

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES AND SECRETARY RICE

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Last week, the Community of Democracies held its third meeting of Foreign Ministers in Santiago, Chile. This unique group of democracies from around the world met to discuss how democratic nations can cooperate to promote democracy around the world.

I would like to inform my colleagues that at the opening plenary meeting of that Ministerial on Thursday April 29, 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a compelling speech regarding United States support for those efforts. She expressed her deep seated views regarding the responsibilities of all democratic nations to do so and welcomed the establishment of a new International Center for Democratic Transition to be established in my hometown of Budapest, Hungary. Mr. Speaker, when Hungary was under the communist Boot, I would have never dreamed that such a Center would become a reality.

I am putting Secretary Rice's speech in the RECORD and I urge all my colleagues to read it in the coming days.

REMARKS AT THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES  
OPENING PLENARY

(By Secretary Condoleezza Rice)

Thank you very much to the Chilean government, particularly to President Lagos and to Foreign Minister Walker for hosting this year's meeting of the Community of Democracies I think we have been all warmly welcomed here in Chile. I know that I speak for all my distinguished colleagues when I say that we are honored to gather here together in the name of democracy.

Every democracy in the world has shared the triumph of Chile's citizens, as they have renewed their commitment to democracy. Indeed we have all experienced the profound hope of people here throughout Latin America, who have transformed their continent through their desire to live in liberty. Today, all the members of the Community of Democracies declare our deep conviction that freedom is the universal longing of every soul and democracy is the ideal path for every nation.

The past year has brought forth a dramatic shift in the world's political landscape. Since our last meeting in Seoul, we have seen free elections in Afghanistan and in Iraq, and in the Palestinian territories. We have witnessed tremendous developments in places like Georgia and Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan and Lebanon.

There comes a time when the spark of freedom flashes in the minds of all oppressed people, and they raise their voices against tyranny. The Community of Democracies must match the bravery of these men and women with the courage of our own convictions. We on the right side of freedom's divide have an obligation to help those on the wrong side of that divide.

To support democratic aspirations, all free nations must clarify the moral choice be-

tween liberty and oppression. We must let all governments know that successful relations with our democratic community depend on the dignified treatment of their people. To strengthen democratic principles, all free nations must demand that leaders who are elected democratically have a responsibility to govern democratically. Abandoning the Rule of Law for the whim of rulers only leads to the oppression of innocent people.

To advance our democratic consensus, all free nations must insist that upholding democratic principles is the surest path to greater international status. The Community of Democracies is one of a growing number of international organizations that make democracy an actual condition for membership.

In the western hemisphere, the Organization of American States has adopted the Interamerican Democratic Charter and here in the southern cone, Mercosur is helping to bolster democracy. In Europe, only democracies can belong to the European community, and democratic principles have always been the cornerstone of NATO. The democratic character of states must become the cornerstone of a new, principled multilateralism.

The real division in our world is between those states that are committed to freedom, and those who are not. International organizations like the Community of Democracies can help to create a balance of power that favors freedom. One positive action that we can take together is to work through the United Nations Democracy Caucus, to support reform of the United Nations. In particular, we should encourage the creation of a legitimate human rights body within the United Nations. Serious action on human rights can only come from countries that respect and protect human rights. Our Democratic Community can cooperate in other ways at the United Nations. The UN Democracy Fund, which President Bush proposed last fall at the general assembly, is an ideal way to provide tangible support to emerging democracies. Financial assistance is essential for all nations working to build firm foundations for freedom.

The world's democracies must also help countries with their democratic transitions, every nation in this room has experienced a democratic transition of its own, some quite recently. Hungarian Foreign Minister Somogyi has proposed the creation of a democratic transition center. This is a terrific way, Minister, for our community to share with young democracies and democratic movements, the important lessons that we have learned from our own traditions and transitions.

Democratization is after all, not an event, it is a process. It takes many years, even decades to realize the full promise of democratic reform. For nearly a century after the founding of the United States, millions of black Americans like me were still condemned to the status below that of full citizenship. When the founding fathers of America said "We the People", they did not mean me; many of my ancestors were thought to be only 3/5 of a man. And it is only within my lifetime that the United States has begun to guarantee the right to vote for all of our citizens. And so we know, in the United States, that this is a long and difficult process, and every nation in this room

has experienced moments of tyranny in its history, some not too long ago.

Today, our citizens share the common bond of having overcome tyranny through all our commitment to freedom and democracy. Now it is our historic duty to tell the world that tyranny is a crime of man, not a fact of nature. Our goal must always be the elimination of tyranny in our world. We, at the Community of Democracies must use the power of our shared ideals to accelerate democracies movement, to ever more places around the globe. We must usher in an era of democracy that thinks of tyranny as we thought of slavery today, a moral abomination that could not withstand the natural desire of every human being for a life of liberty and of dignity: This is our great purpose, together we will succeed.

### KAWASAKI DISEASE AWARENESS

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, an organization dedicated to the awareness of Kawasaki Disease, A Kawasaki Heart, is striving to increase public knowledge of Kawasaki Disease (KD) throughout the United States and, more particularly, among medical professionals.

I recently learned of a close call suffered by 3-year-old Bailey Buffkin, the granddaughter of Janis Moore of Thomasville, North Carolina, and the daughter of Amber Brewer. Bailey became ill this past March and her mom wasted no time in seeking medical care. Fortunately, her pediatrician was familiar with the symptoms of KD. The accurate diagnosis and timely treatment means that Bailey has a better chance to live a happy and healthy life.

According to the American Heart Association, KD is a disease that primarily affects children under the age of 5 years. It is the leading cause of acquired heart disease in children. There are a few thousand new cases each year in the U.S. If not detected and treated immediately, it can result in permanent heart damage or even death. The cause of KD is unknown, but scientists who have studied KD think the evidence strongly suggests it is caused by an infectious agent such as a virus. Children with KD have high fever, red eyes and lips, strawberry tongue, a rash, swollen lymph nodes, and inflamed arteries. The usual treatment, intravenous gamma globulin, is highly effective at preventing the heart complications if administered within the first few days of illness. That is why it is so important that a child who is suspected of having KD is seen by a doctor quickly and diagnosed correctly.

Because there are relatively few instances of KD diagnosed in the United States, it is important that parents, guardians and the medical community become familiar with the signs and symptoms so that other children are diagnosed and treated as quickly as Bailey Buffkin.

• 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.

Additional information may be located on the web site of the American Heart Association ([www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)) and A Kawasaki Heart ([www.kawasakidisease.us](http://www.kawasakidisease.us)).

RECOGNIZING EARTH DAY IN  
HARLEM

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Earth Day events in Harlem, New York, and to recognize the dedication of advocates of environmental justice. This year, Harlem will celebrate the 35th anniversary of Earth Day—a day designed to raise our collective awareness of the challenges facing our environmental and global communities.

In the first Earth Day celebration, the Nation directed its attention to the issues of the environment and ways to ensuring its protection for years to come. Congress adjourned—on a Wednesday—for the day to allow Members to hear from their constituents. Roughly 20 million Americans united to express their collective demand for a safer, cleaner, and healthier global community. The Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency followed shortly after that momentous day. These were true efforts, not in name alone, to provide important and needed protections to our environment and to make our communities safe, clean, and healthy.

This year, Harlem will focus on the environmental problems of communities of color. West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc (WE ACT) is a non-profit grassroots environmental group that has worked to improve environmental quality and to address equity and justice in environmental issues for predominately African-American and Latino communities. For the last 7 years, they have worked to raise community awareness of environmental hazards, to identify and research ecological threats to minority communities, and to attain governmental policies to protect local communities.

As part of their Earth Day celebrations, WE ACT will honor six luminaries in the field of environmental justice: Alphonse Fletcher, the chairman of Fletcher Asset Management; Dr. Kenneth Olden, the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS); Dr. Joseph Graziano from the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at Columbia University; Lucille McEwen, Esq., president and CEO of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement; Dr. Rafael Lantigua, associate director of General Medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital; and Full Spectrum Building and Development, Inc., a Harlem-based development firm that built the first green building in Harlem. These individuals will be awarded WE ACT for Environmental Justice Awards for making “substantial inroads to preserve natural and built environment, and improve environmental health in communities of color.” They will be honored for their hard work in ensuring that minority communities are safe, clean, and healthy communities.

Fellow Members of Congress, please join me in thanking WE ACT for its hard work in organizing Earth Day activities in Harlem, New York. This is a significant day in American history and to our future. We must do more to truly protect our environment from the threats of pollution, industrial contamination, and abuse. We must find a balance that will protect our nature, the environment, and our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS AND THE AMERICAS SOCIETY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Americas Society and Council of the Americas, based in my congressional district, on their 40th anniversary.

I believe the work of these organizations is invaluable in educating all of us about matters related to the Western Hemisphere. The Americas Society promotes cultural understanding through an exchange of ideas among writers, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and the general public. The Council of the Americas promotes open markets, democracy and the rule of law, through active engagement with U.S. and hemispheric governments.

Founded by David Rockefeller in 1965 as a private sector parallel to President Kennedy's Alliance for the Americas initiative, the Council of the Americas/Americas Society is now in its 40th anniversary year.

During the past 40 years, the Americas Society has promoted many of the great cultural achievements of the Western Hemisphere by showcasing Latin artists, musicians, and authors and contributing to the vibrant cultural diversity of New York City and especially my district.

I am also pleased to note the organization's commitment to arts education, which I believe is a crucial component of school curricula not only in New York, but across the country. By exposing New York City's underprivileged children to the music of the Americas, the Americas Society helps to instill a lifelong appreciation of music.

We must continue to strengthen relations among the nations in the Western Hemisphere. Like the Council of the Americas, I strongly support democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and I commend the Council for its promotion of these ideals in U.S. policy in the Western Hemisphere.

Under the leadership of Chairman William Rhodes and President and CEO Susan Segal in New York, the Council of the Americas and the Americas Society have raised their profile significantly, adding new value to members while becoming even more active in the hemispheric policy debate. As consistent advocates for constructive engagement of the Western Hemisphere countries, the Americas Society and the Council of the Americas are contributing to peace, democratic stability, and shared prosperity in the Americas.

Today, Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population. They are making dynamic contributions to the U.S.

economy and culture. As the U.S. population becomes more and more diverse, it will be even more important to foster deeper cultural understandings and cross-border cooperation.

I congratulate the Council of the Americas and Americas Society on their 40th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF IRVING H. LEVIN

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend former state legislator Irving H. Levin on his retirement from his profession as a real estate broker and insurance agent and thank him for his long career of service. Over his lifetime, Mr. Levin has worked on behalf of Rhode Islanders as a community activist, business leader, and model citizen.

Born July 21, 1915, in Providence, Irving Levin has dedicated his life to making Rhode Island a better place. He graduated from Hope High School in 1934 and attended Johnson & Wales College. He then served in the Army during World War II, which inspired his lifelong advocacy for veterans.

Mr. Levin received his real estate license in 1959, and he earned numerous honors and awards for his practice over the years. He was twice recognized as Realtor of the Year by the Greater Providence Board of Realtors, and he was honored as the Rhode Island Realtor of the Year in 1993. A true leader, Mr. Levin also served as the President of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors in 1990.

From 1971 to 1991, Mr. Levin represented Cranston and the citizens of the 27th district of Rhode Island in the General Assembly. During his tenure at the State House, he served as Vice Chairman of the House Corporations Committee and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Veterans Affairs. By the time he retired, Mr. Levin was the longest-serving member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives. In the General Assembly, Mr. Levin focused his priorities on veterans and senior citizens' issues.

In addition to realtor, insurance agent, and State Representative, Mr. Levin served as president of the Greater Cranston Chamber of Commerce and the National Conference of Insurance Legislators. After leaving public office, Mr. Levin continued his activism with the Jewish War Veterans and served as President of the United Veterans Council of Rhode Island. Mr. Levin's distinguished career has no doubt inspired countless others to follow in his footsteps.

I am proud to honor Mr. Levin today. It is through the efforts of dedicated public servants and community leaders like Mr. Levin that Rhode Island has moved into the 21st century ready to face whatever problems arise. I am confident that if other leaders follow the model set forth by Mr. Levin, Rhode Island and our Nation will continue to be a source of pride for all of us. I hope my colleagues will join me in commending Irving H. Levin.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLAIRE  
MCMILLEN

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Claire McMillen, a fine gentleman from Fort Collins, Colorado, who passed away tragically on Sunday, April 3, 2005 in an airplane crash.

The 72-year-old, accomplished pilot had a passion for flying. When Claire wasn't spending time with his wife Janet, he spent it in the air, flying.

Claire McMillen was a majority shareholder at the Fort Collins Downtown Airport, he bought it to help further aviation in Colorado. Claire was also the owner of the Kiva Inn in Fort Collins.

Claire and Janet came out to Colorado from Beacon, New York to try working in the business profession. They fell in love with the area and have lived here for more than 30 years.

This tragic accident will be difficult for the McMillen family, the Fort Collins Downtown Airport, and the community. I ask my colleagues to extend their sympathies to the McMillen family.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE  
KHMER ROUGE CAMBODIAN  
GENOCIDE

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, we solemnly commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Khmer Rouge regime when they deliberately and systemically massacred millions of innocent Cambodians, with a large percentage of women and children. However, in the midst of this past sorrow, we have seen great hope as a result of the strength, resiliency, and courage of the Cambodian people. So while we mourn the loss, we celebrate the future filled with hope and promise.

In 1975, Pol Pot led the Communist guerrilla group, the Khmer Rouge, in a large-scale insurgency that resulted in the removal of Cambodians from their homes and into labor camps in an attempt to restructure Khmer society. The Khmer Rouge maintained control by mass public tortures and executions. Families were separated. Men, women and young children were sent into labor camps and forced to do strenuous farm work with very little food. Famine and disease were epidemic while health care was non-existent. Between April 1975 and January 1979 more than 1.7 million Cambodians were killed.

When the Khmer Rouge was overthrown in 1979, thousands of Cambodians fled to nearby refugee camps, and over 145,000 Cambodians made their way to the United States. With the assistance of the Federal government, state, local, and voluntary agencies, Cambodians were resettled in communities across America.

Despite the tremendous loss of family members, home, and even parts of their heritage, Cambodians have shown enormous resiliency. I am proud that the largest Cambodian population in the United States resides in my District. Their culture and contributions have enriched our communities and the American landscape.

Finally, Cambodians have been waiting for the past twenty-five years for the Khmer Rouge perpetrators to be brought to justice. Just a few days ago, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan declared that UN-Cambodian agreement funding requirements had been met and there is now enough funds to finance the Tribunal's staffing and operations for a sustained period of time.

This means that the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, only a dream for twenty-five years, will now become a reality. This means that the Cambodians can finally find closure on this brutal part of their history. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

RECOGNIZING ROBERT HUGHES

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Robert Hughes. Mr. Hughes, our Nation's all-time "winningest" high school boys basketball coach, has dedicated 47 years of service to coaching and educating students; helping them to succeed not only on the court but also in life.

As Mr. Hughes retires this year we will no longer be measuring his wins on the court, but rather the wins, the lives, he has helped to create off the court. In taking the time to teach his students Mr. Hughes chose not only to teach them about health and basketball, but about values and self esteem as well. The loyalty with which Mr. Hughes has served his students and Dunbar High School is a testament to his passion of seeing every child succeed in life.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize a man who has been a leader to so many. The legacy of Mr. Hughes, on and off the court, shall serve as an inspiration to all those who wish to pursue their passion and make a difference in the lives of others.

TRIBUTE TO LUISA TRUJILLO  
VASQUEZ

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, Luisa Trujillo Vasquez was born in Nogales, Territory of Arizona on May 22, 1906. In the fall of that same year, Luisa's parents, Salome Vasquez and Reyes Trujillo, loaded their six sons and baby daughter into a horse-drawn wagon and made the journey to Tucson. Tucson has been

Luisa's home since her arrival as an infant; earning her the title of a "Native Tucsonan."

The Trujillo family lived on the corner of Simpson Street and Main Avenue, across from the famous "Elysian Groves," where Luisa and her siblings often played as children and adolescents. Luisa attended Drachman and Safford Elementary schools until 6th grade when she left school in order to help her mother look after her brothers and help with household chores. The end of her formal education did not mark the end of Luisa's learning; indeed, Luisa's character was strengthened and her practical education supplemented when she joined the workforce at the young age of 13 in order to help support her family. Never one to complain, Luisa accepted this challenge willingly and with dignity and resolve.

Luisa has held many job titles throughout her lifetime, but she considers herself first and foremost to be a seamstress. She sewed for Levy's Department Store, Kaufman's Department Store (later known as Sacconi's), the Lyric Outfitters, and she worked at Davis Monthan Air Force Base sewing and mending thousands of military uniforms for soldiers stationed there during World War II. Luisa is also known for designing and fitting many of the Hispanic brides and their bridesmaid dresses during the 1930's, 1940's and early 1950's.

Luisa has many fond memories of the Tucson of her youth where she used to ride the mule-drawn trolley named "El Urbano," danced at the old Armory Park Dance Hall, took in films at the Old "Opera House," and attended shows at the Teatro Carmen. She also vividly remembers family outings to Sabino Canyon, trips to Old Fort Lowell and Vail Communities, and Sunday outings to the old Southern Pacific Railroad Depot to listen to the military bands from Fort Lowell and the SPRR Civic Band.

Luisa raised her four children as well as her beloved niece and nephew in Tucson. Throughout the years and particularly during the Great Depression, Luisa struggled with quiet resolve to provide for her immediate and extended family and even her neighbors from time to time.

Though Luisa is proud of her Mexican-American heritage, her loyalty has always been to her American homeland. Since World War I, Luisa has also had a deep love for America's servicemen and women. Following the death of her much-loved nephew during World War II (whom Luisa raised), Luisa was recognized as a "Gold Star Mother." In honor of her nephew and the sacrifice he made for his country, Luisa has requested that her Gold Star be pinned to her dress and buried with her upon her death.

Luisa has been the recipient of many well-deserved awards throughout the course of her lifetime. Most recently, the "Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson" recognized Luisa's achievements and her commitment to her native city.

Luisa has led a life full of love and friendship and distinguished by uncommon hospitality and service to her loved ones as well as her community. She is an exceptional woman, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and citizen. Her life has left an indelible mark on Tucson and the lives of its citizens.

OPPOSE HR 6, THE ENERGY  
POLICY ACT OF 2005

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, in 2001 the newly elected President George W. Bush visited St. Paul to announce his vision of energy independence to the American people. Unfortunately, the President's vision of limitless domestic petroleum exploration, natural resource exploitation and consumption are becoming a reality. Today, tragically, House Republicans expand the Bush agenda of tax cuts for the energy industry, dependence on foreign oil and destruction of our environment.

With only two percent of world oil reserves, the U.S. will never be able to produce enough petroleum to be self-sufficient. America needs a comprehensive energy policy that prioritizes incentives for efficiency, conservation, alternative energy sources. Our nation needs to invest in the development of the next generation fuel sources like fuel cells, hydrogen power and home grown Minnesota fuels like ethanol. A major commitment and investment in these advancements has the potential to create a revolutionary transformation of the global economy, liberate our nation from our addiction to oil from Saudi Arabia and the Middle East, and start the environmental healing that will keep our planet alive.

