

number of college-bound Hispanic students; a Native American counselor and out-reach program were initiated; at-risk student classes and support systems were added and increased; special education student programs were enhanced; gang forum, drug and alcohol prevention programs were instigated; and monies needed to keep athletic, fine arts and performing arts were raised.

Dr. Gary also encouraged programs to support gender equity, as well as ethnic and cultural diversity. And he encouraged professional development and personal creativity among staff members, maintaining the highest standards for the faculty, students and himself.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, Dr. Gary gained the admiration and respect of all and represents everything that is positive in our public education system. For these reasons and countless others, it is most appropriate that we honor his commitment and service to perhaps our nation's most important resource—educating our youth.

TOGO ELECTION STATEMENT

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, and have served in the House of Representatives over twelve years. I have observed and monitored elections in areas as diverse as Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean, and Haiti in particular. In years past, I have traveled to Africa and other parts of the world to monitor living conditions and the status of human rights.

From what I saw, although there was some tension in Lome before and during the election, I witnessed more than anything thousands of calm voters who patiently waited in long lines to vote for the candidate of their choice. Overall, the Togolese seemed very pleased that an American, particularly a Member of Congress, was present during the election.

The election problems I encountered on Election Day were similar to voting problems in the United States. These problems consisted of the following: Very long voting lines, polls not opening on time, electricity (where it existed) going out briefly, and some voters' names not being on the voting rolls (by the way, I found it interesting that the international monitors in Togo told me they would not mention that I was from Florida). I stayed at the polls through the evening when the voting boxes from Lome's polling sites were brought to City Hall for a public count. Many of Togo's citizens, together with international observers and dignitaries, were present for the count which lasted into the night. Although our team stayed in Lome, there were observers stationed throughout the country.

By the next day, the Economic Coalition of West African States (ECOWAS) declared that the election, although not perfect, was generally peaceful and successful. ECOWAS accepted the announced vote tally of 60 percent of the vote for Gnassingbe Essozimana Faure, declaring him the newly elected President of Togo. In addition to meetings and briefings with ECOWAS leaders, I also met with and

worked closely with hundreds of other international Independent Election Monitors.

To me, Togo's Presidential Election of 2005 was an exceptional election because of the unexpected death of Togo's President, who had been in power for thirty-five years. Under his rule, Togo developed a Constitution and a Parliamentary government with a Prime Minister. And, according to the Togolese Constitution, within 60 days of the death of a President, there must be a Presidential election, and Africa's Coalition of Economic Countries (ECOWAS) set the election date for April 24th 2005.

Indeed, Togo's recent Presidential Election was important, not just for Togo, but for all of Africa and for the world. Clearly, each African election is newsworthy as another step towards democratization. I believe that a free, fair and democratic election in Togo was also particularly important, so that post election Togo does not descend into chaos, and destabilize the neighboring African countries with refugees.

Lastly, as a sign of ongoing progress, the elected government and the opposition groups are meeting in Abuja, Nigeria's capitol, to discuss the distribution of power within the new government. Attending the meeting will be the African Union's chairman, Nigeria's President Obasanjo, and Niger's President Tandja, who is currently presiding over ECOWAS. Also in attendance are Faure Gnassingbe, Togo's elected President, representatives of Togo's opposition coalition, led by exiled leader Gilchrist Olympio, defeated presidential candidate Emmanuel Akitani Bob and Harry Olympio, an independent candidate, as well as the leaders of Gabon, Burkina Faso, and the UN Secretary General's representative, Ould Abdallah.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 210, I was detained in my office. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

REMARKS REGARDING TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to meet with the senior operating officials of nearly all of the Nation's freight railroads, large and small. What I heard from them, each of them, was their continued commitment to the safe and secure transportation of all goods tendered to them in interstate commerce.

I also heard their concern about being caught in the middle of a political crossfire over the issue of transporting certain hazardous materials through major cities located along their rail lines. They find themselves in this untenable position because of a legal

duty. The common carrier obligation requires them to accept all legal goods for transport. Despite this legal duty and with no regard for the vital role some of these commodities play in protecting the public health and welfare, there are communities like the District of Columbia that are using every resource at their disposal to prevent railroads from going through their towns with these goods; in particular, hazardous materials.

