

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING WCMT-AM ON ITS 2005 CRYSTAL AWARD

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me today in honoring WCMT-AM, in Martin, Tennessee, for being named a 2005 Crystal Award Winner by the National Association of Broadcasters. As you know, this very prestigious award recognizes those radio stations that provide outstanding public service to their communities, and we are proud that WCMT is receiving this honor.

WCMT is a treasure for West Tennessee because of its focus on those who live in Weakley County and the surrounding areas. The station's news programming has long been an excellent source of information for West Tennesseans, and its community outreach efforts have been invaluable to many of our fellow residents. It is locally owned and operated by Thunderbolt Broadcasting, whose president and general manager, Paul Tinkle, is a long-time friend of mine and a true leader in Weakley County.

WCMT-AM is a past recipient of the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year Award and a four-time finalist for the NAB Crystal Award, with which it is now being honored. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the decades of dedicated broadcasting excellence and community service that have helped WCMT earn this celebrated honor.

A TRIBUTE TO NICOLAS ABREU

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Nicolas Abreu.

Nicolas Abreu was born on the beautiful island of the Dominican Republic to Hobo and Nicolasa Abreu. On February 19, 1979, the entire family migrated to New York in order to pursue a better life.

His first job, as a waiter in a local restaurant, lasted for nine years. Remembering the vision of his parents led him to resign from his restaurant job and go to work at the family run Auto Dealer establishment.

On November 14, 1981, Nicolas Abreu married Luz at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. Together, they are the proud parents of three children.

Continuing the family legacy, in 1991, Mr. Abreu opened his own auto sales business in Brooklyn, naming it "Diana Auto Sales" after his daughter. Business was good and by the mid 1990s Nicolas opened his second used car sales establishment, Crystal Motors Inc., named after his niece.

Mr. Abreu also leads by example in his spiritual life. He is an Extra Ordinary Minister at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, where he and his family worship. He is the founding member of the EMAUS (a men's group in the church whose role is to get men involved in activities in the church).

He owes his success to his parents for their vision and dedication to their children; if it were not for his parent's foresight he would not be where he is today. Mr. Speaker, Nicolas Abreu recognizes the importance of family, hard work, respect for the community and courage makes him more than worthy of our recognition today.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN HANSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an invaluable member of my community, Mr. John Hanson. Mr. Hanson is a Building Maintenance Specialist from the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and has recently completed a tour of duty in Iraq with the Army National Guard. Sergeant First Class Hanson's unit was called up in late 2003 and he served in Iraq for 16 consecutive months.

Mr. Hanson has been with the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea since 1988 and was well supported by his wife, Annette, his two children, and his community. Mr. Hanson has not only served his country with honor, but has met some of the humanitarian needs of the Iraqis that he has come in contact with. While he was in Iraq, John supported, with the assistance of his family at home, an Iraqi school with shipments of items like flip-flops, tank tops, and school supplies. For having endured an extended time away from his family and friends, the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea has awarded him a key to the City.

Through his enormous sense of decency, fairness, generosity, and commitment to his country, Mr. John Hanson has been an asset to everyone that he has touched. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize Sergeant First Class John Hanson.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join all of those who have gathered in congratulating the National Organization of Italian American Women as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary. This is

a very special milestone for this outstanding organization.

Twenty-five years ago, a small group of Italian American women gathered in the Upper West Side apartment of Aileen Riotta Sirey. That meeting and their desire to assist other Italian American women and develop a nationwide network of women sharing a common ancestry sparked the formation of the National Organization of Italian American Women. Through their commitment to this effort, NOIAW members have developed a very successful scholarship and mentoring program and also offer a variety of educational and social programs. Today, NOIAW has a strong membership and is well-known as a resource for other Italian American women pursuing their own educational and professional aspirations.

Throughout our nation's history, Italian Americans have played a pivotal role in the success and progress of America. The myriad of invaluable contributions that those of Italian ancestry have made to this nation are immeasurable. Musicians, artists, doctors, lawyers, politicians, teachers, activists, and more—the credits of Italian Americans can be found in professional and civic services across America. As an annual celebration of pride in their ethnic heritage, NOIAW recognizes the achievements of today's outstanding Italian Americans.

As they mark their 25th Anniversary, NOIAW will also honor three inspiring individuals who have each distinguished themselves in their respective careers. Lisa Caputo Nowak is an astronaut and Commander in the U.S. Navy and will become the first Italian American woman in space with the launch of STS-21 to the International Space Station in the near future. Patricia de Stacy Harrison is the current Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Prior to her appointment, she founded and managed a top public relations firm and has also served as the Co-Chair of the Republican National Committee. NOIAW's Special Recognition Award will be presented to Antonio Giordano, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Sbarro Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Medicine. Dr. Giordano is internationally renowned for his research in cell cycle, gene therapy, and the genetics of cancer. The accomplishments of these individuals and their outstanding contributions to our nation will certainly stand as an inspiration for generations to come.

In sharing and celebrating our ethnic heritage, NOIAW has built a strong network of women and supporters who are ensuring that future generations can achieve their dreams. Their mission to support, mentor, and encourage the professional and personal success of other Italian American women is making a real difference in the lives of thousands of women throughout the country. It is with great pride that I stand today and extend my sincere congratulations to the National Organization of Italian American Women on their 25th Anniversary. In just a short time they have already touched the lives of so many, and I send my

• 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.

very best wishes to the Board and its membership for many more years of success!