Unfortunately, H.R. 6 fails to even attempt to meet these goals and in fact undermines them. Instead, the Republican energy bill spends 93 percent of the \$8.1 billion in tax incentives it provides to oil and coal companies. The same companies that are already making huge profits from the skyrocketing gas prices our families are paying to heat our homes and put gas in our cars. The President doesn't even believe these companies need incentives. At a recent speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, President Bush said, "I will tell you with \$55 oil, we don't need incentives for oil and gas companies to explore. There are plenty of incentives. What we need is to put a strategy in place that will help this country over time become less dependent."

This Republican bill wastes enormous amounts of taxpayer money and it contributes to the destruction of our environment. It tramples the 'polluter pays' principle and forces the American people to pick up the \$29 billion cost to clean up the mess created by MTBE—the mess that is contaminating the drinking water of tens of millions of Americans. It's an outrageous abuse of power to let these MTBE polluters off the hook and force a billion dollar unfunded mandate onto our counties and cities.

There were amendments that would have improved this bill, which I voted for, but they were defeated by Republican majorities. These amendments intended to protect our environment and our families while providing for responsible policies to advance a sustainable energy future for our nation.

It is with great disappointment that my colleagues and I who have visited the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge were unable to stop the majority party's obsession with destroying this pristine wilderness by allowing oil drilling. I

also supported an amendment to stop MTBE producers from passing the \$29 billion cost of cleaning up their pollution to the U.S. taxpayer. I also voted for an amendment to increase fuel-efficiency standards for our cars and trucks, saving billions of barrels of oil and improving our nation's air quality.

Each of these amendments failed because policy makers with a vision of a sustainable U.S. energy policy lost out to special interests determined to create larger corporate profits, but only after they receive the billions of dollars of corporate welfare benefits this Republican bill provides them.

Our nation cannot sustain its addiction to petroleum consumption. Incentives for efficiency, conservation and alternative energy sources combined with responsible leadership from the White House and Congress are all required if the U.S. is to lead the world in energy self sufficiency, rather than leading the world in energy dependency.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CRACKDOWN IN CUBA

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2005*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 81, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the two-year anniversary of the human rights crackdown in Cuba.

The people of Cuba have suffered under the authoritarian dictatorship of Fidel Castro for more than 45 years. Rather than allowing Cubans to thrive and live prosperous lives, the Castro regime has instead created a legacy of suppression, harm and failure. Cubans are ready for freedom, but their government does not want them to have even a taste.

Freedom-loving countries widely recognize that human rights violations against innocent Cubans are a sign Castro is afraid. Whether it is fear that Cubans will love freedom more than socialism, fear that a faltering economy will lead to more unrest, or fear of political opposition, it is clear Castro's government is a regime of fear. Rather than securing rights for the good of the people, Fidel Castro has imprisoned those who have spoken against human rights violations and other injustices within Cuba.

I hope with the passage of this resolution we will again unite our voices with those who dream of a free Cuba and join with those whose voices have been silenced by a repressive government.

In March 2003 Castro arrested 75 people who were bold enough to speak out against harmful policies of the government. Men and women whose occupations included librarians, union organizers and civic leaders were charged with innocuous crimes and sentenced to long prison terms. While a few of those arrested have been conditionally released, most of these voices of freedom remain behind bars.

Ignoring international condemnation for its actions, the Cuban government continues down its path of suppression.

However, as history has shown, when one group of voices are silenced, other voices will fill the void and cry out. The yearning for freedom within the human spirit can be suppressed, but it cannot be extinguished.

One Cuban group speaking on behalf of Castro's political prisoners are the mothers, daughters, wives and sisters of those arrested more than two years ago. Every Sunday for the past two years, a band of 30 women, called the Women in White, attend mass at Santa Rita Catholic Church before proceeding down a sidewalk on a silent protest. Even after intimidation from Castro's thugs, this little band of women are determined to peacefully expose the injustice of what is happening to their relatives. I hope the Women in White, along with thousands of other Cubans, will have the strength to continue fighting for the right to live in freedom.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in voting for H. Con. Res. 81 and send a strong message that the American people stand in solidarity with all freedom-loving Cubans.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF QUEEN BEATRIX OF THE NETHERLANDS ON APRIL 30, 2005

**HON. PETER HOEKSTRA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of her coronation as Queen on April 30, 1980. Beloved by the people of the Netherlands, millions of Dutch citizens filled the streets of their cities to celebrate the event on April 30, 2005.

Since Queen Beatrix was installed in the Council of State and assumed the royal prerogative on her 18th birthday, she has accomplished a tremendous amount of good for the Netherlands. After completing college, she turned her attention to social welfare and the needs of disabled people. She became Patron of the National Fund for the Prevention of Poliomyelitis, which was later renamed the Princess Beatrix Fund in recognition of her work and contributions. She has assumed an active role in the formation of new governments in the Netherlands. Her dignity, grace and guiding presence underpin her importance as a unifying leader in her country.

The Netherlands has long been an important ally of the United States. From 1625 when the colony of New Amsterdam was first founded by the Dutch, the immigrants exemplified the ideals of tolerance, inclusion and the notion that hard work and study lead to success—important American values that endure today.

On April 19, 1982, the Netherlands and the United States celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. As Queen Beatrix stated at that celebration, "There are few countries whose relations down the centuries have been so genuinely cordial and mutually beneficial as those between your great country, Mr. President, and my own." We thank Her Majesty for her devotion to fostering that relationship and join her country in celebrating her long service to her Nation. Her enduring leadership continues to

provide the strength and openness fundamental to helping lead the world against the tyrannies of oppression.

The Congress of the United States thanks Queen Beatrix and wishes her continued success.

UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE ACTION ON DARFUR: MORE IS NEEDED

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker I rise today to discuss the ongoing crisis in Darfur. As many as 400,000 have died throughout the course of this crisis, and more than 10,000 continue to die each month. While the death and suffering continues, action on the part of the Administration has, in recent months, been subdued at best. A May 3, Op-Ed in the New York Times, entitled "Day 113 of the President's Silence", points out that the Administration's silence on the issue has been noticeable. This new stance is extremely perplexing considering the Administration's heavy engagement on the issue previously.

Part of that engagement involved early pressure on the Sudanese leadership to agree to a Darfur cease fire. The United States also had the distinction of being the first and only major world power to label the offenses of the Sudanese government in Darfur as genocide. The Administration was also generally supportive of the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act passed in late 2004, which admonished the Sudanese government for its actions in Darfur, provided humanitarian assistance for the region, and reiterated United States sanctions on Sudan.

The United States has also provided large amounts of assistance to the Darfur region, totaling some \$615 million since 2003 (\$357.6 million in FY 2005 alone). The 2005 Emergency Supplemental agreed to on Tuesday included \$50 million to strengthen the African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur, as well as \$40 million in general humanitarian aid.

Despite the financial assistance, the Administration has been quiet on the political front recently. In fact they have seemingly backed away from referring to the crisis in Darfur as genocide, and have down played the casualty count in the region. As the New York Times Op-Ed asserts, Sudan's recent cooperation with the United States on intelligence matters, may be placating the Administration's stance towards the regime regarding Darfur.

In the most recent indication of its new stance on Darfur, the Administration came out in opposition to the Darfur Accountability Act introduced by Senator CORZINE. Among other things the act called for wide-ranging sanctions against the Sudanese government, the establishment of a special presidential envoy for Darfur, and a military no-fly zone for the region. The bill also sought to provide for the protection of Darfurians civilians by strengthening the African Union force in Darfur through a broadened Chapter 7 UN mandate and deployment of a supplemental UN force.

The bill was attached to the Emergency Supplemental which passed the Senate in late April, and was awaiting approval in conference

committee. If accepted the bill would have represented a major step forward in bringing peace and security to the people of Darfur. However, the Administration made clear its opposition to the bill, and it was subsequently deleted from the final Emergency Supplemental Conference Report agreed to this week. With the Darfur Accountability Act off the table, what will the Administration do now regarding Darfur?

Financial assistance is not enough—there needs to be real political action. Though the Darfur Accountability Act was not passed, most of its provisions called for action at the Executive level. Thus, the Administration still has an opportunity to become effectively engaged on the Darfur issue. Most of the solutions to the Darfur crisis will entail a multi-lateral effort, so the President must become more involved in eliciting a response from the international community.

Though several UN Security Council resolutions have been passed to date, the UN has yet to agree on a comprehensive Security Council resolution which would cease the transgressions of the Sudanese government and its Janjaweed militia, and provide adequate protection for Darfurians civilians. The African Union will not be able to handle the situation in Darfur on their own. They need the troops, mandate, and logistical resources to effectively protect civilians dispersed across an area the size of Texas.

The Administration can bring this about; they need only increase their engagement. To that end the US must provide more leadership in the United Nations, especially the Security Council, to get a comprehensive resolution passed. It also needs to be especially forceful with China and Russia, who have been a major hindrance to achieving progress on the Darfur issue. The Administration must also sustain pressure on the Sudanese regime. We can not turn a blind eye to their transgressions in Darfur, simply because they are now cooperative with us on intelligence matters. Not only is that short-sighted, it is morally wrong.

In the cases of the Holocaust and Rwanda, inaction on the part of the international community allowed the mass murder of millions of innocent people. Now we find ourselves on the brink of a similarly momentous error. Once again, politics and national interests are delaying the type of action needed to make a significant impact on the Darfur Crisis.

During the observation of the Auschwitz anniversary in February 2005, Dr Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, wisely commented that "We can't bring the dead back to life, but we can fight for the sanctity of life." It is my hope that we take up the fight to which Rabbi Sacks refers: Unlike the Holocaust and Rwanda, the final story of Darfur has yet to be written. We still have the chance, however faint, to prevent the triumph of evil. Mr. President, we must do more for Darfur. If we choose not to act, history will forever echo our failure, and our consciences will forever hold our shame.

[From the New York Times, May 3, 2005]

DAY 113 OF THE PRESIDENT'S SILENCE

(By Nicholas D. Kristof)

Finally, finally, finally, President Bush is showing a little muscle on the issue of genocide in Darfur. Is the muscle being used to stop the genocide of hundreds of thousands of villagers? No, tragically, it's to stop Congress from taking action.

Incredibly, the Bush administration is fighting to kill the Darfur Accountability Act, which would be the most forceful step the U.S. has taken so far against the genocide. The bill, passed by the Senate, calls for such steps as freezing assets of the genocide's leaders and imposing an internationally backed no-fly zone to stop Sudan's Army from strafing villages.

The White House was roused from its stupor of indifference on Darfur to send a letter, a copy of which I have in my hand, to Congressional leaders, instructing them to delete provisions about Darfur from the legislation.

Mr. Bush might reflect on a saying of President Kennedy: "The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in a period of moral crisis maintain their neutrality."

Aside from the effort to block Congressional action, there are other signs that the administration is trying to backtrack on Darfur. The first sign came when Condoleezza Rice gave an interview to The Washington Post in which she deflected questions about Darfur and low-balled the number of African Union troops needed there.

Then, in Sudan, Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick pointedly refused to repeat the administration's past judgment that the killings amount to genocide. Mr. Zoellick also cited an absurdly low estimate of Darfur's total death toll: 60,000 to 160,000. Every other serious estimate is many times as high. The latest, from the Coalition for International Justice, is nearly 400,000, and rising by 500 a day.

This is not a partisan issue, for Republicans and the Christian right led the way in blowing the whistle on the slaughter in Darfur. As a result, long before Democrats had staggered to their feet on the issue, Mr. Bush was telephoning Sudan's leader and pressing for a ceasefire there.

Later, Mr. Bush forthrightly called the slaughter genocide, and he has continued to back the crucial step of a larger African Union force to provide security. Just the baby steps Mr. Bush has taken have probably saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

So why is Mr. Bush so reluctant to do a bit more and save perhaps several hundred thousand more lives? I sense that there are three reasons.

First, Mr. Bush doesn't see any neat solution, and he's mindful that his father went into Somalia for humanitarian reasons and ended up with a mess.

Second, Mr. Bush is very proud—justly—that he helped secure peace in a separate war between northern and southern Sudan. That peace is very fragile, and he is concerned that pressuring Sudan on Darfur might disrupt that peace while doing little more than emboldening the Darfur rebels (some of them cutthroats who aren't negotiating seriously).

Third, Sudan's leaders have increased their cooperation with the C.I.A. As The Los Angeles Times reported, the C.I.A. recently flew Sudan's intelligence chief to Washington for consultations about the war on terror, and the White House doesn't want to jeopardize that channel.

All three concerns are legitimate. But when historians look back on his presidency, they are going to focus on Mr. Bush's fiddling as hundreds of thousands of people were killed, raped or mutilated in Darfur—and if the situation worsens, the final toll could reach a million dead.

This Thursday marks Holocaust Remembrance Day. The best memorial would be for more Americans to protest about this administration's showing the same lack of interest in Darfur that F.D.R. showed toward the genocide of Jews. Ultimately, public pressure may force Mr. Bush to respond to

Darfur, but it looks as if he will have to be dragged kicking and screaming by Republicans and Democrats alike.

Granted, Darfur defies easy solutions. But Mr. Bush was outspoken and active this spring in another complex case, that of Terry Schiavo. If only Mr. Bush would exert himself as much to try to save the lives of the two million people driven from their homes in Darfur. So I'm going to start tracking Mr. Bush's lassitude. The last time Mr. Bush let the word Darfur slip past his lips publicly (to offer a passing compliment to U.S. aid workers, rather than to denounce the killings) was Jan. 10. So today marks Day 113 of Mr. Bush's silence about the genocide unfolding on his watch.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Breastfeeding Promotion Act with my colleagues CHRIS SHAYS of Connecticut, ROBERT WEXLER of Florida, ADAM SCHIFF, LYNN WOOLSEY and LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD of California, BERNARD SANDERS of Vermont, BRAD MILLER of North Carolina, DONALD PAYNE of New Jersey, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Texas, JOHN CONYERS and DALE KILDEE from Michigan and MAJOR OWENS and JOSEPH CROWLEY from New York.

Mr. Speaker, statistical surveys of families show that over 50 percent of mothers with children less than one year of age are in the labor force. Whereas women with infants and toddlers are a rapidly growing segment of the labor force today, arrangements must be made to allow a mother's expressing of milk if mother and child must separate.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that mothers breastfeed exclusively for six months but continuing for at least the first year of a child's life. Research studies show that children who are not breastfed have higher rates of mortality, meningitis, some types of cancers, asthma and other respiratory illnesses, bacterial and viral infections, diarrhoeal diseases, ear infections, allergies, and obesity. To encourage and promote breastfeeding we are introducing the Breastfeeding Promotion Act.

Specifically, the Breastfeeding Promotion Act includes four provisions:

**Protects Breastfeeding Under Civil Rights Law:** The bill clarifies the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 to protect breastfeeding under civil rights law. This will ensure that women cannot be fired or discriminated against in the workplace for expressing milk or breastfeeding during lunch or breaks.

**Provides Tax Incentives for Employers:** With more than half of mothers with infants (less than one year of age) in the work force, it is important to promote a mother-friendly work environment. The bill encourages employers to set up a safe, private, and sanitary environment for women to express (or pump) breast milk by providing a tax credit for employers who set up a lactation location, purchase or rent lactation-related equipment, hire a lactation consultant or otherwise promote a lactation-friendly work environment. Many companies would be able to receive a tax credit of up to fifty percent of their related expenses.

**Seeks Minimum Safety Standards for Breast Pumps:** The bill requires the Food and Drug Administration to develop minimum quality standards for breast pumps to ensure that products on the market are safe and effective based on efficiency, effectiveness, and sanitation factors (in addition to providing full and complete information concerning breast pump equipment).

**Allows Breastfeeding Equipment to Be Tax Deductible:** The bill amends the tax laws to include breastfeeding equipment and services as deductible medical care expenses.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 366) to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to strengthen and improve programs under that Act:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 366, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act, which reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. For over 20 years, the programs authorized in this bill have offered students across America the opportunity to develop their academic and technical skills.

Perkins supports vocational education programs that prepare students for both postsecondary education and the careers of their choice. H.R. 366 maintains many of the aspects of the current legislation that have made these programs successful. In my home state of Rhode Island, federal funding is instrumental in the operations of nine regional centers, each offering a different mix of technical training programs. Additional career and technical programs are provided in numerous comprehensive high schools and at post-secondary institutions throughout the state. These services are an integral component of education in Rhode Island and I strongly support a continued federal role in career and technical education.

The bill we are voting on today incorporates several new "local uses of funds" that will help postsecondary programs serve their students better—particularly adults that take the initiative to return to school, enrolling in community college career and technical education programs.

I want to take this opportunity to express one reservation about the reauthorization. The merger of the Tech Prep program into the Basic State Grants will result in the loss of a separate line item for Tech Prep. Although the bill seeks to ensure continued funding for Tech Prep activities, community colleges fear that the end result will be the loss of those funds, rather than an addition to the Basic State Grants. Tech Prep programs utilize a proven, successful school-to-work transition strategy to assist students making the connection between school and employment. I hope that a dedicated funding stream for Tech Prep will be reinstated in the conference on this bill with the Senate.

With this in mind, I thank the House leadership for pursuing the reauthorization of the Perkins Act and encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 366.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BECKY ZERLENTES

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Becky Zerlentes who died, tragically, on Sunday, April 3, 2005 after a fatal blow from a boxing match the day before.

Becky was a well-loved member of the Fort Collins community; she was a geography and economics instructor at Front Range Community College. She taught swimming and had a black belt in Goshin Jitsu, and she had brown belts in other forms of martial arts.

In 2002, Becky won the Regional Golden Gloves in women's boxing. She took a short break and recently began to box again. Becky was knocked unconscious during a match, and never regained consciousness. She died the following day at the Denver Health Medical Center.

I ask my colleagues to extend their sympathies to Becky's family, including her husband, Stephan Weiler, and the Fort Collins community. Becky has touched the lives of many at Front Range and beyond.

#### A TRIBUTE TO PHIL FRIEDMAN AND COMPUTER GENERATE SO- LUTIONS

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 2005 thirty years to the day after he arrived on this country's shore, Phil Friedman will once again cast his gaze on the awesome spectacle of the Statue of Liberty as so many other immigrants before and after him have done.

But this time, he will be seeing that spectacular symbol of America's promise from his new office, as the successful company that he founded two decades ago celebrates its move from Broadway to Lower Manhattan.

Phil's story is a singularly American one that would have done Horatio Alger proud. It can inspire other people who are U.S. citizens by choice, such as me and my wife, as well as anyone who understands what the American dream is about.

Phil Friedman came of age in the Soviet Union, where he was trained in electronic engineering, accounting and finance before fleeing the oppressive Soviet system. After surmounting the challenge of emigrating, he found that life in America as a new arrival was no walk in the park—in order to succeed, he needed a better facility in English, and even more professional credentials. So he went back to school while his wife, Rose, studied accounting. After earning multiple degrees from New York University, he spent eight years in various positions in the information technology industry—first as a programmer,

and then director of management information systems.

Phil then took the plunge of entrepreneurship and began his own company, which he called Computer Generated Solutions (CGS). Like its founder, CGS rose from humble beginnings. At the start there were five employees in a small office in New York. The company now employs more than 1000 professionals in offices across the country and around the globe. Since its inception, both CGS and Phil have won numerous awards and gained the respect and praise of business analysts.

As CGS has expanded its operations, Phil Friedman has been mindful of the potential effect on the U.S. workforce. He has resisted the industry trend toward outsourcing services and management positions, and has used the company's overseas facilities primarily to serve customers in those regions. Not long ago, he told a reporter that "In the rush to send so many jobs offshore," the IT industry in this country was "neglecting our moral responsibility to our employees. We said we needed these skills; now we're abandoning these people." CGS has made substantial investments in training its U.S. employees and developing their skills.

