations of securities laws, and criminal acts resulting in injury or death would lose the ability to shield their assets in property holdings regardless of when they purchased their property. The bankruptcy bill's homestead exemption provisions attempt to ensure that wealthy debtors with the means to payoff at least some of their debts will no longer be able to hide behind the bankruptcy system.

As some opponents of the bill have noted, some debtors are forced to file for bankruptcy as a result of unmanageable medical bills, divorce, or job loss. These financial hardships unfortunately happen every day, and too often prevent honest, hardworking individuals and families from getting ahead or pulling themselves out of debt. This legislation seeks to protect the ability of these debtors to file for relief under Chapter 7 of the bankruptcy code by creating a means test that will continue to allow low-income debtors who earn less than the median income of the state in which they live to file under Chapter 7. According to the 2000 Census, the median household income in my congressional district is approximately \$51,000. The means test recognizes that those in our society who are the least able to repay their debts should have the opportunity to enjoy a fresh start in life. And because many debtors are forced to file for bankruptcy as a result of medical expenses, S. 256 allows bankruptcy filers to challenge the means test by demonstrating "special circumstances," such as a serious medical condition, that justify additional expenses or adjustments to their income. Individuals who are forced to file for bankruptcy due to medical expenses should be able to emerge from bankruptcy with the possibility of a second chance in life.

Finally, S. 256 contains several provisions that seek to improve consumers' financial literacy in an attempt to decrease the total number of future bankruptcy filings. The bill would require debtors to receive credit counseling from a non-profit credit counseling agency prior to filing for bankruptcy, and requires filers to complete an approved instructional course on personal financial management before receiving a discharge under either Chapter 7 or Chapter 13.

Mr. Speaker, while S. 256 is certainly not a perfect piece of legislation, it is my hope that this bill will reduce the number of bankruptcy filings in our country and maintain a fair bankruptcy system for those who need it the most in our society.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF MARY ANNE GUERRERO
KOLB, CROCKETT ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Mary Anne Guerrero Kolb, Crockett Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Kolb graduated from Texas State University in 1974 with a B.S. in education, and in 1981 with a Masters in Education. She has taught kindergarten for the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District for 30

years, after being handpicked by the administration as a student teacher.

Mrs. Kolb is a dedicated practitioner of bilingual education. She aims to make her students into enthusiastic readers and writers, in both English and Spanish. Her methods have produced consistent results: every year her students meet or exceed the state requirements in math and reading.

In addition to her distinguished career in education, Mrs. Kolb is also a military veteran. She enlisted in the United States Navy after high school, and worked as a dental technician. She is a consistent innovator in education. Mrs. Kolb eagerly applies new computer technology and teaching techniques in her classroom, using new information to reinforce time-tested procedures. She has been recognized for her achievements many times, receiving the 2004 Outstanding Teacher Award from the VFW as well as Teacher of the Year from her own Crockett Elementary School.

Mary Anne Kolb is one of our state's outstanding educators. Her tireless work has contributed to a brighter future for hundreds of Texan children, and her energy serves as an example to us all. I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize her here today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPLOYEE
FREE CHOICE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the right of working men and women to freely organize and bargain collectively is a fundamental human right. It is a long-time American value, a principle recognized by international agreement, and a standard by which our government measures adherence to democratic principles.

And yet, disregard for the right of free association is rampant right here. In its report entitled, "Unfair Advantage," Human Rights Watch (2000) declared—

Many workers who try to form and join trade unions to bargain with their employers are spied on, harassed, pressured, threatened, suspended, fired, deported or otherwise victimized in reprisal for their exercise of the right to freedom of association.

Labor law enforcement efforts often fail to deter unlawful conduct. When the law is applied, enervating delays and weak remedies invite continued violations.

This is not a report on human rights abuses in Iran, or Honduras, or China. This subject is the United States of America.

When the National Labor Relations Act was enacted 70 years ago, it represented the hope of millions of Americans who sought to gain the right to bargain with their employer. Today, however, that law has become so weakened and so easily manipulated that it is one of the greatest hindrances to the right of Americans to form and join unions.

Today, I am honored to be joined by the Hon. PETER T. KING and 121 of our colleagues in introducing the Employee Free Choice Act. We commit ourselves to a new effort to strengthen and protect a human right and an American principle: the right of men and women to band together to improve their working conditions.

The Employee Free Choice Act is a bipartisan bill designed to provide a realistic ability for working men and women to form and join unions.

The Employee Free Choice Act provides: A simple, fair, direct method for workers to form unions by signing cards or petitions; three times the amount of lost pay when a worker is fired during an organizing campaign or first-contract negotiations; and impartial mediation or arbitration to resolve disputes over first-time labor contracts.

Employees and the nation benefit from a strong union movement. Median weekly wages of union workers are 28% higher than nonunion workers. Almost 70% of union workers have a guaranteed retirement benefit, five times the likelihood for a nonunion worker. Eighty percent of union workers have health insurance compared to 50% of nonunion workers.