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
SHERIFF GERALD T. McFAUL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of Sheriff Gerald T. McFaul for the exemplary service he has shown to our community during his 38 years in public office. As the longest serving sheriff in Cuyahoga County history, Gerald has been a vital asset to our community.

In 1957, only two weeks out of high school, Gerald started an apprenticeship at the Pipefitters Local 120 and has been a proud member for 53 years. At the same time he ran for Cleveland City council—and lost. But Gerald was committed to helping his community and on his third try won a seat, which he kept for five consecutive terms.

At 31, he became the youngest Majority Leader in Cleveland City Council history. I too at age 31 was elected to a public office in Cleveland, when I was voted the youngest mayor ever of a major American city. So I can tell you personally that this speaks volumes to his character.

Because Gerald is interested in justice issues and having a desire to stop racist practices in the police department he decided to run for sheriff. He was elected in 1976 and has been in office for more than 28 years.

Sheriff McFaul is a pillar of our community and has worked to keep the streets of Cuyahoga County safe with the utmost respect for the rule of law and the people of this fine county.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly pleased that the people of Cuyahoga County turned to Gerald T. McFaul, to serve as sheriff for more than 28 years. Please join me today in honor and recognition of a person who has willingly assisted the residents of Cuyahoga County for nearly four decades.

HONORING CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, CITRUS COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sheriffs Office in Citrus County, FL.

Local Sheriffs offices are the first responders to crimes and disasters and are a key element of support in our communities. It is important that we recognize the hard work and dedication of these men and women, and never take their service for granted.

These deputies make daily sacrifices and put themselves at risk keeping our communities safe. This office has shown professional excellence this past year and their work has truly made our county a safer place.

Events like the one today hosted by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce provide

the camaraderie and support these dedicated men and women deserve. This Appreciation Barbeque allows for the employees of the Sheriff's Department to come together after a very difficult and heart wrenching year. The generosity of the community as a whole has made this event possible and I thank them for it.

Unfortunately, I was unable to join them today at Liberty Park in Inverness, FL. I was unavoidably detained by Congressional votes here in Washington, DC, and could not return in time for the event. I look forward to joining them in the future when I am home in Citrus County.

The Mission of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office is to maintain peace and order by providing law enforcement services that are of the highest professional quality. I would argue they have far surpassed this mission. When tragedy strikes our community, I know we can rely on these truly dedicated public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I once again would like to express my true appreciation for everyone in the Sheriffs Office and all they do for our communities.

TRIBUTE TO THURL ARTHUR
RAVENSCROFT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, my colleague Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan and I rise today to honor the life of Thurl Arthur Ravenscroft, the voice of Tony the Tiger, the orange-and-black-striped spokesman for Kellogg's Frosted Flakes. We would like to express our heartfelt condolences as all of us in Southern Michigan lost a friend and neighbor on May 22, 2005.

Thurl had a long, distinguished career, most notably as the voice of Tony the Tiger for over 53 years. However, his contributions to the entertainment industry didn't stop there. While a celebrity in his own right, he sang backup with other celebrities such as Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra and Rosemary Clooney. Thurl also provided voiceovers for the Grinch in Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "The Cat in the Hat," in "Horton Hears a Who," and "The Lorax."

With his contributions to Kellogg and Dr. Seuss novels, the world of Walt Disney wouldn't be the same without Thurl's voice. His vocal works played important roles in the themes of "The Mickey Mouse Club," "Davy Crockett," and "Zorro," while contributing to the making of "Cinderella," "Dumbo," and "Lady and the Tramp." Thurl's voice was also used in both song and narration for two of Walt Disney's most popular theme rides, "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Haunted Mansion."

While most of his career was spent entertaining both the young and old, Thurl courageously served in the U.S. Military for 5 years. In 1942, he enlisted in the Air Transport Command, where he flew numerous special missions over the North Atlantic as an expert navigator. In addition to his work outside the entertainment business, Thurl devoted time to activities in the Christian field that included recording the Book of Psalms for the visually impaired.

All of us in Southern Michigan are deeply saddened with the passing of Thurl Ravenscroft and appreciate all of his service as an entertainer, soldier and Christian. We will forever be able to enjoy his wonderful works whether we are watching great Kellogg commercials, a Disney movie, or attending an amusement park.

Southern Michigan will not be the same without Thurl Ravenscroft. He was GRRRRREEEEAT!

THE PLIGHT OF THE AFRO-
COLOMBIANS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring light to the continuing neglect of Afro-Descendent people in Colombia. This past May 21, 2005, Colombia marked the 154th anniversary of the abolition of slavery. Yet, African descendant minorities, who comprises 26 percent of the population, continues to be mistreated, marginalized socially and economically, and are pushed to the fringes of society.

Afro-Colombians are displaced from their ancestral lands which is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, so that extra-judicial groups such as the FARC, ELN and AUC are able to grow crops for drug trafficking. This population is, by far, the most repressed group in Colombia. They have the lowest national per capita income, the highest rates of illiteracy, high indices of infant mortality, and startling rates of preventable diseases.

Though the Colombian government is starting to make strides in breaking down the power of guerrilla and paramilitary groups, it has not done enough to protect Afro-Colombian territories. Historically, Afro-Colombian territories such as Chocó are of great strategic importance to securing the United States. Chocó is in essence at the crossroads between Central America and South America. It also has access to the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea making Chocó a very attractive launching pad for Colombia's extra-judicial actors.

These illegally armed actors should not and must not be exempt from prosecution for the human rights violations carried out under their leadership. The oppression of the Afro-Colombian population by these military groups must cease and desist. It is the responsibility of the Colombian government to secure its communities by eliminating such groups who have murdered, raped, and displaced the Afro-Colombian people.