On May 5, 2005 Computer Generated Solutions will inaugurate its new headquarters at the World Financial Center in Lower Manhattan, an event significant in its own right, since it marks the continued rebirth of an area devastated by the September 11th attacks. It is a fitting conclusion to this story that when Phil Friedman moves into the new CGS office building, he won't be gazing up at the Statue of Liberty looming overhead, but gazing out at the broad panorama of the harbor, Ellis Island and a horizon as full of promise as any immigrant's aspirations for a new life in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Phil Friedman and his wife Rose have given much back to this country. They have thrown their time and energy into countless philanthropic efforts on behalf of numerous causes both here in America and in Israel, for which they have received widespread and well-deserved recognition. The Friedman's and their children, Alyx and Jeffery, are truly the personification of the American dream. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their successes, and wishing CGS the best of luck in its new home.

RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF U.S. MILITARY FAMILIES AND SPOUSES

**HON. MELISSA L. BEAN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the families and spouses of our United States Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, the family members of America's men and women in uniform have always been one of our Nation's greatest assets, and often our unsung heroes. Perhaps now as much as ever, the support of our military families on the Homefront is crucial to maintaining the spirit of our warfighters.

I would like to pay special recognition to the work of the Kious family of Mundelein Illinois.

While Kevin Kious served as a Navy Seabee in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, his son Marshall and wife Debbie organized a care package program called "Treats For Our Troops" which accepts and delivers hard to find supplies to our forces stationed overseas. Now, Mr. Kious is back home, but Treats For Our Troops—and countless other family-run efforts—still continues to send a small piece of home to our brave men and women across the globe.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions—and sacrifices—of our military spouses and families like the Kiouses who selflessly do so much for our country while their loved ones answer their nation's call to service.

CELEBRATING CINCO DE MAYO

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today Mexican American communities throughout America are celebrating Cinco de Mayo, and I want to take this opportunity to join in commemorating this important day in Mexico's history. Today marks the triumphant victory of the Mexican Army over the French that led to Mexico's self-rule. It is a day that symbolizes Mexican unity and patriotism, and is a time of joy and national pride.

The United States and Mexico have a long history of friendship and economic partnership. Today, there are more than 25 million men and women of Mexican American origin who call America home. Mexican Americans have made great contributions to our nation.

They are our small business owners creating jobs for our communities, teachers and other professionals. Mexican Americans are government leaders, and today, there are eighteen Mexican American Members of Congress.

Mexican American culture has been deeply interwoven into the fabric of daily American life and is part of the American experience. Their contributions have made us a stronger and more vibrant nation. Mexican Americans have served in the Armed Forces defending our country and our freedom. In fact, today, more than 8,700 men and women born in Mexico now wear the United States military uniform.

The United States and Mexico are neighbors united by the common interests of security, prosperity and friendship. As we move forward in the 21st Century, we will continue working together with respect and commitment to our mutual goals.

So to my Mexican American constituents and colleagues, I extend my warmest tribute in celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AT FLOWER MOUND ELEMENTARY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Flower Mound Elementary School as it

celebrates 20 years in the 26th District of Texas. Flower Mound Elementary, a Blue Ribbon School, prides itself on offering students opportunities, which allow them to go farther than an average education.

Flower Mound Elementary has been enriching the lives of students, teachers and our community for two decades now. The foundation that Flower Mound Elementary and primary schools across our country provide is essential to the development and success of our children in the long-term. Education is one of the most important gifts we can give our children and I commend Principal Gail Ownby and all the teachers and staff at Flower Mound Elementary for their continued commitment to our future, our children.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Flower Mound Elementary and all those who serve the greater good by making the choice to teach in today's education system.

HONORING DR. ALICE S. PAUL

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Alice S. Paul, an exceptional citizen of my community, our country, and the Tohono O'odham Nation. Dr. Paul's life, which unfortunately ended too soon on May 3, 2005, exemplifies the impact of public education at a time when we need to speak about its power.

Dr. Alice Paul is a product of public education and leaves a legacy of its worth. As a life-time educator, she extended the power of public education far beyond her own experience. Her focus was early childhood education, and she traveled widely helping communities improve their early childhood educational systems. Her work had direct impact on the lives of young children and their families throughout the United States, from rural Alaska to urban New Jersey. After her retirement she even served as a consultant to the Taiwanese educational system.

Alice Paul accomplished many firsts. She was the first Tohono O'odham to receive a doctorate degree and the first to teach in Tucson Unified School District. She was rooted in her tribal identity, but her openness reached far beyond. Whether meeting Native or non-Native people, Americans or Chinese, Christians or Muslims, her strong and gentle wisdom left a positive mark—because of who she was.

Combining her exceptional personal qualities, life experiences, and academic expertise, Dr. Paul touched individuals, organizations, and institutions. She was a classroom teacher. She was a Field Representative of Tucson's Early Education Model and later Director of its Follow Through Program which worked with former Head Start children and their families through the third grade. She was a University of Arizona Associate Professor of Education, and she served as head of its Department of Teaching and Teacher Education. In later years, she was a member of the Arizona State Museum Board of Directors. She was Chair of the Tohono O'odham Community College Board of Trustees and realized its accreditation. The honors she received over the years would fill a page.

Initially, she postponed finishing college when the family could not afford to send both her and her younger brother to college. She joined the United States Navy where she met Richard Paul. When they married in 1952, it was illegal for a Native American and a non-Native American to marry in Arizona, so they traveled to New Mexico for a civil ceremony before returning to Tucson for a church wedding at Southside Presbyterian Church. Dr. Paul grew up as a member of that faith community and served as an Elder for over 50 years. Her leadership abilities were recognized by the wider church, and she was elected Moderator of Presbytery de Cristo, was a consultant to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) regarding its Christian education curriculum for children, and served on the national church's Task Force on Reparations and its Commission on Preparation for Ministry.

Dr. Paul had a wide world view which allowed her to rise above conflict. She saw real problems and shared her opinions, but in a way which did not demean or incapacitate those with whom she disagreed. She credited her parents, Jones and Marianna Narcho, with teaching her the value of generosity and service. Once when asked how she happened to get a doctorate degree, Dr. Paul laughed and said, "My mother told me to learn all I could."

As a Native American, Dr. Paul observed and experienced serious inequities and violations of civil rights. She recalled that her father was arrested when he had a stroke on the sidewalk in front of their home. Because he was an Indian, the police presumed him to be drunk, and he died in jail of wounds that could never be explained. Even though the pain of that recollection stayed fresh, she used all her life experiences to become the outstanding woman she was.

As a Congressional District, as Nations, we could not be more privileged than to have had Dr. Alice Paul live and work among us.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY QUEJA

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Shirley Queja, a dear friend and undeniably one the most dependable, dedicated and trustworthy individuals on Capitol Hill. After twenty-seven years of service to three members of Congress, she is retiring. As her friends, family and peers gather to celebrate Shirley's wonderful career, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring one of the Capitol's finest professional staff members.

The child of Millie and Sabas Dumlao and an older sister to four brothers, Shirley grew up in the small town of Wahiawa on the island of Oahu. She is a graduate of the University of Hawaii and came to Washington in 1978 to work for the late Senator Spark Matsunaga. Shirley served as the Senator's longtime assistant from 1978 until his passing in 1990.

In 1990, my husband Bob was looking for a new Executive Assistant. That was when Neil Dhillon, his Chief of Staff, came across Shirley's resume. After speaking to Shirley, Neil was immediately drawn to her, not by her impressive professional experience, but instead, he was drawn to her passion for this institu-

tion, the history of this chamber and the process of law making. As their initial conversation ended, Neil was so intrigued with Shirley that he immediately rushed over to the Senate side to speak with her in person.

As one who also was enamored with Congress and its steep traditions, I can see why Bob was impressed by these same qualities. Since that first meeting, she has served at the side of Bob, and later, myself as a trusted confidant and assistant.

Bob was always proud of the caliber of his staff, and Shirley was their foundation for her fifteen years as Bob's Executive Assistant. No matter the crisis or the challenge of the request, Shirley was always there for her co-workers with steady-hand solutions. Bob always noticed her central role in holding staff together and he loved how her quiet leadership allowed her co-workers—his staff—to reach their full potential.

Shirley possesses a dedication to her job and her co-workers that is unmatched by most. She often worked deep into the night, on weekends and routinely came in over the holidays. At times she placed her job before her family and it was clear that Bob and I could always count on Shirley. A trusted confidant to many, she was always prepared and left nothing to chance. Over time it was easy to see why so many of the people who worked with her hold Shirley in such high regard.

When I think of Shirley many things immediately come to mind. As many of you know, she might just have the biggest heart of anyone in this town. She was always perfectly poised, even on the most hectic of days and under the most trying of circumstances. For fifteen years she was the hub of the wheel that kept the Matsui office strong.

Shirley Queja is the mother of two beautiful and intelligent daughters, Noelani and Haunani. Both get their artistic talents and love for the Hawaiian culture from their parents. Haunani attends the University of Hawaii and Noelani attends the University of Maryland.

She is the devoted wife to Irving, her husband of twenty-three years. They are both undoubtedly looking forward to her retirement. Irv too worked for Senator Matsunaga and now works with the Senate Sergeant at Arms. In his spare time he plays guitar and sings with the Aloha Boys, a local Hawaiian musical group. Both Shirley and Irv plan to remain active with the Halau O'Aulani, a Hawaiian cultural school in Maryland.

Shirley, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you for everything you have done for the Matsui family. I am sure you never planned to stay in Washington so long, but we are all so glad that you have. All of us wish you a joyful and long retirement. Brian, Amy, Anna and I keep a special place for you in our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress search far and wide for staff members like Shirley, but if we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that she is an original. I am honored to pay tribute to Shirley Queja as she ends her twenty-seven years of distinguished service on Capitol Hill. Her contributions to my office and this body are immense and her personal friendship has been immeasurable. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the career of this consummate professional and extraordinary person.

HONORING FLORENCE TREPP ON  
HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, devoted to her family and her community, Mrs. Florence Trepp stands as a role model and inspiration to so many people in Nevada. As she prepares to celebrate her 80th birthday, she maintains an unyielding commitment to serve her community. She has served as an advocate for abused children, a dedicated volunteer with numerous community organizations, and a committed supporter of the Parosol Community Foundation.

Florence's work with the Parosol Foundation specifically has enabled over 100 local non-profit organizations to communicate and work together towards improving their community and achieving their goals. Her son, Warren, cofounded the Parosol Foundation almost 10 years ago as a model for promoting collaboration among non-profit organizations. As an umbrella organization for numerous charities, the Parosol Foundation creates an all inclusive, safe environment encouraging groundbreaking ideas, sharing of information avoiding duplication of projects, programs and services, producing efficiency by saving time and money for each agency. Florence has staunchly supported these efforts which in turn, have benefited the entire Lake Tahoe community.

Florence is guided by her passion and by her faith. Her passion to help others and her sense of civic duty has propelled her to help others and better her community. In her short time in Nevada, she has become an inspiration for all. Florence has also a strong faith that helps her navigate the challenges of life. One of her most cherished memories is meeting the Pope and actually speaking to him in Polish, her native tongue.

Thirteen years ago, Florence had surgery for lung cancer. She thankfully is a survivor and never takes one day for granted. She enjoys the simple pleasures of life . . . including a good cup of hot coffee and America's favorite pastime, baseball. And Florence has a deep appreciation for her family, her friends, and people in general. She is always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Her nickname in Polish is yacumda which means joy . . . and joy is what Florence brings to everyone she meets. Her commitment to helping people and her community is admirable. I am proud to call her a Nevadan and to call her my friend. I wish her a very happy birthday and thank her for her unyielding commitment to serving her community.

THE GENERATING RETIREMENT  
OWNERSHIP THROUGH LONG-  
TERM HOLDING ACT OF 2005

### HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Congressman WILLIAM JEFFERSON,

introduced today the Generating Retirement Ownership Through Long-Term Holding ("GROWTH") Act of 2005. We introduced this important legislation in an effort to address one of the issues making it difficult for today's working investors to save for retirement. Most of our Nation's mutual fund shareholders report that retirement is the primary purpose for which they are saving. Almost 50 percent of U.S. households now own mutual funds, and 72 percent of fund investors say that their primary goal is to save for retirement.

Mutual fund investors are overwhelmingly middle-income Americans investing for the long term. For many of these investors, mutual funds are the low-cost, professionally managed, diversified way in which they are saving on their own for retirement. Currently, investors who buy shares in a mutual fund and hold for the long term nevertheless find themselves taxed as they go—even though no fund shares were sold and no income was received. This legislation, which I'm proud to introduce along with my distinguished colleague, Congressman JEFFERSON of Louisiana, allows mutual fund shareholders to keep more of their own money to work for them longer by deferring—not avoiding—capital gains taxes until they actually sell their investment. The "GROWTH" Act makes it easier for these individuals to meet their goals and enjoy a secure retirement.

Those investors who opt in advance to leave capital gains generated by the fund manager reinvested in the fund are doing what so many policymakers want to see—they are holding for the long term, contributing to national savings, and building up their own retirement nest egg. Tax treatment that annually shrinks the amount saved—rather than taxing the sale of fund shares when the investor taps the savings—only frustrates the behavior that so many other provisions in the tax code try to encourage.

The GROWTH Act will encourage Americans to save more and to save for the long term to better prepare for a secure retirement. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort and cosponsor this legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE RESEARCH AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LATE DR. KENNETH B. CLARK

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the research and contributions of the late Dr. Kenneth B. Clark who passed away on Monday. In his 90 years, Dr. Clark through his research helped to end segregation, fought to improve educational opportunities and services in minority communities, and drew attention to the psychological challenges of minorities.

Dr. Clark's research as an educational psychologist focused on the effects of racial prejudices in shaping identity and influencing educational achievement. His research demonstrated that segregation cultivated feelings of inferiority in minority students. Thurgood Marshall convincingly used Dr. Clark's research on inferiority in segregated school systems to argue that "separate but equal" was unconstitutional.

Like most of us, Dr. Clark's mother played an important role in his educational commitment. She insisted in 1920's America that he not go to vocational school as advocated by guidance counselors. Instead, she was determined that her son could do and was worthy of much more. She stressed to him the value of a quality education and he worked to ensure that same standard for all Americans.

Dr. Clark worked to restructure the public school systems in New York and Washington. Committed to the importance of integration and the value of a quality education, Dr. Clark proposed major reforms in the school systems that would bring students from different backgrounds together and would challenge them academically.

Needless to say, Dr. Clark has long been a vocal and critical advocate for sound education policy and social justice. His research has already had a great impact on this country. I would further honor my dear friend, Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, by inserting the following two tributes to his memory. The first is a statement issued by Dennis Courtland Hayes, Interim President and CEO of the NAACP, and Julian Bond, Chairman of the NAACP Board of Directors. The second is a piece from the Washington Post about the research and life of Dr. Clark.

NAACP MOURNS DEATH OF KENNETH B. CLARK, PSYCHOLOGIST AND EDUCATOR WHO HELPED END SCHOOL SEGREGATION

Dr. Clark was a national authority on the negative effects of entrenched segregation.

May 2, 2005.—The NAACP mourns the passing of Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, whose groundbreaking studies of African American children in the south influenced the U.S. Supreme Court to rule that school segregation was unconstitutional. Clark died yesterday at his home in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, N.Y.

NAACP Interim President and CEO Dennis Courtland Hayes said: "Dr. Clark made a monumental contribution to the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision that has proven so important in this country. His research has been key to the understanding by African Americans that we are all created equal in the eyes of God and to value our heritage."

Clark's research verified the damaging effect of racial segregation to black school children in the early 1950's. This testimony was used by attorney Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP to challenge the constitutionality of the separate-but-equal doctrine that violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Clark's testing of children in South Carolina showed that African American children educated in a segregated school system saw themselves as inferior and, as he wrote, "accepted the inferiority as part of reality."

In 1961, Clark was awarded the Spingarn Medal, the NAACP's highest award. Clark, a longtime professor at City College of New York, wrote several influential books and articles advancing the cause of integration.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

KENNETH CLARK DIES; HELPED DESEGREGATE SCHOOLS

May 3, 2005.—Kenneth B. Clark, 90, an educational psychologist whose experiment with

dolls of different colors helped convince the U.S. Supreme Court that racially segregated public schools were inherently unequal, died of cancer May 1 at his home in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.

In the seminal 1954 desegregation case in U.S. history, *Brown v. Board of Education*, the court used Dr. Clark's findings to buttress its ruling that "separate but equal" public schools encouraged feelings of inferiority among black children, not only damaging their self-esteem but also adversely affecting their ability to learn.

As early as 1939, Dr. Clark and his wife, Mamie Phipps Clark, had begun conducting tests to assess black youngsters' self-perception. Using dolls they bought for 50 cents apiece at the Woolworth's on 125th Street in Harlem (one of the few places that sold black dolls), they showed groups of black and white children two black dolls and two white dolls and asked them to choose which doll was nice, which was pretty and which was bad. The data from their tests showed that both groups overwhelmingly favored the white dolls.

Dr. Clark concluded that the children he studied, "like other human beings who are subjected to an obviously inferior status in the society in which they live, have been definitely harmed in the development of their personalities; that the signs of instability in their personalities are clear. . . ."

Dr. Clark repeated the experiment in 1950 in Clarendon County, S.C., where white students in the school system received more than 60 percent of the funds earmarked for education, even though the schools had three times as many black students. The results confirmed, in Dr. Clark's view, that the black children saw themselves as inferior.

Thurgood Marshall, then an attorney for the NAACP, seized on Dr. Clark's findings as evidence that segregated schools did harm and that minority-only schools violated the 14th Amendment because they could not meet the separate-but-equal standard enshrined by the court in the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* more than a half-century earlier.

Some of Marshall's colleagues on the case were dismissive, even derisive, of Dr. Clark's dolls. They assumed Marshall would use the social-science findings tangentially, but the data turned out to be decisive. The court accepted Dr. Clark's premise that school segregation contributed heavily to the psychological damage of black youngsters.

Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote that separating black children from white children "solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect the children's heart and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone."

A decade later, Dr. Clark observed: "The court saw the issue clearly and in the same human terms in which [African Americans] had felt it. A racist system inevitably destroys and damages human beings; it brutalizes and dehumanizes them, blacks and whites alike."

Kenneth Bancroft Clark was born in the Panama Canal Zone in 1914. When he was 5, his mother decided to move to the United States with her son and 2-year-old daughter, even though her husband vehemently objected. The family, without the father, settled in Harlem.

Dr. Clark recalled that when he started school, Harlem was still integrated. By the time he reached the ninth grade, his school was predominantly black, and teachers were encouraging black students to go to vocational school.

"Mama stormed into school, more the shop steward than the lady she usually was," Dr. Clark recalled in a 1964 interview with the *New York Post*. "She told my counselor, 'I

don't give a damn where you send your son, but mine isn't going to any vocational school. . . ."

Dr. Clark graduated from George Washington High School in New York City and then enrolled at Howard University, where Ralph J. Bunche, a political science professor and later a Nobel Peace Prize winner, became a mentor. He received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Howard in 1935 and his master's degree in the same discipline from there the following year. He taught psychology at Howard in the 1937-38 school year.

In 1940, he became the first black person to receive a doctorate in psychology from Columbia University. Years later, while teaching at Columbia, he would mediate between students who had taken over a campus building and administrators trying to oust them.