The ten States with the highest percentage of organized workers have higher household incomes, greater medical insurance coverage, higher education spending per pupil, lower violent crime rates, fewer people living in poverty, and a greater electoral participation than the ten States with lowest percentage of organized workers. This issue is not just about human rights—it's about economic security for us all.

Workers should be able to make the decision about union representation without intimidation, indoctrination or misinformation. When we undercut the ability of working men and women to join unions, we are abandoning our own history and ideals, and sending a terrible message to the rest of the world. I commend this legislation to the attention of my colleagues and urge those who yet to do so, to join me in sponsoring this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Equal Pay Day. On this day, thousands of advocates across the country will participate in events to bring attention to the continued gender wage gap.

The Equal Pay Act, enacted in 1963, established pay equity for women in the United States. Nonetheless, 40 years after the enactment, women are still paid less than men—despite similar education, skills and experience. In fact, women still only earn 76 cents to each dollar paid to their male counterparts.

Although we have made progress since 1963, women have not yet achieved pay equity. Women, particularly single mothers, continue to face financial burdens, including the cost of rent, groceries and utilities. Compounding this situation is the reality that the wage gap inevitably leaves women with less money for retirement, smaller pensions and will also disproportionately depend on social security.

While working women in California are farther along the road to reaching equal pay in comparison to other states, the gap still exists. In 2000, women in California earned 82 cents as much per hour as men. Regrettably, at this

current rate, women in California will not have pay equity until 2044.

Women of color are at an even higher disadvantage than non-minority women. Latinas earn merely 53 cents and African American women earn 65 cents for every dollar that men earn. We must recognize workplace discrimination and barriers faced by women of color across the country.

The wage gap between men and women is unacceptable. That is why I strongly support the "Paycheck Fairness Act," introduced by Representative DELAURO. This bill will take the necessary steps to eliminate gender-based wage discrimination and ensure that women will finally earn what men earn for doing the same job. I urge Congress to pass this bill and end wage discrimination for all women.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ROSALINDA DE LA ROSA,
BONHAM EARLY CHILDHOOD
CENTER TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Teacher of the Year Rosalinda De La Rosa for her countless contributions to the children of the Bonham Early Childhood Center.

Mrs. De La Rosa began her career at Bonham by teaching Pre-Kindergarten Bilingual Education. She has now taught at Bonham for 2 years. She has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Texas State University and she is certified in Early Childhood Education and Bilingual Education.

Mrs. De La Rosa is a teacher who loves to shape and mold the minds of her students. She helps them understand that school is a safe and wonderful environment and encourages them to learn everything that they can. She teaches them that even though they may be young they are important to the class, and she helps them understand about classrooms and rules.

Her goal as a teacher is to make every day an enjoyable day by letting her preschoolers know that she cares about them and that she is there to listen to their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have Mrs. De La Rosa teaching the students of my district and I am honored to have had the chance to recognize her today.

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE WOODBURY LIONS
CLUB

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 70th anniversary of the Woodbury Lions Club. The Lions Club motto is "We Serve," and for 70 years, the Woodbury Lions have been serving Cannon County well.

The Woodbury Lions Club has grown significantly from its humble beginnings in 1935 when Minor Bragg first explained Lionism to a

group of men in Lee Baker's Drug Store. Weeks later, 21 men formed the club in S.D. Wooten's Grocery Store. Now, the club has more than 100 members and meets in Lions Memorial Building.

The Lions may be best known for their outstanding work in providing vision services to the needy. When Helen Keller addressed the Lions Club's 1925 International Convention, she called upon them to become "Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness." The Lions answered that call. Today, more than 46,000 clubs worldwide are dedicated to providing vision screening in schools as well as eyeglasses and surgery to those in need.

Lions also are committed to building parks and working with youth in their communities. The Woodbury Lions have built Lions Field and a walking trail to provide residents with more opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of Cannon County. In addition, the Lions work closely with organizations such as Boy Scouts and 4-H. They also have introduced Lioness and Leo Clubs at local schools to instill the value of service to our future leaders.

Woodbury is a better place because of the wonderful work of the Woodbury Lions Club. I commend the Lions for all they do, and I congratulate them on 70 years of service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF SHERRI HARRIS STOKES,
MILLER JUNIOR HIGH TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Sherri Harris Stokes, Miller Junior High Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Stokes has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Texas A&M University. She is certified in kindergarten, mathematics, and gifted and talented education. She has taught mathematics at Miller Junior High for 6 years, and is already producing excellent results.

Mrs. Stokes knows that math can be intimidating for many students, and works constantly in her classroom to make mathematics more accessible, and to help her students build confidence in the subject. She constantly challenges her students and encourages them to try new things, an approach she learned from the mentors who were important in her own development.

She has been heavily involved in helping students grow outside her classroom, as well. She has served for 3 years as the Math Department Chair, 4 years as a National Junior Honors Society Sponsor, and 1 year as a Student Council Sponsor. She strives to make a personal connection with students, continuing to check on their progress as they move forward into high school.

Teachers of math are enormously important for getting our children ready for the jobs of the 21st century, and Mrs. Stokes has worked unfailingly toward that goal. Her commitment to education and to her students is laudable, and I am proud to have had the chance to recognize her here today.