

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING KRISTOPHER JONES ON RECEIVING THE GREAT VALLEY YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE GREATER HAZLETON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE GREATER WILKES-BARE CHAMBER OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Kristopher Jones of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of having been selected to receive the Great Valley Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

As a founder of Pepperjam.com, a 6-year-old internet-based company established by Mr. Jones and his brother to market their grandmother's 50-year-old jam recipes and other gourmet food products, Mr. Jones has demonstrated the kind of true entrepreneurial spirit for which this award was created.

A bright and talented young man, Mr. Jones possesses a diverse background in both his education and professional pursuits.

Kris served as an intern in my Washington office and for the Financial Services Committee during the summers while he was a law student. Upon his graduation, I hired him as my district director. We talked often about his interest in growing his family business, and I encouraged him to focus on pursuing the unique opportunities presented to him. Because of his deep love of Northeastern Pennsylvania, he promised to keep his company based in the area to help stimulate the local economy.

Recently, Mr. Jones has expanded his business into e-commerce consulting, a new field that has helped enable him to add new jobs to his company and to achieve national recognition in the field of affiliate marketing management.

Always one to give back to his community, Mr. Jones regularly speaks with college students and recent graduates about business opportunities that exist in Northeastern Pennsylvania, recognizing the need to be a good corporate citizen and community advocate.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Kristopher Jones on this auspicious occasion. The entrepreneurial spirit displayed by Mr. Jones has set a fine example for all potential young entrepreneurs and fledgling enterprises in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DUSTIN A. NEDOLAST ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 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 Dustin A. Nedolast of Fostoria, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Dustin's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force 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.

Dustin brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Saint Wendelin Catholic High School in Fostoria, Ohio, Dustin has attained a 3.8 grade point average which places him near the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Dustin has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics. Dustin has been a member of the National Honor Society, earned scholastic First Honors for four years, and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Dustin has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Dustin has earned letters in Varsity Wrestling, Football and Baseball. Dustin has served as class representative during his junior year in high school as well as Senior Class President. Dustin's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Dustin will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Colorado Springs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dustin A. Nedolast on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Dustin will do very well during his career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

TRIBUTE TO REPUBLIC OF CHINA PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to convey my best wishes to Republic of China President Chen Shui-Bian as he begins the sixth year of his presidency. I would also like to Congratulate President Chen on the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Taiwan and the nation of Nauru. It is my sincere hope that the United States and Taiwan will soon re-establish formal ties as well.

The election of President Chen to his first term in 2000 was a watershed moment for Taiwan, signifying the first election of an opposition party candidate to that post since the establishment of the ROC nearly a century ago. He was re-elected last year.

Since President Chen came to office, he has maintained his commitment to the advance of democracy. Successful legislative elections, a referendum, a presidential election, and most recently a poll to elect members of a National Assembly that will undertake the monumental task of rewriting Taiwan's decades old constitution, have all been held.

Under President Chen's leadership, Taiwan has continued its progress by improving its status as the Western Pacific's flagship democracy and as one of its premier economic powerhouses. What is perhaps most astonishing, however, is that this has been accomplished in spite of the tense and ominous environment created by China.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan's robust democratic institutions shine particularly brightly precisely because of their close proximity to the People's Republic of China. The PRC, after all, is a nation where open political discourse and the free exchange of ideas remain largely non-existent. It is this glaring contrast between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China that will continue to be a source of tension—regardless of how many Panda bears China's leaders might send to Taiwanese zoos, or how many Wax Apples they might purchase from Taiwanese farmers.

I think President Chen summed up the situation rather eloquently when he recently said, "The greatest obstacle between the two sides of the Strait lies in our democratic disparity—not in our political separation."

So, Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations to President Chen on the last five years of his presidency, and I wish him the best of luck in the future as he works to strengthen the historic and decades-long friendship between our two nations.

● 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.

CONGRATULATING MASTER SERGEANT VICTOR J. LUKSIC ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to my good friend Master Sergeant Victor J. Luksic, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of his retirement from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard following 40 years of distinguished and loyal service.

For the past 22 years of Master Sergeant Luksic's military service, he was engaged in the Recruiting and Retention Command at Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Pennsylvania.

Indeed, Master Sergeant Luksic served as chairman for the Sergeants Major Sub Committee of the National Recruiting and Retention Council, a body that serves in the capacity of a board of directors for the Recruiting and Retention Force of the National Guard Bureau.

As chairman of that Council, Master Sergeant Luksic was charged with representing all 1,400 recruiting personnel serving throughout the United States.

During his service spanning four decades, Master Sergeant Luksic mastered the specialties of tactical communications, infantryman, senior instructor, finance, career counselor, and recruiting and retention.

The father of two children, Master Sergeant Luksic also distinguished himself by his selfless service to his home community in the great Wyoming Valley. He is a past chairman of the board of directors of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He is also a member of St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church and its Holy Name Society and the St. Conrad's Young Men's Association of Wilkes-Barre.

Master Sergeant Luksic earned numerous military awards and decorations while serving the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Some of the those accolades include the National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Armed Force Reserve Medal with Gold Hour Glass; Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster; Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development ribbon; Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Global War on Terrorism Medal and the Master Recruiting Badge.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Master Sergeant Luksic on the completion of 40 years of military service. His devotion to duty and to the United States of America's defense has helped make this great Nation a safer place and has furthered the noble causes of promoting liberty and democracy.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BRADLEY J. MARZEC ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 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 Bradley J. Marzec of Rossford, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Bradley's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force 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.

Bradley brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. Bradley is a 2004 graduate of Saint Francis de Sales High School in Toledo, Ohio. While attending St. Francis, Bradley was an honor student in addition to serving as a church youth group volunteer. Since his graduation from St. Francis, Bradley has been preparing to attend the Academy by attending the Air Force Academy Preparatory School in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Outside the classroom, Bradley has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Bradley earned his Varsity letter in Wrestling where he was named team captain in his junior year and has been a decorated champion. Bradley's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Bradley will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Colorado Springs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bradley J. Marzec on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Bradley will do very well during his career at the Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN BENJAMIN T. LYNG

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Captain Benjamin T. Lyng for his eight

years of military service and leadership to our country. After graduating from American University in Washington, D.C. and completing Georgetown University's ROTC program, Captain Lyng was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army with the 518th Maintenance Company at Fort Bliss, Texas. He served as a platoon leader and executive officer before he was promoted to First Lieutenant. With the 518th, he led a 35-soldier platoon during a six month deployment to Saudi Arabia during Operation Southern Watch. Later, he served as a Battalion Staff Officer with the First Battalion, First Air Defense Artillery Regiment (1-1 ADA) also at Ft. Bliss. Captain Lyng was promoted to Captain while deployed in Kuwait with the 1-1 ADA.

After graduating first in his class at the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) School and fourth in his Officer Advanced Course, Lyng was commissioned to command the 764th EOD Unit based at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, CO. During his command, his company conducted 165 EOD incidents and over 50 U.S. Secret Service details in support of the President, Vice President, First Lady, Vice First Lady and foreign heads of state without injury.

He also commanded the 764th EOD Unit in Kandahar, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, where he and his company conducted over 300 combat EOD incidents, rendered safe over 20 improvised explosive devices (IED's) and improvised rocket attacks, assisted with forensic evidence collection for War Crimes Tribunals and provided technical advisory and security services for Afghanistan's first direct presidential election. In addition to serving his country, Captain Lyng also served the people of Afghanistan by collecting over 2000 pounds of clothing through the charity he founded, "Children Helping Children."

During his command in Afghanistan, Captain Lyng earned the Bronze Star Medal for his exceptionally meritorious service while serving as a member of the combined/joint task force-76 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Captain Lyng's tactical proficiency and selfless commitment to mission accomplishment in a combat zone greatly contributed to the success of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In addition to his Bronze Star Medal, he has also received an Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Captain Lyng received the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor Captain Benjamin Lyng for his distinguished career and his contribution to our country. Captain Lyng has left a legacy of leadership and service to his community. Today, I congratulate him on his outstanding performance and meritorious service to the Armed Forces of the United States and wish him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING H.E. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AND COMMEMORATING HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the first official visit to the United States by Indonesia's new President, the first directly elected President in that nation's history, His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. President Yudhoyono is well known to many in the United States from his years of service in Indonesia's military, and as Minister of Energy and Mines. In fact, earlier in his career, President Yudhoyono studied for two years in the United States. But this first official working visit as President is a special occasion, and one worth marking in the United States Congress.

Barely two months into his term, the historic and devastating December 26th tsunami struck off Sumatra's north and western coasts. President Yudhoyono traveled to the hard hit areas immediately, and directed his new Cabinet to take steps to do everything possible to expedite immediate relief and assistance. His team undertook a groundbreaking effort to put together a detailed recovery plan, and develop open, inclusive, and transparent processes for aiding the hardest hit communities. President Yudhoyono has followed through on all three commitments he made to the international donor community to take the necessary steps to develop processes and institutions to assure the world that the generous outpouring of assistance is well managed, free of corruption, and gets to the people who need it the most.

There is no doubt that there will continue to be bumps along the road as Indonesia tackles the many difficult issues that arise in rebuilding and re-establishing communities. I remain hopeful that President Yudhoyono's personal commitment and leadership will keep the process moving forward to ensure a full recovery for all the people who suffered so terribly in the aftermath of the tsunami.

I am also encouraged by many other steps President Yudhoyono has taken to address longstanding issues and needs, including: an aggressive anti-corruption agenda; a plan to address serious infrastructure needs that are the basis for moving forward with his economic agenda to reduce poverty and unemployment; as well as improved cooperation with the United States and others in critical areas, such as counter-terrorism, maritime safety and law enforcement. During his visit, I hope we will learn more about how cooperation in all of these areas will be strengthened in the near term.

Furthermore, as the United States develops and diversifies sources of energy, it becomes increasingly clear that Indonesia holds enormous potential. Yet Indonesia's oil and gas sector is in need of additional investment to reverse declining production trends. The Government of Indonesia is keen on reinvesting revenue streams needed to fund key infrastructure projects as well as health and education programs. I am told that U.S. companies have more than \$6 billion in projects wait-

ing for approval, and that there is a similar amount available for investment in power generation projects—an infrastructure area that needs immediate attention if shortages are to be avoided in the very near future.

I hope President Yudhoyono's visit will help find a way to break the logjam on some of the policy decisions that are needed to allow these investments to be made. To help jumpstart the process, I would also encourage President Bush and his Administration to restart and re-invigorate the bilateral energy talks our governments and business partners enjoyed throughout much of the 1990s.

It is also my sincere hope that our governments will find a way to reverse declining educational enrollment by Indonesian students in U.S. colleges and universities. One of the most effective ways to build bridges between our two nations is through educational exchanges, and at this time when Indonesia's new democratic institutions require the development of management and legal skills, I certainly believe that increasing opportunities for Indonesians to study in the United States should be a top priority.

As my colleagues have heard me say many times, I believe the United States needs to devote more time and attention to broadening and expanding our relationship with Indonesia, the world's third largest democracy and the nation with the largest Muslim population. Increased cooperation and improved relationships in a wide range of areas will help us build a strong bridge across the Pacific, which will benefit and strengthen both of our countries. I look forward to the outcomes of President Yudhoyono's visit and to learning how we in Congress can reinforce and strengthen our ties.

RECOGNITION OF MRS. MARY GUDE

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Mary Gude of Dorsey, Illinois. On May 27, Mary Gude will be retiring as a teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Edwardsville after 30 years of teaching.

Trinity Lutheran School is the only place Mrs. Gude has ever taught. During her years there, she has taught preschool, kindergarten, first and third grades. Most recently, she has been the very beloved second grade teacher. Her second grade classes have been filled with much learning, but also the joy of music and the love of all God's creatures with several classroom pets.

Her second grade classes have annually produced a Second Grade Operetta. These productions are truly a labor of love, taking a great deal of extra time and commitment on Mrs. Gude's part. The shows are enjoyed by all the children of the school, as well as parents and family members.

Mary Gude's years at Trinity have not all been easy. Early in her tenure, she lost her husband to brain cancer and was raising two small children by herself. But God does provide, and in 1980 she married a Lutheran pastor, himself a widower, with two children. Mary Gude and Pastor George Gude together

raised their four children, and she became a part of the family at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Dorsey, where she serves as the choir director yet today.

Today, Mrs. Gude is the proud grandparent of three—two of whom she was able to teach at Trinity. She looks forward to this retirement so she can spend more time with her family, continue to teach piano lessons, and continue to serve as the director of the choir at the church.

Mary Gude has seen Trinity Lutheran School and the hundreds of children who have passed through her classroom as her calling from God. Her kindness, goodness, strength, and love of God shines through in all she does and is forever part of the children who have been fortunate enough to have her as a teacher. In the words of Jesus, in Matthew 25:21, “. . . Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . .”

HONORING THE 761ST TANK BATTALION

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 761st Tank Battalion of World War II. On November 8, 1944 the men of the 761st became the first all black infantry unit to see combat. They successfully overtook the towns of Moyenvic and Vic-sur-Seille, which were occupied by German forces.

“Come Out Fighting,” was the motto of the 761st also known as the Black Panthers. Their motto personified their tremendous sacrifice and selflessness in defeating the German army in World War II.

For 183 days, the Black Panthers fought four major engagements across six European nations. Their courageous effort contributed to the overtaking of Tillet, Belgium, a German occupied area that no other armed force could successfully take. The Black Panthers also penetrated the Seigfried Line allowing the 4th Armored Division to cross the Rhine River.

On May 6, 1945, as the easternmost Americans, the 761st ended their combat mission with a rendezvous with the First Ukrainian Army at the Steye River in Austria. The Black Panthers were the first Americans to meet the Russian Army.

In 1978, the Black Panthers were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, 33 years after the war ended. Their recognition was long overdue.

Their tremendous sacrifices and sense of duty proved to be indispensable to the Allied Forces' war effort against the Axis powers. It gives me great pleasure to rise and join with my congressional colleagues in recognition of this elite battalion.

TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS P. INFUSINO

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life and work of an

exceptional individual, Mr. Thomas Infusino. Thomas was honored at the Wakefern Food Corporation's annual meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2005.

Over the past thirty-four years, Thomas Infusino has worked tirelessly on behalf of his investors, employees, and clients. His commitment to his business, the food distribution industry, and the community at large has left an indelible mark on the lives of many, demonstrating the difference one dedicated person can make. It is only fitting that we honor Thomas Infusino, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth.

Thomas served in the United States military during World War II, primarily stationed in Italy and Africa. Upon his return he quickly became a part of the Northern New Jersey community and has raised a family in our wonderful state. Thomas has truly made a name for himself as an innovative entrepreneur with a propensity for giving back to the community.

Tom has been chairman and CEO of Wakefern Food Corporation, a retailer-owned cooperative of the wholesale merchandising and distribution arm for ShopRite supermarkets, since 1971. He is also the owner and president of the Nutley Park ShopRite located in Nutley, NJ.

Mr. Infusino's philanthropic spirit has been recognized by an array of organizations. Tom was honored by the Cooley's Anemia Foundation and subsequently given the Lifeline Award for his efforts. Additionally, Tom continues to work closely with the Lautenberg Center for General and Tumor Immunology, which sponsors the annual Thomas Infusino Prize. He also serves on the Board of Governors for the National Conference for Community and Justice as well as retaining a seat on the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Food Council.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Thomas Infusino.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the Infusino family, and myself in recognizing Thomas Infusino for his outstanding service.

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HONORING CONGRESSMAN JERRY KLECZKA FOR HIS LEGACY TO PUBLIC SERVICE EDUCATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Congressman Jerry Kleczka, an esteemed Member of this body who represented Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District for over 20 years. More specifically, today I want to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments for which he is being honored in Milwaukee this coming weekend.

My colleagues listening here on the floor today know Congressman Kleczka, my predecessor, as a champion of the causes of working men and women. A spirited and tenacious advocate, he fought for so many reforms, from legislation to protect senior citizens in public housing, to affordable and accessible healthcare and a strong Medicare program, to the rights of workers, and the rights of citizens to privacy in a digital age, just to name a few.

When he decided to leave Federal elective office in 2004, Congressman Kleczka left behind an additional legacy that will endure for many years to come. In 1984, he independently offered to host an individual intern in his Congressional office. From that single internship grew an entire program which, over the last twenty years, has developed into a remarkable center for public service education, Marquette University's Les Aspin Center for Government in Washington, D.C. As a result, over 700 students with an interest in public service have interned in nearly 100 congressional offices and in multiple federal agencies.

Jerry was there for the Center's internship program from the very start as its stalwart champion, advocate, and host of so many of its interns. Of the countless students to which he offered the opportunity for congressional experience, many have gone on to fine careers in public service and two have even won elective office, Wisconsin State Assemblyman Pedro Colon and Milwaukee County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic. He was awarded the Center's Founders Award in 1999 and has served on its Board of Visitors since 1996.

In addition to all his prior work on its behalf, last year Congressman Kleczka made a remarkably generous donation to Marquette's Les Aspin Center which has made possible the establishment of an entirely new program through which students will study state and local government in Milwaukee starting this summer. With this selfless act he has permanently endowed the cause of public service learning throughout Milwaukee and at Marquette and created a legacy that will last for years to come.

This weekend, Congressman Kleczka's efforts will be properly recognized. On Sunday, May 22, Marquette University will award him an honorary doctorate of laws to acknowledge him as a champion of the D.C. intern center and the benefactor of a new Milwaukee institution that will foster the desire for public service among our best and brightest closer to home. I ask my colleagues to join in congratulating Jerry on receiving this well-deserved honor.

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HONORING RICHARD F. CORDELL

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding gentleman, Mr. Richard F. Cordell of Flushing, MI. This Friday, members of the Rotary Club of Flint will pay tribute to Mr. Cordell, as he celebrates 42 years of service as a Rotarian, and 25 years as Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Club.

Born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, Dick Cordell began his long history of service to others by serving his country in World War II following his graduation from the University of Toledo. Dick piloted a B-26 as a member of the U.S. Air Force, earning the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After the war, Dick worked as a salesman for IBM. During this time, he met and married Ruth, his wife of 58 years. When Symplex purchased Dick's division at IBM, he was transferred to Flint where he was appointed District Manager.

Dick began his distinguished career with Rotary International on September 1, 1963.