From 1939 to 1941, Dr. Clark participated in a study of U.S. race relations headed by the Swedish economist Gunnar Myrdal. The results of the study were published in the book "An American Dilemma: The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy" (1944), a milestone in the nation's gathering awareness of the corrosive effects of racial prejudice.

Dr. Clark was an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Hampton (Va.) Institute in 1940-41, and he joined the psychology department at the City College of New York in 1942.

In 1946, Dr. Clark and his wife founded the nonprofit Northside Testing and Consultation Center in New York City to provide psychological services to Harlem residents. He later accused the New York City school system of allowing de facto segregation in some of its schools. Although school officials denied his charges, an investigation confirmed them and led to major reforms.

In 1960, Dr. Clark became the first black tenured professor at City College, and in 1966 the first black person to be elected to the New York state Board of Regents, where he served for 20 years.

In the early 1970s, the District of Columbia school board hired Dr. Clark as a consultant to revamp the schools. He submitted a comprehensive plan to focus on reading, mathematics and the measurement of teacher skills through student achievement. The "Clark plan" sparked controversy between the school board and the teachers union, and Dr. Clark cut his ties with the District after two years, with only pieces of his plan implemented.

He left with a rebuke of Superintendent Hugh Scott. "I'm glad the superintendent laughs at critics," he told The Washington Post in April 1972. "I'm glad he can laugh at anything. I can't laugh at the fact that these kids are no better off now than two years ago."

Dr. Clark retired from teaching in 1975 and formed a consulting firm that specialized in equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. He was the author of numerous books, including "Prejudice and Your Child" (1955), "Dark Ghetto" (1965), "A Possible Reality" (1972) and "Pathos of Power" (1975).

Dr. Clark's wife, his closest colleague, died in 1983.

Always one to speak his mind, Dr. Clark continued to express his support for integration, although as the years passed he began to express dismay at the lack of progress in race relations.

"I believed in the 1950s that a significant percentage of Americans were looking for a way out of the morass of segregation," he told the New York Times in 1984. "It was wishful thinking. It took me 10 to 15 years to realize that I seriously underestimated the depth and complexity of Northern racism."

Once described by a colleague as "the incorrigible integrationist," he lamented in

later years that perhaps he had devoted himself to a lost cause. He felt that many old allies in the battle for an integrated, nonracist society, both black and white, had abandoned the struggle. He also lived long enough to witness an evolving uncertainty about *Brown v. Board of Education* and the unrealized benefits of school integration.

"I look back and I shudder and say, 'Oh God, you really were as naive as some people said you were,'" he told *The Post* in 1990. "My life has been a series of glorious defeats."

Survivors include a daughter, Kate C. Harris of Lausanne, Switzerland, and Osprey, Fla.; a son, Hilton B. Clark of New York City; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

## HEALTH INSURANCE CRISIS

SPEECH OF

### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2005*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge "Cover the Uninsured Week." Many of us have heard from our constituents this week, asking that we make health insurance coverage a top priority in the 109th Congress. America's families are living in fear that someone they love might develop a health problem they can't afford. We must begin a meaningful dialogue about this problem that will continue until every American has access to quality, affordable health insurance.

This national disgrace has reached crisis proportions. Forty-five million Americans—more than 8 million of whom are children, and more than 80 percent of whom live in working families—are one ambulance trip away from financial devastation.

I was pleased to join Leader PELOSI and other Democrats in cosponsoring three bills introduced this week as part of the Democrats' plan to build on programs that already work. Together, the Family Care Act, the Medicare Early Access Act and the Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act would cover over half of all uninsured Americans. I have also been proud to be a part of other initiatives, both nationally and in my home state of Rhode Island to preserve and expand existing health insurance programs for retirees, children with disabilities, and adults attempting to return to the workforce. These are all important aspects to addressing the health care crisis, and I am honored to be part of building momentum around a solution.

Our small business owners know we are in a crisis. Rising health care costs are undermining their ability to purchase coverage for their employees. They are frustrated with the increasing burden of negotiating and administering health care plans, and they are taking on extra costs or passing them on to employees just to maintain level coverage. Without systemic change, these problems will continue to threaten the health security of all Americans.

What frustrates me most about the health insurance crisis is what little attention it receives. But I believe that with the proper amount of consideration and planning, the health care system in America can be saved. An enormous amount of money circulates through our health care system—we spend

\$35 billion on uncompensated care for individuals who don't have health insurance, with federal, state and local governments covering as much as 85 percent. Wouldn't it be better for American families, and also more cost effective, to transfer a large share of these funds to a new program to subsidize the cost of covering the uninsured? We spend millions treating illnesses diagnosed at later stages, thus requiring more costly treatments, because we didn't offer people the screenings to catch these problems earlier. This is the least efficient way possible to treat people. While we may not be in the best of economic times, if we made this issue a priority and committed ourselves to spending our health care dollars more wisely, we could offer all Americans access to quality, affordable care.

With these principles of efficiency and inclusion in mind, I have developed a model for universal health insurance. Introduced last year as the American Health Benefits Plan. This bill is modeled after the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program—which everyone in this chamber is familiar with, as it offers coverage to Members of Congress, their families and staffs.

Under my proposal, private companies will compete to offer health insurance, attracting enrollees on the basis of benefits as well as efficiency, service, and lower premiums. The government should make a substantial contribution to every American's premium, and for those for whom paying a portion of the premium would be a hardship, the government should offer subsidies—as we currently do under Medicaid. Employers should continue to contribute to the health care system, and they can do so through a payroll tax, which would fund the government contribution—but the burden of negotiating and administering health care plans should be taken on by the government.

A national template for this model already exists. FEHBP manages health insurance for more than 8 million federal employees, annuitants and dependents. This program is administered by the Office of Personnel Management, which assumes responsibility for approving or disapproving carriers, negotiating benefit and rate changes, and auditing carriers' operations under the law. With administrative costs of less than 1 percent, OPM has managed to offer a wide variety of health care choices and protections to federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the federal government should offer this kind of coverage and oversight to all Americans. I sincerely hope to continue this dialogue with my colleagues, beyond "Cover the Uninsured Week," but this is an important place to start.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
JOHN D. MOONSHOWER ON HIS  
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE  
UNITED STATES MILITARY  
ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce

that John D. Moonshower of Ohio City, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

John's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2009. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

John brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Van Wert High School in Van Wert, John has attained a grade point average of 3.97, which places him near the top of his class of more than one hundred fifty students. While a gifted athlete, John has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. John has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Beta Club, Key Club, and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, John has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, John has earned letters in Varsity Football, Baseball and Basketball. He was named Co-Captain of the Varsity Basketball team and served as President of the Spanish Club, Vice President of the Beta Club and as Senior class representative. John's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at West Point. I have no doubt that John will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John D. Moonshower on his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that John will do very well during his career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

FREEDOM FOR LEONEL GRAVE DE PERALTA ALMENARES

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Leonel Grave de Peralta Almenares, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Grave de Peralta is a member of the Christian Liberation Movement and an independent librarian. According to Human Rights First, as director of the Bartolomé Masó Library, Mr. Grave de Peralta had a circulation record of over 700 book loans. His life is dedicated to the proposition that the men and women of Cuba must be free: free to learn, free to worship, free to enjoy their inalienable human rights.

Unfortunately, Mr. Grave de Peralta has been targeted by the totalitarian regime because of his belief in freedom and democracy.

According to Amnesty International, he was harassed in 2002 when his home was besieged by the tyrant's thugs. Despite the constant threat of oppression, harassment, and torture, Mr. Grave de Peralta continued his peaceful, pro-democracy activities.

In March 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Grave de Peralta was arrested. Subsequently, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Grave de Peralta is representative of the fighting spirit of the Cuban people: of their rejection of the brutality, discrimination, depravity, and oppression of the totalitarian tyranny. Thousands languish in the gulag because, like Mr. Grave de Peralta, they refuse to accept the tyrannical dictatorship in Cuba today.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, Mr. Grave de Peralta languishes in the horror of the totalitarian gulag because of his belief in freedom, democracy, and human rights. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Leonel Grave de Peralta Almenares and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH ASSISTANCE TAX CLARIFICATION ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I and several other New York Lawmakers introduced legislation to protect lower Manhattan businesses and residents from having to pay any taxes on 9/11 recovery assistance.

Despite a prior announcement by the IRS they were planning to exempt Lower Manhattan residents from most, if not all taxes, on Federal Grants given to them to recover from 9/11 or grants given as incentive to move to or stay in the area, the IRS has made a determination to tax aid received. A February 5, 2003 letter received by the Acting Commissioner, Bob Wenzel, stated the following:

The legislation enacted in 2001 and 2002 that appropriated \$2.7 billion of CDBG funds to aid in the recovery of New York City did not provide that the grants made from those funds were exempt from income tax. In addition, neither the Victims of Terrorist Attacks Relief Act of 2001 nor the Liberty Zone Benefits provision of the Job Creation and Workers Assistance Act of 2002 specifically exempted the grant payments from income tax. Therefore, we have had to apply existing general federal tax law principles to determine the tax status of the grants.

As incredible as it sounds, the IRS will tax this assistance unless we act. It was never the intention of this Congress to tax any of this money and it is time to pass this legislation to prevent this unfair and unjust tax.

HONORING MERRITT COLLEGE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Merritt College, one of the 9th Congressional District's outstanding institutions of higher education, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Located in the East Oakland hills, Merritt College is part of the Peralta Community College District in Alameda County. Merritt College is named for one of the pioneer developers of Oakland, Dr. Samuel Merritt, who first came to Oakland in 1850. When the community college concept was still evolving, Merritt College and one of its sister campuses, Laney College, were known earlier as the Merritt School of Business and the Joseph C. Laney Trade and Technical Institute. In July of 1953, the Board of Education created Oakland Junior College, developing Laney and Merritt as separate and distinct campuses of the new institution. The following year Merritt added a liberal arts curriculum to the already established business program, and in June 1955, the first students graduated with Associate in Arts degrees.

In November 1963, local residents voted to establish a separate junior college district, which was named in honor of Sgt. Luis Maria Peralta, the 19th-century owner of the 44,800 acres throughout which the district campuses are located. The following summer, the Board of Education voted to offer vocational, technical and liberal arts courses on each of the existing campuses. In 1965, voters passed a \$47 million bond issue for the construction of additional campuses, and in 1971 Merritt College moved from Grove Street to its current home in the East Oakland hills.

Since that time, the faculty and students at Merritt College have continued the campus' tradition of academic excellence. Offering programs in over 70 different academic and vocational fields, Merritt enrolls more than 6,500 students each semester and equips its graduates for careers in law, medicine, art, nursing, government, radiological technology, early childhood education and more. Merritt offers day and evening programs of transfer, technical, occupational and basic skills education, and its programs and services have historically been provided by distinguished faculty and staff who are widely known and respected in their disciplines.

In addition, the student body at Merritt College represents a variety of cultures from throughout the U.S. and the world. Merritt is known for its outreach efforts and initiatives that seek to make education available to all, as evidenced by its work at the Fruitvale Education Center, local high schools and child care centers, and at Oakland City training centers for the police and fire departments. Merritt College sets a leading example of the steps that our educational institutions must take in order to make high-caliber educational experiences and credentials available, accessible and affordable to all.

On Friday, May 6, 2005, our community joins together to celebrate the innumerable contributions Merritt College has made to Oakland and the East Bay during the past half-century. Particularly during a time when our educational system is facing new and growing

challenges, it is important for us to be able to look to exemplary institutions such as Merritt for encouragement and inspiration. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I salute and congratulate Merritt College for 50 extraordinary years of service to our community. Merritt's students and stewards have demonstrated that an institution of higher education can not only be dynamic and innovative, but can truly be a force for hope, community empowerment and social change.

#### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, just last week, our nation recognized April as Occupational Therapy Month. Occupational therapy is a health, education, wellness, and rehabilitation service that helps individuals engage in everyday activities, or "occupations." More than 100,000 licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants provide services to children and adults in a variety of settings across the nation, including 766 in my home state of Rhode Island. Services are provided by qualified professionals whose training includes anatomy and physiology, sociology, and psychology, including how disability affects an individual's ability to develop "skills for the job of living."

Occupational therapy focuses on performance of meaningful daily life activities, such as education, work, play, leisure, and social participation, despite impairments or limitations in physical or mental functioning. Occupational therapy not only helps children with disabilities to learn in school, but, also assists adults recovering from stroke to lead full and productive lives.

With its roots in mental health, occupational therapy focuses on the relationship between the client and their performance abilities, the demands of the activity, and the physical and social contexts within which the activity is performed. An individual's performance is evaluated through their psychological, social, and emotional responses, which assists the therapist in implementing specific treatments to address the patients current needs and problems. Occupational therapy was recently profiled by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on its National Mental Health Information Center's website.

I am pleased to recognize the importance of occupational therapy and the valuable service that it provides for millions of individuals and families.

#### IN HONOR OF THE CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION AT PIKE PARK

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cinco de Mayo celebration at Pike Park in Dallas, Texas.

Cinco de Mayo is a day for special pride and remembrance for the Hispanic community.

It's a reminder of the proud heritage of many Americans and the warm and growing friendship between two great nations. It's a day worth celebrating. Today we recognize the continuous efforts to bring the community together through the Pike Park Advisory Council and the Pike Park Preservation League.

Originally called Summit Play Park, Pike Park was constructed in 1915 and through the efforts of the Consul General from Mexico. The Mexican American children of the neighborhood were finally allowed to use the park and swimming pool in the mid 1930's

The name changed in 1927 to Pike Park Recreation Center named after Mr. Edgar Pike, a member of the Dallas Park Board. Pike Park has served as the site of the "Fiestas Patrias" (Cinco de Mayo and Dies y Sies de Septiembre) since the late 1930's.

Pike Park has also served as the bastion for civic and social events of the Mexican-American community for over 65 years.

It is with great pride that I recognize the Pike Park Advisory Council and the Pike Park Preservation League are duly recognized as the future coordinators of the "Fiestas Patrias".

#### VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. ENI F. H. FALOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 366) to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to strengthen and improve programs under that Act:

Mr. FALOMAVAEGA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 366, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act. I want to commend my esteemed colleague, Mr. CASTLE, for his leadership on educational issues and particularly for sponsoring this important legislation.

Vocational and technical education is critically important in American Samoa. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, only 13 percent of 18 to 24 year-olds were enrolled in college classes, leaving a large number of the Territory's youth out of school, but unprepared for the skilled labor market.

In order for American Samoa to continue our economic development, our youth need skills training in construction skills, including carpentry, welding, and electrical engineering. We need architects, engineers and auto mechanics. The funding H.R. 366 provides will allow American Samoa to give our people the necessary skills to compete in this economy.

I support this legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 366.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE (V-E) DAY DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

### HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2005*

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, today the Congress recognized the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. World War II was a defining moment in the lives of our Nation's Greatest Generation. Men and women whose early youth was shaped in the ordeal of the Great Depression showed the values formed in that crucible when tyranny threatened a world. More than 4 million Americans served in our armed forces in the cauldron of Europe. Nearly 200,000 of them made the ultimate sacrifice there serving the cause of freedom. Today, as we must every day, we recognize and honor the service and sacrifices made by them and by our allies fighting by their side. Their legacy—and the legacy of their generation—is a freer world of opportunity and equality, which we inherit with gratitude and serve with humility.

#### HONORING THE SERVICEMEMBERS LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK (SLDN)

### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), a national non-profit organization dedicated to ending the military's failed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

SLDN was co-founded by Dixon Osburn and Michelle Beneke in 1994 as a legal service agency with the mission of providing counsel to service members discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Since that time, SLDN has assisted more than 6,500 gay and lesbian troops and obtained thirty-five improvements to military regulations related to the policy.

Today, SLDN is the Nation's leading advocacy organization dedicated to repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and ensuring open service in our armed forces. Through tenacity and strong leadership, the organization has made significant steps forward in breaking down the barrier that bans gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military. The gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community looks to SLDN as a model for accomplishing policy change.

2004 was a groundbreaking year for the organization. SLDN filed a monumental lawsuit on behalf of twelve veterans of the War on Terror, challenging the constitutionality of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in federal court. SLDN's legal expertise also paved the way for two victorious cases before the Army Court of Criminal Appeals, overturning military sodomy convictions. And the staff mobilized veterans and supporters from twenty-two states to meet with 90 Congressional offices on their annual "Lobby Day."

I have had the pleasure of working with SLDN since my freshman term in Congress.

Most recently, we came together to draft the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, historic legislation to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and replace it with a nondiscrimination policy. Because of SLDN’s staunch efforts to win support in Congress, I introduced the bill with more than fifty cosponsors on March 2, 2005. We now have more than eighty cosponsors of this bipartisan bill today.

As SLDN celebrates its national dinner on May 7th, I commend the staff, board, and supporters for their commitment and perseverance. Just as the advocacy of civil rights groups paved the way for desegregation in the military, I am confident that SLDN’s hard work will soon lead to the demise of the discriminatory and counterproductive “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

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“THE BIG SHOTS WALK”

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, many Americans continue to be gravely embarrassed by our country’s failure to address in a forthright manner the abuse of human rights which occurred at Abu Ghraib prison under our control. Clearly the great majority of Americans who have served in Iraq are innocent of any such pattern of abuse, but it is simply a defiance of common sense and the facts to hold accountable only a handful of low-level military personnel on the scene, while exonerating those in charge who are in various degrees culpable for either encouraging or allowing this to happen.

Bob Herbert’s column in the New York Times on April 27 makes this point forcefully, noting that “under Commander in Chief George W. Bush, the notion of command accountability has been discarded. In Mr. Bush’s world of war, it’s the grunts who take the heat. Punishment is reserved for the people at the bottom. The people who foul up at the top are promoted.”

Mr. Speaker, our country deserves better of its leadership, and so do the men and women in the armed services who should not see a small number of their comrades held accountable for their actions while those in charge suffer no such penalty. I ask that Bob Herbert’s thoughtful discussion of this matter be printed here.

ON ABU GHRAIB, THE BIG SHOTS WALK

(By Bob Herbert)

When soldiers in war are not properly trained and supervised, atrocities are all but inevitable: This is one reason why the military command structure is so important. There was a time, not so long ago, when commanders were expected to be accountable for the behavior of their subordinates.

That’s changed. Under Commander in Chief George W. Bush, the notion of command accountability has been discarded. In Mr. Bush’s world of war, it’s the grunts who take the heat. Punishment, is reserved for the people at the bottom. The people who foul up at the top are promoted.

It was a year ago today that the stories and photos of the shocking abuses at Abu Ghraib prison first came to the public’s attention. It was a scandal that undermined the military’s reputation and diminished the standing of the U.S. around the world.

It would soon become clear that the photos of hooded, naked and humiliated detainees were evidence of a much larger problem. The system for processing, interrogating and detaining prisoners at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere in Iraq was dangerously out of control, and the command structure responsible for it had collapsed. Detainees were beaten, tortured, sexually abused and, in some instances, killed. Many detainees should never have been imprisoned at all, as they had committed no offenses.

So what happened? A handful of grunts were court-martialed, a Marine major was cashiered, and the Army plans to issue a new interrogation manual that bars certain harsh techniques. There was no wholesale crackdown on criminal behavior.

We learned last week that after a high-level investigation, the Army had cleared four of the five top officers who were responsible for prison policies and operations in Iraq. The fifth officer, Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski of the Army Reserve, had already been relieved of her command of the military police unit at Abu Ghraib. (She has complained, and not without reason, that she was a scapegoat for the failures of higher-ranking officers.)