We must do more in humanitarian assistance to provide better aid to those Afro-Colombians who have been displaced. Groups such as the Social Solidarity Network, Afro-Latino Development Alliance, the Black Mayors Federation, and AFRODES, in collaboration with local NGOs, are laying the foundation for advancements in healthcare, education, sustainable development, community kitchens, housing and other programs to address the needs of the displaced. Additionally, organizations such as USAID, Pan American Development Foundation, and the Colombian National Police are now finally planning to hire Afro-Colombians for technical and professional positions that will be beneficial to the Afro-Colombian community.

It is imperative that, more coordination by the Colombian government, our State Department and the philanthropic communities develop mechanisms to address this critical issue. President Uribe of Colombia agreed to the creation of a Cabinet level appointee to address the crisis facing Afro-Colombians and we are waiting for this to happen. This person will provide coordination amongst the Colombian government, the State Department, NGOs and other groups to address the plight of the Afro-Colombian communities. This will afford Afro-Colombians a voice in public policy that will ultimately have an impact on their communities.

The role of the United States must be, as it has in the past, multi-faceted. We must work closely with the Colombian government, our State Department and USAID to fight this crisis on all fronts. We must help to put an end to the oppression that the Afro-Colombian people have endured over the past 154 years since the abolishment of slavery.

Mr. Speaker, we must contribute more money in the area of sustainable development and rely less on military aid to solve Colombia's problems. We cannot continue to allow the egregious human rights violations within the Afro-Colombian community to continue. We must hold the Colombian government accountable on its human rights record and for its neglect of the Afro-Colombians.

HONORING JAMES EDWARD
WESTCOTT

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize Mr. James Edward Westcott of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for his continued dedication and service to the community.

Ed Westcott's career has been a long and illustrious one. He served a unique role in capturing the history of Oak Ridge. In 1941, Ed went to work for the United States Army Corps of Engineers as their chief photographer for the famed Manhattan Project. He served the City with two distinct roles, officially documenting the historic creation and operation of the "Secret City" and unofficially documenting the daily life and events of the community of Oak Ridge as a photojournalist for the Oak Ridge Journal.

Throughout Mr. Westcott's career, he has captured numerous historic events and many notable personalities on film, including seven presidents. His most important work, however, was capturing the unique history and heritage of Oak Ridge. The early people of this town who dedicated their services to the greater cause of our country will never be forgotten thanks to the talents and contributions of Ed Westcott.

He has truly distinguished himself through his commitment and service to the community.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR STEFAN
KAPSCH'S RETIREMENT FROM
REED COLLEGE

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, this month, Stefan Kapsch will retire as a professor of political science at Reed College. Professor Kapsch came to Reed from the University of Pennsylvania in 1974. For thirty years, he has inspired Reed students with his passion for American politics, empirical methodology, and constitutional law.

Professor Kapsch's career is distinguished by an impressive record of civic engagement. For him, public policy analysis is not just an abstract subject for classroom discussion; it is a very real and ongoing pursuit. Professor Kapsch has been research director of the Oregon Commission on the Judicial Branch, executive director of the Oregon Prison Overcrowding Project and research partner in the SACSI Initiative of the National Institute of Justice, a project on youth gun violence in Portland. By his example, Professor Kapsch has taught generations of students that independent academic analysis is a necessary component of good policymaking.

Professor Kapsch has taken a special interest in the former Yugoslavia—and Slovenia in particular—where he was a Fulbright Fellow to the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Ljubljana in 1994–95. He has served as a voter registration supervisor for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is charged with the conduct of elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina under the Dayton Accords. In 2002, Professor Kapsch was a Senior Fulbright Scholar at the Amerika Institut of Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich.

Professor Kapsch will be remembered for his ability to bring even the most technical subjects to life through classroom discussions and seminars. He has earned a reputation among Reed students as the faculty's best storyteller, with an anecdote to illustrate every new principle introduced in class.

In his three decades at Reed, Professor Kapsch was a mentor, a confidant, and a friend to countless students and he will certainly be missed. But his retirement marks the start of a fresh chapter in his life, as he will spend more time brewing homemade beer, relaxing at the Oregon coast, restoring his 1952 Ford Pickup, and enjoying the company of his loving wife Shirley, his children and grandchildren.

IN HONOR OF THE HOUSING AU-
THORITY OF PLAINFIELD'S 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF RICHMOND
TOWERS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the longevity of the Richmond Towers in Plainfield, New Jersey.

This September, the Housing Authority of Plainfield will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of

the Richmond Towers, a 225 unit senior citizen complex developed to serve seniors within the Plainfield area. This building is a testament to the successes of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which funded this project that helped to house thousands of residents in the Plainfield community.

Today I feel fortunate to stand here and announce that two agencies, one at the Federal level and one at the state, have not only followed through with their goals, but exceeded them. The Housing Authority has been invaluable to the senior citizens of Plainfield and I am confident that it will continue to be for the next 30 years as well.

REGARDING FORECLOSURES
AMONG MINORITIES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, homeownership can be the passage to the American dream. It can help offer wealth and even tax credit to American citizens. Nonetheless homeownership can also bring great economic devastation. While we were back in our districts, it was reported that there has been an increasing epidemic of foreclosures, especially among working-class neighborhoods. Even more, wide disparity between the rate of white homeowners and members of ethnic minority groups continue to exist. These foreclosures have fallen particularly hard on black and Latino families. As citizens face low interest rates and the pressure to refinance, an escalating number of citizens have found themselves unable to take on their mortgage debt. This past March, 47 states experienced a rise in foreclosure rates, and today, more than eight percent of homeowners spend at least half of their income on their mortgage. These numbers are appalling.