After memberships on various committees and participation in many projects, Dick was elected President of the Flint Rotary Club from 1974-1976. He also served as District Governor from 1984-1985. Since 1980, he has operated as the Flint Club's Executive Secretary/Treasurer, a position he enjoys due to the constant positive interaction he experiences from his fellow Rotarians. In addition, Dick and Ruth plan to attend this year's Rotary International Convention, which will be their fifteenth.

I am appreciative of Dick Cordell's many years of leadership and for the untold number of individuals he has assisted, both personally and indirectly. He truly personifies the Rotary motto: "Service Above Self," as well as the Rotarian philosophy of truth, fairness, goodwill, and mutual benefit in all professional actions.

Mr. Speaker, as a Rotary Club fellowship beneficiary, I can attest to the unwavering support toward the community exhibited by its members, and I am grateful for people such as Richard Cordell. I ask my colleagues in the 109th to please join me in recognizing his accomplishments, and wishing him the best in all his future endeavors.

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HONORING GENE TORRES

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifetime achievements of Southwestern golf legend Gene Torres, a resident of the Las Vegas community in my home state of New Mexico. Gene spearheaded the golf program at New Mexico Highlands University while simultaneously winning over 80 professional tournaments and raising a family.

Born in Colorado, Gene was fascinated with golf since he was a youngster and qualified for major tournaments in high school. Early in his career he set the course record of 16 under par for 52 holes at the University of New Mexico-North golf course. Gene interrupted his golf career in 1957 to join the Navy and serve his country aboard the USS *Shangri-La*. After his tour of duty with the Navy concluded, Gene returned home to become the premier amateur golfer in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico in the early Sixties.

A pillar of the Las Vegas community, Gene has called New Mexico his home since 1962. Well-known and respected, Gene served 42 years as a Professor of Physical Education and manager of the New Mexico Highlands University golf course, which he helped design. Gene instructed thousands of Northern New Mexico students and started the golf team at Highlands University. In the absence of golf scholarships, Gene often used his own money to pay the team's tournament expenses. Despite financial challenges, Gene's golf teams won over 60% of their matches.

In 1970, Gene joined the PGA where he earned the title "The Rock", for his solid performance. He is said to have consistently hit one of the longest and straightest balls in golf. Gene won the New Mexico Open four years in a row, a feat no one else has accomplished to date, and the PGA Life Time Achievement Award. He was named the Southwest Section

Player of the Year and streets have been named after him in both California and Texas. In addition to his tremendous professional success, Gene made time to be a teacher, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Throughout his professional career Gene was diligent in promoting the University Golf Program at every opportunity. Wherever you saw the name "Gene Torres", you would see New Mexico Highlands University right beside it. As a result, the New Mexico Highlands University golf course has been aptly named after Gene in a ceremony attended by more than 200 people, a testament to his involvement in the Las Vegas community and his contribution to New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, Gene Torres is a model athlete and educator. He exemplifies the qualities that make New Mexico great: dedication to education, devotion to family and commitment to community. Gene Torres has become a legend for not only his golf ability but his selfless giving in the Las Vegas community. I welcome this opportunity to honor his lifetime achievements and am proud that he calls New Mexico his home.

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AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE LIFE

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, more than 86,000 men, women, and children currently await life-saving transplants.

However, due to lost wages and increased medical expenses, the organ donation process is expensive, time consuming, and discouraging for many potential donors. Since so many Americans could benefit from the tremendous generosity of organ donors, I believe Congress should help make it easier for people to donate their organs.

Today, I'm introducing the "Living Organ Donor Tax Credit Act of 2005," which will provide a one time, tax credit up to \$5,000 to help cover non-reimbursable expenses, including lost wages, incurred by living organ donors.

The National Kidney Foundation has endorsed this legislation, and I believe it is an effective way to encourage more Americans to serve as living donors. Today, I'd like to ask my colleagues to join me in providing tax relief to the millions of Americans who unselfishly serve as living organ donors.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

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TRIBUTE TO SIM EDWARDS  
STOKES

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to tell my colleagues about a proud American

and a beloved Dallas resident: Sim Edward Stokes. As family and friends fondly know him as "Simi," I would like to take a moment to acknowledge his energy and vitality to every undertaking. He is the king of networking, and his unabashed enthusiasm is irresistibly infectious. I do not doubt for a second that, he brings his skills from the NFL Champion Dallas Cowboys where he was part of the 1967-1968 team.

Anyone who has had the pleasure of working with Simi is immediately struck by his passion for education, and his belief that all children should be able to receive a top notch education, regardless of their economic standing. He is Vice Chair of the St. Paul Endowment Fund which provides grants for special programs for children, youth and adults. This fund enables them to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith and have the opportunity to receive scholarships and grants for the purpose of attending college and seminary to prepare for a church related vocation, and for funding for church camping, retreats and leadership conferences.

Mention his family and you'll see Simi burst with pride. He is married to the lovely Elnora Jean Stokes. He is also the father of four young lads, and one "princess" whom is a U.S. Army Major at the Pentagon.

Simi holds a MBA from University of Dallas. He has been member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity since 1965. He was also honorably discharged from the Texas National Guard in 1968.

We, in Dallas, are lucky that Simi left Alabama and adopted Dallas as his home and, in time, adopted each of us and shared his great love for his fellow man. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending my appreciation to Simi for over three decades of service to the people of Texas.

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NIGERIA'S CONTINUING PRESENCE  
ON CAMEROON'S BAKASSI PENINSULA

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a continuing threat to the long-standing goal of the United States to diversify our energy sources. Nigeria refuses to return full sovereign control of the oil-rich Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon. The International Court of Justice has confirmed Cameroon as the rightful owner of this territory. However, President Obasanjo has not withdrawn Nigerian troops from the peninsula, despite having promised to do so by September 2004.

Mr. Speaker, Nigeria's intransigence in Cameroon threatens to jeopardize the United States' energy security. I agree that Nigeria, despite its turbulent history, has been a valuable source of oil for the United States over the years. However, America's interests would be better served by Cameroon becoming another such source—a stable, independent source. Nigeria must return control of the Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF  
LOURMINIA CARINO SEN FOR  
HER OUTSTANDING DEDICATION  
TO HER COMMUNITY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness regarding the recent passing of a leader in our community, Lourminia Carino Sen, known to all as "Mimi."

A 37-year resident of Davis, California, Mimi was born and raised in the Philippines where she received a bachelor's degree in food technology from the University of the Philippines. She also earned a bachelor's degree in food science, a master's degree from Oregon State University—where she met her husband, Arun—and a Ph.D. in agricultural chemistry and biochemistry from the University of California, Davis, where she was a National Institutes of Health Pre-doctoral Fellow.

Mimi had an illustrious career conducting research at UC Davis. In 1991 she began her service, working at the State of California Department of Food and Agriculture's Center for Analytical Chemistry. In 1996, CDFA Secretary Ann Veneman presented her with the Outstanding Performance Award for her efficient management of the laboratory. In 2001, Governor Gray Davis appointed Mimi as the Agricultural and Environmental Science Advisor to the California Department of Food and Agriculture; she was the first person to be appointed to this position.

Mimi dedicated her life to her family and the community of Davis. While raising her two daughters, she was active in the Davis School Arts Foundation, serving as president from 1987-88. She was active in Girl Scouts, Davis Ballet, the Davis Art Center and Habitat for Humanity. However, her most extensive volunteer work was on the board of the International House of Davis. Starting in 1986, she chaired the Philippines conference and eventually became vice president in charge of programs. An excellent cook, Mimi initiated the ethnic and Thanksgiving dinners that brought people together from all over the world. During that period she also cochaired a China conference, Japan conference, Sunday brunches and international teas. Over the years the Sen family hosted more than 40 foreign exchange students. Mimi's volunteer work at I-House led to her being honored with the city's Brinley Award for outstanding contributions to an organization.

Mr. Speaker, Mimi's dedication to others inspires us all. In her personal life, her volunteer life and her professional life, Mimi Sen was continually promoting respect and appreciation for all peoples and cultures. It is appropriate that we celebrate and honor her life. Mimi will be missed in our community but her dedication to international relations and her life example will be cherished forever.

NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL ON  
DEVILS LAKE

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an editorial by the Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Frank McKenna, on the crisis surrounding Devils Lake.

[From the New York Times, May 12, 2005]

HELL FROM HIGH WATER

(By Frank McKenna)

WASHINGTON.—A crisis looms on the United States border with Canada, and it could easily be averted with some research and a little patience.

The problem stems from a body of water in North Dakota known as Devils Lake. The lake has no natural drainage, and because North Dakota has drained surrounding wetlands, it has risen 26 feet since 1993, flooding nearby communities. In Canada, we are sympathetic to the plight of the lake's neighbors, but not to the solution their state has proposed.

In June, North Dakota plans to open an outlet that will let Devils Lake water travel into the Sheyenne River and on into the Red River, which flows north into Canada. From there the water will eventually stream into Lake Winnipeg and the Hudson Bay watershed.

Devils Lake, a remnant of a shallow glacial sea, is a closed ecological system that has been geographically separate from the surrounding Hudson Bay basin for more than a thousand years. Its salty waters have high concentrations of nitrogen, sulfates and phosphates—minerals that could cause severe digestive distress if consumed and could be lethal to aquatic life. Because of these contaminants, North Dakota does not allow Devils Lake waters to be used for irrigation.

Once the canal is opened, the pollutants will enter the water supply of downstream communities in North Dakota, Minnesota and Manitoba. Moreover, species of fish, plants, parasites and viruses previously confined in Devils Lake, in some cases for millenniums, will spill out into the Sheyenne and Red Rivers. There they could kill the native plants and fish of the larger ecosystem. The consequences for Lake Winnipeg, the largest freshwater fishery in North America, are particularly worrisome.

Despite concerns on both sides of the border about maintaining safe water sources, North Dakota has decided to pump out Devils Lake water without undertaking any environmental assessment or establishing ecological safeguards.

There is a solution to this impending crisis. Nearly 100 years ago, Canada and the United States established the Boundary Waters Treaty. Under that treaty the two governments set up an International Joint Commission to address differences of opinion involving boundary waters. So far, of the 53 issues the two countries have jointly referred to the commission, 51 have been resolved by mutual agreement.

For over a year, Canada has been requesting that North Dakota put off pumping water while the United States and Canada refer the issue to the commission for a time-limited, independent, scientific review. Both the Canadian and Manitoban governments have stated that they will support the commission's finding, whatever it may be. The governors of Minnesota and Missouri, as well as many other officials, have expressed sup-

port for the Canadian request in letters to the United States secretary of state.

At their March meeting in Waco, Texas, President Bush, Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada and President Vicente Fox of Mexico pledged to enhance water quality "by working bilaterally, trilaterally and through existing regional bodies." Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice should demonstrate the strength of that commitment by joining Canada in referring the Devils Lake project to the joint commission.

If instead the Devils Lake project goes forward without a review, it will damage not only the region's environment and economy, but also North America's most important bilateral water management arrangement. There is a better solution.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HEALTH  
WEEK

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Women's Health Week. It is only within the past decade that scientists have begun to uncover significant biological and physiological differences between men and women. Before that time, women were regularly left out of clinical trials and it was simply assumed that women's bodies would respond to medication in the same way as men's bodies.

Thanks to the efforts of women in the House and Senate, and dedicated organizations such as the Society for Women's Health Research, to mandate that women be included in clinical trials, we are now gaining greater knowledge of the unique differences between the genders—from the composition of bone matter and the experience of pain, to the metabolism of certain drugs and the rate of brain activity—and what we need to do to ensure optimal health care for everyone.

As an ovarian cancer survivor, I understand that research on women's health can both improve and save lives. As a result of such research, death rates have decreased for women with tumors of the cervix, breast, uterus, and ovary due to advances in detection and treatment, such as the development of a cervical cancer vaccine. Quality of life has also improved for cancer patients through the development of less invasive surgical techniques, organ-sparing treatments, and better control of pain and nausea related to chemotherapy.

Women's health research can also lead to less expensive treatments and cost-saving prevention strategies. For example, the total economic value to Americans from reductions in mortality from cardiovascular disease, which strikes 50,000 more women than men each year, averaged \$1.5 trillion annually between 1970 and 1990.

While progress has been made in recent years, there is still much more that Congress can do to improve women's health. The Office of Research on Women's Health, ORWH, in the Office of the Director at NIH must be fully funded so that it can continue supporting the expansion and funding of peer-reviewed Specialized Centers of Research on Sex and Gender Factors Affecting Women's Health, SCOR, and the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health, BIRCWH, programs.

In addition, I urge Congress to pass the Women's Health Office Act (S. 569/H.R. 949), which will permanently authorize the existing offices of women's health in five federal agencies: the Department of Health and Human Services; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; the Health Resources and Services Administration; and the Food and Drug Administration. This will allow these offices to continue to carry out their important work without facing underfunding, understaffing, or elimination in the future.

Finally, Congress should further encourage NIH to update and modify its guidelines to actively promote sex differences research at all levels, including basic research in cell and tissue culture, development and study of appropriate animal models, and in early stage clinical research.

I would like to commend the Society for Women's Health Research for its tireless efforts to improve the health of both women and men. I hope that during Women's Health Week, all Members will take a moment to consider the importance of passing these measures and continuing our commitment to women's health.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST  
WISHES TO COLONEL ALAN R.  
LYNN

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great Army officer and soldier, Colonel Alan R. Lynn, and to thank him for his contributions to the Army and the country. On Thursday, June 2, 2005, Colonel Lynn will relinquish command of the Army's 3rd Signal Brigade which is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, for reassignment to the Army Staff in Washington, DC.

Colonel Lynn began his military career in 1979 following his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania at California, Pennsylvania. Commissioned as an Air Defense Artillery officer from ROTC he completed several successful assignments in the Air Defense Artillery before he transferred to the U.S. Army Signal Corps. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm he served as the 1st Brigade Signal Officer with the fabled 101st Airborne Division. In 1997, he commanded the 13th Signal Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division both at Fort Hood, Texas and in Bosnia with Task Force Eagle. Colonel Lynn took command of the 3rd Signal Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas, on June 13, 2002. He deployed the Brigade to 66 separate locations throughout Iraq in January, 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom creating the largest tactical communications network in Army history. For over a decade Alan has been tested in conflict and hardened in battle to become one of the Army's finest and most experienced Signal Corps commanders.

Alan is a consummate professional whose performance personifies those traits of courage, competency, and commitment that our Nation has come to expect from its Army officers. It is with sadness that we wish him Godspeed and good luck as he leaves Fort Hood for his new assignment.

Alan's career has reflected his deep commitment to our Nation, and has been characterized by dedicated, selfless service, love for soldiers and their families and a commitment to excellence. I ask Members to join me in offering our heartfelt appreciation for a job well done and best wishes for continued success to a great soldier and friend—Colonel Alan R. Lynn.

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HONORING GHAZAROS KADEMIAN

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ghazaros Kademian, a resident of Glendale, Californian and a 96-year-old survivor of the Armenian Genocide. The courage of survivors like Mr. Kademian reminds all mankind of the extraordinary strength and determination of the Armenian people who endured the unspeakable atrocities perpetrated against them by the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1923.

Ghazaros Kademian was just six years old when his family was forced into exile from their homeland in the village of Zaitoun (modern day Sulaimane, Turkey). His mother saved him and his siblings by fleeing the oncoming slaughter of the Ottoman Turks. His father stayed behind to defend their village and was murdered by the Turk gendarmes. The family only had the clothes on their backs during the long journey away from their home. Mr. Kademian does not remember all the details of his family's tragic journey, except that it was harrowing, and they had no idea where they were going.

They ended their perilous flight in Kirkuk, in what is now northern Iraq. He remembers very vividly that first night in Kirkuk with his mother. They hugged each other for warmth and slept in front of a church for protection. That was the young Ghazaros's last embrace with his mother. In the morning he discovered that she had died from the cold and hunger. Separated from his brother and sister, he was left orphaned and homeless, in a town where he did not speak the language.

After several days he found shelter with a local Muslim man who took him in, washed him, and fed him. Ghazaros was eventually given an ultimatum by the stranger to accept Islam and a new life or to leave. Proud of his heritage as a Christian Armenian, the brave youngster refused. Ghazaros did not give up his faith and was finally released after enduring days of physical abuse. Fortunately, an Arab Christian family rescued the young survivor from the streets and gave him a new loving home. After some time he was able to reconnect with his siblings and other survivors of the Armenian Genocide. Mr. Kademian went on to marry an Armenian girl named Azadouhi from Beirut, Lebanon, had three children Ohannes, Asdghig and Anahid, and seven grandchildren.

The tragic events of 1915–1923 are part of the dark pages of history. However, the horrors of the Armenian Genocide have not diminished by the passage of time. It is our sacred obligation to honor the memory of the

one and a half million men, women, and children systematically murdered during the Armenian Genocide, and the estimated half million more who were forced into exile. The story of Ghazaros Kademian's family is terrible and tragic, but not uncommon. It is our responsibility to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide and collectively demand reaffirmation of this crime against humanity.

I am very proud to honor Ghazaros Kademian of California's 29th Congressional District and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in paying tribute to this inspiring individual and the important lessons his experience illustrates.

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HONORING HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY'S FIRST U.S. ASSEMBLY AND MANUFACTURING PLANT IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the completion and grand opening of Hyundai Motor Company's first U.S. automotive assembly and manufacturing plant on May 20th in Montgomery, Alabama.

Hyundai broke ground on its \$1.1 billion Alabama facility in April 2002. When Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama reaches peak production, it will employ approximately 2,000 people and produce 300,000 vehicles per year. Hyundai's in-state suppliers will provide another 4,500 jobs and invest more than \$500 million in the local economy.

This plant is the most advanced automobile manufacturing facility in the world, using state of the art robotics and other technologies. Hyundai is truly creating quality jobs and quality products in Alabama.

I am proud to welcome Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama to our Montgomery area and look forward to the job opportunities it will provide for our motivated workforce from central Alabama to the Wiregrass.

I would like to applaud Hyundai for its commitment to building quality products, and its confidence in the great state of Alabama to continue that tradition.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF JON SCRIBNER

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of a fine man, longtime Alaskan Jon Scribner. Jon was from Juneau, where he had served as the Regional Director of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. In this job, Jon managed transportation issues for Southeast Alaska. He loved his job and did it well; he will be badly missed by his many friends and co-workers in Juneau.

Scribner, 63, died May 12, 2005 at elevation 3,100 feet, in an accidental fall while returning from a successful climb of Mount Stroller White near Juneau.