As Eric Schmitt wrote in *The Times*: “Barbing new evidence, the inquiry by the Army’s inspector general effectively closes the Army’s book on whether the highest-ranking officers in Iraq during the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, should be held accountable for command failings described in past reviews.”

This is the way atrocities are dealt with in Mr. Bush’s world of war. The higher-ups responsible for training, supervising and disciplining the troops—in other words, the big shots who presided over a system that ran shamefully amok—escaped virtually unscathed.

The abuses at Abu Ghraib, which seemed mind-boggling at the time, turned out to be symptomatic of the torture, abuse and institutionalized injustice that have permeated the Bush administration’s operations in its so-called war against terror. Euphemisms like rendition, coercive interrogation, sleep adjustment and waterboarding are now widely understood. Yes, Virginia, it is the policy of the United States to kidnap individuals and send them off to regimes skilled in the art of torture.

Two things are needed. First, a truly independent commission, along the lines of the bipartisan 9/11 panel, should be set up to thoroughly investigate U.S. interrogation and detention operations and make recommendations to correct abuses.

Second, the U.S. government should make it clear, beyond any doubt, that torture and any other inhumane treatment of prisoners is wrong, just flat wrong, and will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

“In our contemporary world, torture is like the slave trade or piracy was to people in the 1790’s,” said Michael Posner, executive director of Human Rights First, which is suing Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld over the prisoner abuse issue. “Torture is a crime against mankind, against humanity. It’s something that has to be absolutely prohibited.”

If the president made it clear that men and women up and down the chain of command would be held responsible for the abuses that occur on their watch, the abuses would plummet. Instead, the message the administration has sent is that its demands for accountability will be limited to a few hapless, ill-trained grunts.

The big shots who presided over behavior that has shamed America in the eyes of the world can count on this president’s embrace.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AICPA’S JOURNAL OF ACCOUNTANCY

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Journal of Accountancy, the Journal of record for the accounting profession, on its 100th anniversary this year.

The Journal of Accountancy, which is published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, is read by nearly 400,000 readers each month. Its contents include official releases of technical requirements for CPAs as well as news and information that enlighten readers about important relevant developments in and outside the profession and that enhance their professional competency.

As a CPA, I am keenly aware of the value of this publication. CPAs play a vital role in our economy, and since 1905 the Journal of Accountancy has helped keep them informed about key business trends.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that the JofA has made during its first century and to recognize its editors, authors and art and production staff for their hard work. I extend my best wishes to the JofA for its continued success.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO AND HONORING 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKING

**HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, 1930, a group of Minnesota community bankers held their first official meeting in Glenwood, Minnesota, in my district. The agenda that day was to focus on how to respond to the broad challenges facing the nation, as well as the specific challenges to community banks—the stock market crash the year before, a nation struggling to get back on its economic feet, a rash of bank foreclosures, and the rapid growth of chain banks.

This meeting of 28 bankers grew from a one-state organization, focused on state issues, into today’s Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), the largest constituency of community banks in the nation. 2005 marks ICBA’s 75th anniversary. In 1962 the bankers returned to their original mission and set up the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota (ICBM), to focus again on issues specific to Minnesota.

This year also denotes a special milestone for the state association, ICBM. Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty proclaimed May 9th Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota Day, commemorating the founding of the only state association that exclusively serves the independent community banking industry.

Initially, industry consolidation and interstate banking heightened the need for legislative representation of community bankers. Today that need remains strong as community banks continue to serve a vital role in our state and

national economies by consistently reinvesting deposits in the communities they serve in the form of agricultural, educational, small business, real estate and consumer loans. Moreover, as industry consolidation continues, community banks stand out as the only financial institutions that keep control in local hands.

ICBM serves nearly 300 statewide members through its unique programming. In addition to its annual convention, various publications and wide-ranging committees, ICBM offers valuable services and products through its partnerships and associate memberships; a technology tradeshow; legislative representation; education resources; and networking opportunities.

ICBM continues the tradition started 75 years ago of innovation and community concern while it partners with the Pohlad Family Foundation to offer T.E.A.M. (Training, Educating, And Mentoring) Future Bankers, a unique summer youth jobs program that introduces students to community banking and invests in the futures of the next generation of community bankers. This year, 75 interns will be hired statewide to work in this valuable program. Every intern also will be invited as a guest of Twins owner Carl Pohlad at a baseball game on June 19th.

On the political side, ICBM launched a separate non-profit in 2004 called Debate Minnesota, a unique effort to bring civility back to Minnesota politics by hosting a series of roundtable debates that focus on issues. The Star Tribune, the state's largest daily newspaper, in an editorial on Election Day 2004, had this to say about Debate Minnesota, "Their concept for candidate debates is what made them stand out this year. The result was a series that drew considerable local media coverage, and expressions of appreciation from participants and observers alike. Debate Minnesota established a good name for itself in its first year. Debate Minnesota ought to be back, in more places and races in 2006."

From 28 original founders to a nationwide network of 5,000 banks, ICBA and ICBM continue to bring much-needed diversity and leadership to the banking world as well as the communities in which their members serve. I would like to commend both organizations for their innovative spirit and community dedication, and wish them well on their journey toward their 100th anniversary.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL BIKE MONTH RESOLUTION

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution in support of National Bike Month. The League of American Bicyclists has celebrated every May since 1956 as National Bike Month. With this resolution, Congress will recognize the enormous role bicycling has in our lives. This month provides an opportunity to promote the benefits of cycling, appreciate those in the cycling community, and to encourage bicycle safety.

Bicycling is one of the cleanest, healthiest, most efficient, and environmentally friendly modes of transportation that exists. It is the

most efficient form of urban transportation in history. There are over 57 million adult cyclists in the United States, 5 million of whom choose to commute to work by bike. This transportation choice helps ease congestion on our roads and reduce environmental pollution while allowing cyclists to incorporate exercise into their everyday lives. In an age of high energy prices, overcrowded roads, and a growing obesity epidemic, biking is more important to the well being of our communities than ever before.

Communities throughout the Nation have reaped the positive benefits of biking. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, bicycles are second only to cars as a preferred mode of transportation. National Bike Month provides the opportunity to recognize the significant impact of this noble invention and to inform others of the healthy, environmental, efficient, and neighborhood-friendly form of transportation.

#### ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate, with my colleagues, the extraordinary accomplishments of the Asian Pacific American (APA) community and to recognize the sacrifices they have endured. Their struggle to find a place in America without prejudice and repression is a story that all Americans should know, and I am pleased that the month of May has been set aside for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

I am so proud to represent the 12th Congressional District of California because its amazingly diverse population includes a large APA community, as well as the largest population of Filipinos outside of the Philippines.

Looking back over our history, it is heartening to see the advances that the APA community has made as a whole, in spite of setbacks and sometimes horrific treatment in our government's name. One of the most compelling stories came to an end earlier this year with the passing of my good friend Congressman Robert Matsui, with whom I served for 24 years. His tragic and unexpected death struck a chord deep in the hearts of all those who served with him. His success story is quintessentially American, despite the fact that when he was young, the U.S. government denied him the freedom bestowed to him under the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, even though his family had been in the United States for two generations, Bob and his family, like 114,000 other Americans of Japanese descent, were rounded up and sent to detention camps. The courage it took, not only to survive and to prosper from this slap in the face to all Americans, but to go on to become part of the government in the hope of changing the government's policies and working atmosphere is extremely commendable. And change the atmosphere he did, passing the Japanese-American Redress Act, which produced an official apology from the Federal Government. He became one of the highest-ranking Asian Pacific Americans in

Congress during the 108th while serving as the Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. He exemplified the fight for freedom and liberty and he is sorely missed. We welcome Bob's wife, and my friend DORIS, as she begins her Congressional service.

Many other Congressional colleagues of APA heritage have served our country with distinction. Currently there are over 300,000 veterans of Asian or Pacific Islander decent, and while many served our country with distinction, no unit in the armed forces deserves more credit than the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Comprised solely of persons of Japanese background, this band of brothers was the most decorated unit for its size in U.S. history. My good friend and colleague, Senator DANIEL INOUE earned the Medal of Honor fighting in the 442nd.

As a group, the people of the APA communities are fighters, throwing off the second class citizenship that was foisted upon them during immigration battles throughout the 19th and 20th centuries to become among the highest achieving Americans. Half of all members of the APA adult community have college degrees, compared with one quarter of the adult U.S. population is but one mark of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, although it is important to recognize the achievements made, this month will also allow us to renew our focus on the problems that face the APA community, problems like affordable housing, racial profiling, language barriers and unfair immigration laws. One of the largest problems facing the Asian Pacific Community is the perception that the community is thriving without exception. With a record amount of those in the APA community going to college, one would tend to think that way, but in reality there are large sections of the APA populations who have very little education, and who experience financial depths that no American should have to face. There remains a problem that must be addressed when language barriers contribute to leaving one out of ten Asian Pacific Americans in poverty.

I continue to work with other members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to create a better environment for Asian Pacific Americans in my Congressional District. I wrote H.R. 139, which helps to alleviate the nursing shortage seen throughout California and the nation by allowing Filipino nurses to use some of the unused employment-based immigrant visas. I am an original cosponsor of a bill that would authorize grants for institutions of higher education that serve disproportionately low income and underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander students. During the 108th Congress, I was a cosponsor of a bill that would give Filipino Americans residing as legal aliens or citizens of the U.S. the same health and pension benefits that all other veterans of World War II receive, as well as many other bills that support the APA community.

The Bay Area is lucky to be home to one of the largest populations of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States, particularly San Francisco and San Mateo County. For centuries it has been one of the great gateways to America, just like St. Louis for those coming west. I thank San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsome and the members of the Board of Supervisors for their proclamation officially

dedicating the month of May in San Francisco as Asian Pacific Heritage month.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have come full circle as a nation in our attitudes toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. This vibrant part of our community offers an array of perspectives that are firmly woven into the fabric of America, and I am extremely proud to serve as a representative of the community. I invite my colleagues of all backgrounds to join me in observing this wonderful month and recognizing the contributions that they have made in fighting for liberty and freedom for this great nation.

#### HEALTH INSURANCE CRISIS

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2005*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take time today to recognize "Cover the Uninsured Week," a project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation designed to raise awareness of the issue of access to health care.

It may be hard to believe, but more than a decade has passed since the Clinton Administration's health care plan died in Congress. In survey after survey, Americans consistently rate access to health insurance as one of their top concerns. But unfortunately, our nation's political leaders have failed to lead on this critical issue.

The facts reveal a startling truth—as a Nation, we are facing a crisis of the uninsured. In just the last four years, the number of uninsured Americans has ballooned to 45 million, an increase of more than 5 million people. If the millions that go without health insurance for some period during the year are included, the number of uninsured dramatically increases to more than 85 million people.

To dispel one myth: This rise in the number of uninsured is not the result of people deciding not to work. Rather, an overwhelming majority of the uninsured—80 percent—are working families, many employed by businesses that have become less able to provide health coverage for their employees.

And if things weren't bad enough, the Administration has proposed broad cuts to Medicaid, essentially gutting the healthcare system of last resort for poor Americans, by at least \$10 billion. In these worsening times, how can we justify pulling the rug out from underneath our community's most vulnerable?

In my home state of Massachusetts, we have been fortunate; we are among those states with the lowest percentage of uninsured. But, even there we have a lot more work to do. According to a recent Urban Institute report, there are currently 532,000 uninsured people in Massachusetts, and most of the health care available to these people is provided by local hospitals.

And like many other states, since 2000, Massachusetts workers have seen their health premiums rise three times faster than their wages. If these trends continue, fewer individuals and families will be able to afford to pay for coverage, and fewer small businesses will be able to provide this vital benefit to employees.

As we all know, we often tend to ignore that, which does not directly affect us, but we

can no longer afford to do so; there are clear consequences to all of us for ignoring the plight of the uninsured. According to a recent Institute of Medicine report, the United States loses \$65–\$130 billion each year as a result of the poor health and early deaths of uninsured adults. Should things continue to worsen, we will all be forced to bare the financial burden of the uninsured.

But this problem extends beyond the dollars and cents. As citizens, we have a moral responsibility to our communities, and we cannot stand by in good conscience as millions are denied access to basic health care.

So, as we take this time to recognize "Cover the Uninsured Week," I hope that my colleagues will join me in raising awareness about the reality facing the millions of uninsured. We must not allow this issue to remain on the back burner of the national political debate. Health care is a right, not a privilege, and all of us must work to extend that right to every single American.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. R.B. "DICKIE" WILLIAMS, III

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, recently south Alabama lost one of its most colorful personalities, and I lost a dear friend, R.B. "Dickie" Williams, III, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, "Dickie" was raised on the Williams Plantation in Finchburg, Alabama. After graduating from Monroeville High School and attending Auburn University, he graduated in 1958 with a B.S. degree in pharmacy from Howard College (since renamed Samford University). In 1961, "Dickie" moved to Selma, Alabama, and worked for three years on the staff of Swift Drug Company. In 1964, he moved one last time to Monroeville, where he opened Williams Drug Store.

For nearly 40 years, Williams Drug Store was one of the foundations of the businesses found on Monroeville's town square and provided—in addition to one of the best and most efficient pharmacies anywhere in the area—a gathering place for members of the community who would come together for fresh coffee and good conversation. In addition, the store became an unofficial repository of decades of Monroe County history, and during the latter part of his life "Dickie" was known as Monroe County's "unofficial historian." During his life, he shared his vast knowledge of county history and personal recollections of life in Monroe County in a column for the town's newspaper, the Monroe Journal, and in a series of four books.

Perhaps most importantly, however, "Dickie" was deeply concerned for the personal well-being of his fellow Monroe Countians and for the preservation of his county's and his State's natural and historic sites. During the course of his life, he established the Monroe County Conservation Club and was instrumental in the creation of the Monroe County State Fishing Lake. Additionally, he was a past president of the Alabama Wildlife Federation and for 21 years was an

elected Alabama delegate to the National Wildlife Federation. "Dickie" was also instrumental in helping to save the Old Monroe County Courthouse from demolition and was one of the founders of the Monroe County Heritage Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a devoted citizen and long-time advocate for Monroe County, Alabama. "Dickie" will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Nancy Beeland Williams, his brothers, Charles Robbins Williams and John Bonner Williams, his daughter, Elizabeth Williams Olsey, his son, Richard Russell Williams, his stepsons, Dr. David Stallworth and Jeff Stallworth, his stepdaughter, Nancy Stallworth Weiss, and his 9 grandchildren—as well as the many friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

#### FAIR TAXES, FAIR BENEFITS, FAIR SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE WOMEN OF OUR NATION!

#### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for three bills that I have introduced to provide financial relief to women in our Nation. Both men and women will receive assistance from this legislation, but because women are often with less financial resources, they will particularly benefit.

My first bill, H.R. 2127, the "Fair Taxes for Seniors Act", will provide a one-time increase in the capital gains tax exemption on the sale of a home for citizens who are 50 years of age or older. Passing this bill will give many seniors the additional money they need for nursing home care, medical costs, and other retirement expenses.

The current capital gains tax exemption works well for younger people who often move from job to job, selling their homes. The current exemption works well for people who live in areas where housing prices are below average. But it is not working for individuals who have lived in one home for 20 to 50 years and have a capital gain that is much larger than the present exemption. In other words, it is not working for seniors who live in areas with higher housing prices, such as San Diego, California in my Congressional District.

My bill doubles the current exemption by providing a one-time increase to \$500,000 for a single person and \$1 million for a couple that can be excluded from the sale of a principal residence for taxpayers who have reached the age of 50. Because they will be able to keep more, an added benefit is that family members and perhaps the government will be relieved of the burden of caring for these individuals as they grow older.

My second bill is H.R. 2126, the "Social Security Survivors Fairness Act", legislation to provide Social Security widows' and widowers' benefits to people under the age of 60. Many of these survivors are women, women who have spent their life working in the home, raising their children, and supporting their husbands. They currently are allowed to receive Social Security widows' benefits, but to qualify they must be 60 years old.

It is very difficult for many to find a job at their age if they have never worked outside their homes. Women in their late 50s who are dependent on their husbands' Social Security are left with no means of support if their spouses die.

My bill would amend the Social Security Act to reduce from 60 to 55 the age at which an individual who is otherwise eligible may be paid widows' or widowers' insurance benefits.

Finally, I have introduced H.R. 2125, the "Continued Benefits for Injured Military Spouses Act". Under current law, enacted in 1982, former spouses of military members or retirees are eligible for military medical benefits and exchange and commissary privileges if the military member had performed at least 20 years of military service, had been married for at least 20 years to one spouse, and 20 years of marriage and service were overlapping. This is known as the 20/20/20 restriction. Further legislation was enacted 2 years later to include additional former spouses under a 20/20/15 restriction.

While this law recognizes the contribution and sacrifice of many military spouses who later divorced, there is a group who are completely left out through no fault of their own. Spouses who must leave a marriage through divorce due to documented abuse are often left with none of these benefits. Domestic violence and physical or sexual endangerment to the spouse or the children, proven by medical or counseling records, should be taken into account. Divorced because of this situation, the injured spouse should continue to receive benefits.

H.R. 2125 will change the law to 20/20/10 only for these special circumstances, meaning that the military member would have been married for at least 20 years to one spouse, would have performed at least 20 years of military service, with 10 years of service and marriage overlapping. This change would allow an abused spouse to escape from a potentially dangerous marriage and still keep benefits.

Most of our military members are honorable and good people. But, in the few cases where spousal or child abuse is involved, we must protect the families. I invite my colleagues to join me in support of military spouses who have found themselves in dangerous marriages, in support of fairer taxes for senior citizens, and in support of widows' benefits for surviving spouses who are 55 and older.

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#### HONORING SAM RAMPELLO

### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sam Rampello, a tireless advocate for Hillsborough County, Florida's public schools. Sam's passing this weekend silences a passionate voice for our young people.

A Tampa native and graduate of Jesuit High School and the University of Tampa, Sam spent his career working to improve our local schools. He started by teaching history at Plant High School, and then went on to serve as a history professor at the University of Tampa. But it wasn't long before he came back to the public school system, working as

dean of boys at Leto High School, then as assistant principal at Jefferson High School.

In 1972, Sam worked as director of Hillsborough Community College's temporary airport campus and a year later joined the Hillsborough County planning commission. In 1976, Gov. Reubin Askew appointed Sam to the Hillsborough County School board, where he served for nearly 18 years.

Humble by nature, Sam's focus was always on the best interests of his students and his persistent goal was to help make our schools the best they can be. His steadfast faith allowed Sam to see the potential in everyone—particularly our students and those who help them succeed.

Last year, in honor of all his work, a school was named in Sam's honor. When the Sam Rampello Downtown Partnership School opens next year, it will serve as a living testament to Sam's dedication to Hillsborough County Schools.

On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I would like to thank Sam for all of his good deeds and extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

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#### IN HONOR OF CURTIS HIGH SCHOOL UPON ITS RECEIPT OF THE COLLEGE BOARD'S 2005 INSPIRATION AWARD

### HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to recognize today the great achievements of a high school in my hometown of Staten Island: Curtis High School (CHS). This important educational institution has just been given a \$25,000 check from the College Board to accompany the school's receipt of the 2005 Inspiration Award. The Board levies this honor annually on only 3 schools that help students achieve equitable access to higher education despite social, economic, and cultural challenges. A focus on attendance led to CHS' receipt of the award this year. The school's pioneering programs have led to 90 percent attendance rate and an 88 percent rate of graduation. Such a feat is truly amazing considering the schools circumstances.