A recent study in Chicago found that rising foreclosures fuel increases in crime rates. So, not only does this affect our economic structure, but our security in society. Homeownership, especially among minorities, should not lead to economic and social ruin. In my district, just 37 percent of African-Americans own homes of their own. That's below the average for the city as a whole and falls far short of the national homeownership rate of 68 percent. Chicago should thrive off its bustling economic and cultural prospects, not be brought down because the citizens cannot afford to prosper.

In fact, there have been measures taken to counteract this declining trend. Recently, the Administration announced a goal to increase homeownership among minorities by 5.5 million households before the end of the decade through various programs such as American Dream Down-Payment Initiative. Nonetheless, the trends continue to move downward. Rising interest rates and discrimination continue to hinder homeownership among minorities. Minorities, especially African Americans, have experienced a significant disadvantage in terms of wealth creation. While sustaining the cost of housing provides great difficulty, many citizens cannot even find jobs before aspiring to finance homeownership. Before the Administration can help minorities increase homeownership, it must first give the citizens job

opportunities substantial enough to afford housing. Homeownership is a measure of financial security, and without the means to obtain such security, the number of homeowners will continue to drop.

We cannot disregard the efforts of minorities to succeed in obtaining the American dream. Minorities deserve equal opportunity to homeownership. Therefore, I urge my fellow colleagues to raise awareness against the devastation of foreclosure.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF
THE 369TH CORPS SUPPORT BATTALION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in this tribute to the families and members of the Armed Forces during National Military Families Week. I know the people of the 15th District of New York join me in thanking these individuals for their sacrifice and service to this country. I am sure that this august body appreciates the hard work and sacrifice of our men and women in defending the interests of this nation.

I want to specifically extend my appreciation to two groups of servicemen and servicewomen. First, I want to thank the Reservists and National Guardsmen whose lives have been disrupted by the call of service in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the War on Terrorism. Under the condition that they would serve when needed by this country, these individuals were trained and volunteered to take to arms when the country was in danger.

Today, they have become the backbone of our military engagement in hostile territories. The National Guard and Reserve forces are nearly half of the U.S. forces in Iraq at the moment. Thirty-one of the 80 U.S. military deaths in Iraq last month were Reservists.

Many Reservists and National Guardsmen had not made long-term plans for an engagement such as this. At home, their spouses, children, and families fret about their whereabouts, their safety, and when they will see these brave men and women again. Their jobs continue without them and, while their companies remain loyal to their service, the possibility grows that they will eventually be phased out or will fall behind in their careers. They unfortunately are placed in jeopardy in their civilian lives while at service to this nation.

They are faced with the financial and emotional obligations of remaining loving providers for their families. I and a grateful nation appreciate their sacrifice and welcome their return with open arms. Their bravery and their experience nonetheless often calls some of them back into service to fulfill obligations to colleagues still on tour. I thank the men and women of our National Guard and Reserves for their dedicated service to their nation. It is a true testament to their dedication and patriotism to this country.

Second, I must recognize the dedicated and patriotic work of the 369th Corps Support Battalion, the "Harlem Hellfighters." Like the men and women in many of our districts, Harlem Hellfighters have displayed an impressive record of service in their engagement in Iraq.

The unit has received 11 Bronze Stars, 2 Military Service medals, and numerous Army commendations.

Mobilized on December 5, 2003, the unit has been to Kuwait and to southern Iraq near An Nasariyah and performed at least three significant missions, including leading the operations of twenty other units from March 2004 to January 2005. Over this time they delivered over 8 million gallons of fuel to U.S. and coalition forces, fueled over 2,700 aircraft and over 145,000 service vehicles, issued almost 25,000 cases of meals-ready-to eat (MREs), and logged over 2.5 million miles.

In addition, the Harlem Hellfighters completed numerous local projects including the adoption of an orphanage in An Nasariyah, and the monitoring of a school reconstruction project. I am very proud of the work of the 369th. They put their hearts and mind into these tasks and are diligent and strong champions of this country. Without their tireless effort, the capacity of our armed forces would have been limited in Iraq.

While the arduous work of the brave men and women is quite impressive, I must also recognize the sacrifices of the family members of the 369th. While the Harlem Hellfighters have been deployed for over 2 years in the Middle East, their wives, parents, and children have been without them. These family members have had family reunions and backyard barbeques, have taken their first steps and attended their first day of school, and have worried and cried about the location and service of their Hellfighter. They have endured and suffered much while their patriotic family member was serving this great country. I owe these individuals my sincerest appreciation and thanks.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives takes a moment out of its day to recognize National Military Families Week and to honor the families and friends of our armed forces. I believe we should spend every moment working to acknowledge their contributions and to reward their noble contributions to the security and welfare of our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR "BUTCH"
NILES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Arthur "Butch" Niles. Arthur H. Niles was born and raised in Brooklyn's Bedford Stuyvesant village, where just about the entire village raised him. "Butch" as family and friends lovingly know him, was born smack dab in the middle of 14 children, parented by Anton and Lillian Niles. He attended P.S. 44, J.H.S. 35 and Boy's High School. Since he was an outstanding athlete, his basketball skills helped him earn the Four Friends' scholarships to Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia where he captained the team his entire 4 years. Mr. Niles graduated from the Virginia Union University with Bachelors degree in Sociology as well as achieved lifetime membership to the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

After a brief stint in the Eastern Professional Basketball League, playing for the Scranton

Miners, a minor league team of Boston Celtics, "Butch" return to Bedford Stuyvesant. Along with a few of his brothers and the community friends, he organized the original legendary "Soul in The Hole" Basketball tournament. This activity became a sports and cultural extravaganza for youth and their families that occurs every summer and features African Dancers, drummers, poetry readings and great ball games.