He was born March 1, 1942, in San Francisco, California and was raised in Weed, California. Jon majored in civil engineering and played basketball at the University of California Davis. For part of his senior year, he had been a bench warmer until he entered late into a game when his team was so far behind that the coach figured the game was lost. Jon intercepted passes, stole balls, and single-handedly scored about a dozen points in less than two minutes. Davis won and Scribner started the rest of the season.

After UC Davis, Jon earned a master's degree in engineering from Stanford, which had a distinguished program in environmental engineering.

He married Kathryn (Kit) Duggan of Carmel, California, on June 10, 1967.

After Stanford, Jon served his nation honorably in the Army Medical Service. Captain Scribner taught at the Medical Field Service School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas from 1967 to 1969. He had been selected as faculty based upon his academic record and related credentials.

Jon and Kit moved in 1969 to Alaska, and he worked for the Alaska Department of Health and Welfare in Fairbanks. In 1971, they moved to Juneau, where he served as director of air and water quality for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. He was a senior official in the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, serving as assistant deputy commissioner for design and construction and as director of the department's Southeast Alaska Region. He served at the pleasure of Governors Hammond, Sheffield, Cowper, Hickel, and Knowles. His repeated reappointments attest to his integrity and hard work.

He retired from state service in 1997 after a career publicly recognized for professionalism and accomplishment. When he left the department, then-Juneau Mayor Dennis Egan proclaimed his retirement date, Feb. 7, 1997, as Jonathan Scribner Day in the city. The proclamation included thanks for Scribner getting a Thane Road project out to bid on his last day of work.

In the legislature, the speaker of the House and president of the Senate signed a statement honoring Scribner for his contributions. "All Alaskans, both now and in the future, will continue to benefit from his efforts," it said.

The couple raised their family in Juneau, where they enjoyed boating, hunting, fishing, bird watching, scuba diving, and hiking. They made frequent visits with family to the Mount Shasta area of California. He traveled Southeast Alaska with his 24-foot Bayliner cruiser, Mandy Ann, speeding family and close friends from one end of Southeast Alaska to the other.

He is survived by his wife, Kit; his daughters, Jennifer Laitinen and her husband Todd, and Amanda Mallott and her husband Anthony; his son, Nathan; and his grandson Tyler and granddaughter Addison.

Lu and I send our deepest sympathies to them in their hour of loss. We hope they are comforted by the memory of Jon's very full life, and of his many friends and admirers. I consider myself one of them.

HONORING MARK MORGAN

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to honor Mark Morgan of Laurel, Mississippi today. Mark was returning home one evening when he passed a vehicle that had pulled to the side of a bridge. Despite the dark and his own exhaustion, Mark pulled over to be sure the woman who sat in the car alone did not need any assistance. Little did Mark know he had just answered the prayers of a worried family and community.

Louise Martin had left church to drive home; she'd become confused and lost. Eventually her car ran out of gas, leaving her stranded along a rarely traveled stretch of highway. After Mark stopped, he called Mrs. Martin's family and told them he was going to bring her home. Nearly twelve hours after Mrs. Martin left her church, she was reunited with her husband and family.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Morgan is a shining example of the spirit of concern and the willingness to aid others.

THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDU-  
CATION DECISION

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today when civil liberties are under attack, and anti-poverty, anti-immigrant, anti-affirmative action, conservative ideology dictates everything from science to whether social safety nets will continue to exist; we cannot afford to lose the protection of a fair and impartial court.

When minorities and otherwise powerless groups had no other protection of our rights, the courts have been the only refuge and remedy. As we commemorate the 51st Anniversary of the *Brown vs. Board of Education*, we are reminded of the importance of those who are nominated to the judiciary system.

*Brown vs. the Board of Education* was a landmark decision, whose intention is still being fulfilled. One test that we can use as the Senate comes to the brink of disaster, over the final remaining seven judges, is whether based on their past decisions and behavior on the bench, would we have had such a landmark decision such as "Brown" had they been on the bench in 1954. I think we can say not!

Federal judges are immensely powerful—all cases raising constitutional issues, including school prayer, abortion, and freedom of speech are heard before a single federal judge at the trial level and a panel of federal judges on appeal. All judges are expected to follow the law, not their personal convictions, but one can get a sense of how a judge thinks by looking at previous rulings as well as writings and comments.

The nominees at issue are radical conservatives whose views are far to the right of the mainstream on issues such as abortion, the environment, and the worker protection. And their terms are not two, four or six years.

Should they be confirmed, we would be subject to their dangerous judicial activism for life.

That is why the threshold must be high and their judicial history weighed heavily against the values of this country upon which our Constitution was founded.

SUPPORTING INCREASED FUNDING  
FOR THE NEA AND NEH

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this amendment and strongly urge its adoption.

Our contributions to the arts and humanities are the standard by which our history as a society will be measured. A strong public commitment to the arts and humanities, along with a dedication to freedom, is the hallmark of great civilizations. History has shown that religious and political freedoms go hand in hand with greater artistic and literary activity, and that the societies that flourish and have a lasting influence on humanity are those that encourage free expression in all of its forms. This is a lesson that resonates with people of every age, background, and belief, and one we can guarantee our children learn.

By sharing ideas and images from a diverse range of backgrounds and through many different media, the arts and humanities help to create a more informed citizenry. We are better prepared to meet the responsibilities of democracy; to ask ourselves the hard questions; to demand of our leaders the full answers; and to judge fairly the actual and potential endeavors of our country.

Our support for the arts and humanities also has a profound impact on our economy. In my Congressional District, there are over 2000 arts-related businesses, providing more than ten thousand jobs. This creates a substantial economic impact. In Fiscal Year 2000, for example, the arts industry contributed more than \$92 million in revenue to Westchester County alone. Nationwide, the figures are even more impressive. The arts are a \$134 billion industry sustaining nearly 5 million jobs. While the federal government spends just over \$250 million on the NEA and NEH annually—approximately 40 cents per person—it collects over \$10 billion in tax revenue related to the arts industry. NEA and NEH dollars are crucial to the arts community, helping them leverage more state, local, and private funds. Clearly, the numbers show that investment in the arts is important not only to our national identity, but also to our national economy.

Mr. Speaker, we must act decisively to commit ourselves to our national heritage and culture, by voting to increase funding for the NEA and NEH. I urge my colleagues to support creativity and reflection, to support our economy, and to support the continued growth and expression of democracy in its fullest form.

IN MEMORY OF PAULETTE  
COPELAND**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of my constituent Ms. Paulette Copeland, an outstanding educator, a committed labor leader, and an exemplary community activist who lost her battle with cancer May 16, at the age of 61. Ms. Copeland made numerous and profound contributions to the lives of Milwaukee residents. Her death is a loss for the entire community.

A native of Milwaukee and graduate of the Milwaukee Public Schools, Ms. Copeland was devoted to public education. The impact of her commitment is apparent in every corner of this city. As an educator in the Milwaukee Public Schools for 30 years, Ms. Copeland taught hundreds of children. She was widely recognized as an advocate for children, and was especially devoted to serving children with special needs. She believed deeply that every child could learn, and strove, every day, to find teaching methods that would speak to the needs of each child she encountered.

Not only a gifted and brilliant teacher, Ms. Copeland was also a noted community leader and civil rights activist. As the first African-American President of the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association (MTEA), she led with a gentle but insistent style. Under her guidance, MTEA's agenda came to reflect more deeply the concerns and needs of the African-American community. As a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Ms. Copeland led an effort to reduce suspensions within MPS by offering cultural sensitivity training to teachers and other staff.

Working with others from around the country, Ms. Copeland participated in the successful struggle to designate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a national holiday. In Milwaukee, she helped found a writing contest for elementary, middle and high school students, which has become a cornerstone of local King Day celebrations. More recently, she served as chairperson of the Women in the NAACP Committee, reactivating this group even while she battled cancer.

Ms. Copeland was also a devoted wife, mother and sister, and my thoughts and prayers go out to her loving family. We will all miss her wit and wisdom, and her commitment to the Milwaukee's children. Her life and work honor our community.

RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF THE CITY OF TREN-  
TON, IL

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the City of Trenton.

This past weekend, the City of Trenton celebrated the establishment of their city. In 1818,

William Lewis and his brother-in-law, A.W. Casad of Trenton, New Jersey located Lewis' farm at the location where the city now stands. A few years later, in 1825, the first church congregated with others soon to follow.

In 1853 the area found itself in need of a Post Office, which was given the name of Trenton. On May 14, 1855, Trenton, Illinois was established. Less than a year later, on February 16, 1856, the Village of Trenton was chartered with Joseph Hanke as the first mayor. A little over 30 years later, on September 20, 1887, Trenton was incorporated as a city.

In 1955, the year of its centennial, with a population of 1,400, the City of Trenton was given the nickname, the "Friendly City", and went on, in 2003, to receive the Governor's Hometown Award.

Today, the City of Trenton has grown to a city of 2,700 citizens under the current mayor, Robert Louis Koentz.

Here's to the City of Trenton and all who reside there.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 40th year of existence of the Grace Baptist Church of Alpine, Tennessee. The congregation will celebrate the anniversary on May 29, 2004, with a special service.

Grace Baptist Church has grown from its original 25 members to more than 100 members today. The church serves the community through weekly jail ministries, bimonthly nursing home services in Livingston, Tennessee, and Saturday youth activities. Grace Baptist Church devotionals are also heard daily on the local radio station in Livingston.

Grace Baptist Church supports missionaries every month, and members have taken mission trips to Yucatan, Mexico, and Laredo, Texas, to visit the missions they've supported. In fact, Pastor John Copeland has been to Laredo three times. "It's amazing how God can turn lives around," Pastor Copeland has said.

Overtown County is a better place because of the work of Grace Baptist Church and its congregation. I am sure the church will continue to make a positive difference in the community for the next 40 years, as well. I congratulate the congregation and Pastor Copeland for all the good they have done. I also want to recognize one of the founding members of Grace Baptist Church, Bruce Ledford, who currently serves as a deacon there. Congratulations to you, too, Bruce for 40 years of service.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 30th Annual Capital Pride Festival,

a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT communities, their families and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current week long celebration. This year Capital Pride culminates with the Pride Parade on June 12th and a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol.

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community. Each year the Parade stops for a moment of silence to remember those who have died in the preceding year. That quiet will be particularly poignant as will remember local two women, who, in confronting injustice, were never silent: Wanda Alston and my frequent marching and running companion, Sister Maria, O.W., the Blue Nun.

This year's theme of "Honor Our Past, Fight for Our Future" holds special meaning for the citizens of the District of Columbia and its GLBT community in particular. Eleven years ago the District of Columbia lost the first vote it ever won on the floor of the House of Representatives, the delegate vote in the Committee of the Whole. The Republicans retracted the District's vote when they assumed control of the House. Our city of nearly 600,000 residents, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States subject to Taxation Without Representation. Our Nation's Capital is entitled to that vote on the House floor now and to our birthright as American Citizens of full voting representation in Congress.

The joy of the Capital Pride Festival contrasts with the unhappy lot of GLBT soldiers who volunteer to protect our country with their lives, but must serve in silence and without the open support of their chosen families and communities, neither asking nor telling. The Armed Forces' homophobic policies, especially as they apply them to their own speakers of critical languages cannot continue to compromise our national security. Congress must pass The Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2005 this session.

IN HONOR OF ST. ADALBERT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

**HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. To begin the year-long celebration, the parish will hold its opening ceremony event on May 21, 2005, in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Founded in 1905, St. Adalbert was developed from the hopes and dreams of Polish immigrants in the Elizabeth area. Longing for a place of worship that would serve the needs of Polish-speaking Americans, the original members each contributed their own money to purchase land and construct the church. As it prepares for its centennial celebration, we look

back and honor the innumerable contributions that St. Adalbert has made to the Elizabeth community. Though the building was constructed in just one year, this parish has spent the last century providing strong spiritual support for its members.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church for 100 years of religious commitment and excellence in serving the people of Elizabeth, New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WARREN "CLIP" SMITH

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to the late Warren "Clip" Smith, a veteran broadcast personality and civic leader who touched the lives of thousands through his career and work in the Western New York community. The life-long Lockport resident is fondly remembered by thousands following his unexpected passing on August 21, 2004.

From the 1960s on, the "Clipper," as he was commonly referred, was a respected name in the radio and television industry, earning a reputation for his strong opinions, as well as his quick wit and one-liner quips. His career began as Operations Manager and Director of News and Sports for WUSJ Radio, now known as WLVL in Lockport. He went on to serve as anchor, reporter and sports play-by-play announcer with WKBW-TV Channel 7 in Buffalo, New York, from 1971 to 1989, later working as a reporter and talk show host with WGR Radio in Buffalo from 1991 to 1995. Clip was also a widely recognized commentator and reporter with WBEN Radio in Buffalo. Finally, from 1990 until the time of his death, Clip served as anchor, reporter and in public relations for the Empire Sports Network in Buffalo.

The multi-talented Clipper also was a musician. He was a member of the Lockport Federation of Musicians and a professional member of the American Federation of Musicians; Clip was a concert soloist on the trombone, euphonium, tuba and string bass.

But above all else, Clip will be remembered for the active civic role he played, always ready to take up the citizens' cause on a variety of issues. Clip served on a local board of education from 2003-2004, was active with Lockport Rotary Club, Literacy Volunteers, Buffalo City Mission, New York State Recycling Congress, and the Niagara County Republican Committee. He also was a member of several local unions.

Western New Yorkers will always remember Clip as a respected community leader and a dear friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in honoring the late Warren "Clip" Smith, and recognize his years of service to the community and broadcast industry.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 182, on May 18, 2005, on Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 283, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 1817, Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, I would have voted "yes."

## BULGARIA—AN ALLY AND FRIEND

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Republic of Bulgaria on its continued—and unwavering—support of the United States both in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am particularly encouraged by Bulgaria's commitment in Iraq. In defiance of great pressure to withdraw its troops, Bulgaria has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States in bringing freedom and democracy to the Iraqi people.

One need only look to Bulgaria's past to recognize the significance of its actions now. A former Soviet bloc country, Bulgaria was a cold war adversary of the United States. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, however, Bulgaria has revitalized its economy, entered the world market, and contributed to peacekeeping operations around the globe. Indeed, bold steps supported by a profound vision for the future, have resulted in great progress. Today, Bulgaria is one of the newest members of NATO, and it is finalizing its accession to the European Union.

Perhaps the most striking illustration of Bulgaria's evolution from cold war adversary to strategic ally, is its willingness to actively promote democracy beyond its borders—particularly in Iraq. As a member of the United Nations Security Council during the Iraq debate, Bulgaria voted with the United States concerning the use of military force in Iraq. Bulgaria also routinely grants to the United States the use of its airspace, and has offered ground, air, and naval basing rights.

Most importantly, however, Bulgaria has contributed to bringing peace and democracy to Iraq not only through its words, but through its sacrifices.

Bulgaria has 500 troops in Iraq and has suffered 8 deaths there. Yet it remains resolute. On the day that two Bulgarian contractors were murdered in Iraq, the Bulgarian Government recommitted its support and later increased its troop level. The surest way to establish peace is to stand up to the terrorists and not turn and run, which encourages more terrorist barbarism.

For Bulgaria, this is not an insignificant commitment. This Eastern European country is one of the least developed to contribute troops to the Coalition, and doing so has greatly impacted the nation's economy. Yet despite its limited resources, Bulgarian troops have re-

built hospitals and schools, restored power and water, and provided security to numerous towns and villages—considerable accomplishments for a country that itself is a budding democracy.

Some have belittled the Coalition as simply a reporting of numbers. This disparages the great sacrifices made in Iraq by smaller nations such as Bulgaria. To the contrary, it is the contribution of these smaller nations that signals to the Iraqi people that even those nations less fortunate than the world's superpowers care deeply about the future of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I for one, am deeply grateful to our Bulgarian friends, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and commending this United States ally for its sacrifices and continuing commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know firsthand of this service having visited with Bulgarian troops in Afghanistan and my oldest son, U.S. Army Captain Alan Wilson, was eager to meet his Bulgarian colleagues during his year-long tour last fall in Iraq.

I thank you Bulgaria for your friendship to the United States, and together, we will never forget the attacks of September 11th, 2001.

## "THE YOUNG AND THE JOBLESS"

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most troubling aspects of our current economic situation is the eroding position of a very large number of working people. While I was pleasantly surprised by the relatively high number of jobs created in April, the fact is that job creation during this recovery period has significantly lagged both historical experience in recovery, and the projections of the Bush Administration. Even more distressing is that those who have gotten jobs are being paid at rates which are historically low in real terms. Distressingly, inequality in our society is increasing even as our wealth increases, and as Alan Greenspan noted a year ago, a disproportionately large share of the increased wealth has gone to corporate profits and very little to compensation paid in wages and salaries.

In a recent New York Times article, Bob Herbert does an excellent job of documenting this problem, quoting from the excellent report from the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston. Andrew Sum, the Director of that center, is appropriately quoted in that article as noting that in the current economic phase, "younger workers have just been crushed." I admire the work that Andrew Sum is doing and I appreciate Bob Herbert's giving this the broader exposure to which it is entitled. In furtherance of this need to understand what is happening in our economy today, I ask that Mr. Herbert's article be printed here.

[From the New York Times]

THE YOUNG AND THE JOBLESS

(By Bob Herbert)

There were high fives at the White House last week when the latest monthly employment report showed that 274,000 jobs had been created in April, substantially more, than experts had predicted.

The employment bar has been set so low for the Bush administration that even a modest gain is cause for celebration. But we shouldn't be blinded by the flash of last Saturday's headlines. American workers, especially younger workers, remain stuck in a gloomy employment landscape.

For example, a recent report from the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston tells us that the employment rate for the nation's teenagers in the first 11 months of 2004—just 36.3 percent was the lowest it has ever been since the federal government began tracking teenage employment in 1948.

Those 20 to 24 years old are also faring poorly. In 2000, 72.2 percent were employed during a typical month. By last year that percentage had dropped to 67.9 percent.

Even the recent modest surge in jobs has essentially bypassed young American workers. Gains among recently arrived immigrants seem to have accounted for the entire net increase in jobs from 2000 through 2004.

Over all, only workers 55 and up have done reasonably well over the past few years. "Younger workers," said Andrew Sum, the center's director, "have just been crushed."

Whatever the politicians and the business-booster types may be saying, the simple truth is that there are not nearly enough jobs available for the many millions of out-of-work or underworked men and women who need them. The wages of those who are employed are not even keeping up with inflation.