CHS is a 100-year-old Gothic-style building, embellished with gargoyles and ornate stone archways. The school has an active alumni association, and many of its teachers are graduates, but CHS has changed dramatically since the days when it served a small, homogeneous middle-class community.

Today, Curtis High School functions at 160 percent of capacity. Forty-six percent of its students are documented at or below the federal poverty level, and more than half of its students receive free or reduced-price lunches. Among its racially diverse population of more than 2,600 students, 40 percent are white, 33 percent are black, and 20 percent are Hispanic. The school also serves children who are recent immigrants from Latin America, West Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia.

Curtis High School credits its success to 10 small learning communities called "houses." Every freshman who enters CHS chooses among the themed tracks, which include such varied subjects as the performing arts, Junior

ROTC, business and computer science, nursing, and journalism. Each house has unique electives that develop the student's particular talents and interests—be it dance, computer graphic design, or law—while maintaining a college-preparatory curriculum for all students.

The school also offers afternoon and weekend tutoring programs, active college counseling, and a mentoring program that targets recent immigrants and students with little parental guidance. The Career Connections program, a partnership among CHS, local businesses, and other community-based organizations, helps students to upgrade their résumés by finding paid internships and part-time employment opportunities. Principal Curtis has also introduced programs for parents, such as "Parents As Art Partners," which offers a free photography class, to create more parent involvement at the school.

These innovative initiatives and the school's commitment to its 3 foundations of success, "Attendance, Attitude and Achievement," have allowed literally thousands of children to gain a high school diploma in the face of tremendous odds. In doing so, such efforts have put these children on the path to a better life, free from the shackles of poverty. I am honored to recognize this fine institution and hope its efforts serve as a model for schools throughout the country. The CHS example shows there is no limit to human ingenuity and that through creativity, commitment and perseverance, we can provide a better life for generations to come.

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#### THE ACT TO PROVIDE MEMORIAL MARKERS FOR THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING OVERSEAS

### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill that will help families memorialize those who died in service to our country and are buried in cemeteries overseas. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, those servicemembers whose remains are classified as "unavailable for burial" are eligible for government-provided memorial markers or headstones. While this classification includes those whose remains have not been recovered or who were buried at sea, there is one glaring exception to this definition—those who died fighting for freedom abroad and were laid to rest there.

The United States currently has 24 permanent overseas burial grounds that are the final resting place for nearly 125,000 of our bravest men and women who died serving our country. These sites are the responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission and are a wonderful tribute to those buried there. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains that because these graves can be visited, there is no need to provide families at home with a memorial marker for their deceased loved ones.

We should not deny these families the ability to obtain memorial markers when we already do it for so many others. To correct this, my legislation will add overseas burials to the VA's "unavailable for burial" classification and finally let these men and women be memorialized by their families here at home.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLINICAL  
RESEARCH ACT OF 2005**HON. DAVE WELDON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE to introduce the "Clinical Research Act of 2005." This bill will address many of the problems confronting our Academic Health Centers as they attempt to leverage the enormous biomedical research gains made in the past century, and in the past several years in particular as the budget for the National Institutes of Health has doubled.

Breakthroughs in basic biomedical sciences over the past 5 decades, including human genomics, biomedical engineering, molecular biology, and immunology, have provided an unprecedented supply of information for improving human health. As a member of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee I am proud to say that the remarkable strides that have been made in basic science would not have occurred without the support of Congress and the general public. While we realize that research may not produce results overnight, we, as stewards of the taxpayers' dollar have every right to expect that the fruits of that research will result in better treatments for patients. This requires a federal commitment to clinical research, including a commitment to ensuring that the infrastructure is capable of translating, in a systemic and rational way, the fruits of basic research into improved patient care.

I, along with many of my colleagues in the Congress and the public in general, have become increasingly concerned that we have been too slow in getting improved patient therapies and interventions from the enormous investment we have made in basic research. The Congress and both the Clinton and Bush Administrations made significant commitments to doubling the NIH budget. Significant strides and advancements have been made in basic research. Unfortunately, I hear on an ongoing basis from patient advocacy groups concerned that this significant taxpayer investment has not had much direct benefit to those suffering from disease. In addition to hearing from patient advocacy groups, I hear from my colleagues about the apparent disconnect between the promise of basic science and the delivery of better health care for the citizens of this country. I believe that we can and should do a better job of moving the bench research to the bedside. That is what this bill is aimed at doing.

Without strong Academic Health Centers capable of conducting clinical research, the promise of improving the health of the American people will continue to elude us.

Unfortunately, the clinical research environment in the Academic Health Centers is encumbered by rising costs, inadequate funding, mounting regulatory burdens, fragmented infrastructure, incompatible databases, and a shortage of both qualified investigators and willing study participants. Without changes to help Academic Health Centers meet these challenges, these breakthroughs in basic science will remain in the laboratories. Rat after rat will continue to be cured, but due to

the burdensome costs and the lack of clinical researchers cures for humans will not materialize. Let's face it, bench research is less burdensome and less costly than applying clinical therapies to human beings suffering various diseases. Furthermore, because of the rising cost of healthcare delivery and the fiscal pressures weighing on academic health centers, many of these physician researchers face institutional pressures to spend more and more of their time seeing billable patients rather than conducting innovative clinical research. The clinical researcher is a diminishing breed, yet they play a vital role in bringing cures out of the laboratory to the suffering patient.

It is also important to recognize that many of the potential cures for patients utilize therapies and interventions for which there is not a patentable product. In other words, there is no profit motive for large corporate backer to invest resources in developing these therapies. Without federal support for this clinical research, most of these trials and likely cures will remain out of the reach of patients.

The bill that Representative DOYLE and I are introducing today, through its clinical research support grants, infrastructure grants, and "partnerships in clinical research" grants, will provide our Nation's Academic Health Centers with the crucial resources they need and the opportunity to meet the public's expectations. This bill is specifically aimed at improving the translation of this new medical science knowledge to directly benefit those suffering from a wide array of diseases that impact all too many lives.

If we are going to reap the benefit of the enormous investment of taxpayer dollars in biomedical research it is important that we move this legislation forward.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE MARINE CORPS  
TRIKE PROGRAM OF CITRUS  
COUNTY**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since 1997, the Marine Corps League has presented trikes to handicapped children in Citrus County, FL.

Local Detachment #819 was involved with the Marine Corps League Auxiliary in conjunction with the Toys for Tots Program in starting and implementing the current trike program.

This past weekend I joined the Marine Corps League to help present modified tricycles to some of the handicapped children in Citrus County.

Each tricycle is modified to accommodate the individual handicap of the child.

I can tell you from firsthand experience that the Marines are doing an amazing service to these young children, and should be commended for their service and dedication to the community.

I would hope that other Members would identify Marine Corps Leagues back home in their districts, and help participate in this worthy program.

HONORING EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH  
SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO COM-  
PETED IN THE 2005 NATIONAL  
SCIENCE BOWL**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five outstanding individuals, Eric Chang, Harrison Hsu, Aditya Panda, Zhengyang Zhang, and Alex Zozula who competed in the 2005 National Science Bowl representing East Brunswick High School. These five students exemplify the true academic spirit and scientific drive that our country needs as we enter the 21st century.

Since 1991, the National Science Bowl, through the sponsorship of the United States Department of Energy, has brought together more than 100,000 high school students to promote serious study of all fields of science, from biology to physics, from botany to astronomy. These students have prepared throughout the year for the regional elimination tournaments, where only the best-prepared and most scientifically-minded teams move on to the National Science Bowl.

The team of five, under the guidance of coach and teacher Paul Kimmel won their regional elimination tournament held at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

As a scientist, I cannot stress enough the importance of science and math education. Science provides a bridge that connects all aspects of our lives. These disciplines form the basic building blocks that make up our knowledge of the world around us. Science and math education is the key to guiding future generations in their understanding of an ever changing world. Through programs such as the National Science Bowl, America's youth is exposed to this vital branch of learning in a way that sparks their interest and promotes serious study in these fields.

Part of this year's Science Bowl featured a Model Fuel Cell Car Race, where teams were able to build a model car powered by hydrogen to compete in a speed race or a king-of-the-hill climb. The participating students also had the opportunity to attend presentations by well known scientists that covered important scientific issues of today. The five exceptional students from East Brunswick team gained valuable knowledge from their participation in this year's Science Bowl that they will surely share with their fellow peers.

It is also important to acknowledge the parents, mentors, friends, and family who have helped these students succeed in their academic efforts. I applaud the Science Department at East Brunswick High School for preparing these exemplary students.

I congratulate the members of the East Brunswick High School science team for their successes and wish them the best of luck in their future scientific endeavors.

## CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today, Mexican-Americans across

the country celebrate Cinco de Mayo—a day that commemorates the past and relishes the present by embracing American culture. So many Mexican-Americans have made positive contributions to our Nation.

One area in particular where Mexican-Americans have made great strides is in the Armed Forces. There are many Mexican-Americans proudly serving and giving back to their country right now. I want to share the story of Daniel from South Gate.

He is the son of Mexican immigrants, who came to this country to make a better life for his family. Growing up, Daniel said he always felt patriotic. When I asked him what he thought patriotism was, he replied, "I think it's working for freedom. I have always felt that I needed to earn my rights and that I had to contribute, even for the right to vote."

He went on to say that serving in the military was his civic duty. So as soon as he was able, Daniel enlisted in the Marines and graduated boot camp at 17. Daniel was one of the first Mexican-Americans that many Iraqis had ever seen. I can think of no better ambassador for our country. While he was shot at, he returned to southern California unharmed.

As you can see by this story, Mexican-Americans share the same goals as other Americans of freedom, opportunity, and a chance to build a better life. On this day, let us salute Daniel, and all other Mexican-American soldiers and veterans for their great service to this great Nation.

RECOGNIZING "COVER THE  
UNINSURED WEEK" May 1–8, 2005

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation recognizes "Cover the Uninsured Week", I rise today to bring attention to the plight of the 45 million Americans who lack health insurance and access to healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, we are facing a health insurance and healthcare crisis in our country. While our Nation spends more per capita than any other country on healthcare, our delivery systems are disjointed and ineffective.

There was a time when it was assumed that having a job meant having health insurance. This is no longer the case. More than 80 percent of uninsured Americans are workers, most with full time jobs. Within my own state of Maryland, 90 percent of the 750,000 citizens lacking health insurance are employed.

Increasingly, more Americans lose health coverage every year, and those who have coverage pay more for it. Healthcare and drug costs are rising, as are premiums. As a result, many small businesses struggling to stay competitive in today's economy cannot afford to offer their employees insurance coverage. As a result, workers with access to employer-based group insurance plans often cannot afford the costs they must bear for insurance premiums.

The inability to obtain medical insurance unduly affects minorities. A staggering 1 in 3 of Hispanics are uninsured, compared to 1 in 10 of the Nation's white population.

Whereas, the African American community is disproportionately affected by diabetes, car-

diovascular disease, and other health problems that require regular access to healthcare, 1 in 5 African Americans unfortunately are also uninsured.

The consequences are severe. Citizens without health insurance are less likely to seek preventative care or help with minor medical problems, leading to major, more costly medical problems. Without insurance, a person's health is compromised, and their lifespan is shortened. In fact, there are 18,000 deaths each year in this country caused by a lack of health insurance—these deaths are preventable.

The increase in the uninsured population affects not only the health of our citizens, but the health of our economy as well. In fact, nearly half of all bankruptcy filings result from medical expenses. Having just one uninsured family member suffer from just one major medical problem or hospital stay can devastate the financial and emotional resources of an entire family.

To stop the drain on our healthcare infrastructure, our society, and our economy, we must provide insurance coverage to all Americans. We must find a way to lower healthcare and drug costs. We must find a way to make premiums more affordable for employees and employers.

Our small businesses should not have to choose between economic success and meeting their employees' healthcare needs. Workers should not have to refuse insurance for themselves and their children because premiums are too high.

Please join me in supporting the goals of Cover the Uninsured Week. Join me and those stalwarts like Congressmen JOHN CONYERS, PETE STARK, CHARLIE RANGEL and FRANK PALLONE, and Congresswomen TAMMY BALDWIN, BARBARA LEE and DONNA CHRISTENSEN—as we continue our commitment to solving our health insurance crisis and to making sure that all Americans have access to healthcare.

Congress must urgently examine ways to transform our healthcare system so that it is comprehensive, universal, and sustainable. I look forward to taking part in that discussion.

GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL, RECIPIENT OF THE COLLEGE BOARD  
2005 INSPIRATION AWARD

### HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of an extraordinary New Mexico school. Gadsden High School in Anthony, New Mexico is the recipient of the College Board 2005 Inspiration Award. In its tireless pursuit of student success, Gadsden High School has seen a remarkable increase in Advanced Placement course enrollment and those taking the SAT, and record numbers of students are enrolling in and attending college.

Gadsden High School has helped students achieve equitable access to higher education despite social, economic and cultural challenges. It has made significant strides in exposing its students to higher education options and opportunities. One example of the

school's ingenuity in this endeavor is a pre-college program called MESA that focuses on math, engineering and science. Students who achieve core requirements may earn up to \$1,000 in college tuition, which some admitting colleges and universities elect to match.

In addition to the progress Gadsden High School has made in helping its seniors search and apply for scholarship opportunities, the school supports a summer camp for grades 9–12 to address college questions and planning. The staff also plans to develop an Applying to College Handbook to promote greater parental involvement. These efforts have resulted in an exceptional 57 percent matriculation rate, 98 percent of whom are first-generation college attendees.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Gadsden High School on this well-earned distinction and express my gratitude for the leadership and innovation they have demonstrated. I commend Gadsden High School for the hard work they continue to perform, and I am proud to recognize Gadsden High School—a true model of commitment to higher education—today before my colleagues.

Gadsden High School's motto puts it best by saying "Believe, hope and look for miracles." With an unwavering will to overcome adversity and find creative solutions, Gadsden High School is working to create its own "miracles."

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT  
LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION  
PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION  
ACT

### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce comprehensive legislation to protect and restore the Great Lakes. I am pleased to be joined by Rep. MARK KIRK and 17 bipartisan original cosponsors.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure, providing drinking water to millions of people and supporting billions of dollars in trade, fishing, and recreation. While we have taken steps to improve environmental conditions in the basin, the Great Lakes still suffer from pollution from contaminated sediments, storm water and agricultural runoff, and wetlands and coastal habitat loss.

As its name indicates, the Great Lakes Environmental Protection and Restoration Programs Reauthorization Act reauthorizes several federal Great Lakes environmental programs in one comprehensive package. The bill also provides a mechanism for coordinating activities among the various federal agencies that carry out these programs, along with a process for coordination and future planning among federal, state and local program managers and the private sector. Finally, the bill reauthorizes the State Revolving Loan Fund under the Clean Water Act, in order to address wastewater infrastructure needs.

The bill provides about \$4 billion over 6 years by increasing the authorization levels for current major environmental programs operating in the Great Lakes Basin. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the most effective way to undertake a major restoration initiative is to do so

within the context of current programs, through higher funding and improved coordination among federal, state, and local agencies and cooperation with interested stakeholders. The bill includes federal programs at the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Agriculture, the Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The bill is specifically targeted to address the costly big-ticket items that will have a dramatic impact on improving the health of the Lakes. This includes \$1.65 billion for cleaning up Areas of Concern, a total that is consistent with recent low-end estimates from site experts on AOC sediment remediation needs. It also provides \$640 million for fisheries, wildlife, ecosystem and habitat restoration programs.

The bill provides about \$900 million for research and monitoring programs at the EPA, the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The bill also authorizes extramural grants to public universities and private institutions to conduct this important work. These activities are critical to the successful planning, implementation and oversight of restoration efforts.

The bill also reauthorizes the national State Revolving Loan Fund and provides \$20 billion over 5 years to assist communities with the critical task of upgrading and improving their wastewater infrastructure. This piece is taken from H.R. 1560, passed by the Water Resources Subcommittee in the 108th Congress. Sewer system needs are a critical component of keeping the Great Lakes and their tributaries clean, and the State Revolving Loan Fund has been a successful program for helping cities and towns undertake these very expensive upgrades.

Finally, the bill codifies Executive Order #13340, signed by the President in May 2004, and codifies the regional collaboration process outlined in conjunction with the E.O. on December 3, 2004, by the Administrator of the EPA, the Great Lakes governors, tribal leaders, several Members of Congress, and others. This will continue to improve collaboration among the many projects and programs operating in the Basin and ensure long-term stability to the preparation and oversight of the comprehensive restoration action plan currently under development.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to clean up and to protect this precious resource. My bill provides the funding and the coordination necessary to implement the programs we have in place and to accomplish the shared goals of the region. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA: PROMOTING STABILITY, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, as chairman of the Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operation

subcommittee, I convened a hearing on the precarious situation involving Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Seven years ago this month, the East African nations of Eritrea and Ethiopia began a devastating two-year conflict that cost the lives of as many as 100,000 soldiers and civilians. The war, which largely took place on Eritrean territory, displaced a third of that country's population and caused massive destruction. The deprivation in both countries continues long after the war ended, and the suffering goes on.

Eritrea's economy has been battered by four years of drought, which has further diminished this country's ability to feed its people. The U.S. Department of State estimates that large budget deficits have been caused by continued high defense spending. If not for remittances from Eritreans living abroad, the country's economy would be hard-pressed to sustain itself. In Ethiopia, the United Nations Children's Fund has identified 25 hot spots around the country where people are facing serious risk of malnutrition. This current crisis, according to UNICEF, is at least partly caused by delays in the start of the government's safety net program, and continued military spending will only further exacerbate the problems with an economy now surviving due to foreign assistance.

Human rights and democracy also are diminished by the concentration of both governments on resolving the border issue.

In the current U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, Eritrea was cited for its poor human rights record:

"Citizens did not have the ability to change their government. Security forces were responsible for unlawful killings; however, there were no new reports of disappearances. There were numerous reports that security forces resorted to torture and physical beatings of prisoners, particularly during interrogations, and security forces severely mistreated army deserters and draft evaders. The Government generally did not permit prison visits by local or international groups, except the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Arbitrary arrests and detentions continued to be problems; an unknown number of persons were detained without charge because of political opinion."

Congress has been particularly interested in the case of Aster Yohannes, an Eritrean national who has been held incommunicado without due process since trying to visit her husband in jail in December 2003. A number of my colleagues and I sent a letter to Eritrean President Isaias (EE-SIGH-US) Afwerki (AF-WORK-EE) on January 6, 2004, concerning this matter:

"We respectfully urge you to release Aster Yohannes immediately and allow her to return to her family," the letter stated. "Web will regard this as a first step toward restoring human rights in Eritrea. We look forward to resolving this and other important issues in the very near future."

I personally have met with Eritrean officials at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva and here in the United States specifically on this issue last year and only a few weeks ago. Yet, more than a year later, Mrs. Yohannes is still imprisoned with no trial in sight, as are two U.S. Embassy personnel held without trial since 2001.

Eritrea's half Christian-half Muslim population has coexisted peacefully, but there are tensions that could lead to serious problems. There have been incidents of violence involving Muslim extremists and even violent incidents involving Copts and other Christian groups. Government concern over the rapidly growing Pentecostal group has led to mistreatment of believers. On the whole, security issues seem to have put religious freedom aside in the priorities of the Eritrean government. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom was unable to be with us today, but they have submitted for the record a statement and report that details troubling limitations on religious freedom in Eritrea.

For the first time last year, the Secretary of State designated Eritrea as a "Country of Particular Concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act for particularly severe violation of religious freedom.

Finally, after a promising start to its democracy at independence, Eritrea cracked down on the political opposition in September 2001 and continues to seriously limit the ability of citizens to express themselves through the vote.