Butch has always had a revolving respect with the people of central Brooklyn, especially the youth. He always felt that the power of the people could be realized most effectively by fostering a mutually trusting relationship with the youth.

After meeting Lucille Rose in the early 1970s, Arthur is credited for organizing the first Bedford Stuyvesant Central Youth Council, Inc. He met George Glee and Margo Butts at Vanguard Urban Improvement Association Inc., where he was employed as a Coordinator. Arthur worked with the young men and Margo worked with the young ladies and together they improved the lives of thousands of young people, many of whom went on to be accountants, teachers, union leaders and other professionals. Mr. Niles is in his 26th year with the agency, during his tenure he has placed over 500 youth from Bedford Stuyvesant in primarily Historically Black Colleges and Universities, developed a culinary School and created the safe Passage for central Brooklyn teens.

He developed 21 units of affordable housing through the 1661 Macon Houses L.P. and manages another 105 units in Bedford Stuyvesant. Other developments include SUNY Downstate Medical Satellite and Interfaith Medical Center. He is a member of Community Board #3 serving on the By-law's, Land Use and Economic Development committees. He is also a member of Bedford Stuyvesant Economic and Physical Development task force. For his outstanding devotion to community service Butch has received numerous awards over the years like the Community Leadership Award from the Borough President, the Continuous Service Award from Omega Psi Phi, the Youth Development Award from the Mayor's Office, and the Businessman of the year '04 from the Republican Congressional Committee.

Arthur and his wife Margo have 2 grown children. His hobbies include travel, collecting jazz, playing golf and tennis and of course watching basketball. Mr. Speaker, Arthur "Butch" Niles has continuously worked towards improving the lives of the youth of the community as well as his commitment and generosity in helping others has made him more than worthy of our recognition today.

IN HONOR OF MS. BETH GUISLIN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Beth Guislin for her years of dedication as an employee of the University of California and for her contribution to the world community.

Beth began her career with the University in 1976 at the Los Angeles campus. After leaving UCLA, she continued her work at the

Santa Cruz campus of the University of California system. As UCSC's Director of Instructional Computing, she built a campus institution respected by both faculty and students that enhanced the campus' reputation for undergraduate education by providing a space for students to publish their work and gain needed employment skills.

Beth has also shared her expertise with people around the world through her love for travel. She served as a mental health counselor for Americans living in Bangkok during the Vietnam War, was a field assistant for the Smithsonian-sponsored Arun Valley Wildlife Expedition in Nepal and contributed to the betterment of public health in Thailand. Beth is also fluent in Thai, and as a Peace Corp volunteer, she acted as a liaison between the Thai Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Education in the area of nutrition and was involved in the establishment of markets for locally produced foods in some of Thailand's rural areas.

Beth is also an expert sailor with 19 years of experience as a member of a Los Angeles crew for international cruises and races. One of the highlights of her sailing experience includes sailing from California to Tahiti.

Mr. Speaker I wish to honor Beth Guislin, upon her retirement from the University of California, for her compassion and dedication to education. Her actions serve as an example of how to live life to the fullest, while selflessly giving back to those in need here and around the world. I join the University in commending Beth for her leadership in instructional computing and international public service, and I extend my sincere best wishes for her retirement and future endeavors.

HONORING VINCENT J. TONUCCI
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE
TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and a dear friend, the Honorable Vincent J. Tonucci. Retiring just last year after 9 terms as the State Representative for Connecticut's 104th District, Vinny has dedicated a lifetime of hard work and dedication to the Naugatuck Valley.

In his 18 years as a State Representative, Vinny has a long and proud history of legislative accomplishments for his District and the state of Connecticut. Sponsoring and introducing legislation aimed at improving the quality of life for children, defending the environment, protecting health care for seniors, and providing for local economic development, Vinny was dedicated to ensuring that a variety of important issues were debated and addressed. Throughout his nine terms in Connecticut's General Assembly, Vinny developed a distinguished reputation as a public official—accessible to his constituents and fighting for their best interests. His career has been a reflection of all that an elected representative should be.

Vinny's remarkable commitment to community and public service extends well beyond

his time in the General Assembly. Prior to his election to Connecticut's House of Representatives, he served on the Board of Alderman in the City of Derby as well as a member of the Naugatuck Valley Capitol Planning Committee. Among the many local service organizations which benefit from his good work, Vinny is a member of the Webster Hose Fire Department, St. Michael's Society of Ansonia, Derby Elk's Lodge, and the Valley Association of Realtors. He also serves on the consulting committee at Emmett O'Brien Regional Vocational School, the Board of Directors of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Boys & Girls Club, the Birmingham Group of Ansonia, and the Valley United Way. Vinny is a tireless advocate—always ready to lend a helping hand and a powerful voice on behalf of the businesses, organizations, residents, and families of the Naugatuck Valley.