Workers have been so cowed by an environment in which they are so obviously dispensable that they have been afraid to ask for the raises they deserve, or for their share of the money derived from the remarkable increases in worker productivity over the past few years. And from one coast to the other, workers have swallowed draconian cuts in benefits with scarcely a whimper.

Some segments of the population have been all but completely frozen out. In Chicago, only one of every 10 black teenagers found employment in 2004. In Illinois, fewer than one in every three teenage high school dropouts are working.

Last month's increase of 274,000 jobs was barely enough to keep up with the increase in the nation's working-age population.

"The economy is growing and real output is up," said Mr. Sum, who is also a professor at Northeastern. "But the distribution of income, in terms of how much is going to workers—well, the answer is very little has gone to the typical worker."

The squeeze on the younger generation of workers is so tight that in many cases the young men and women of today are faring less well than their parents' generation did at a similar age. Professor Sum has been comparing the standard of living of contemporary families with that of comparable families three decades ago.

"Two-thirds of this generation are not living up to their parents' standard of living," he said.

College graduates today are doing better in real economic terms than college graduates in the 1970's. But everyone else is doing less well. "If you look at families headed by someone without a college degree," said Professor Sum, "their income last year in real terms was below that of a comparable family in 1973. For dropouts it's like 25 percent below where it was. And for high school grads, about 15 to 20 percent below."

It shouldn't be surprising that the standard of living of large segments of the population is sinking when employers have all the clout, including the powerful and unwavering support of the federal government. Workers can't even get a modest increase in the national minimum wage.

Globalization was supposed to be great for everyone. Nafta was supposed to be a boon. Increased productivity was supposed to be the ultimate tool—the sine qua non—for raising the standard of living for all.

Instead, wealth and power in the United States has become ever more dangerously concentrated, leaving an entire generation of essentially powerless workers largely at the mercy of employers.

A remark by Louis Brandeis comes to mind: “We can have democracy in this country, or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few. But we can’t have both.”

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HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE OF MILLARD OAKLEY

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**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding support that Livingston, Tennessee, resident Millard Oakley has shown his community and the education of its children. In fact, Millard is being honored by Volunteer State Community College as its Friend of the Year this weekend for his unprecedented support of the college and higher education.

Millard is a lifelong resident of Livingston who prospered after receiving a first-rate education in the community’s public school systems and at nearby Tennessee Technological University and Cumberland University School of Law. A successful attorney and businessman who remembers his humble beginnings, Millard recently made a significant contribution for capital improvements at the Livingston campus of Vol State. He also established the Oakley First National Foundation, which awards full scholarships to Overton County students attending Vol State, Tennessee Technological University or the Tennessee Technology Center.

Millard’s life is a prime example of what a good education and the proper motivation can do for a country boy raised in the rural hills of Tennessee. He has served in the Tennessee General Assembly, as the state’s Insurance Commissioner, in the state’s Constitutional Convention, as the Overton County Attorney and as the general counsel of the U.S. House of Representative’s Select Committee on Small Business. He presently serves on the board of directors of the First National Banks of Tennessee in Livingston, Cookeville and Crossville, and of Thomas Nelson Publishers, the world’s largest Bible-publishing company.

I cannot count the times I have sought Millard’s advice on a wide range of issues. He has always given me his honest opinion and wise counsel, and I sincerely thank him for that. Millard is a true friend to me, his community and the Overton County students who benefit from his generosity. Once again, I congratulate Millard for his unselfish devotion to his community and to those who seek a better life through education.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON ON  
THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED  
ACT OF 2005

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the first comprehensive clean-up plan for the Anacostia River. It has been called the “forgotten river,” “a neighborhood river,” “the dirtiest river in America” and an especially appropriate name would be the congressional river. The current original cosponsors include Representatives JIM MORAN, TOM DAVIS, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, ROBERT BRADY, ED MARKEY, ALBERT WYNN, and RAUL GRIJALVA and I expect additional regional members who signed on when I originally introduced the bill during the last Congress to do so again. The Anacostia River flows within 2,000 yards of the Capitol Dome. For years the Anacostia River and region have been associated with blight and despair. Like many cities across America in the past few years that have developed their waterfronts, the District of Columbia government has decided to end the underutilization of the riverfront by creating the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, dedicated to developing the Anacostia waterfront. However before development and hope can be brought to this area of the city, the river must be cleaned up. If the river is cleaned, it could be a very important economic development asset for the entire region. With a cleaned up river, visions of restaurants, parks, office buildings and pedestrian walkways will become a reality.

The bill introduced today would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a program within the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) known as the “Anacostia Watershed Restoration Initiative.” This initiative would create an “Anacostia Watershed Council,” composed of the EPA Administrator, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Interior, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Governor of Maryland, the Governor of Virginia and the County Executives of Montgomery and Prince George’s County. The primary responsibility of the council would be to develop an action plan for the restoration, protection, and enhancement of the environmental integrity and social and economic benefits of the Anacostia watershed. Several federal agencies, such as the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, the EPA, and Army Corps of Engineers would be involved in the development and implementation of the action plan. This bill also calls for \$3 million for each of 10 years to be authorized for use by the EPA, and \$1 million for each of 10 years would be authorized for the other agencies. The strong Federal involvement in the bill reflects not only the location of the river, but also that Federal facilities represent the major source of its pollution.

This vital piece of legislation also would amend the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to authorize \$150 million to repair and upgrade the District’s inadequate combined sewer overflow system, a critical part of cleaning up the river. The District’s combined sewer system was designed and constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers 160 years ago. The sewer system services Federal

downtown DC, including the Capitol complex. As such, the Federal Government is directly responsible for the sewage and pollution that drains into the Anacostia River on a daily basis. I had secured a \$35 million authorization in last Congress’s WRDA bill in 2003, but the Senate never acted. This year I have requested \$150 million, even though this amount is not enough to help the District address the combined sewer overflow problem. However, this authorization will be a major step toward correcting a serious problem.

This bill also will be the first step in bringing real hope to a region often referred to as “east of the river”. With this bill, this once neglected region of our Nation’s capital will become a thriving gathering place for tourists and residents of this region. 60 Minutes recently captured the story of the young people who are cleaning up the Anacostia River in a moving segment entitled “Endangered Species.” These young members of the Earth Conservation Corps (ECC) are working not only to clean up the river but to “empower our endangered youth to reclaim the Anacostia River, their communities, and their lives.” With the Anacostia River as their classroom, the ECC has been able to achieve positive strides, both environmentally and socially. There is more we can do to support and expand their efforts and help Anacostia to become the jewel of the District of Columbia.

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IN HONOR OF JOSÉ C. CAYÓN  
DIÉGUEZ

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor José C. Cayón Diéguez, an accomplished Cuban-American journalist who has dedicated his career to reporting on and promoting issues important to the Hispanic community. Mr. Cayón Diéguez is the founder of *El Tiempo de Nuevo York*, New Jersey and Miami.

Launched in 1963, this weekly newspaper offers stories and insight into the lives of Hispanics throughout the United States. Mr. Cayón Diéguez has served as the director and guiding force behind this New York-based publication for the past 33 years. During that time, he has proven himself to be an outstanding leader and a strong voice within the Hispanic community. As the manager and contributing editor of the paper, Mr. Cayón Diéguez has become a spokesman for the causes important to community organizations such as the Puerto Rican Parade Committee, the Puerto Rican Folklore Festival, the Columbian Civic Center, and the Dominican Cultural Civic Center, among others. In addition to his work with *El Tiempo de Nuevo York*, New Jersey and Miami, he was also the editor for the first Hispanic Guide to New Jersey and New York.

Mr. Cayón Diéguez is an active member of the community, who volunteers his time and takes on leadership roles in a multitude of organizations. In the past he has served as treasurer of the National Federation of Hispanic Owned Newspapers, vice-president of the Hispanic Media Council, director of art and columnist for the *Diario Hispanoamericano*,

and columnist for the weekly paper *Zig Zag*. He has also served on the board of directors for the National Association of Cuban Journalists.

For his exemplary work, Mr. Cayón Diéguez has received numerous awards and accolades, including being named one of the 100 most outstanding Hispanic journalists by *Hispanic Media 100*.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring José C. Cayón Diéguez for his impressive career accomplishments and his dedication to serving the Hispanic community. I applaud him for the positive impact he has made through his work as a journalist, and I am confident that he will continue to enrich the lives of those who read his publication in the years to come.

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TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE RICHARD BYRD

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to draw the attention of the House to the passing of my friend and one of Missouri's finest elected officials, the Honorable Richard Byrd. Richard Byrd was known for his ready helping hand and his deep commitment to the people he represented.

Returning home last Saturday, the day after the first half of the 96th Session of the Missouri General Assembly was completed, Representative Byrd collapsed of an apparent heart attack after carrying his suitcase into his home. A friend to many, his death was a shock to all who knew him.

Richard Byrd received his JD from Washington University Law School and practiced commercial litigation law while serving as a Kirkwood, Missouri city councilman from 1994–2000. He served in the Missouri State House representing the Kirkwood area since 2000, where he made his mark by always listening both to colleagues and constituents, by his consistent willingness to help draft bills and amendments, and by explaining the legal ramifications of complex legislative proposals.

Richard Byrd worked hard to the very end. He was known for burning the midnight oil, always happy to help those who came to him for advice, and had a quick eye for detail. He had the ability to influence those around him and when he spoke, others listened and respected what he had to say.

A man involved in his community, he served on the St. Louis County Charter Commission, on the board of directors of the Missouri and St. Louis Easter Seals organizations, and assistant district commissioner of the St. Louis Area Boy Scouts. He was a member of the Kirkwood Rotary, Chamber of Commerce and coached soccer at St. Genevieve DuBois Catholic Church.

We extend our deepest condolences to his lovely wife, Moira, and their children Richard and Eleanor. We are also thankful for his life—a life of service well-lived. Richard, you will be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, Mr. Chen Shui-bian was re-elected president of the Republic of China on Taiwan. On the occasion of the first anniversary of his second term in office, I offer my congratulations to President Chen and the people of Taiwan.

President Chen continues to work to ensure Taiwan's democracy and freedom, and seeks reconciliation and cooperation with Taiwan's opposition party leaders. He also is leading Taiwan's efforts to gain membership in the World Health Organization and other international organizations. Without membership or observership in the World Health Organization, Taiwan is literally an orphan in the world health arena.

I am pleased that our government has come out strongly in support of Taiwan's bid for World Health Assembly observership this May.

As we join our friends in Taiwan in celebrating President Chen's anniversary, we also recognize Taiwan's steps toward democratization. These include Taiwan's end of martial law in 1987, first direct presidential election in 1996, first change of governing party in 2000 and first national referendum in 2004. Taiwan's example is encouraging to all those who seek and support freedom and democracy around the world.

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A TRIBUTE TO THE CAREER OF JOHN H. JOHNSON

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the life of John H. Johnson. Born in 1918 in Arkansas City, Arkansas, Mr. Johnson has set an example for us all by being both an entrepreneur and a philanthropist. I would like to recognize Mr. Johnson's contributions to Arkansas and our Nation.

Mr. Johnson is the founder, publisher, and chairman of Johnson Publishing Company, the world's largest African-American owned publishing Company. He is also the publisher of *Ebony* and *Jet* Magazines. *Ebony* alone has a circulation of 1.7 million people and reaches 11 million readers monthly.

In 1982, Mr. Johnson was the first African American to be named on *Forbes'* list of the 400 wealthiest Americans. Mr. Johnson's long list of awards and achievements include: the Black Journalists' Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987, the Wall Street Journal/Dow Jones Entrepreneurial Excellence Award in 1993, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996—the highest honor this nation gives to a citizen, the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame Award in 2001, The Vanguard Award in 2002, and The Trumpet Award in 2002.

Arkansas City and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff have worked together to create the John H. Johnson Cultural and Education Museum. On Saturday, May 21st this

museum will be dedicated in Desha County, Arkansas. This museum will capture Mr. Johnson's life by restoring his boyhood home and will include period memorabilia, printed material, and video chronicles about Mr. Johnson's life.

In addition to the museum, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is in the planning stages of opening a learning center in Arkansas City and an academic complex at the University of Arkansas of Pine Bluff. These institutions will undoubtedly become a tremendous asset and staple of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Johnson, and am delighted that the John H. Johnson Cultural Education Museum will be open for Arkansans to see firsthand Mr. Johnson's lifetime of work and contributions to our nation. His dedication, entrepreneurial spirit, and legacy will continue in Arkansas for the years and decades ahead.

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RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITY OF TRENTON, IL

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the City of Trenton.

This past weekend, the City of Trenton celebrated the establishment of their city. In 1818, William Lewis and his brother-in-law, A.W. Casad of Trenton, New Jersey located Lewis' farm at the location where the city now stands. A few years later, in 1825, the first church congregated with others soon to follow.

In 1853 the area found itself in need of a Post Office, which was given the name of Trenton. On May 14, 1855, Trenton, Illinois was established. Less than a year later, on February 16, 1856, the Villiage of Trenton was chartered with Joseph Hanke as the first Mayor. A little over 30 years later, on September 20, 1887, Trenton was incorporated as a City.

In 1955, the year of its centennial, with a population of 1,400, the City of Trenton was given the nickname, the "Friendly City", and went on, in 2003, to receive the Governor's Hometown Award.

Today, the City of Trenton has grown to a city of 2,700 citizens under the current Mayor, Robert Louis Koentz.

Here's to the City of Trenton and all who reside there.

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HONORING THE 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 190th year of existence of the Hurricane Baptist Church of Lebanon, Tennessee. The congregation will celebrate the church's anniversary on Sunday, May 29, 2005, with an afternoon program.

Founded in 1815, Hurricane Baptist Church is the fifth oldest Baptist church in Wilson County. Located on the edge of the Cedars of Lebanon State Park, the church began with about 30 members. Today, Hurricane Baptist Church has 190 members.

The Hurricane Baptist Church facility was built in 1907. Since that time, the church has added a fellowship hall and Sunday School rooms. Church records dating back to 1897 were lost when clerk W.B. Edwards' home was destroyed by fire. Some records survived through the Baptist association and other sources.

Ollie Edwards Lester, a descendent of W.B. Edwards, and Elsie Lou Williams Merritt are two of the surviving members among the 36 original members baptized in Hurricane Creek during a service in 1925. "It's been a family church," said brother James Gordon Williams, the 38th pastor of Hurricane Baptist Church. Brother Williams is the fourth generation of his family to be a member of the church. Four generations of the Flatt family have also attended Hurricane Baptist Church.

Former members, their families, old friends and new have been invited to join "The Little White Church down in Cedar Forest" on its special day of thanksgiving and praise. I am sure Hurricane Baptist Church will continue to make a positive difference in the community for the next 190 years. I cordially congratulate the congregation and Brother Williams for all the good they have done.

STATEMENT TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

HON. DENNIS KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on May 12, 2005, I made the following statement during a hearing in the House Committee on Government Reform on "Securing Our Borders: What We Have Learned from Government Initiatives and Citizen Patrols":

Good afternoon. Thank you, Chairman Davis, for holding this important hearing and thank you to the witnesses. We can all agree on the tremendous importance of securing our border. But frankly, I am not confident in how our government has been handling border security one bit. I have two concrete examples of deficiencies on the part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection that my office has been investigating that I'd like to highlight—that I think are representative of a much greater problem.

The first case involves how U.S. Customs has handled an investigation into slave labor allegations regarding a product that we import into the U.S.—as you know, importing products made with slave labor has been illegal since 1930. Allegations of slave labor used in the production of pig iron, in the Para state of Brazil, came out in the summer of 2004. As the United States reportedly imports 92 percent of the pig iron produced in Brazil, most of which is produced in Para, it is highly probable that this importation violates section 1307 of the U.S. Tariff Act of 1930, which states,

"All goods, wares, articles, and merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured whol-

ly or in part in any foreign country by convict labor or land forced labor or land indentured labor under penal sanctions shall not be entitled to entry at any of the ports of the United States, and the importation thereof is hereby prohibited."

I sent a letter to U.S. Customs to ascertain what actions had been taken in response to this violation of law. After six months, I finally got a response, which said that Customs had opened a file on the case in July 2004, and had referred it to the FBI Attaché Brasilia for further investigation. The rest of the letter explained how logistical difficulties had prevented even a single investigator from visiting Para for a site visit. One excuse: "The Amazon Basin in Brazil is in a remote area where the majority of the roads to this area are only accessible via 4-wheel drive vehicles." The Trans-Amazon highway, an important route for the economic development in that area, runs right through Para. It can carry the pig iron out of Para, but can't take our investigators into Para. And frankly I would be surprised if none of our FBI investigators in Brazil had access to a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

The inaction of the investigators in this case is highly unsatisfactory, and I am deeply disturbed by the broader implications of such inadequacies. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, along with FBI Attaché offices, are responsible not only for investigating violations of tariff law, but they are also responsible for keeping terrorists out of our country. I believe the inefficiencies highlighted in this case reflect the greater threat to the national security interests of the United States. Furthermore, I am disturbed to think of the possibility that trade motivations are hidden behind the inadequate investigation in this case. I can assure you that all the American miners forced to compete with slave labor would also be disturbed by that possibility.

The second case involves the presence of an international terrorist, Luis Posada Carriles, in the United States, and his recent application for asylum. Posada, a CIA-trained Cuban exile, was responsible for organizing the bombing of a Cuban civilian airliner flying from Bermuda to Venezuela. The bombing killed all 73 people on the plane on October 6, 1976. In addition to the civilian airline bombing, Posada was implicated in the 1976 Washington, DC assassination of former Chilean government minister Orlando Letelier. Letelier, a prominent opponent of the Pinochet dictatorship, was killed along with the American Ronni Moffit in a car bombing, which was at the time, one of the worst acts of foreign terrorism on American soil. Carter Cornick, a retired counterterrorism specialist for the FBI who worked on the Letelier case, said in an interview that both bombings were planned at a June 1976 meeting in Santo Domingo attended by Posada in addition to others. Mr. Cornick said that Posada was involved "up to his eyeballs" in planning the attack. A newly declassified 1976 F.B.I. document has confirmed this. Furthermore, at the time of the bombings, Venezuelan police found maps and other evidence in Posada's Venezuelan home that tied him to the terrorist killings.