The State Department human rights report noted improvements in Ethiopia's human rights record, but it continues to note serious remaining problems:

"Security forces committed a number of unlawful killings, including alleged political killings, and beat, tortured, and mistreated detainees. Prison conditions remained poor. The Government continued to arrest and detain persons arbitrarily, particularly those suspected of sympathizing with or being members of the OLF. Thousands of suspects remained in detention without charge, and lengthy pre-trial detention continued to be a problem. The Government infringed on citizens' privacy rights, and the law regarding search warrants was often ignored. The Government restricted freedom of the press; however, compared with previous years, there were fewer reports that journalists were arrested, detained or punished for writing articles critical of the Government. Journalists continued to practice self-censorship. The Government at times restricted freedom of assembly, particularly for members of opposition political parties; security forces at times used excessive force to disperse demonstrations."

In Ethiopia, Human Rights Watch has documented incidents of murder, rape and torture committed by the Ethiopian military against the Anuak (ANN-YOU-AK) people in the southwestern region of Gambella. As our witness will detail in his testimony, hundreds of Anuak villagers have been killed in a series of attacks by soldiers and civilian mobs since December 2003. Beatings and torture of Anuaks have become all too commonplace in Ethiopia under a government whose attention is not focused on such egregious human rights violations.

Concerns over a repeat of the irregularities surrounding Ethiopia's 2000 and 2001 elections prompted some of my colleagues to introduce H.R. 935 to urge the Government of Ethiopia to ensure free and fair elections on May 15th. I commend the sponsors of this legislation and support the call for orderly, peaceful, free and fair elections in Ethiopia.

The short time remaining may limit the impact of this important piece of legislation, which is aimed specifically at the upcoming

elections. Therefore, I would like to work with the cosponsors of this bill on legislation soon after the elections in Ethiopia that would allow us to be more comprehensive and develop a legislative response that is consistent with the importance of this country in America's overall Africa policy.

Today, a number of colleagues joined me in sending a letter to Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, urging him to rescind the expulsion of three American NGOs helping to build democracy—the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. For the sake of continuing democratic progress in Ethiopia, we hope the Prime Minister will respond positively to our request.

Again, Eritrea and Ethiopia are concentrating on building their military forces, and they are neglecting the very pressing needs of their people. Now their mutual militaries seem poised to renew open warfare due to unresolved issues involving their common border.

Both nations have increased their deployment of troops on the security zone border. Ethiopia recently added 30,000 troops for an estimated total of 90,000 armed men, most said to be within 40 kilometers of the frontier. While it is unclear exactly how many troops the Eritreans have deployed, they feel empowered to threaten military action if the current stalemate concerning the international border commission's ruling is not accepted fully by the Ethiopian government.

As recently as Tuesday of this week, Eritrean President Isaias announced at his ruling party conference that war with Ethiopia is imminent. President Isaias said his upcoming budget would be planned with war in mind. Presumably that budget will include funding for the arms the Eritreans agreed last month to buy from Russia.

If the war resumes, Ethiopia's Tekeze dam and Eritrea's port of Assab will be prime targets, which will only make worse an already precarious state of development in both nations.

It is difficult to understand why these formerly friendly nations would risk further devastation for territory not particularly blessed with natural resources. However, one must keep in mind that this border dispute actually dates back to the somewhat vague borders drawn by Italy, the former colonial power. So long as Eritrea and Ethiopia were united under colonial or dictatorial rule, the border issues were not pressing.

The peace process that eventually ended the war was predicated on an international commission impartially ruling on the demarcation of the 1000 kilometer border between the two countries. However, the decision of the commission has only been accepted "in principle" by the Ethiopians, who stand to lose their access to the Red Sea. The Ethiopian government is publicly complaining about loss of the town of Badme, hardly a strategic center. Meanwhile, the Eritreans refuse to even discuss the matter further.

U.S. policy should be clear on the Eritrea-Ethiopia dispute, but it appears to have depended on the old paradigm. We are supportive of both Eritrea and Ethiopia; however, issues such as the fight against global terrorism and the effort to contain Sudan's hostile government have caused American policy to tread lightly on development, democracy and human rights issues in those countries. We

should not have to choose between security and democracy and human rights. It is not an "either-or" situation but "both-and." We must find a new framework for U.S. policy in the Horn of Africa, and we called this hearing partly to see how the Administration is addressing the full range of our concerns in this region.

Both Eritrea and Ethiopia make themselves more vulnerable to internal turmoil by their inability to address the many other vital issues they face even if there is a stalemate in the border dispute. This is neither in the short term interest of these two nations nor in the long term strategic interest of the United States. Identifying a more effective policy toward resolving the Eritrea-Ethiopia dispute was the focus of today's hearing.

IN HONOR OF MR. GEORGE COUCH

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend George Couch for his tremendous commitment to education in general, and to the Latino youth of my district in particular. This coming Saturday, May 7, 2005, the San Benito County Mexican-American Committee on Education (MACE) will recognize George for his tremendous help in making educational opportunities available to young people in San Benito County.

George graduated from Stanford University and followed that up with an MBA from Harvard. He has used this education and his business smarts to build several successful companies in the Monterey Bay Area. These include Triad Broadcasting Company in Monterey which operates 49 broadcast radio properties nationwide, and Couch Distributing Company in Watsonville which has retail beverage customers throughout the region.

George is a lion of a man who cares deeply about righting wrongs. He does not seek out the limelight, but rather looks for quiet ways to make a big impact. That theme of making an impact and getting results underpins all of his community and philanthropic work. George serves as a Trustee of the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula Foundation; trustee of the Leon and Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy; member of the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County; member of the Governing Board of Cabrillo College in Aptos; member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California; and member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz county Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

George Couch's work with MACE certainly follows this pattern of service. As an organization, MACE offers scholarships to Latino youth in San Benito County to further their education beyond high school. Over the years MACE has helped dozens of San Benito County students achieve their goals. The financial and moral support offered by MACE has been instrumental in their success. This achievement is in no small part due to the efforts of George Couch whose steadfast support and guidance of MACE over the last 19 years has played a central role.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House when I congratulate Mr. Couch

on this well deserved recognition. His service stands as a beacon to others. I am pleased to have this opportunity to honor Mr. Couch and express the gratitude of MACE and the broader community for the results that flow from his selfless leadership.

TRIBUTE TO MARLA RUZICKA

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding young woman, Marla Ruzicka, who was tragically killed in Iraq on Saturday, April 16, 2005, when a suicide bomber attacked a convoy of U.S. security contractors passing her vehicle on the road to Baghdad airport. Marla was traveling on the road to visit an Iraqi child injured by a bomb, part of her daily work with the humanitarian organization she founded—The Campaign for Innocent Victims of Conflict (CIVIC). Marla, who was only 28 years old, worked tirelessly and fearlessly on behalf of civilian victims of war in some of the most dangerous parts of the world, accomplishing more in the area of human rights during her short life than most people do in a lifetime.

It is Marla Ruzicka's affiliation with Southampton College, an institution which I served as Provost for many years, that has made her tragic death very personal to me. Marla earned her undergraduate degree through Southampton College's Friends World Program, an academic program that stresses the careful consideration of world problems, and encourages a life of committed action in the world community. Many of my colleagues on the faculty and staff can recall Marla's passionate commitment to making a difference in the world, and were moved by her enthusiasm for helping those in need. To those of us who knew of Marla, it was no surprise that she gave up her life to serve the needs of others.

Marla's concern for the victims of world injustice began early in life. A Northern California native, Marla began her work as a human rights activist for the San Francisco office of Global Exchange at the young age of 15. It was at this time that Marla first demonstrated her desire to educate others about global injustice by organizing discussions for her high school classmates about such issues as the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba. During her undergraduate education, Marla traveled to the Middle East, Cuba, Zimbabwe, and Nicaragua where she witnessed firsthand the suffering of those who lived there. After earning her degree, she continued her work with Global Exchange and traveled to Afghanistan after Operation Enduring Freedom, where she recorded the military campaign's effects on Afghan civilians and used the information to garner assistance for the families harmed by the conflict.

In 2003, Marla organized her efforts in assisting the victims of war by founding an organization she named CIVIC—The Campaign for Innocent Victims of Conflict. Marla's assigned mission for CIVIC was both to achieve an accurate accounting of civilian casualties caused by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to secure assistance for their families. In pursuing this mission, she spent weeks at a time

traveling the dangerous roads of Afghanistan and Iraq to personally interview the injured and their families, document their experiences, and work with U.S. military officials to earn them compensation. In organizing a group of 150 Iraqi volunteers who went to hospitals and into towns, Marla helped produce the first comprehensive list of people killed or injured in Iraq by U.S. weapons.

Marla also achieved a great deal of success in recruiting the efforts of military personnel, humanitarian organizations, and the U.S. Congress for her cause. Through her boundless energy and determination, she lobbied the Senate and helped win the insertion of language in an appropriations bill that provided \$2.5 million to help victims in Afghanistan; this money has now grown to \$7.5 million. She also succeeded in securing a \$10 million appropriation for Iraqi victims, which is used to rebuild homes and schools, provide medical assistance, and make loans. While in the Middle East, Marla networked with military commanders, realizing they often had the freedom and resources to assist victims quickly.

In her interactions with Congress, the U.S. military, and others in positions of authority, Marla persuasively argued that achieving an accurate accounting for the loss of life in Iraq and Afghanistan would not only make the recompense of wartime civilian casualties easier, but would also assist U.S. led reconstruction efforts. Through it all, Marla's sunny disposition and ability to make friends easily proved invaluable in recruiting the assistance of journalists, U.N. officials, non-governmental organization staff, and the U.S. military in documenting the plight of civilians and providing relief to war-torn families.

Marla's contributions to the most vulnerable of citizens did not come without making a great deal of personal sacrifice, however. CIVIC operated on a shoe-string budget of about \$100,000 a year, which often left Marla depending on friends and family to secure enough money for airline tickets and living expenses. When returning to the U.S. from overseas, Marla would often stay with friends, sleeping on their sofas, to continue her work when returning to the United States. Her ability to succeed in the most difficult of circumstances is a testament to her natural ability and drive, and serves as an inspiration to many.

Mr. Speaker, few people possess the undying commitment to selflessly and courageously pursue justice on behalf of the less fortunate as did Marla Ruzicka. During her lifetime, Marla viewed it as her personal obligation to fight for the less fortunate in this world and, under the most difficult of circumstances, demanded and achieved justice for so many victims of war and conflict. Her relentless dedication and optimism won over the hearts of the most influential people, making it possible to relieve the suffering of those most in need. Her actions were nothing short of heroic, and should serve as an inspiration to us all. I ask those in this distinguished body to join me in offering my condolences to Marla's parents, Clifford and Nancy Ruzicka. They should be commended on their daughter's extraordinary commitment to improving the world one life at a time.

RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY: THE ROLES OF FDA AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES IN ENSURING THE SAFETY OF APPROVED DRUGS LIKE VIOXX

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak about this critical public health issue that has affected the entire U.S. The Vioxx case presents us with a valuable opportunity to examine an industry in order to help it improve. The problem is not only that the FDA does not have sufficient regulatory authority to protect the public, though that is certainly true. The problem actually lies with the way pharmaceuticals are priced. I'll explain.

In the Vioxx case, Merck displayed a litany of predatory behavior. Vioxx research teams were stacked with people who had financial associations with Merck. Merck manipulated research protocols. They delayed publication of negative findings about Vioxx. They succeeded in getting people to take Vioxx that did not have a medical need by spending \$161 million for direct-to-consumer advertising alone. And direct lobbying to doctors is a well-known practice that has the same result. Lastly, 10 members of a 32-member FDA advisory board in charge of determining whether Vioxx should continue to be allowed on the market, had ties to industry. Had those advisers abstained, the committee would have voted that Vioxx should not return to the market. And these are only the things we know about. More concerns are likely to be uncovered as we dig deeper.

Would Merck be doing all this if Merck was the only maker of Vioxx? Absolutely not. When there is competition in manufacturing, just like there is in most other sectors, the capability to squeeze so much profit from a single drug is gone. But under a monopoly, which is what Merck has with its patented Vioxx, the sky is the limit on profits. Only the patent holder or licensee can sell it, so they control the market. And when a company controls the market, they have considerable leeway to corrupt the process in ways similar to what we have seen with Merck.

The usual justification for patent monopolies is that patents are yielding innovation, which is critical for new pharmaceuticals. But we are not getting that innovation. The number of New Molecular Entities approved by the FDA has been in decline several years running. Copycats or me-too's constitute roughly 70 percent of new FDA approved drugs. In other words, the pipeline is drying up.

If we want to avoid another Vioxx down the road, we need to get to the root of the problem. We need to bring innovation back up, control perverse incentives, and drive drug prices back down to a similar level as other developed nations. We do that by changing the financing of pharmaceuticals.

Put simply, the NIH, which is currently responsible for much of the innovation in pharmaceutical research, should drastically increase its already successful pharmaceutical research program. The innovations that result should be available for any qualified entity to manufacture, which would introduce competi-

tion into the market. It would boost innovation, competition would drive down prices as it does in the generics market, and the incentive to engage in Merck-like behavior would be drastically reduced.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANTHONY BENEDETTI

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to honor a man who has spent 37 years of his life representing the interests of working men and women in Central New Jersey.

Anthony Benedetti, on June 1, 2005, retires as Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the Sheetmetal Workers International Association Local 27.

For the last several decades, Anthony Benedetti has unselfishly represented the Sheetmetal Workers International Association. His outstanding work and leadership have served as a guide to other employees throughout the years. It is doubtful that the Sheetmetal Workers International Association would have functioned the same way without his tireless efforts.

I want to offer Mr. Benedetti my congratulations and thanks for his outstanding career of service. It is with men like Anthony Benedetti that our nation's labor movement is such a huge success. He will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing Anthony Benedetti as a determined and exceptional worker who affected the lives of many people.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE ASSERTED BY REPRESENTATIVE NADLER, H. REP. 109-51, CONCERNING H.R. 748, THE CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT OF 2005

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the point raised by the gentleman from New York regarding the malreporting of the Republican Leadership of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act of 2005.

Under Rule IX, paragraph (1) of the House Rules, Mr. NADLER justifiably asserts his point because not only his but my "rights and reputation" have been offended by the conduct of the Chairman in publishing House Report 109-51. To reiterate, the language used in pages 45-49 patently malreport and malign the authors of amendments to H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act of 2005.

Two days ago, on May 3, 2005, the Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary led debate on his resolution of privilege, H. Res. 253 that concerned the ways in which the act

of the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee negatively affected the "rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings."

So too, was this resolution properly and justifiably introduced because, in that case, the privileges of "dignity" and "the integrity of [the House's] proceedings" have been patently violated. To purposefully misreport the good-faith amendments that have been offered by Members of this venerable House debases the nature and trustworthiness of the House Report.

After this debacle, Members will have to scan committee reports with a fine-toothed comb—not for substantive value, but for accuracy and veracity of their reporting value! This is the diminution of the dignity of the process. This is the diminution of the integrity of the House.

The American people must be made aware that we, the authors of the amendments on pages 45–49 of House Report 109–51 do not associate ourselves with the misreported portions thereof.

House Report 109–51 not only improperly made negative inferences as to the import and intent of my amendments, but it combined two distinct and separately-offered amendments into one.

In terms of the personal privileges violated by the report, the misreporting—and the malreporting of the amendments offered by my colleagues Mr. SCOTT, Mr. NADLER, and me affected our rights, reputation, and conduct. As founder and Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, a report that cites an amendment offered by me that would exempt sexual predators from liability is at the very least offensive.

My constituents and the constituents of my colleagues do read House Reports, and the nefarious language that the Chairman avers as representative of his true intentions should be highlighted as contrary to the ideals on which this House, this government, and this nation were established.

#### TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN LEHMAN

### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished service of an employee of this House. To do so, I'm reminded of an old phrase that doesn't fit anymore in today's society. It goes: behind every good man is a good woman. The saying may be outdated, but the point it tries to make still rings true: nobody gets very far without a lot of support.

Nowhere is that more accurate than in the world of politics and public service. I'd like to think that the modern corollary up here on the Hill might sound something like: behind every good politician is their staff. And, Kathryn Lehman has helped make many a good politician.

Kathryn may not have been in the headlines, she may not have been lauded with award after award and plaque after plaque, but she has done much to make our Republican caucus a success.

In her many roles, Kathryn has always been a go-to person. Working the halls of Congress with an in-depth knowledge of policy, an ability

to handle even the toughest personalities and a dedication to public service that is second to none, Kathryn has remained a constant force in moving our agenda forward.

Kathryn is leaving us to take that next step in her already distinguished career. While I know that Kathryn's talents will be missed, I wish her the very best in her new endeavor.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I voted "Yes" on H.R. 366, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act. My "Yes" vote was entirely the result of an error on my part. For the record, I intended to cast a "No" vote against H.R. 366. I do not believe that vocational and technical educational grants falls within the proper scope of the federal government.

Unfortunately, I did not realize that I had voted incorrectly until after the vote was concluded.

#### ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF MOORE'S LAW

### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Moore's Law, a prediction by Intel co-founder Gordon Moore about integrated circuits that has driven the pace of innovation, helped make America the world's technological leader, as well as helping to launch what is now the Silicon Valley.

In April of 1965, Gordon Moore, then an engineer with Fairchild Semiconductor, predicted that computer chips would double in power approximately every 18 months while staying at the same cost. Forty years later, Moore's Law has maintained its pace. Today we enjoy technological innovation that even the most enterprising minds could not have imagined four decades ago: Computers once the size of a refrigerator now fit on our laps or in the palm of our hands, and a talking doll enjoyed by kids around the world packs four times as much processing power as an Apollo moon lander.

Along with these extraordinary advances in processing power, the technological innovation driven by Moore's Law has led to advances in virtually every industry and almost every aspect of our lives. Doctors can access the Internet in the examining room or diagnose a patient remotely, while having access to the latest updates on chemical reactions, alternatives, and availability of prescriptions. On-the-go parents can carry games and other digital entertainment for their young children on the road while simultaneously checking in on their teenagers whereabouts and well-being.

Most importantly, the drive toward maintaining Moore's law has kept the U.S. technology industry at the forefront of innovation, growing quality, high-paying jobs and contributing to

our Nation's economic stability. The premise of Moore's Law dictates that computing power improves essentially for free, bringing increases in productivity unprecedented since the Industrial Revolution and acting as a powerful deflationary force in the world's macroeconomy. As a result, consumers get more for less. Businesses can continually improve their operations, service and productivity at a cost advantage.

In Silicon Valley, which I'm proud to represent, we're proud to be a major driver in the technology industry to keep pace with Moore's Law. The small and large businesses which are part of our local technology industry have led to economic growth and development. Intel Corporation, leading the charge, has become a major local contributor to our economy and is an example of the impact that U.S. technological leadership has at a regional, national, and international level.

On April 19, 1965, the day which Gordon Moore's article first appeared, he certainly could not have predicted the powerful and dramatic influence his postulation would have on our world.

Beyond sharing a wonderful prediction, Gordon Moore has distinguished himself as a major philanthropist, donating \$7 billion to various environmental, scientific and San Francisco Bay Area causes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gordon Moore for his vision in establishing Moore's Law, for his unique leadership, his integrity, and his incomparable contributions to make our nation great. How proud I am to be Gordon Moore's Representative in Congress. He has our collective gratitude for his contributions to our Nation.