Through his good work as an elected official and community volunteer, his warmth, compassion, and generosity made a difference not only in the communities that he represented, but for families across Connecticut. For his many years of outstanding public service, I am proud to stand today to join his wife, Cindy, daughters, Cara and Christa, family, friends, constituents, and the communities of Derby and Ansonia in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Honorable Vincent J. Tonucci. He has left an indelible mark on this community and a legacy that will serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF ACTRESS ANNE BANCROFT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the distinguished life and career of actress and friend Anne Bancroft.

Anne's legendary career spanned more than 50 years and included honors and awards for roles performed in film, television, and on the stage. Most notable among these were her Oscar, Emmy, and Tony awards, an accomplishment achieved by only a select few.

Born to a family of Italian immigrants on September 17, 1931, in the Bronx, New York, Anne quickly developed a love for performance. By the time she was 4-years-old, Anne was already taking dance and acting lessons. When she was 9, she famously wrote on a fence behind her childhood home, "I want to be an actress." Little could she have known then what a splendid acting career lie in front of her.

After studying at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, she moved to Hollywood in 1950 to pursue her dream. Her first film, "Don't Bother to Knock" in 1952 starred Marilyn Monroe and Richard Widmark. It was her role in 1962's "The Miracle Worker," however, that really launched Anne on the path to becoming an acting legend. She famously portrayed Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's dedicated and truly determined teacher. For her effort, she was rewarded with the Academy Award for Best Actress. 1967's "The Graduate" is the film that sealed Anne Bancroft's place in

American popular culture. Co-starring with Dustin Hoffman, she became the very embodiment of the character of Mrs. Robinson. Mike Nichols, the film's director, recently remarked that Anne's "beauty was constantly shifting with her roles, and because she was a consummate actress, she changed radically for every part." Additionally, Arthur Penn, who directed her in both the stage and film versions of "The Miracle Worker," said that she was an actress who "can play anything." I can think of no higher complement that can be said of an actor.

Anne's death is truly a loss to American culture. Fortunately, her wonderfully-talented performances will live on for future generations to watch and enjoy.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Anne Bancroft whose life and legacy has been a source of enjoyment for so many. My thoughts and prayers are with Anne's beloved husband, director Mel Brooks, and son, Maximilian.

HONORING MARY ANN KECKLER,
HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a hard-working woman, Mrs. Mary Ann Keckler, who is dedicated to supporting local veterans. Hernando County is fortunate to have Mrs. Keckler in our community.

Mrs. Keckler served in the United States Navy from 1959–1962. She currently heads Hernando County's Veteran Affairs Roundtable and is commander of the local Disabled American Veterans.

Mrs. Keckler has joined forces with Hillsborough County veterans advocates to raise money for Operation Haley House, the local version of the Fisher House. Donations to Operation Haley House will provide the families of injured American soldiers a place to stay when visiting loved ones undergoing long-term rehabilitation. Many area families are faced with the high costs of expensive room and board when visiting relatives at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa. Plans are currently under way to begin building what will be known as the Haley House to elevate this costly burden on military families.

Mary Ann's efforts to improve the lives of injured American soldiers and their families deserves to be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent Mary Ann Keckler, and to honor her for working with our local veterans.

PREMATURE BIRTH: A SILENT,
GROWING HEALTH CRISIS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, prematurity is a serious and growing problem in the United States. It is the number one cause of infant death in the first month of life. In February

2004, the National Center for Health Statistics reported the first increase in the U.S. infant mortality rate since 1958.

Prematurity has enormous human, societal, and economic costs. Sadly, premature infants are 14 times more likely to die in their first year of life, and premature births account for nearly 24 percent of deaths in the first month of life. The estimated charges for hospital stays for premature and low-birth weight infants were \$15,000,000,000 in 2002, and the average lifetime medical costs for a premature baby are conservatively estimated at \$500,000. About 25 percent of the youngest and smallest babies live with long-term health problems, including cerebral palsy, blindness, chronic respiratory problems, and other chronic conditions. A study published in 2002 by the Journal of the American Medical Association found that children born prematurely are at greater risk for lower cognitive test scores and behavioral problems when compared to full-term children.

Although we've made vast improvements in treating premature infants, we've had little success in understanding and preventing premature birth, and the knowledge that we have gained has not been translated into improved perinatal outcomes. The three known risk factors for preterm labor most consistently identified by experts are multiple fetal pregnancies, a past history of preterm delivery, and some uterine and/or cervical abnormalities. Other possible risk factors are chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity in the mother, certain infections during pregnancy, and cigarette smoking, alcohol use, or illicit drug use during pregnancy. But as the science stands now, nearly 50 percent of all premature births have no known cause.

That is why today, my colleague Rep. ANNA ESHOO and I are introducing the bipartisan Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early or PREEMIE Act. The Preemie Act calls on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to "expand, intensify, and coordinate" research related to prematurity. It formally authorizes the Maternal Fetal Medicine Unit Network—which includes university-based clinical centers and a data coordination center—through which perinatal studies to improve maternal and fetal outcomes are conducted. It also authorizes the Neonatal Research Network to improve the care and outcomes of newborns. The bill will ensure better coordination on prematurity research priorities across federal agencies and also includes provisions for disseminating information on prematurity to health professionals and the public and for establishing family support programs to respond to the needs of families with babies in neonatal intensive care units.

I encourage my colleagues to join Rep. ESHOO and me in cosponsoring and strongly supporting the enactment of the PREEMIE Act.

REPAIRING YOUNG WOMEN'S LIVES AROUND THE WORLD—OBSTETRIC FISTULA

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the distinguished Member from New York, CAROLYN MALONEY, with whom I have had the pleasure of working along side ever since we were first elected at the end of the 102nd Congress. She has always been a true champion for women's rights and human rights, and I thank her for bringing this important issue to the awareness of the Congress.