Posada was imprisoned in Venezuela, but escaped while waiting for an appeal in 1985. In 1998, he admitted to the New York Times that he was responsible for organizing a number of bombings in tourist locations in Cuba, including hotels, department stores and other civilian targets during the summer of 1997. The bombings killed an Italian tourist and injured 11 other people. In November 2000, Posada was arrested in Panama for preparing a bomb explosion in the University of

Panama's Conference Hall where Fidel Castro was going to speak. Hundreds of people were expected to attend the event there, and had intelligence not uncovered the plot beforehand there would have been massive civilian casualties.

Our nation's policy against terrorism is unequivocally clear. President Bush defined this policy when he said on September 19, 2001, "anybody who harbors a terrorist, encourages terrorism, will be held accountable. I would strongly urge any nation in the world to reject terrorism, expel terrorists." The National Security Strategy, released in 2002, further defined this policy with, "no cause justifies terror. The United States will make no concessions to terrorist demands and strike no deals with them. We make no distinction between terrorists and those who knowingly harbor or provide aid to them." Back in 1989, when the Justice Department was considering the deportation of Orlando Bosch, one of Posada's associates, Joe D. Whitley, then-Associate U.S. Attorney General said, "The United States cannot tolerate the inherent inhumanity of terrorism as a way of settling disputes. Appeasement of those who would use force will only breed more terrorists. We must look on terrorism as a universal evil, even if it is directed toward those with whom we have no political sympathy." Mr. Whitley, now General Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security has declined to comment on the Posada case.

Posada supposedly crossed the U.S. border six weeks ago, and is presently here. His Miami lawyer, Eduardo Soto, confirmed at a news conference last month that he had arrived clandestinely into the United States. Orlando Bosch said in a recent interview broadcast in Miami that he had spoken by telephone with Posada, who, "as everybody knows, is here."

Yet the U.S. government has not even acknowledged it. Roger F. Noriega, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs in the State Department said he did not even know whether Posada was in the country. State Department spokesman Tom Casey said in a recent press conference, "In terms of where he presently is, I think it's fair to say we don't know."

The U.S. government has not sent teams of investigators into South Florida to find Posada—or if they have, the investigators haven't done a very good job of finding him. No bounties have been offered to recover Posada. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol is responsible for securing our border, and preventing terrorists from crossing it, yet a known international terrorist—who committed an act of terrorism on U.S. soil that killed an American citizen—crossed it, and the U.S. government hasn't done a thing. It just isn't a political priority.

I hope this hearing and the series of hearings on border security that this Committee intends to hold will shed some light not only on the two cases I described, but on the larger problem that those cases represent: major deficiencies on the part of the U.S. government to investigate Customs and Border violations, when it frankly isn't in the political interest of the United States. That is unacceptable. We cannot pick and choose when to apply our laws and our policies; they must be applied in universal situations. And when they aren't, it compromises our national security. Thank you.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL  
AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY  
ACT OF 2005

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is the beginning of the season when American families take their children to our amusement parks for a day of fun and sun. Unfortunately, it is also the case that over 75 percent of the serious injuries suffered on these rides occur between the months of May and September. Most of America thinks that the rides at these parks are subject to oversight by the Nation's top consumer safety watchdog—the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). But this is not true. The industry used to be subject to federal safety regulation, but in 1981 it succeeded in carving out a special-interest political exemption in the law—the so-called Roller Coaster Loophole.

This loophole is a dangerous gap in child safety and prevention, and it is having serious consequences. Since 1987, 64 people have died on an amusement park ride, and the vast majority of those deaths have occurred on rides that are totally unregulated at the federal level.

It is time to put the safety of our children first—it is time to close the Roller Coaster Loophole.

Today I am introducing the National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act, to restore safety oversight to a largely unregulated industry. I am joined in this effort by Representatives SCHAKOWSKY (IL), RANGEL (NY), NEAL (MA), PAYNE (NJ), MCGOVERN (MA), NORTON (DC), MALONEY (NY), KUCINICH (OR), FRANK (MA), BROWN, S. (OR) and ESHOO (CA).

SUPPORT FOR THE BILL

We are supported in this endeavor by the Nation's leading consumer-protection advocates, including Saferparks.org, the Consumer Federation of America, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, and Kids in Danger.

Excerpts from their letters of endorsement include:

"Children are uniquely vulnerable to hazards associated with amusement ride machinery. . . It is simply indefensible for Congress to allow a special interest loophole of this magnitude in an industry that serves up high-speed thrills to 300 million paying customers every year, especially when most of the resulting injuries accrue to children."—Kathy Fackler, Saferparks.org.

"Federal oversight is crucial to the prevention of any future deaths and injuries with fixed site amusement parks due to the vast variation in state laws and the absence of any regulation in some states."—Rachel Weintraub, Consumer Federation of America and Lindsey Johnson, U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

"The CPSC must be granted jurisdiction of fixed-site amusement park rides in order for all states to benefit from federal investigation of safety hazards."—Alan Korn, National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

"Unregulated amusement rides are not what consumers expect when they visit some of the best-known tourist attractions in the U.S. Consumers expect that someone has made sure the ride is as safe as possible and that the government oversees such safety."—Nancy Cowles, Kids In Danger.

Last year, the Nation's pediatricians—the doctors who treat the injuries suffered by children on amusement park rides—endorsed our bill. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "a first step to prevention of these injuries is adopting stronger safety regulations that allow for better inspection and oversight of the fixed-rides."

THE PROBLEM WITH STATE-ONLY REGULATION

"Fixed" or "fixed-site" rides are found predominantly in destination theme parks. When an accident occurs on such rides, the law actually prevents the CPSC from even setting foot in the park to find out what happened. In some States, an investigation may occur, but in many, there is literally no regulatory oversight at all. And no matter how diligent a particular state might be, there is no substitute for federal oversight of an industry where; park visitors often come from out-of-state; a single manufacturer will sell versions of the same ride to park operators in many different States; no State has the jurisdiction, resources or mission to ensure that the safety lessons learned within its borders are shared systematically with every other State.

RIDES CAN KILL, NOT JUST THRILL

Although the overall risk of death on an amusement park ride is very small, it is not zero. Sixty-four have occurred on amusement park rides since 1987, and over two-thirds occur on "fixed-site" rides in our theme parks. In August 1999, 4 deaths occurred on roller coasters in just one week, "one of the most calamitous weeks in the history of America's amusement parks," according to U.S. News and World Report:

August 22—a 12-year-old boy fell to his death after slipping through a harness on the Drop Zone ride at Paramount's Great America Theme Park in Santa Clara, California;

August 23—a 20-year-old man died on the Shockwave roller coaster at Paramount King's Dominion theme park near Richmond, Virginia;

August 28—a 39-year-old woman and her 8-year-old daughter were killed when their car slid backward down a 30-foot ascent and crashed into another car, injuring two others on the Wild Wonder roller coaster at Gillian's Wonderland Pier in Ocean City, New Jersey.

In 2003:

An 11-year-old girl died at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Illinois.

A 32-year-old woman was killed when she fell from the Raven roller coaster at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari theme park in Santa Claus, Indiana.

A 53-year-old woman was killed after being struck by the Joker's Jukebox ride at Six Flags New Orleans. She was checking to make sure her grandson's seat belt was properly fastened.

A 34-year-old woman died a day after suffering a heart attack during her ride on the Top Gun roller coaster at Paramount's Kings Island theme park in Cincinnati, Ohio.

An 8-year-old boy has died from injuries he suffered on a bumper car ride last month at the Lake County Fair in Ohio. The boy was severely shocked when he touched a pole on a bumper car ride called the Scooter.

In 2004:

A 51-year-old woman was killed after she fell 60 feet from an amusement ride called the Hawk at the Rockin Raceway in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The owner was later convicted of reckless homicide for bypassing the ride safety system.

A 55-year-old man suffered fatal injuries when he fell from the Superman Ride of

Steel roller coaster at Six Flags New England theme park in Agawam, Massachusetts.

At Playland amusement park in Rye, New York, a 7-year-old girl suffered massive head injuries when she fell from the park's Mind Scrambler ride. She was rushed to a hospital where she was pronounced dead.

A 4-year-old boy died from injuries he suffered last Thursday at Water Works, a water park in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Lifeguards found the boy floating in five feet of water after he nearly drowned.

A 13-year-old boy died from internal injuries he suffered in an accident at Wacky Waters Adventure Park in Davenport, Iowa. Witnesses say that the boy fell from a rappelling rope into a pool of water.

A 39-year-old man died from a fall while boarding the Revenge of the Mummy roller coaster at Universal Studios theme park in Orlando, Florida.

Every one of these is an unspeakable horror for the families, and every one of them deserves to be investigated by a federal safety expert with the knowledge and the power to ensure that what happened at the accident site does not get repeated in other States.

It is simply inexcusable that when a loved one dies or is seriously injured on these rides, there is no system in place to ensure that the ride is investigated, the causes determined, and the flaws fixed, not just on that ride, but on every similar ride in every other state. The reason this system does not exist is the Roller Coaster Loophole.

Every other consumer product affecting interstate commerce—a bicycle or a baby carriage, for example—endures CPSC oversight. But the theme park industry acts as if its commercial success depends on remaining exempt from CPSC oversight. When a child is injured on a defective bicycle, the CPSC can prevent similar accidents by ensuring that the defect is repaired. If that same child has an accident on a faulty roller coaster, no CPSC investigation is allowed. But the industry has its loophole, and it is placing its priority on protecting its special-interest privileges, rather than its special duty to ensure the safety of its patrons.

That's just plain wrong.

ROLLER COASTERS ARE AS DANGEROUS AS TRAINS,  
PLANES, AND BUSES

The industry attempts to justify their special-interest exemption by pretending that there is no risk in riding machines that carry human beings 70, 80 or 90 miles an hour. The rides are very short, and most people are not injured. But in fact, the number of fatalities per passenger mile on roller coasters is higher than on passenger trains, passenger buses, and passenger planes. The National Safety Council uses a standard method of comparing risk of injury per distance traveled. Riding on a roller coaster is generally safer than driving a car, but is not generally safer than riding a passenger bus, train or airplane:

Fatalities are just the tip of the problem, however. Broken bones, gashes, and other serious injuries have been rising much faster than attendance. Neither the CPSC is prohibited from requiring the submission of injury data directly from ride operators, so it is forced to fall back on an indirect method, the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), which gathers information from a statistical

sample of hospital emergency rooms and then estimates national numbers. Nevertheless, NEISS has been gathering these statistics systematically over many years, so that trends become clear over time.

Beginning in 1996, a sharp upward trend can be seen in hospital emergency room visits by passengers on unregulated "fixed" rides—the category of rides exempt from CPSC regulation under the Roller Coaster Loophole. These injuries soared 96 percent over the next 5 years. Meanwhile, such emergency room visits were falling for passengers on rides that the CPSC still regulates.

The theme park industry likes to tell the public that its rides are safer than the mobile rides because they are overseen by a permanent park staff, but according to this independent government safety agency report, the mobile parks have less of an injury problem than the theme parks.

Why has this startling increase in amusement park rides occurred recently? No one knows for sure. If the facts were known to the CPSC, it could do its job. But the facts are kept from the CPSC, so we are left to speculate. We know, for example, that new steel technology and the roller coaster building boom of the 1990s resulted in an increase in the speed almost as dramatic as the increase in serious injuries. All of the nation's 15 fastest coasters have been built in the last 10 years. In 1980, the top speed hit 60 mph. In 1990, it hit 70 mph. The top speed today is 120 mph, and Six Flags is advertising a new ride for 2005 of 128 mph. The roller coaster arms race is alive and well.

For the most part, these rides are designed, operated and ridden safely. But clearly, the margin for error is much narrower for a child on a ride traveling at 100 mph than on a ride traveling 50 mph. Children often do foolish things, and the operators themselves are often teenagers. People make mistakes. The design of these rides must anticipate that their patrons will act like children, because they often are children.

THE BILL RESTORES BASIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT TO THE CPSC

The bill we are introducing today will close the special-interest loophole that prevents effective federal safety oversight of amusement park rides. It would, therefore, restore to the CPSC the standard safety jurisdiction over "fixed-site" amusement park rides that it used to have before the Roller Coaster Loophole was adopted. There would no longer be an artificial and unjustifiable split between unregulated "fixed-site" rides and regulated "mobile" rides. When a family traveled to a park anywhere in the United States, a mother or father would know that their children were being placed on a ride that was subject to basic safety regulation by the CPSC.

It would restore CPSC's authority to: 1. Investigate accidents, 2. Develop and enforce action plans to correct defects, and 3. Act as a national clearinghouse for accident and defect data.

The bill would also authorize appropriations of \$500 thousand annually to enable the CPSC to carry out the purposes of the Act.

I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort to make this the safest summer ever in our theme parks. Let's pass the National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the historical decision and individuals involved in the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. This Supreme Court decision was one of the most significant decisions in the history of the United States and was an important impetus in the Civil Rights Movement. Those involved moved the country forward and opened the doors for generations of Americans that would no longer believe that "separate but equal" was a justifiable policy.

In 1896, the Supreme Court held in Plessy vs. Ferguson that the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment permitted separate facilities of equal quality for blacks and whites. It established the policy of "separate but equal" as a constitutionally acceptable system in this country. For the next seventy years, many parts of this great Nation promoted segregation in education, housing, transportation, and other facilities. Blacks and whites had separate water fountains, rode in separate railroad cars, and were educated in separate schools.

For the first half of the 20th century, there were two distinct Americas—one black, one white. White schools had far greater educational resources. They receive larger portions of state budgets for education. Their books were current and up-to-date. Their teachers were paid competitive salaries. Black schools were far from equal. Black students were barely prepared for the educational and living challenges ahead of them. Black students were closed to many of the opportunities for advancement. Segregation proved that separate would be inherently unequal.

Lawyers for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, including Thurgood Marshall, would lead a series of court cases challenging the constitutionality of segregated educational facilities. Their argument would rest on the disparities in the educational funding and spending, the quality of the educational systems, and the psychological impacts of segregated schools.

Researchers and scholars across the Nation provided evidence of the harmful effects of segregation of young minds. Dr. Kenneth Clark demonstrated that segregated schools nurtured feelings of inferiority in black children. Others showed how the preparation, opportunities, and access of black children were severely hampered by separate educational facilities.

The Supreme Court heard these arguments and agreed with the NAACP and its panel of experts. Separate facilities were inherently unequal. States must treat all its citizens equally, regardless of race. The value of education demanded that the opportunities available to one group be available to all groups.

The ruling nonetheless would have larger import outside of education. It provided hope to African-Americans that they would no longer be treated like second class citizens. It encouraged African-American leaders, such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, to pursue full equality through the Civil Rights Movement.

Despite considerable resistance, this Nation has moved forward in equalizing the educational and social opportunities of its citizens, but more can still be done. Public facilities are no longer separated based on race. The gap in educational opportunities is slowly narrowing. The opportunities available to minorities are increasing. We could do more to close the gap in education and to ensure equal opportunities for all.

For today, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we reflect on the importance of that Brown vs. Board of Education decision. The Supreme Court made a wise and important decision that changed the course of this Nation for the next 50 years. It guaranteed to all of our citizens equal treatment before the law regardless of race. This was a clearly important event in American history. The men and women who challenged the policy of segregation should be commended for their deeds. They should have the full appreciation of this Nation.

HONORING MISS JEAN CORNELL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional young lady, Jean Katherine Elizabeth Cornell. Miss Cornell is a resident of Mt. Laurel, New Jersey in my district, and is currently in the seventh grade at Harrington Middle School. She is a member of the school's Student Council, and a talented singer in the First United Methodist Church of Moorestown's Youth Choir. Above all, she is a motivated and inspired young lady who is standing up for equal rights for all women.

Miss Cornell has been involved in the Alice Paul Institute's Leadership Program, and helped start the Alice Paul Institute Girls' Advisory Council. She is very active in her community, spreading Alice Paul's message of leadership and equality. She is helping to build support for the Equal Right Amendment by educating the public about this vital piece of legislation. This amendment to the Constitution would guarantee the equality of rights under the law for all persons regardless of gender.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Miss Cornell for her contributions to her community, and to women everywhere. Her efforts are much needed in the struggle to close the equality gap between men and women. If there were more girls like Jean, our Nation would be a more just and equal society.

RECOGNIZING REAR ADMIRAL GREG SLAVONIC

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to congratulate Rear Admiral Gregory J. Slavonic upon the completion of his career of service in the United States Navy and Navy Reserve. Throughout his 34-year military career, Rear Admiral Slavonic served with distinction and dedication, ultimately

becoming the Deputy Chief of Information and Director of the Navy Reserve Public Affairs program, responsible for the training and readiness of more than 500 public affairs reservists.

In June 2004, Rear Adm. Slavonic was ordered to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom II, Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to the Multinational Force—Iraq (MFN-I) staff. He served as the senior public affairs officer for Army Gen. George W. Casey, Commanding General for MNF-I, and the Director, Combined Press Information Center (CPIC).

From June to November, Rear Adm. Slavonic led a 65-person team responsible for ensuring more than 500 national and international media organizations received timely and accurate information concerning daily combat operations throughout the Iraqi theater.

Rear Adm. Slavonic began his Navy career in 1971, as a Seaman who enlisted after graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in advertising from Oklahoma State University. After completing boot camp at Navy Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., and attending Signalman "A" school in Newport, R.I., he received orders to the aircraft carrier USS *Constellation* (CVA 64) and completed two western Pacific deployments.

Upon separation from active duty, Rear Adm. Slavonic affiliated with the Navy Reserve Command in Oklahoma City. He received a direct commission as a restricted line officer in public affairs and, in 1976, earned a master of education degree from the University of Central Oklahoma.

In November 1990, Rear Adm. Slavonic was recalled to active duty for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was assigned to the staff of General H. Norman Schwarzkopf at U.S. Central Command and served at the Joint Information Bureau in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. During his tour in the Arabian Gulf theater, Rear Adm. Slavonic served as a Chief of Navy News desk and combat media escort officer, which included escorting media pools on board USS *Curtis* (FFG 38) to document processing and interrogation of more than 40 Iraqi prisoners of war.

He was serving as media escort officer with a media pool on the 18,000-ton amphibious assault ship USS *Tripoli* (LPH 10) in the Arabian Gulf when it struck an Iraqi underwater tethered mine.