Railroads clearly are the safest means of transporting hazardous materials, with a 99.996 percent safety record. These materials include chlorine to clean your water and propane to heat your homes. The transportation of the most hazardous chemicals represent three-tenths of one percent of the railroads' annual revenue, but well over 50 percent of their insurance premiums. But the railroads are not allowed to get out of the business. And if they did, the transportation of these goods would be much less safe.

That is why I urge my colleagues to oppose local initiatives such as those enacted by the District of Columbia and now being contemplated by other cities, like Cleveland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Atlanta, in trying to prohibit the routing of these goods through their cities. The Constitution vests the Federal Government with the responsibility for regulating interstate commerce (Article I, Section 8). Through (among others) the Federal Railroad Safety Act, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, and ICCTA, Congress has given Federal agencies the responsibility to oversee the transportation of hazardous materials in interstate commerce. Further, in the case of DC, the Department of Homeland Security is actively analyzing rail security matters, particularly hazmat transportation (e.g., through the DC Rail Corridor Project's vulnerability assessment, and an analysis of security of hazmats that pose a toxic inhalation hazard).

What the DC Council has done, and what other cities are threatening to do, not only usurps the responsibilities and actions of the Federal Government, but also actually increases the risks of hazmat transportation, by increasing transit time and distance due to rerouting, and by shifting the risk involved with hazmat transport to other areas of the country. Rerouting trains carrying hazardous materials will cause delays, idling of hazmat containers, and switching of containers to other trains. Each handling of hazmat containers raises the risk level. In sum, the re-routing potentially threatens national security, disrupts interstate commerce, and jeopardizes public health.

We should be constantly vigilant about our national security. Thus, we cannot let the misguided efforts of myopic municipalities compromise our Nation's health, economy, safety and security through punitive and ill-advised legislation, such as that passed by the District of Columbia.

TRIBUTE TO W. CALVERT "CAL" BRAND

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the State of Indiana lost a pillar of the community last week.

On Thursday, May 19, 2005, Cal Brand passed away in the City of Columbus, Indiana, an intimate community in my Congressional District and also my hometown. Hundreds of Hoosiers mourned his passing yesterday at the First Presbyterian Church where Cal was an elder, deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher.

Cal Brand founded, owned and operated Brand Inc. Lumber, a successful venture that led to appointments on the Indiana Lumber & Builders Supply Association, the Indiana Building Congress and the National Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association.

In his role as a member of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Cal received both the Community Service award and the Small Businessman of the Year award. He was also a member of various service organizations including the Kiwanis Club and the Columbus Foundation for Youth.

In his respected political life, Cal Brand carried himself in a gentle manner, all while advising Hoosier Governors, U.S. Senators and President Ronald Reagan. He even served as an elected official on the Columbus City Council in 1955 and in the Indiana House of Representatives from 1966–1970.

Cal Brand's confidence and wisdom was outshone only by his gentle nature and humble attitude. He is the perfect example of a good businessman and citizen. The kind of person every community needs.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the City of Columbus, I extend heartfelt sympathies to the family of Cal Brand, specifically his wife Betty, his daughter Joan of New Jersey; his sons the Rev. D. Calvert Brand of Martinsville and John S. Brand and Jesse R. Brand, both of Columbus; and his seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Living in Columbus, Indiana, means making a commitment to getting involved and improving the community in which you live. Cal Brand embodied that allegiance to his Columbus. He will be deeply missed, and his generosity will never be forgotten.

HONORING MAJOR WILLIAM
MCCOLLOUGH

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, most Americans probably don't know that there are military men and women who serve their country right here in the U.S. House of Representatives as liaisons between members of Congress and the Nation's armed forces.

These men and women have a critical role in helping Congress do its job, and today, while America is at war, the importance of their work is clearer than ever before.

It is with great appreciation and sadness that I rise to thank one of our finest military liaisons, U.S. Marine Corps Major William McCollough, for his service to this institution and our country as he leaves Washington to join the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment as Executive Officer.

During my time in Congress, I've had the opportunity to work with Major McCollough—and I know that my colleagues who've worked with him will agree—that his leadership, pro-

fessionalism, and friendship have enabled us to better represent our districts.