You may or may not know that the World Health Organization estimates that at least two million women and girls around the world currently suffer from obstetric fistula, with an additional 50,000 to 100,000 cases happening each year. Obstetric fistula, a debilitating pregnancy related condition mainly affects girls ages 15–19. The condition occurs during childbirth when the infant's head presses against the woman's vagina and rectum, creating a formidable hole in vital tissue areas around the pelvis, resulting in loss of control of the bladder, bowels and nerve damage to the mother's legs. The prolonged labor almost always results in a high rate of infant mortality.

Beyond the significant health related risks that I have just outlined concerning this condition, there are also some societal factors that further debilitate these women. Many women with fistula are abandoned by their husbands and families because of the resultant odor and infertility. In effect, they become social outcasts because of the stigma associated with the disease, through no fault of their own.

As I stated before, approximately, two million women suffer from this condition. However, studies conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and EngenderHealth reveal that these figures are grossly underestimated. For example, in Nigeria alone, close to one million women suffer from the disease although these figures are based solely on patients who seek and report treatment in medical facilities only. This statistic clearly disregards the many cases that go unreported and untreated in the region.

A key factor concerning this issue is that fistula is a preventable and curable disease. One form of prevention is a Caesarean section, which costs a mere 60 U.S. dollars. Surgery to repair fistula has an uncharacteristically high success rate of 90 percent even after a woman has had the condition for several years. Most women are either unaware that treatment is available or simply cannot afford it. Surely this cost is worth the value as success rates have proven to be extremely high.

Funding to treat this curable condition has been rescinded by the current Administration. The \$34 million in funds for the UNFPA that could save the lives of women and children around the world have been withheld causing more women and children to suffer.

We are here today to introduce the "Repairing Young Women's Lives Around the World Act," which would provide that the voluntary U.S. contribution of \$34 million to UNFPA for the fiscal year of 2006 and subsequent years, will be directed to UNFPA to be used only for prevention, treatment and repair of obstetric

fistula. The UNFPA serves as a vital institution for providing crucial family planning and health services to women in developing countries.

In closing, I would like to briefly remind you of some key points that summarize the severity of the issue.

Treatment to correct the condition has a 90-percent success rate.

For every child who dies from pregnancy complications, 15 to 30 women live and suffer chronic disabilities, the most acute of which is obstetric fistula.

It is estimated that there are 100,000 new fistula cases each year, but the international capacity to treat fistula remains at only 6,500 per year.

I fully support this issue because it brings attention to one of the failed maternal health systems around the world. Fistula is virtually unknown in places where early pregnancy is discouraged, women are educated, family planning is accessible and skilled medical care is available. I feel that eradication of this problem in developing countries is a goal that the U.S. should work to make a reality.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RICHARD "DICK" SMYSER

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a devoted and well-respected Tennessean, Mr. Richard "Dick" Smyser. Dick passed away on March 14th of this year at the age of 81. His deep devotion to his community and to the well-being of everyone leaves a legacy carried on by the lives he touched.

Mr. Smyser was born and raised in York, Pennsylvania, before graduating in 1944 from Pennsylvania State College with a degree in journalism. His dream to pursue writing, however, was put aside to answer a greater call. In 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with distinction overseas in Algeria and Italy rising to the rank of corporal.

Upon returning to Pennsylvania, Mr. Smyser continued on the path he had left and began reporting news for The Chester Times, now The Delaware County Times. In 1948, Dick was named managing editor of The Oak Ridger, the first and only newspaper in the small East Tennessee town of Oak Ridge. Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was created for the important work on the World War II bomb, commonly referred to as the Manhattan project. He was a pioneer and helped shape Oak Ridge into the town it is today.

With a large number of scientists living and working in the area, Mr. Smyser became active in science writing circles, with a focus on nuclear science. For eighteen years he served on the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing's board of directors. He was a member of numerous media and science boards and a highly sought after speaker and panelist.

Under Mr. Smyser's leadership, The Oak Ridger grew substantially and won numerous awards and accolades for its coverage of the transformation of Oak Ridge. His contribution not only to the development of journalism in East Tennessee but to the entire community is

significant. Before his retirement he insured that generations of young writers could make an impact in the field of journalism, as he did, by passing on his vast knowledge as a visiting professor at universities across the country.

Dick Smyser was not a personal friend of mine. After all, I am a politician, and he is a journalist. So, we could not be "friends." However, I had many occasions to converse with him and enjoy his warmth and depth of perspective on Oak Ridge and our mutual commitments to this very special place.

Dick Smyser was simply a classic human being who was good to his family and friends. His departure from this earth left a large void, and we will always miss him but never forget him.

May his legacy endure in the many lives that he touched and inspired.

RECOGNIZING GRANT COMMUNITY
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, RECIPIENTS OF A 2004 PRESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of students from Grant Community Middle School in Salem, Oregon who were awarded a Presidential Environmental Youth Award. Since 1971, this award has recognized young people from across the United States who have demonstrated a commitment to the environment.

This group of thirty 6th grade students from Grant, whom I recently had the pleasure of meeting, has made a real impact in the effort to restore habitat for an endangered animal, the Fender's Blue Butterfly. As the Willamette Valley has been developed, the butterfly has lost its natural prairie habitat, and the Kincaid lupine plant, a major staple of the butterfly's diet, has nearly disappeared. The butterfly has become so rare that at one point it was believed to be extinct.