Rear Adm. Slavonic has served four commanding officer tours, twice with Navy Office of Information Southwest Detachment 111 Dallas-Fort Worth and twice with the Office of Information Detachment 411 Oklahoma City. He also served as executive officer of 01 Det 411 and staff public affairs officer for REDCOM Eleven.

Rear Adm. Slavonic's Oklahoma City unit earned the Rear Adm. Robert Ravitz Award for Public Affairs Excellence and was a finalist for the Readiness Command Ten Admiral Robert Natter (small) Unit Award. In 1984, Rear Adm. Slavonic was the first recipient of the Navy Reserve Association's "Junior Navy Reserve Officer of the Year" Award.

A native of Great Bend, Kansas, Rear Adm. Slavonic was raised and resides in Oklahoma City where he is an account executive with NBC affiliate KFOR-TV. He is a life member of the Navy Reserve Association as well as Oklahoma State University and the University of Central Oklahoma alumni organizations.

Rear Adm. Slavonic has also served as president of the Navy Reserve Association (central chapter); president of the U.S. Navy League (local chapter); minority owner of the Oklahoma City Cavalry (Continental Basketball Association team); and as an adjunct professor at the University of Central Oklahoma. He is also active in the Oklahoma City Advertising Club and Leadership Oklahoma City.

Awards earned by Rear Adm. Slavonic include the Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (two awards); Navy Commendation Medal (two awards); Navy Achievement Medal (three awards); Presidential Unit Citation; Combat Action Ribbon; Vietnam Cross of Gallantry; Vietnam Service Medal (one star); Republic of Vietnam Service Medal; Southeast Asia Service Medal (two stars); Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia); Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; and the Joint Service Unit Citation, as well as other service and campaign awards.

Mr. Speaker, I know Rear Adm. Slavonic personally. We first met when he was assisting veterans of the USS *Oklahoma*, obtaining the financial and civic support necessary to create a permanent memorial to their lost ship and fallen comrades. This told me a great deal about his appreciation of Americans of every generation who have worn the uniform for their country and placed their lives at risk for their countrymen. My second opportunity to see Rear Adm. Slavonic was in Baghdad, where he was serving professionally, capably, and courageously in the combat zone. This more than anything else demonstrates that Rear Adm. Slavonic lives according to the values he professes. Like every other American, I am grateful for his service.

I asked the Rear Admiral to call upon me when he returned from Iraq because I was interested in his candid appraisal of our country's efforts there. Upon his arrival in Washington, he visited my office, and our exchange was so productive that I asked him to join me for a breakfast meeting to continue our conversation. He graciously complied, and as a result I had the benefit of his profound expertise, professional judgment, and keen insights into the challenges our country and our military face in Iraq.

On every occasion on which I have encountered and interacted with Rear Adm. Slavonic, he has impressed me with his professional courtesy, his commitment to our country, and his wise counsel. He is an able and honorable sailor who embodies the finest traditions of the United States Navy.

His family and fellow shipmates can be proud of his service. Rear Adm. Slavonic, his wife Molly, and children Kara, Maggie, and Blake, and Blake's wife Kasey and grandson Hogan have made many sacrifices during his Naval and civilian careers, and we appreciate their contributions of conscientious service to our country. As he departs the Pentagon to start his third career, I call upon my colleagues to wish Greg and his family every success, and the traditional Navy "fair winds and following seas." It is a pleasure to recognize this gentleman at the conclusion of a distinguished career of service to the United States of America.

STATEMENT DURING HEARING ON  
"FOSTERING DEMOCRACY IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST"

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 17, 2005, I, as the Ranking Minority Member for the House Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations made the following statement during a hearing on "Fostering Democracy in the Middle East: Defeating Terrorism With Ballots":

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and good morning to the distinguished witnesses that are here today for this important hearing. We have much to learn from the experts who are here with us, and we must listen and use this knowledge to correct the disastrous foreign policy road that this Administration has embarked upon—a policy which has already taken the lives of over 1,600 U.S. soldiers and wounded thousands more. Congress can help save many more lives by changing these failed policies immediately. As the journalist Thomas Friedman wrote recently, "you can't build a decent society on the graves of suicide bombers and their victims."

Our policy is greatly misguided and also misrepresented. During the President's 2005 State of the Union address there were Iraqis in the audience who held up ink-stained thumbs in a symbol intending to convey that democracy had reached finally reached Iraq—thanks to the U.S. Their hope was to send the message that even though WMDs were never found, the victory of bringing democracy to Iraq was worth the cost in blood and treasure.

But before we congratulate ourselves, I must admit that I am skeptical of the Administration's policy of promoting democracy. The United States does not have a history of bringing democracy to nations out of pure altruism. Rather there is usually something we have to gain by overthrowing a nation and the promotion of democracy is the excuse we use to do it. Or in the case of Iraq, it was our fall-back excuse. The war to eradicate WMDs quickly transformed into the war to bring democracy to Iraqis—once the world discovered that WMDs did not in fact exist in Iraq.

Perhaps the greatest argument against this vision of pure altruism is that when it is in our interest to leave undemocratic governments alone, we do.

Examples of this argument are the Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. These countries have well-known horrendous human rights records and have serious impediments to democracy. According to the State Departments 2004 Report on Human Rights Practices,

"Uzbekistan is an authoritarian state with limited civil rights. . . . the December 26 elections fell significantly short of international standards for democratic elections . . . the executive branch heavily influenced the courts and did not ensure due process . . . Government's human rights record remained very poor . . . police and National Security Service forces tortured, beat, and harassed persons . . . the Government restricted freedom of religion and movement . . . the Government severely restricted fundamental worker rights."

These conditions are more or less present throughout the other Central Asian states. Yet the U.S. has not taken firm steps to encourage reforms. There have been provisions

to condition aid based on progress in democratization and respect for human rights, however when the State Department decided to cut aid to Uzbekistan (or failure to meet these conditions (equal to \$18 million), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced that Uzbekistan would receive an increase of \$21 million in military aid. Furthermore, the aid condition in Kazakhstan is allowed a presidential waiver.

This "soft-line" approach is probably in large part to the strategic location of these states. The Central Asian states offered overflight and other support when the U.S. went into Afghanistan. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have hosted coalition troops and provided access to airbases. In 2003, Uzbekistan endorsed coalition military action in Iraq and Kazakhstan provided about two-dozen troops for rebuilding.

Our policy is convenient, not consistent. We talk about building democracy in the Middle East out of one side of our mouth, while we keep authoritarian regimes in power on the other side.

The world is watching closely what the U.S. does in Iraq, and we are hopeful that a legitimate democracy will flourish there and throughout the region. I am hopeful other Arab nations will eventually hold elections. But it must be on their timetable, not ours.

Our presence in Iraq is only slowing any hope for genuine democratization. Violence against Iraqis is only increasing as time goes by. The country is becoming even more destabilized. But this Administration has not yet presented an exit strategy or any kind of timetable of bringing our troops home. Instead, we are pouring billions of dollars into the probable construction of long-term military facilities in Iraq so that we can have a permanent presence there, as well as in the surrounding countries, none of which could be called democratic.

So, Mr. Chairman, I hope that this hearing will go beyond self-congratulation and beyond merely illuminating the desire for democracy by people in the Middle East. Rather I hope that this hearing will illuminate how our missteps are hindering democracy, so that we can correct a failed policy.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT  
COLONEL MICHAEL VAN RASSEN

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Michael Van Rassen upon his retirement from the U.S. Army after more than 20 years of outstanding service to our country. After his retirement on August 31, 2005, Lieutenant Colonel Van Rassen will reside in my Congressional district.

Lieutenant Colonel Van Rassen has been assigned to several key military positions throughout his career, which culminated as the Product Manager for Fielding and Integration for Air and Missile Defense Command and Control Systems (AMDCCS) Product Office in Madison, Alabama, a position he has held since 2002. It is in this role that Lieutenant Colonel Van Rassen will leave an enduring mark on the future of the Army.

He was instrumental in the deployment of the Forward Area Air Defense Command, cross leveraging software capabilities through the Air and Missile Defense Planning and Control System program, designing and vali-

dating the critical need for the Air Defense Aerospace Management Cell, leading the DOD Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar initiative for deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Lieutenant Colonel Van Rassen has distinguished himself throughout his military service in challenging and diverse assignments. Throughout his career, he has received many medals and awards for his ability to lead by example, encourage excellence from his peers and subordinates, effectively manage the Army's resources, and consistently produce outstanding results. I commend Lieutenant Colonel Van Rassen for his ability to energize a diverse staff toward a common purpose, setting high standards and inspiring his staff to achieve them.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Van Rassen for his 20 years of service to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION  
CONDEMNING RELIGIOUS INTOL-  
ERANCE AND URGING RESPECT  
FOR ALL HOLY BOOKS

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, so much of American history is defined by our national commitment to tolerate each others' religious differences. This was the wisdom behind the words of President John Kennedy, who reminded us that "tolerance implies no lack of commitment to one's own beliefs. Rather it condemns the oppression or persecution of others."

I introduce this Resolution today as a reminder that we must still strive to condemn bigotry and religious intolerance, and recognize that holy books of every religion should be treated with dignity and respect. Our dedication to this struggle has never been more important than it is today, with recent events both at home and abroad. We can begin to fulfill this obligation with a renewed effort to continued education and the dispelling of stereotypes.

For example, much of the public is not aware that the word Islam comes from the Arabic root word meaning "peace" and "submission." Terrorism cannot be justified under any valid interpretation of the Islamic faith. There are an estimated 7 million Muslims in America, from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds. The holy book of Islam, the Quran, is recited by Muslims during prayer. From the Quran, Muslims learn valuable lessons about peace, humanity and spirituality.

This Resolution recognizes that believers of all religions, including the faiths of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, should be treated with respect and dignity. The mistreatment of prisoners and disrespect toward the holy book of any religion is unacceptable and against civilized humanity. I am concerned as anyone that our nation would disparage the Quran or the Muslim religion. This Resolution therefore makes it clear that it is not the official policy of the U.S. government to disparage the Quran, Islam or any other faith. I hope this Resolution will help us recognize that we need

to embrace the Muslim people and tolerance if we are truly interested in supporting democracy around the world.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2057

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 2057, which disapproves of DC. Act 16-47 (the Terrorism Prevention in Hazardous Materials Transportation Temporary Act of 2005), which calls for the rerouting of hazardous materials around Washington, DC.

While re-routing hazardous materials from the Capitol area of Washington, DC sounds well-intentioned, it only shifts the risk of that transportation to other neighborhoods and other modes of transportation. The additional switching of these cars will add to the congestion in the yards, and back up traffic on CSXT main lines, potentially affecting their entire network, including Amtrak, VRE, and MARC. It also means that chemical containers could be sitting for hours, if not days, in rail yards waiting to be moved.

Longer transit times and distances, increased car handlings and dwell times are factors that tend to increase the inherent risk of transporting hazardous materials. This would also add significant cost to the shippers, and potentially disrupt the flow of commerce for those customers like water treatment plants, pharmaceutical companies, gas stations, etc.

The Federal Government has always had the ultimate authority over interstate commerce. The transportation of hazardous materials is governed by Federal regulations as proscribed under the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, which gives the authority to DOT. And it is important to note that the railroads are governed by the common carrier duty, which means we must carry what is legally tendered to them by law.

Finally, the Department of Justice, the National Industrial Transportation League, the American Trucking Associations, the United Transportation Union, Norfolk Southern and others have either weighed in with an amicus brief in Federal Court, a letter to the STB, or a letter to the House Government Reform and Senate Homeland Security Committees.

I call upon government at all levels to develop meaningful standards that improve safety and security for all modes. Rerouting freight from one backyard to another does not constitute meaningful standards to improve safety and security for any mode, and I encourage this Congress to promptly disapprove DC's ordinance.

THE FIRST NATIONAL ASIAN AND  
PACIFIC ISLANDER HIV/AIDS  
AWARENESS DAY

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the first National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. This commemorative day aims to raise the awareness

of Asian Pacific Islander American, APIA, communities about the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS as well as educating our communities about the progress in the areas of prevention, care and treatment, and vaccines.

Asian Pacific Islander Americans are among the fastest growing racial/ethnic populations in the United States. Despite stereotypes depicting APIAs as “model citizens” who enjoy perfect health, health advocates point out that HIV/AIDS awareness is lacking in many communities. Indeed, APIAs in the U.S. have higher rates of those preventable diseases that are also co-factors for HIV/AIDS—including hepatitis B and tuberculosis—than white Americans.

Worldwide, AIDS has killed more than 20 million people, including 3.1 million in 2004 alone. Through 2003, in the United States, approximately 930,000 people had been diagnosed with AIDS and more than 400,000 people were living with AIDS. While the number of reported AIDS cases among APIAs remains small, lack of detailed HIV surveillance, under-reporting, and misclassification often mask the true impact of the HIV epidemic on APIAs.

Mr. Speaker, according to such groups as the San Francisco-based Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center, the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, HIV data collected between 2000–2003 reveals a 54 percent increase in AIDS diagnosis among APIAs. As of December 2003, men accounted for 87 percent of APIA AIDS cases, with 71 percent occurring among men who have same-sex relations. Among APIA women, 49 percent of AIDS cases were attributed to heterosexual contact.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I want to say it loud and clear that there is no misunderstanding. HIV/AIDS is a public health emergency for Asian Pacific Islander Americans.

National API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is the first step in breaking the silence and reducing the shame associated with HIV/AIDS, and I applaud the Banyan Tree Project for their efforts. Reducing stigma will give APIAs greater access to services we need and deserve, which in turn will reduce the spread of HIV.

I urge my colleagues to join me today, along with national, regional, and local HIV/AIDS groups, in supporting this effort to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among Asians and Pacific Islanders and to mobilize communities to get involved. Only through collaboration and a willingness to break down barriers and build bridges will we be able to win this fight against HIV/AIDS.

THE PRESERVING MEDICARE FOR  
ALL ACT OF 2005

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to help fulfill the promise made by Congress and the President to our seniors. This year, Congress may consider a multifaceted approach to programs that affect the security of our seniors. Any discussion about ensuring the financial security of retired

Americans must also take into account their ability to access meaningful prescription drug coverage.

In November 2003, Congress passed legislation to provide limited coverage for prescription drugs. I opposed that legislation because it contained serious flaws that will result in more harm than help for Medicare beneficiaries. The bill that I am introducing today, the Preserving Medicare for All Act of 2005 corrects the legislation's structural defects and provides additional beneficiary protections.

Over the past several years, I have met with thousands of seniors in my district about Medicare and their need for prescription drug coverage. They brought me their empty pill bottles and their pharmacy receipts. With the highest out-of-pocket costs of any age group in the country, they and millions of other seniors across the nation were looking to Congress for real prescription drug coverage that would give them substantial help with their drug costs. They wanted their drug benefit to be provided like other benefits covered by Medicare—administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, with a guaranteed benefit, universally available regardless of where they live, for it not to jeopardize existing coverage, and yes, they wanted the choice of their own doctor and hospital and the freedom to choose a private health plan if they prefer that option.

I believe that a clear majority of the House and Senate wanted to enact legislation that met our seniors' needs. Unfortunately, the bill that moved through Congress failed to provide seniors with what they needed or expected. The plan that became law will not be administered by CMS but by private insurers.

Under the 2003 law, the government is prohibited from using the purchasing power of 40 million beneficiaries to lower drug prices. There will be no guaranteed benefit, but rather an “actuarially equivalent” benefit whose components insurance companies can manipulate to discourage high-cost seniors from enrolling. It will not be universal, because these insurers can offer different coverage in different areas of the country. It will jeopardize existing coverage: the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that 2.7 million retirees—half of whom have annual incomes of less than \$30,000—will lose the drug benefits they now enjoy as a result of insufficient subsidies to employers. Late last year, 14 months before the drug coverage provisions of the law are to take effect, hundreds of seniors in my district began receiving notices that their employer-based drug coverage would be dropped as their benefits are “coordinated” with Medicare.

Under the guise of “choice” and “competition,” this bill gives billions of extra dollars to managed care plans, which are already reimbursed at rates one-fifth higher than fee-for-service Medicare. This so-called “stabilization fund” and a premium support demonstration project are not designed to offer choice, but instead to lure younger, healthier seniors away from traditional Medicare and into private plans. These features of the bill do not save money, according to the Congressional Budget Office's estimate. Instead, scarce dollars that could be used to provide a better drug benefit are used to increase health plan profits. Those beneficiaries who remain in fee-for-service Medicare will be isolated in an underfunded program and they will see their premiums skyrocket as a result of phony “competition.”

Finally, the new law includes a “cost containment” provision that actually shifts rather than contains costs. By combining the Part A and Part B Trust Funds and creating a new definition of insolvency that caps Medicare's use of general revenues at 45 percent of total Medicare costs, this provision would force government to cut benefits or raise payroll taxes if this limit is exceeded. More than any other element of the new law, this provision would undermine the entire Medicare system as we know it, shifting the burden of the program onto those least able to afford it.

The bill I am introducing today will modify these damaging aspects of the new Medicare law. First it will authorize the HHS Secretary to use the purchasing power of 40 million seniors and disabled Americans to negotiate lower drug prices. Second, it will guarantee seniors the choice of a nationally available, defined benefit within Medicare. The premium, deductible, copays and stoploss will be set by law, not by private insurers. Third, my bill will fully reimburse employers for the cost of qualified retiree drug coverage and it will permit their costs to count toward seniors' catastrophic limits. Fourth, it will repeal the premium support demonstration and help ensure that Medicare remains a national program with equal access for all seniors. Fifth, it will eliminate the “stabilization” fund for private health insurers and dedicate these funds to strengthening the traditional Medicare program for seniors. Finally, it will eliminate the “cost containment” provision of the bill, which will harm both working families, seniors, and health care providers.

Mr. Speaker, the Medicare prescription drug provisions of this bill will not take effect until 2006. We have time to fix the structural problems that prevent this law from benefiting today's beneficiaries and those who will depend on Medicare in future years. If this Congress is serious about the financial security of older Americans, it will make every effort to keep the promises we have made to our seniors. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

LETTER TO SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. RENE ANTONIO LEÓN RODRIGUEZ

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2002, Rep. RAÚL GRIJALVA and I sent the following letter to Salvadoran Ambassador to the United States, Rene Antonio León Rodríguez regarding police brutality against Salvadoran government officials:

DEAR AMBASSADOR LEÓN: It has just been brought to our attention that Salvadoran diputados Dr. Salvador Arias and Zoila Quijada were victims of police brutality yesterday while defending protesters of the Social Security Doctors Union (SIMETRISSS).