#### RECOGNIZING VERN BROOKS, PRESIDENT OF TECHNICAL DIRECTORS, INC., ON BEING NAMED 2005 REGIONAL SUBCONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vern Brooks, President of Technical Directors, Inc., (TDI) on being named 2005 Regional Subcontractor of the Year. Mr. Brooks' small business, Technical Directions Inc., manufactures proprietary jet engine technology. These engines have proven superior for use in small unmanned aircraft and powered weapons systems, including several Lockheed Martin mini-cruise missiles.

Mr. Brooks was recognized by the Small Business Administration for his entrepreneurial spirit at the 2005 U.S. Small Business Administration's National Small Business Week in Washington, D.C., an event that showcased Small Business Persons of the Year winners from each state. National Small Business Week honors some of the Nation's estimated 25 million small business owners that form the foundation of our Nation's economy.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the life blood of the American economy. They employ more than half the country's private work force, create three of every four new jobs and generate a majority of American innovations. The entrepreneurs that found these businesses must be recognized for their contribution to economy. I ask my colleagues to join

me in honoring Mr. Brooks for his recognition as 2005 Regional Subcontractor of the Year and in recognizing the contribution of small business owners to the growth of our economy.

HONORING HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM ON WINNING THE 2004 FOSTER G. MCGAW PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit for winning the 2004 Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service—one of the health care field's most prestigious awards. Henry Ford was awarded this award May 2, 2005 at the American Hospital Association's Annual conference.

The Foster G. McGaw prize recognizes health care organizations that demonstrate commitment to community service through a variety of programs. These programs must exhibit a continuous dedication to making communities healthier. Each year, the \$100,000 award is given to an organization committed to providing its community with innovative programs and services that promote the health and well being of the community. The American Hospital Association, the Baxter International Foundation and the Cardinal Health Foundation sponsored the award.

Henry Ford Health System's outstanding community programs are improving the health and quality of life of the people they serve, primarily Southeast Michigan's minority and disadvantaged residents.

Henry Ford Health System was recognized for its involvement in: The School-Based Health Initiative, which takes primary and preventive care to Detroit classrooms where it may be the only health care a child receives. The Henry Ford sites handle nearly 20,000 student visits each year.

AIM-HI—African American Initiative for Male Health Improvement, a program within the Institute on Multicultural Health at Henry Ford, that provides mobile health screenings and onsite health education for diabetes, hypertension, and strokes. SandCastles, a division of the Hospices of Henry Ford Health System, which offers grief support for children and families who have lost a loved one. In 2004, this program served 378 children and 274 adults from 228 families. City Year Detroit, a program that is supported financially and housed by Henry Ford Health System. In this program, outstanding young adults make a 10-month, full-time volunteer service commitment to help youth in Detroit's lowest-income neighborhoods.

Automobile pioneer Henry Ford founded the hospital in 1915 to improve the health of metro Detroit residents. Since that time, the health system has been devoted to patient safety, clinical excellence and superior service. The health system partners with dozens of local agencies and organizations to serve more than one million residents in southeast Michigan.

Again, Mr. Speaker I want to commend the Henry Ford Health System and its President

and Chief Executive Officer, Nancy Schlichting for a job well done. What an honor for the Henry Ford Health System and the city of Detroit. Their commitment to quality health care and the community is to be applauded.

CONGRATULATING S. MARTIN TAYLOR ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, Mr. DINGELL and I rise today as the Senior Members of the Michigan Delegation to congratulate and pay tribute to S. Martin Taylor on the occasion of his retirement after 16 years of service as Executive Vice President of DTE Energy in Detroit, Michigan. We have both known this special man through not only his sixteen years at DTE Energy, but also throughout the many years he spent in public service working across and from both sides of the aisle to improve the lives of Michigan's citizens.

Mr. Taylor has shown an exceptional commitment to the people of the state of Michigan. After graduating from Western Michigan University in 1964, he went on to receive his Juris Doctor from the Detroit College of Law in 1967. A lifelong student of both academics and personal interaction, Mr. Taylor received an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 2002, from Marygrove College in Detroit, Michigan.

After two years of service in Chicago, Illinois as an attorney at the Container Corporation of America, Mr. Taylor was appointed by then-Governor of Michigan William G. Milliken, a Republican, to serve as the Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Commerce. Two years later in 1971, Mr. Taylor was appointed by a bipartisan commission representing both labor and management, to serve as the Director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC), the State's third largest agency. His 13 years of remarkable service at that position led to his appointment by Democratic Governor James Blanchard as Director of the Michigan Department of Labor in 1983. In a remarkable feat of commitment, Mr. Taylor served concurrently as both the Director of the MESC and Michigan's Labor Department for nearly two years.

In 1984, after 15 years of service to the state of Michigan, Martin left his position as Director of Labor in order to serve the people of Detroit as the President of New Detroit Inc., the Nation's first urban coalition developed in response to the civil unrest of 1967. As President, Mr. Taylor acted to facilitate an active and productive dialogue between all social, religious and economic organizations in the Metropolitan Detroit area. Mr. Taylor served with distinction for 5 years at that position.

Finally in 1989, Mr. Taylor was asked to serve as an Executive Vice President of DTE Energy. At this post, Martin was responsible for developing and implementing the company's strategies for human resources, corporate communications, and corporate and government affairs. He worked to enhance the public reputation of DTE Energy and to ensure that its workforce was fully capable of meeting the changing demands and challenges of the energy industry. As a member of the executive

committee, Mr. Taylor worked with other senior officers to handle all corporate-wide responsibilities.

Aside from his remarkable service throughout his career, Mr. Taylor also serves on nearly twenty business, civic and community affiliations and boards, and in the past, Martin has been part of over thirty such organizations. In 1996, he was elected to the University of Michigan Board of Regents, where he continues to serve with distinction. He is also the recipient of two commendations of public service by the Michigan Legislature. His civic service provides a great testament to the spirit of commitment and community Mr. Taylor possesses. Martin is truly a model member of the Michigan community and an example for us all.

In addition to his great success in both public and private service, Martin is also fortunate enough to share his life with his wife Ann Diggs Taylor, U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. Mr. Taylor also has two step-children, his son, Douglass, and daughter, Carla.

As Martin begins what is surely a deserved retirement, we offer him the best of luck on this long and well-earned journey. Mr. Speaker, we hope you will join with us and our colleagues in the Michigan Delegation to wish Mr. Taylor many years filled with family, friends, and good health and thank him for what he has done for our state.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE PARISH

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of St. Bellarmine Parish in Jefferson Park, Illinois. I am proud of the continuous support and inspiration this parish has provided to the people of Jefferson Park for the past 75 years, and I would like to thank the parishioners of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish for their dedicated service.

St. Robert Bellarmine has served as an essential part of the surrounding community since 1930, when a group of dedicated parishioners joined with Father Gillespie to celebrate the parish's first Mass in the auditorium of Prussing Public School.

Church and school buildings were constructed in 1931 to house the parish, and the church became an anchor for the community and a beacon of hope for its parishioners.

Today, St. Robert Bellarmine continues to inspire the Jefferson Park community under the exceptional leadership of Father Michael Goergen. This parish provides a prime example of what can be accomplished when we work together for the common good.

The 1,700 families that make up the parish create a welcoming and service-oriented community. Church activities such as the Stretch Program help needy members of the parish, adding to St. Robert Bellarmine's impressive history of donating time, talent, and resources to the community.

The 390 students at St. Robert Bellarmine school receive an excellent and well rounded

education, with the active participation of the Parents Association in extracurricular programs.

Now as St. Robert Bellarmine Parish celebrates its 75th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to take a moment and recognize the importance of places like St. Robert Bellarmine in communities all across America.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the parishioners of St. Robert Bellarmine on the first 75 years of their parish, and I wish them continued success and inspiration in serving their community in the coming years.

TRIBUTE TO EILEEN HARRINGTON  
AND THE DO NOT CALL REG-  
ISTRY TEAM

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, this week is Public Service Recognition Week, a week when we salute government employees at the federal, state, county and local levels. As a member of the Congressional Public Service Caucus, I would like to honor one of my constituents who is a model public servant.

Eileen Harrington, of Kensington, Maryland, is the Associate Director for Marketing Practices at the Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection. In this position, Ms. Harrington led the team that developed the heralded Do Not Call Registry. Ms. Harrington and her team won a 2004 Service to America Medal from the Partnership for Public Service and Atlantic Media Company for this great accomplishment and they continue to receive accolades for their groundbreaking work.

Opened on June 27, 2003, the FTC's Do Not Call Registry enables consumers to block phone calls from telemarketers. All consumers have to do is sign up online or through a toll-free number, and registration is free. By any measure, the success of this program has been phenomenal.

The registry quickly became the most searched-for site on the Internet, and more than 10 million people were registered in the first four days. According to a January 2004 Harris Poll, 91 percent of adults have heard of the registry, and 57 percent have actually registered—bringing the number of enrollees to almost 60 million. Ninety-two percent of enrollees report receiving fewer calls, and 78 percent say that they get "far fewer calls" or none at all.

Mr. Speaker, Eileen Harrington and the Do Not Call Registry Team demonstrates the government's ability to deliver practical solutions that are positively improving the everyday lives of millions of Americans. I commend Ms. Harrington and the Do Not Call Registry Team for their service to our great nation.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE ANDREW L.  
JEFFERSON, JR

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 6, 2005, my alma mater, Thurgood Marshall School of Law located in the great city of Houston, will designate the Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. Endowed Chair in Trial Advocacy in honor of my great friend and mentor, Judge Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr.

Born in Dallas, Texas in 1934, Judge Jefferson has lived in Houston since the ripe old age of 2. A graduate of Jack Yates High School, Texas Southern University and the University of Texas School of Law, Judge Jefferson has, over the years, distinguished himself not only as an accomplished legal scholar, but also as a dedicated community leader.

A humble man, Andrew Jefferson has had an exemplary career that began in the early sixties when he was a partner in the law firm of Washington and Jefferson. Because Judge Jefferson displayed, at an early age, a remarkable command of the law, he was recruited to serve as the Assistant District Attorney for Bexar County, a position he held until he was appointed Chief Assistant United States Attorney and subsequently Chief of the Criminal Section for the Western District of Texas, a job he held until Humble Oil and Refining Company beckoned him to join their ranks as Trial and Labor Relations Counsel. During the early seventies, he assumed the role of Judge in the Court of Domestic Relations #2 for Harris County, and in 1973 was elected to a full four-year term. At the end of his tenure in the Domestic Court, Judge Jefferson was appointed and then elected to the 208th District Court. In 1975, believing that he could inspire young people to enter the legal profession, the distinguished barrister left the bench and re-entered private practice.

In addition to being honorably discharged as a Captain in the United States Army Reserve-Judge Advocate General's Corps, the distinguished gentleman from Texas is a member of the State Bar of Texas, Houston Bar Association, the Houston Trial Lawyers Association, the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Houston Branch of the National Urban League, and a Life Member of the NAACP.

Among his many awards and accomplishments, Judge Jefferson has received the Anti-Defamation League National Torch of Liberty Award, the Forward Times Newspaper Community Service Award, the Charles A. George Community Service Award and the League of United Latin American Citizens National Community Service Award from LaRaza.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to have the opportunity to pay tribute to a great American hero. For those of us who know the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, we are always in awe of his ability as a coalition builder to bridge the gap between young and old and those of different cultural backgrounds. I believe that when history records the legacy of Andrew L.

Jefferson, it will honor his role as a warrior who never forgot where he came from and always worked tirelessly on behalf of the least, the last and the lost.

TRIBUTE TO THE TEPEYAC  
ASSOCIATION

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Tepeyac Association. This outstanding organization has served the Latino American community in New York for the past 8 years. Their unyielding dedication to the building of a strong Mexican-American and Latino community in New York is commendable.

In the South Bronx, Mexican immigrants have played an important role in helping to re-energize various neighborhoods. The vibrant Mexican-American community brings added diversity and flavor to an area already rich with Puerto Ricans, Dominicans and African Americans. The result is a wonderful confluence of cultures that help to bring the Bronx to life. I am happy to welcome this new group of immigrants to our community. They, like the groups that have come before them have helped to make life in the Bronx as vibrant and diverse as it is today.

The tremendous strides that this community has made not only in my district but throughout New York, is in large part due to the great work of the Tepeyac Association. Tepeyac is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 network of 40 community based organizations, whose mission is to promote the social welfare and human rights of Latino immigrants in New York City with a focus on those who are undocumented. Founded in September, 1997 by Mexican community leaders, the Association is the only public resource dedicated to organizing Mexican immigrants in the 5 boroughs. Tepeyac is also dedicated to informing and educating Mexican immigrants and their families about their rights and available resources. Through its grassroots structure and leadership the Association serves over 10,000 members.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to debate legislation in the 109th Congress that will affect the lives of immigrants, it is important that we remember that we are a nation of immigrants. All of our families came to the U.S. in search of a better life, and the American Dream. To be anti-immigrant is to forget our history, and to reject the very values that make our country so great. I will continue to fight against policies that are hateful and unwelcoming to those who come to this country seeking a better life. It is my hope that organizations such as Tepeyac will continue to make the transition into American life easier for the Mexican-American community.

On this day, Cinco de Mayo, 2005, I salute the many contributions that Tepeyac has made to the South Bronx. I thank the Mexican-American community for its continuing contribution to American life and culture and for playing such an important role in revitalizing our inner cities. I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Tepeyac.

## HEALTH INSURANCE CRISIS

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Cover the Uninsured Week, May 1–8, 2005.

As we come together for this year's Cover the Uninsured Week, we will continue to let the leaders of this country know it is time that we make health coverage for all Americans our top priority. Today, 45 million Americans have no health insurance, including more than 8 million children. Eight out of 10 uninsured Americans either work or are in working families.

Being uninsured means going without needed care. It means minor illnesses become major ones because care is delayed. Tragically, it also means that one significant medical expense can wipe out a family's life savings. There are millions of working, uninsured Americans who go to bed every night worrying what will happen to them and their families if a major illness or injury strikes.

In my home state of Ohio there are currently 1,362,000 uninsured, an increase of 18,000 people since 2003. We have also seen the strain on many of the local hospitals in my district when people are forced to use emergency rooms as their source of primary care.

The problem is getting worse. As the price of health care continues to rise, fewer individuals and families can afford to pay for coverage. Fewer small businesses are able to provide coverage for their employees, and those that do are struggling to hold on to the coverage they offer. It is a problem that affects all of us and we cannot sit idly by while the people of this country continue to go without health insurance.

We must begin to move forward in a bipartisan manner to expand access to affordable, quality and reliable health coverage for America's families.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate May 2005 as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

I am proud to represent the 29th District of California, home to one of the largest Asian American and Pacific Islander populations in Southern California; almost one-fourth of my constituents are of Asian Pacific heritage. Earlier this year I had the honor of naming Temple City, City Councilmember Judy S. Wong and Alice Lan-Hua Hwang 29th Congressional District Women of the Year for 2005 in recognition of their contributions to our community.

Countless lives in Southern California benefit from the leadership provided by these

women and other prominent Asian Pacific Americans such as Board of Equalization Member John Chiang, Assembly Members Judy Chu and Carol Liu, Alhambra City Council Member Gary Yamauchi, Alhambra School Board Members Robert Gin and Chester Chau, Altadena Town Council Member Lucille Hino, Glendale Community College Trustee Victor King, Monterey Park Mayor Mike Eng, Monterey Park City Council Members Betty Tom Chu and David Lau and Monterey Park City Treasurer Mitchell Ing, Garvey School Board Members Henry Lo and John Yuen, Temple City School Board Member Edward Chen, South Pasadena Council Member Mike Ten, South Pasadena School Board Member Joseph Loo, San Gabriel City Council Member Chi Mui and San Gabriel School Board Member Ken Tchong.

This week the House considered a resolution honoring the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to American society over the past thirty years. The consideration of this bill is timely as this year marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of South Vietnam to Communist rule. Over the course of three decades, through perseverance and hard work, the 1.5 million Vietnamese who resettled in the United States have been able to build new lives and form a vibrant community which has strengthened our nation immeasurably. Yet this community has not forgotten its heritage and has worked tirelessly to promote democracy and freedom in Vietnam; to extend the same rights they enjoy to the people of the land they were forced to leave.

From every tragedy springs a new hope. The fall of Saigon resulted in a world refugee crisis of historic proportions, creating over three million refugees. But were it not for this event, America would not be the same. As with millions of other Asian and Pacific Islanders, Vietnamese Americans have enriched our society and woven their own traditions into the beautiful tapestry that is America. I would like to thank the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for their contribution to our district and society, our community would be incomplete without them.

RECOGNIZING MARY NELL  
GODBAY**HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the wonderful state of West Virginia has known many great Americans. My neighbors in southern West Virginia each have their own interesting story, they are all a pleasure for me to represent. Today, I am here to recognize Mary Nell Godbey who passed away at the end of April.

Mary Nell Godbey was an outstanding member of her community. As a WVU Extension Agent in Raleigh County, she helped southern West Virginians on a daily basis.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time. She touched so many people's lives throughout her many years and will surely be missed.

I also ask that the following article from the Register-Herald in Beckley be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD after these remarks. Bev Davis, a friend and former co-worker of Mary Nell Godbey, wrote this column which shows how well loved Ms. Godbey was in southern West Virginia.

BELOVED WVU EXTENSION AGENT LEAVES  
GREAT LEGACY BEHIND

(By Bev Davis)

"Call Mary Nell." Those were words I heard repeatedly when I worked at the West Virginia University Area Extension Office in Beckley. Area division leader Oscar Hutchison was my boss, overseeing the nine-county WVU Extension offices.

Mary Nell Godbey was a WVU extension agent for Raleigh County, and everything that had to do with homemaking, food preparation, food preservation and hand crafts fell under the umbrella of her expertise.

She taught workshops on everything from decoupage, macramé and quilting to canning foods and how to get mold off your carpet.

When I saw her obituary in our newspaper this week, it really hurt to accept the fact she's gone. I remember her as such a lady—always impeccably dressed and a woman who always conducted herself with such dignity.

At the same time, she was warm, friendly and willing to help.

Mary Nell was a virtual encyclopedia of knowledge for all of us and for hundreds of callers. I lost count of the times I told someone, "Call Mary Nell Godbey. If anyone knows the answer to your question, she will."

A gentle woman with a great sense of humor, Mary Nell made friends easily. She made me laugh often, and I probably use something I learned from her almost every day of my life.

She was a lady with a quiet spiritual faith, and I know her long absence because of illness has left some big shoes to fill at First Baptist Church in Beckley, where she was a member for many years.

I'm sure I speak for a huge community of people when I extend my deepest condolences to Mary Nell's family. Her influence had a wide impact, and her passing leaves a vacant spot in our hearts.

In passing on her legacy, Mary Nell would want me to sound a trumpet for the organization to which she dedicated so much of her life.

As we have moved away from a more agrarian lifestyle, the function and scope of the WVU Extension has changed a great deal over the years.

It is, nevertheless, still a vital resource for our communities.

The county offices provide a wealth of information on homemaking, gardening, help for working women, parenting—just about any topic that enhances daily living.

I know Mary Nell would want me to remind people to think of a WVU Extension office first when a question comes to mind. She has passed the torch to a new generation of agents who are eager to make a difference in their community.

During the years I've worked at the newspaper, it's been rewarding to refer callers to this agency for help. Because of all the dedicated extension agents still around, it's a pleasure to say to someone on the phone, "Call the WVU Extension office. If anyone can answer that question, they can."

The next time I say that, however, it will become a tribute to Mary Nell.