We will miss Major McCollough, but we wish him well in his new assignment.

PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BAN AND
THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Chen Shui-ban and the people of Taiwan, as they celebrate the close of the 1st year of President Chen's second term in office.

Taiwan and the United States share universal values of freedom, human rights, and democracy. Based on these common principles, our two countries work together closely politically and economically. Taiwan is our 8th largest trading partner, and we are Taiwan's largest trading partner. There are more than 270 direct flights between the United States and Taiwan every week and more than twenty eight thousand Taiwanese students currently studying in the United States. We hope that this relationship will become even closer in the years ahead, as President Chen continues his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues here in the Congress have recently written a letter to Lee Jong-wook, Director General of the World Health Organization, asking him to support Taiwan's bid for observer status in the World Health Assembly, the WHO's governing body. Taiwan has a modern, world-class health care system and has lent its talent and resources to people in need throughout Asia and around the world. As such, Taiwan has much to contribute to global health and deserves a place under the WHO umbrella, and it is important that they be given the opportunity to do so.

President Chen continues to call for resumption of dialogue between the PRC and Taiwan to ensure that any resolution of the "Taiwan Question" is through peaceful means. He remains committed to promoting the establishment of a peaceful and stable mechanism for cross-strait relations, a goal that we here in the Congress certainly share with him. Maintaining the status quo between the PRC and Taiwan is of paramount importance to the United States.

Once again, I congratulate President Chen and his 23 million countrymen.

HONORING GRAHAM JACKSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and commitment of Mr. Graham Jackson. Mr. Jackson was recognized by the North Central Texas College/Small Business Development Center for his zealous business approach and his passionate entrepreneurial spirit.

In early 2000, while working in the classroom support services department at the University of North Texas, Mr. Jackson recog-

nized there was a distinct need for an audio/visual rental service in the Denton area. Electing his mother as his business partner and with some assistance from the Small Business Development Center, Jackson opened Audio Visual Solutions in August 2000.

With clients such as Denton Presbyterian Hospital, the City Hall of Gainesville, and the Denton Civic Center, and with this year's sales estimated to increase three-fold compared to 2004, Jackson has established himself as a true business pioneer.

In addition to Audio Visual Solutions, Mr. Jackson dedicates a considerable amount of time giving back to the Denton community by volunteering at the Denton Children's Advocacy Center and serving on the Board of the Denton Young Professionals organization.

Despite several setbacks along the way, and the fact that over 80 percent of small businesses fail within five years, Mr. Jackson has relied on character and personal perseverance to become successful in his field. It is with great honor I stand here today to recognize a man who not only is the epitome of the entrepreneurial spirit, but one who has devoted his time giving back to the community that has given him so much.

HONORING JOHN LUKES, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise before you today to pay tribute to a loyal friend and a tireless advocate for America's workers, Mr. John Lukes, Sr. This Friday, members and friends of UAW Local 599 in Flint, Michigan, will honor the life and legacy of this great man, who died May 23 at the age of 82.

It has been said that "death ends a life, not a relationship," and this is certainly the case with those who have ever come into contact with John Lukes and have benefited from his influence. A longtime Flint resident, World War II veteran, and committed labor activist, John's association with the UAW began October 6, 1949. As a member of Local 599, John served as Alternate Committeeman from 1949 to 1967, and worked as Editor of the Headlight newspaper from 1957–1964. John was elected Recording Secretary for the Local in 1967, a position he held until his retirement, and provided leadership and insight on the executive boards of the Veterans Committee, CAP Committee, and the Health & Safety Committee. On a national level, John operated as National Publicity Chair for the UAW's 30 & Out Committee. In 1977, John was honored with the Walter P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award.

Upon his retirement from General Motors in 1992, after 43 years, John continued to work on behalf of his peers through the Local's Retiree chapter, where he served as chairman until 2003. He was also found at the forefront of many community projects.

Mr. Speaker, John Lukes, Sr. was not just a constituent, but also a very good friend. It is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today, however it is also with great pride that I do so. It is people like John, who make it their life's work to improve the quality and dignity of life for us all, that continue to inspire us