The protesters were members of the doctors union who were upset about the unjust decision to deport Dr. Pedro Bachon Rodríguez, an Ecuadorian doctor and adviser to the doctors union who has been a legal resident of El Salvador for the past 8 years.

Diputado Arias and Quijada stepped in to mediate between the doctors union and the police and to defend the protesters, and the police responded by beating them too. They identified themselves to the police as members of the Legislative Assembly, but the police continued to beat them. Fortunately their bodyguards stepped in to protect them before the were terribly injured.

We disapprove of in the strongest terms the use of police violence against the government officials. This unconscionable violation of human rights and democracy threatens the 1992 Peace Accords and could lead to grave consequences. Furthermore, we strongly disapprove of the police violence against protesters. This violence has been increasing recently with anti-CAFTA protests in El Salvador. The Salvadoran Interior Minister endorsed the police violence against protesters that occurred on April 14 and wrongfully called the protesters "terrorists."

This is not acceptable. This will not go unnoticed by the United States and by international human rights movements. Be assured that, we will pursue an investigation into this matter to the fullest.

On May 3, 2005, Ambassador León sent the following reply:

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 29, 2005 in which you express your concern on the apparent use of police force against two congresspeople of the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly, Dr. Salvador Arias and Dr. Zoila Quijada, while seemingly defending members of the Social Security Doctors Union (SIMETRISSE).

To that respect, we have proceeded to send your letter to the pertinent authorities in El Salvador who are already aware of your preoccupation and will soon deliver you their response.

Please accept Mr. Representative Kucinich the assurances of our consideration and esteem.

INTRODUCTION OF "DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENT TRUST"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my good friend and colleague Rep. RALPH REGULA (R-OH) in introducing the "Digital Opportunity Investment Trust Act."

Mr. Speaker, I have long believed that when the Federal Communications Commission decides to proceed with auctions as a means of granting licenses to the public's airwaves, that the public deserves to reap the benefits. These benefits should manifest themselves not only in the more rapid offering of new, competitive commercial wireless services or the deployment of technological innovations, but also in the "dividends" that can be reaped by re-investing the auction money wisely. The legislation we are introducing today, proposes taking auction revenue and creating a permanent trust fund in order to fund grants for public interest telecommunications initiatives. I believe harnessing this resource and re-investing it for such initiatives will be vital to our national economic security and for leaving to the next generation the cultural and educational assets of our great country in an accessible digital form.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that the research and development into the software and telecommunications tools that will animate the technologies for use in classrooms and workplaces around the country is a sound investment. Making available additional resources for public televisions and radio stations for their needs in the digital era is also vital. Finally, our nation's libraries, museums, universities are great repositories of information and possess the tremendous wealth of our cultural heritage. These treasurers can and ought to be digitized in a way that makes them accessible to all our citizens, both online and over-the-air using our national public broadcasting system. This will help to ensure we have an informed and skilled citizenry for our civic institutions. Putting these great educational resources at the heart of the technological transformation our society is undergoing will strengthen our democracy in fundamental ways.

For all of these reasons, I believe we must rise to the challenge of funding advanced research and development for education and technology training in a way that reflects the urgent need to do so and the current, inadequate resources being put to these efforts. Telecommunications technology has an awesome potential to affect change positively by driving economic growth, preparing our citizens for the tough challenges ahead, and enriching our democracy. Yet without a plan, it will remain just that—merely the "potential" and "promise" but not the reality. That's why I believe we ought to reinvest the auction resources we obtain from winning bidders to the public's airways. A permanent trust fund built from these funds will go a long way in meeting the need and that is what our legislation is designed and intended to do.

NATIONAL ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention to the first annual National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day today, May 19, 2005. This day seeks to raise awareness among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders about the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on their community and to highlight AIDS prevention and treatment opportunities.

AIDS has claimed the lives of over 20 million people worldwide since it was first diagnosed in 1981, and the numbers continue to grow at an alarming rate. An estimated 5,500 of 750,000 Americans who face the perils of AIDS today are Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, but with the fastest-growing racial/ethnic population in the nation, this number is increasing at a staggering rate. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of AA/Pis living with AIDS has increased 10 percent annually over the past five years.

Many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living with HIV/AIDS too often do not take the steps necessary to prevent and combat the disease due to cultural stigmas around issues

of sex, sexuality, and drug use. Other obstacles include the fact that nearly 40 percent of AA/Pis have limited English proficiency and 13 percent live below the federal poverty line. Nearly one in five are uninsured, and many others lack adequate health insurance. That is why this day is immensely important in communicating the facts and preventative practices regarding HIV/AIDS. With increased national awareness and improved communication, HIV/AIDS information will become more widely available and more effective in crossing the social, linguistic, and economic barriers this population faces.

It is also critically important that we expand the budgets of the CDC, especially the Office of Minority Health and the National Institutes of Health, and reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act to ensure that HIV/AIDS is addressed seriously and with adequate resources. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders face a serious health threat, and they are just one segment of the American population which battles this deadly disease on a daily basis. Our financial support is critical in providing information, medicine, care, and ultimately a cure for this debilitating disease.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the first National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and working to enact healthcare solutions to the HIV/AIDS crisis.

BIKE TARIFF SUSPENSION BILLS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing seven bills that will waive tariffs for specialty bike parts not produced domestically.

The bicycle industry is an important part of our economy. There are over 6,000 bicycle shops and 2,000 companies that deal with bicycle manufacturing with tens of thousands of employees. These tariff waivers will reduce costs for the bicycle industry and will allow the savings to be passed onto the more than 57 million adult bicyclists across the country.

Similar bike components that are not produced in the United States are already exempt from tariffs in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule. Without a domestic producer of compatible components, bike companies should not be required to pay duties. This legislation will level the playing field for the industry which provides one of the cleanest, healthiest, most efficient, and environmentally friendly modes of transportation that exists.

THE SIXTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEROIC BATTLE OF CRETE

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly today to celebrate the 64th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, a World War II event of epic proportions that profoundly impacted on the

determination of many countries to resist the aggression of Nazi Germany. This is a story of the sacrifices made by a battered but brave group of individuals thrown together in a combined effort to halt the domination of a smaller, weaker nation by a larger, more powerful aggressor.

Amidst the cataclysm that engulfed the countries of Europe at the time, it seems now preposterous that a small island dared to stand up to the aggressor to preserve its freedom and defend its honor. Today, more than half a century later, the heroic events that took place in the Battle of Crete remain etched in the memory of people around the world. In commemoration of this anniversary, and for the benefit of future generations, I will share a brief account of these events as they unfolded.

In early April 1941, the German army rushed to the aid of their defeated ally, Italy, and invaded Greece. Following a valiant struggle, Greek forces had been pushed entirely off the continent and were forced to take refuge on the island of Crete.

The German army then looked covetously across the sea to Crete because of the British airfields on the island, which could be used by the Allies for air strikes against the oil fields of Rumania, thereby denying this vital war commodity to Hitler's forces now preparing for their attack on Russia. If captured, it would also provide air and sea bases from which the Nazis could dominate the eastern Mediterranean and launch air attacks against Allied forces in northern Africa. In fact, the Nazi high command envisioned the capture of Crete to be the first of a series of assaults leading to the Suez Canal. Hitler intended a short, one month, campaign, starting in March. On successful completion, his troops would be re-assigned to Russia.

Crete's defenses at the time had been badly neglected due to the deployment of Allied forces in North Africa. General Bernard Freyberg of the New Zealand Division was appointed by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill as commander of a small contingent of Allied troops which had been dispatched to the island a few months before and re-enforced by additional troops who had retreated from the Greek mainland.

Early on the morning of May 20, 1941, Crete became the theater of the first and largest German airborne operation of the war. The skies above Crete were filled with more than eight thousand Nazi paratroopers, landing in a massive invasion of the island, which was subjected to heavy bombing and attacks in what became known as "Operation Mercury."

Waves of bombers pounded the Allied positions followed by a full-scale airborne assault. Elite paratroopers and glider-borne infantry units fell upon the rag-tag Allied soldiers and were met with ferocious resistance from the Allied troops and the Cretan population.

Although General Freyberg had decided not to arm the Cretans because they were believed to be apti-royalist, they fought bravely with whatever was at hand during the invasion. As soon as the battle broke out, the people of Crete volunteered to serve in the militia. Centuries of oppression and several revolts against Venetians and Turks had taught them that freedom is won and preserved by sacrifice, and there was hardly a family without a gun stashed somewhere in the house. For the first time, the Germans met stiff partisan resistance.

War-seasoned men joined the regular troops in the effort to repel the invader. Old men, women and children participated and used whatever makeshift weapons they could find. They pointed their antiquated guns at the descending German paratroopers. They used sticks, sickles and even their bare hands, to fight those soldiers already on the ground. Most of them were illiterate villagers but their intuition, honed by the mortal risk they were facing, led them to fight with courage and bravery. "Aim for the legs and you'll get them in the heart," was the popular motto that summarized their hastily acquired battle experience.

Seven days later, the defenders of Crete—though clinging to their rocky defensive positions—knew that they would soon be overrun. The evacuation order was given, and nearly 18,000 men were rescued. These valiant survivors had bought the Allies a week's precious time free of Nazi air and sea attacks based from Crete. More importantly, they inflicted severe losses on the German airborne forces, the showpieces of the Nazi army. Although well-armed and thoroughly equipped, the Germans didn't break the Cretan's love of freedom.

Although the Germans captured the island in ten days, they paid a heavy price. Of the 8,100 paratroopers involved in this operation, close to 4,000 were killed and 1,600 were wounded. So injured were the German units that they never again attempted an airborne assault of the magnitude launched at Crete. Hitler may have won the Battle of Crete, but he lost the war. The German victory proved a hollow one, as Crete became the graveyard of the German parachute troops. In fact, it is a lesson taught in almost every major military academy in the world on what not to do.

In retaliation for the losses they incurred, the Nazis spread punishment, terror and death on the innocent civilians of the island. More than two thousand Cretans were executed during the first month alone and thousands more later. Despite these atrocities, for the four years following the Allied withdrawal from the island, the people of Crete put up a courageous guerilla resistance, aided by a few British and Allied officers and troops who remained. Those involved were known as the Andartes (the Rebels).

Cretan people of all ages joined or aided the Andartes. Children would pile rocks in the roads to slow down the German convoys. They even carried messages in their schoolbooks because it was the only place that the German soldiers never looked. These messages contained information critical to the Andartes who were hiding in the mountains and would come down for midnight raids or daytime sabotages.

The German terror campaign was meant to break the fighting spirit and morale of the Andartes. Besides the random and frequent executions, German soldiers used other means to achieve their goal. They leveled many buildings in the towns and villages, destroyed religious icons, and locked hundreds of Cretans in churches for days without food or water, but nothing worked. These actions only made the Cretans more ferocious in their quest for freedom.

Even in the face of certain death while standing in line to be executed, Cretans did not beg for their lives. This shocked the German troops. Kurt Student, the German Para-

trooper Commander who planned the invasion, said of the Cretans, "I have never seen such a defiance of death."

Finally, the Cretan people participated in one of the most daring operations that brought shame and humiliation to the German occupation forces and exhilaration and hope to the enslaved peoples of Europe. Major-General Von Kreipe, Commander of all German forces in Crete, was abducted from his own headquarters in April 1944 and transferred to a POW camp in England.

The German troops had never encountered such resistance. Hitler had initially sent 12,000 troops to Crete, thinking that the occupation would be swift. By the end of the three-and-a-half years of occupation, Hitler had sent a total of 100,000 troops, to confront a little more than 5,000 Cretan Andarte fighters. These German troops could have been deployed somewhere else. More German troops were lost during the occupation of Crete than in France, Yugoslavia and Poland combined.

Most importantly, as a result of the battle in Crete, Hitler's master plan to invade Russia before the coming of winter, had to be postponed, which resulted in the deaths of many German troops who were not properly prepared to survive the harsh Russian winter.

As we Americans know from our history, freedom does not come without a price. For their gallant resistance against the German invasion and occupation of their island, Cretans paid a stiff price. Within the first five months of the Battle of Crete, 3,500 Cretans were executed and many more were killed in the ensuing three-and-a-half years of occupation.

Mr. Speaker, there are historical reasons why we Americans appreciate the sacrifices of the Cretan people in defending their island during the Battle of Crete. We have a history replete with similar heroic events starting with our popular revolt that led to the birth of our nation more than two centuries.

We must always remember that as long as there are people willing to sacrifice their lives for the just cause of defending the integrity and freedom of their country, there is always hope for a better tomorrow. May we take inspiration from the shining example of the people of Crete in ensuring that this is indeed the case.

A TRIBUTE TO TSCL CHAIRMAN  
GEORGE A. SMITH

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Smith. Since 2001 the TREA Senior Citizens League (TSCL) has been under the strong leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman George A. Smith. With George Smith at the helm, TSCL has gained greater credibility and respectability in the Congress and in the country as a whole. TSCL has become a significant national player on Social Security issues such as the Notch, Cost of Living Adjustment based on a Consumer Price Index for the Elderly, Mexico Totalization, and a Lock Box of Trust Funds, and on other issues such as drug importation. This has largely occurred because Chairman Smith insisted that TSCL emphasize

educating the public about senior issues. Like other TSCL Board of Trustees members he has served without pay.

George A. Smith was born on October 28, 1930. He currently resides in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife Marie. Mr. Smith entered the U.S. Army in July 1948 and served an illustrious 21-year career. While on active military duty, Mr. Smith earned the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and a multitude of miscellaneous awards and commendations.

Mr. Smith is a TREA (The Retired Enlisted Association) Past National President. As a TREA leader, he initiated and finalized the purchase of the first TREA National Headquarters. He has served as Chairman of the Past President's Advisory Council, Chairman of the TREA Memorial Foundation, Chairman of TREA Finance Committee, Chairman of TREA 5-Year Planning Committee, President of TREA Chapter 3, and Chairman of TREA Convention Committee.

George Smith has an Associate Degree in Business Management from Metro State College in Denver, Colorado, and is retired from the Colorado Department of Employment where he served as the Job Service Director. He also worked in the area of direct sales for Telecommunications, and was an owner of his own precision welding business. He served as President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3482, and as President of a local homeowners association.

George Smith learned from his experiences in the military and private sector that a strong foundation has to be constructed brick by brick using motivational management and a team concept. At TSCL Chairman Smith used his management expertise to revitalize the organization. He developed an expanded legislative agenda of activities in Congress.

His visionary leadership helped move TSCL forward to the status of a well-known and respected organization by most Members of Congress. During his tenure as Chairman, TSCL has become a significant national player on several senior issues.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am especially grateful for George Smith's service in the military. His advocacy for senior issues and for retired enlisted military will be missed when he steps down as TSCL Chairman later this year. Thank you George for your remarkable contributions and distinguished sacrifices for our country. You did make a difference. God bless you.

#### HIGH SCHOOL REFORM

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, 2005, during a Committee on Education and the Workforce hearing on High School Reform I gave the following statement:

I am pleased we will today hear from the Governors of Massachusetts and Iowa on what measures they have found useful in reforming high schools in their own states. I am especially pleased that Governor Vilsack has highlighted the importance of vocational education and its role in high schools. High school reform is an important piece of the puzzle ensuring that our nation's young

adults are able to succeed in their chosen career path. The goal of high schools should be to prepare students for the next step in their lives, whether that be continuing on to college or beginning a vocational training program.

First, we must work to ensure that students graduate from high school. Recent statistics reported by the Harvard Civil Rights Project show that only 68 percent of students who entered the 9th grade graduated in the 12th grade. Minority students were even less likely to graduate. In today's economy, a high school diploma has increasingly become a minimum requirement for workers. We must address issues that keep students from graduating and get diplomas in their hands.

Students, regardless of background, should also know the options they have after graduation. The knowledge of training programs, entry requirements for universities, and financial aid options is invaluable for both students and their parents. Course work must effectively engage and challenge students, continuing their academic growth and building upon their foundation of skills. Students of all levels should make progress in their studies.

Our nation is diverse and so are the students in our high schools. There is no "one size fits all" for high schools or the students in them. Reforms for high schools should both recognize and employ that fact and aim to ensure that all students graduate from high school and are prepared for the next step in lives.

#### CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES THE CAREER OF GRETA KIERNAN OF PLAINSBORO, NEW JERSEY

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Greta Kiernan, who has served the State of New Jersey in a multitude of capacities for more than 40 years.

Having known Greta for a number of years, I can personally attest to the tremendous contributions she has made during her career as a public servant. From her introduction to politics as a member of the Bergen County Democratic Committee in 1963, Ms. Kiernan has distinguished herself by virtue of her exemplary leadership and commitment. She has served as a key aide to several members of the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly, a legislative liaison to New Jersey for the New York / New Jersey Port Authority, a principal staff member for the Low Level Radioactive Waste Siting Board and a principal staff member in the office of the Congressional Representative of the 12th District. Ms. Kiernan continues to build a political legacy. She was the first Democratic woman to serve in the New Jersey State Assembly from Bergen County. Elected in 1978, Ms. Kiernan represented what was then New Jersey's 39th District.

A woman of political acuity, skill, and expertise, Greta Kiernan is also known for her loyalty and kindness. A mother of four and grandmother of eleven, Ms. Kiernan is an avid collector of political memorabilia and artifacts. Her collection includes a rare copy of the minutes of the 1947 New Jersey Constitutional Convention, an extensive treasury of books on

the political history of New Jersey (signed by their authors), and countless buttons, bumper stickers, and hats. Her wit and quiet charm are boundless, and she has earned the trust and admiration of so many.

Greta Kiernan roles have ranged the gamut of public service, but her values and dedication have remained constant throughout. An inspiration to citizens of the State of New Jersey, Greta Kiernan has contributed significantly to the life of her community. She has earned our heartfelt appreciation and respect for her efforts. I ask my colleagues to join me in giving her this recognition.

#### TRIBUTE TO KATIE BROWNELL

### HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to 11-year-old Katie Brownell, of Genesee County, New York, for pitching a perfect Little League game on May 14th. This is a terrific accomplishment and Katie has much to be proud of, as do her family and her community.

Katie, the only female player in the league, displayed tremendous ability as she pitched the perfect game, striking out every single batter she faced, allowing not even a single baserunner.

This is not the first time Katie has dominated a baseball game however. In her first appearance on the mound this season, Katie allowed only one hit, striking out 14 batters through five innings. Katie also has a batting average of .714 through the first three games of the season.

Furthermore, Katie has shown tremendous sportsmanship, taking this accomplishment humbly and in stride. Katie has never gloated and has never bragged. She simply loves the game and enjoys playing it—characteristics equally as impressive as her abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in honoring Katie Brownell, and recognize her tremendous athletic abilities and sportsmanship after pitching a perfect game for her Little League team.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN GARRETT, JR.— A TRUE AMERICAN PATRIOT

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my uncle, John Garrett, Jr. and I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding American patriot.

John Garrett, Jr. was a Staff Sergeant and platoon leader of the 229th Port Company attached to the 1st Engineer Specialist Brigade of the 1st Army and on June 6th, 1944, his contingent of 75 men was responsible for transporting ammunition to the landing Allied Forces.

He was extremely proud of his service in the Army during WWII; however, he was disheartened that the role of African American soldiers who helped lead our country to victory

was not accurately depicted in history. Their names were not mentioned, their achievements were not celebrated, and their sacrifices were not honored. He considered it his mission to correct the historical omissions of the role of African American soldiers, and he developed a comprehensive collection of historical information, including visual displays and artifacts that he used during lectures to community groups and to the many schools where he was invited to speak.

He would speak about the contributions of African Americans in battle that history did not record. He told about the Tuskegee Airmen, the Red Ball Express, and the lesser-known Fighting 369th—a group of African Americans, largely from New York City, who valiantly chose to fight for a country that gave them only minimal civil rights and would not even allow them to carry arms or participate in battle. But this band of patriots would not be deterred, and eventually fought as Americans for our ally, the French. They were so fierce in battle, in fact, that the enemy called them “The Hell-Fighters,” and they would later come to be known as The Harlem Hell-Fighters.

He was tenacious in his attempts to have the recognition due African American soldiers afforded them, and was the catalyst for the movement that eventually led President Clinton to recognize those soldiers; as a result, a number of African American soldiers who had been overlooked for the Purple Heart were later awarded that medal in recognition of their service in WWII. Purple Hearts were not the only awards withheld from African American soldiers. President Eisenhower, when presenting Letters of Commendation, chose to send Letters to white soldiers only. My Uncle John was directly responsible for President Clinton's decision to award Letters of Commendation to those African American soldiers who participated in the D-Day Invasion and whose service had gone unmentioned and unrecognized for decades.

One of my uncle's most treasured experiences, capping off his life's work, was visiting Washington last Memorial Day weekend for the official dedication of the long-awaited World War II Memorial. As a veteran of the war, he and his wonderful wife Ruth, who were married over 60 years, were able to view the moving ceremony from special seats and also mingled with the crowds, enjoying great camaraderie with other World War II veterans gathered together for this historic occasion.

John Garrett, Jr. lived life to the fullest. When he and his wife attended my Annual Congressional Ball in March, they danced the night away, outlasting most of the others on the dance floor. He also made a point of traveling to Washington every fall to participate in the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor John Garrett, Jr. for his patriotism and his service to our country. He was tireless in his fight to ensure that all our soldiers received the honor that was due them. He was a role model for our community, enlightening thousands of school children with the true story of the role African Americans played in our Nation's history, and instilling in them pride for the legacy of their ancestors. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Ruth, his son Kenny and his granddaughter, Cindy.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF BETH  
ISRAEL—THE WEST TEMPLE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Beth Israel—The West Temple, in commemoration of its 50th anniversary. Beth Israel was organized in April 1954 by Abe Silverstein, an early director of the NASA Lewis Research Center and 25 founding families, to provide a religious center for Reform Jews living on Cleveland's west side. The congregation's first service, Rosh Hashanah, was on September 27, 1954, at the First Universalist Church in North Olmsted. For the next three years, services were held at either the Universalist Church or the North Olmsted Community Club House. Following the merger with the West Side Jewish Center in October 1957, Beth Israel occupied the Center's newly completed building at 14308 Triskett Road in Ohio's 10th Congressional District. The building was dedicated on May 11, 1958. The congregation continues to worship there today.

For its first seven years, Beth Israel was served by a succession of six student rabbis from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Among them was Daniel Litt who became Beth Israel's first full-time rabbi, serving from 1961 to 1965. The year 1965 also brought the construction of a new eight-room, two-story wing and the first of two Cleveland Foundation library grants. The library and its volunteer staff have provided services for the congregation as well as colleges, schools, and churches throughout western Cuyahoga County. By 1995, the library contained more than 6,000 volumes and audio-visual materials.

Beth Israel draws its members from Cleveland's west side and western suburbs in Ohio's 10th Congressional District. It prides itself on its commitment to education and social action. Its school, staffed by volunteers, covers preschool through grade 12 and has more than 100 students enrolled. Among its alumni is Sally Priesand, who went on to become the first woman ordained to the rabbinate in the United States and to serve as Beth Israel's rabbi. As an outgrowth of the temple Social Action Committee, Beth Israel's members found the Cleveland Council on Soviet Anti-Semitism. Council founder Lou Rosenberg became a leader in the national movement to assist Soviet Jewry. Beth Israel's current rabbi, Alan Lettovsky, remains active in local affairs and has spoken out at interfaith rallies to save local hospitals and on other issues of concern to the people of Ohio's 10th District.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Beth Israel—The West Temple for its 50 years of service to, and a center of worship and community for, my Jewish constituents on Cleveland's west side and western suburbs. Please join me in marking this auspicious occasion.

FREEDOM FOR REGIS IGLESIAS  
RAMÍREZ

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Regis Iglesias Ramirez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Iglesias Ramirez is a member of the Christian Liberation Movement. Because of his belief in freedom of religion, democracy and human rights, Mr. Iglesias Ramirez is an opponent of the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Despite the constant threat of retribution by the dictatorship, he has continually demanded his inalienable human rights.

Unfortunately, in March 2003, as part of the regime's heinous crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists, Mr. Iglesias Ramirez was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 18 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Iglesias Ramirez is languishing in an inhuman, grotesque gulag simply because of his religious convictions and his desire to live in liberty. According to Amnesty International, he has been threatened and harassed because he persists in studying his Bible while incarcerated by the regime. It is reprehensible that, at the dawn of the 21st Century, men and women like Mr. Iglesias Ramirez are still locked in dank dungeons because of the tenets of their faith.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is May 20, and on that day, 103 years ago, the Cuban people obtained their independence; the Republic of Cuba was born. Today the Cuban people, led by heroic activists such as Mr. Iglesias Ramirez, continue to fight for freedom. It is my fervent hope that next year, on May 20, the Cuban people will be able to celebrate the anniversary of Cuba's independence and also celebrate the return of freedom to that long suffering island.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that peaceful Cubans of all genders, creeds and colors are locked in Castro's barbarous gulag because they believe in a free Cuba. While the entire world sits by and ignores the suffering of the Cuban people, brave men and women like Mr. Iglesias Ramirez represent the best of mankind. My Colleagues, we must demand freedom and human rights for all people, especially those who live under the darkness of totalitarian regimes. We must demand immediate and unconditional freedom for Regis Iglesias Ramirez and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

COMMEMORATING THE 64TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF  
CRETE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 64th anniversary of the Battle of Crete by introducing this House Resolution which recognizes and appreciates the historical significance of the people of Crete during World War II.

This was a historic event with direct significance to the Allies' victory of World War II. On May 20, 1941, thousands of German paratroopers and gliders began landing on Crete. Both the Allies and Nazis wanted Crete because of its strategic location. At that time the British controlled the island. It was a very strong point on the lifeline to India and protected both Palestine and Egypt.

The Nazi invasion force included the elite German paratroopers and glider troops. Hitler felt this was to be an easy victory, yet he is quoted to have said shortly after the invasion, "France fell in 8 days. Why is Crete free?"

The invasion of Crete took eleven days. It resulted in more than 6,000 German troopers listed as killed, wounded, or missing in action. The losses to the elite 7th parachute division were felt so hard by the German Military that it signified the end of large-scale airborne operations.

This valiant fight by the Cretan people began in the first hour of the Nazi airborne invasion, in contrast to the European underground movements that took a year or more after being invaded to begin.

Young boys, old men and women displayed breathtaking bravery in defending their Crete. German soldiers never got used to Cretan women fighting them. They would tear the dress from the shoulders of suspected women to find bruises from the recoil of the rifle. The penalty was death.

On July 28, 1941, The Times (London) reported that "five hundred Cretan women have been deported to Germany for taking part in the defense of their native island."

Another surprise for the German soldiers who invaded Crete was the heroic resistance of the clergy. A priest leading his parishioners into battle was not what the Germans anticipated. At Paleochora, Father Stylianos Frantzeskis, hearing of the German airborne invasion, rushed to his church, sounded the bell, took his rifle and marched his volunteers toward Maleme to write history.

This struggle became an example for all Europe to follow in defying German occupation and aggression.

The price paid by the Cretans for their valiant resistance to Nazi forces was high. Thousands of civilians died from random executions, starvation, and imprisonment. The Germans burned and destroyed entire communities as a reprisal for the Cretan resistance movement. Yet this resistance lasted for four years.

The Battle of Crete changed the final outcome of World War II, and significantly contributed in delaying Hitler's plan to invade Russia. The invasion was delayed from April to June of 1941.

The 2-month delay in the invasion made Hitler's forces face the Russian winter.

The Russian snowstorms and the sub zero temperatures eventually stalled the Nazi invasion before they could take Moscow or Leningrad. This was the beginning of the downfall of the Nazi reign of terror.

This significant battle and the heroic drive of the Cretan people must always be remembered and honored. Democracy came from Greece, and the Cretan heroes exemplified the courage it takes to preserve it.

Today, the courage and fortitude of the Cretan people are seen in the members of the United Cretan Associations of New York which are located in Astoria, Queens.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cretans in the United States, Greece, and the diaspora.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
RICHARD MARTIN

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a man who has dedicated his life to protecting our nation's treasures so generations of Americans can continue to enjoy their riches. Richard Martin, Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, is retiring after 48 years of federal land management service.

Without question, my district has some of the finest landscapes in the world—from the High Sierras where these parks are found to the vast Central Valley where agriculture is king. All of these riches are interrelated. I came to know Superintendent Martin during his tenure of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Since day one, I have had the privilege of working closely with Dick to find solutions to critical visitor use issues and I have found him a man of his word and deed. I have been especially impressed with his ability to reach out to Valley residents to make the park more accessible. Dick has encouraged park staff to participate as active members of the many communities the park borders and discover how any park decision affects the neighborhood. He has developed close friendships with Valley communities and provided park educational opportunities for all.

Superintendent Martin has also tackled issues that go way beyond the National Park System to include the war on drugs. This is a problem no one expected the park staff to have to undertake until the disgusting discovery of a re-routed mountain stream, poisoned by a time release fertilizer component, irrigating hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of marijuana. Automatic weapons, animal carcasses, and a landfill emitting methane gas, are often found in these illegal marijuana plantations within the park. I applaud Dick's effort to eliminate this destructive cash crop and restore the stream and vegetation. We have visitors walking along trails near these locations and private property not far away—we want to ensure the safety of everyone and Dick has taken this task to heart.

Superintendent Martin's career has spanned some of this nation's most remote and vast landscapes, from the lowest in elevation—Death Valley National Park, to a far north locale at Alaska's Wrangell St Elias National Park and Preserve, to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Dick is an extraordinary park manager with an eye on retaining our parks for future generations. He and I have found ways to provide access, along with preservation—all in a desire to maintain our national heritage.

As the sun sets on his government career, I suspect that I will one day find him walking or riding along one of our western trails with his wife and four grown children. It will be great to see him continue to enjoy what he spent 48 years to protect. Dick, I wish you a hearty so-long and a fond farewell.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO POSTPONE THE 2005 ROUND OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to postpone the 2005 round of military base closure and realignment. This bill would postpone the conclusion of the Realignment report issued by the Department of Defense on 13 May 2005, as well as any preceding or subsequent plans that may ultimately be enacted to close or realign military bases on U.S. territory. This bill will postpone such closures and realignments until a specific set of criteria have been fulfilled, including until both the Defense Department and Congress have had the opportunity to fully study the recommendations and their implications for the national security and defense of the United States.

This round of base closure and realignment also should not go forward while we have hundreds of thousands of troops deployed overseas in major conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The constant rotation of troops and other personnel to these major theaters of operations has caused great disruption, logistical strain, and terrible burdens on our servicemembers, their families, and the military itself.

Also, we should not proceed with this round of base closures and realignments before the 2006 release of the Quadrennial Defense Review. Congress must have ample time to study the recommendations of the QDR before agreeing on any major closure and realignment strategy. To do otherwise just does not make any sense.

Mr. Speaker, for these and other reasons I feel it is essential—for the strength of our military, the effectiveness of our defense, and the security of all Americans—that we postpone this round of BRAC closings until we are able to satisfy the critical criteria outlined in this bill. I hope my colleagues will join me by supporting this legislation and I hope for its speedy consideration on the House Floor.

IN HONOR OF SALVATORE J.  
CHILIA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Salvatore J. Chilia, as the State of Israel Bonds is honoring his decades-long commitment and work in supporting and protecting the American worker.

Mr. Chilia began work as an electrician with an apprenticeship in 1967. His service to workers began in 1977, when he was elected as an officer of Local 38's examining board. Mr. Chilia served seventeen years on the executive board, including nine years as chairman. In 1989, he was elected president of Local 38, working on behalf of 2,200 active members and 850 retirees. Throughout his tenure as board member, president and chairman, Mr. Chilia maintained an unwavering

focus on the rights and welfare of workers and their families. His ascension through the union ranks is reflected by the numerous successes for members, including the protection and promotion of workers' safety, compensation, benefits and pensions.

Mr. Chilia created strong bonds of trust and respect throughout the union community and was elected to the office of Business Manager of the Cleveland Electrical JATC. His expertise and commitment has been sought out nationally as well. In 2001, Mr. Chilia was elected as a member of the 36th Annual IBEW International Convention's executive council, representing members in the areas of construction, manufacturing, broadcasting, utilities, maintenance and railroad workers. Beyond his service to workers, Mr. Chilia has a deep and abiding dedication to his family and community. Mr. Chilia and his wife, Arlene, maintain an unbreakable focus on their children and grandchildren. His love for children extends outward into the community, where he is actively involved in children's charities, including the Children's Museum of Cleveland and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Golf Tournament.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Salvatore J. Chilia, upon this worthy tribute by the State of Israel Bonds, for his outstanding service on behalf of the workers of our Cleveland community and beyond. His work continues to serve as a shield of strength, protecting the heart of our nation—the American worker.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1817) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment introduced by my distinguished colleague from the great State of New Jersey, the Honorable ROBERT MENENDEZ. This amendment will help keep Congress informed of the Department of Homeland Security's strategies to protect the people of New Jersey, our nation's most densely populated state—in particular, those who live and work in the high-risk, terrorist target-rich neighborhoods that lie between Port Elizabeth and Newark International Airport.

This is a matter of vital importance both for the people of New Jersey and for all Americans. The threat of terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure in the United States has hardly subsided since September 11th, 2001. Northern New Jersey is an integral part of the largest metropolitan region in the nation, home to major rail networks; oil refineries, pipelines and fuel storage facilities; major airports; communication hubs; and a highway system that includes I-95, the most heavily traveled traffic corridor on the East Coast. Indeed, this metropolitan region has already been the subject of the deadliest terrorist attack in American history, and the more than 12 million individuals who reside or work inside the 14-mile radius of this nerve center deserve assurances that their government is taking all appropriate measures to protect them from future terrorist incidents.

I support the amendment introduced by Mr. MENENDEZ not out of parochial if entirely justifiable concern for the residents and workers of this sensitive area of northern New Jersey; I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment because it truly addresses vital issues of national security. The Port of New York and New Jersey is the largest on the East Coast of the United States, with products and goods being funneled through its chokepoint to destinations all over the United States.

As my colleague Mr. MENENDEZ has noted, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has dubbed the area between Port Newark and Newark International Airport the "most dangerous two miles in the United States when it comes to terrorism." I rise in support of the amendment offered by Mr. MENENDEZ and I urge all of my distinguished colleagues to support it.

SUPPORTING THE FIRST ANNUAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the First Annual Asian Pacific American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. As Chair of the Health Task Force for the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and as the Delegate from Guam, which ranks fourth in the Pacific Region in the number of HIV/AIDS cases, I am deeply concerned about the impact of HIV/AIDS in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

While Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders together with Native Americans reportedly

account for approximately 1 percent of new AIDS cases, the true impact of HIV/AIDS on the AAPI community is not fully understood because of the lack of data and information as well as a common misperception among the health professions that AAPIs are a healthier population than other minority groups.

Many view the Asian American and Pacific Islander population as the "model minority," a stereotype that feeds the mistaken belief that AAPIs are less at-risk for HIV/AIDS as other ethnic minorities. The reality is that AAPIs are as much at-risk as other ethnic groups and in fact, have higher rates of many preventable diseases that are co-factors to HIV infection such as tuberculosis and Hepatitis B. In addition, the reported number of HIV/AIDS cases among AAPIs is misleading due to a lack of detailed HIV surveillance, underreporting and misclassification of cases. Yet, the little data that does exist, points to increasing HIV rates within the AAPI population.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate a 25 percent increase in the number of AAPI AIDS cases from 1999 through 2002. As one of the fastest growing ethnic groups, made up of over 49 ethnicities and 100 languages and with annual growth rates among Asian ethnicities as high as 115 percent, effective HIV prevention and education programs which utilize culturally and linguistically appropriate strategies are urgently needed. These programs must also be supported at the federal level through changes in funding guidelines and requirements that take these factors into account.

Pacific Island jurisdictions such as my district of Guam face additional challenges due to their remote location. These communities lack the infrastructure, capacity, equipment and training to deliver HIV/AIDS services. In addition, these jurisdictions lack community-based services and support found on the mainland. Prevention, testing, treatment and care depends on the local public health departments, many of which do not have the staff or funding resources to provide more than basic services. As a result, a diagnosis of AIDS usually means the patient will need to leave the island in order to receive proper care. Yet some choose to remain because of cultural and familial ties, sacrificing proper health care. No one should have to make such a choice.

Today, as we observe Asian Pacific American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, we must take this opportunity to educate and motivate our communities to advocate for resources to support initiatives that address these issues. I look forward to working with the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in support of these efforts.