After learning about the Fender's Blue Butterfly, the class researched, created, and implemented a three-year program to help preserve this rare insect. The students worked with Marion County to convert Bonesteel Park into a native Willamette Valley prairie. Two years after the students began the project, Kincaid lupine plants began to grow and several of the endangered butterflies have been spotted in the area.

The students also sought to raise awareness among other young people about the importance of natural prairie habitat by holding a Celebrating Prairie Festival. Over 600 elementary school students attended the festival, which included a bilingual play in English and Spanish that explained the threats facing the Fender's blue butterflies.

I commend these students for their efforts. Their hard work and dedication made a real difference that will help preserve this butterfly for future generations.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE TOWNSHIP HOSE AND CHEMICAL CO. NO. 1

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the services of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Aberdeen Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1.

This organization was formed on May 22, 1930 for the purpose of raising funds in order to purchase fire equipment. Over their 75 years of service, they have provided a completely equipped kitchen for a local firehouse, answered fire calls, and served coffee and sandwiches at lengthy fires, as well as many other unnamed services that have invaluable aided the fire company.

The importance of firemen cannot be overstated. We were reminded of that on September 11, 2001. These brave men and women are irreplaceable, and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Aberdeen Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1 has supported them through the years. It is never easy to work in a high risk and high stress job, yet the Auxiliary has helped the men and women of the Fire Company maintain a high morale and continue to protect the Aberdeen community.

These women have served the Aberdeen Fire Company admirably for 75 years, and the Ladies Auxiliary stands ready to assist the Fire Company and give it the same unbending support for the next 75 years.

REGARDING THE CEASEFIRE WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for the CeaseFire Chicago program and to celebrate CeaseFire week. Some of our nation's youth faces gangs, drugs, and gun violence daily. As we proceed through CeaseFire week, from June 4-11, we acknowledge community events such as peace marches, memorial services, and other civic gatherings held throughout Chicago. We must keep in mind the sheer violence our children encounter, and the direction we must take to solve this increasing problem. Programs such as CeaseFire help to steer at-risk children away from such pressures towards graduation and college. Indeed, CeaseFire Chicago sends outreach workers, clergy, and community leaders into rough neighborhoods to mentor, respond to shootings, hand out fliers and encourage the students to stay off the streets. Today, 70 outreach workers volunteer their time to search for at-risk children in the Chicago area. And it works! In my district, where CeaseFire is most active, violence has been reduced by an average of 45 percent.

I believe by taking a more active stance on the issue of gangs and gun violence, we can help protect the children of tomorrow. CeaseFire has even been acknowledged and supported from the First Lady Laura Bush on

her current trip to Chicago. This program has had a phenomenal impact on the children of Chicago, and the success would only be replicated in other cities. Therefore, I urge my fellow colleagues to support such programs as CeaseFire Chicago. With our continued efforts, we can continue to provide safe neighborhoods and successful opportunities for our children.

THE 20TH ANNUAL 116TH STREET FESTIVAL AND ITS ORGANIZERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the 109th Congress the hard work of Mr. Nick Lugo, Mr. David Acosta, Mr. Robert Acosta, and Mr. Peter Spinella in planning the 116th Street Festival in East Harlem, El Barrio community.

The 116th Street Festival is designed to highlight, embrace, and celebrate the cultural experiences of Hispanic families in the United States, the Caribbean, and beyond. This is the largest Latin Street Festival in North America and is nationally acclaimed as one of the three major Hispanic events in the United States. It draws our collective consciousness to the beauty, love, and familial bonds of Hispanic culture as well as the rich historical backgrounds of Hispanic people.

The 20th annual Festival will be held this Saturday, June 11, 2005. It will span 20 city blocks in the heart of El Barrio, have three entertainment stages and hundreds of vendors and corporate attractions, and draw crowds of hundreds of thousands of people from around the world. It is one of New York City's largest and most popular celebrations and has provided over 40 scholarships to local high school students in East Harlem.

The celebration promises to be a remarkable experience and enlightening exposure to the culture of an often-unappreciated but important group of Americans. Major corporations such as Disney, Home Depot, and Fisher Price now join long-time sponsors Telemundo 47, Coca-Cola, and SBS Communications in supporting the success and goals of this Festival.

The success of the Festival is largely thanks to the work of Nick Lugo, David Acosta, Robert Acosta, and Peter Spinella of Abrazo Fraternal organization. They brought the event to the East Harlem community in the 1980s and have tirelessly worked to make it a premier event for hundreds of thousands of Hispanic families and top entertainers.

Nick Lugo is a prominent community and business leader within the New York City Hispanic community. His career spans over three decades and includes pioneering numerous events and activities that have enhanced the lives of Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics within the City. He was born in New York and is a graduate of Inter-American University of San German, Puerto Rico. With his wife and their daughter at his side, Nick has published *La Voz Hispana*, a weekly newspaper, and *Canales Magazine*, a monthly publication dedicated to the Latino arts and entertainment industry. He is also the president of National Hispanic Expositions, Inc, Nick Lugo Travel,

and Hispanic Impact Marketing, Inc. He has been a dedicated and inspiring role model for the Hispanic community in particular and this country in general.

Immediately after graduation, Robert Acosta enlisted in the United States Air Force and served there for the next four years. He was trained as a jet aircraft fighter mechanic and received an honorable discharge. He joined his brothers in a lifetime career as a prominent and successful businessman. While helping his wife raise their son and three daughters remained an important mission in his life, Robert was also committed to the improvement of his community. He chaired the Local Development Corporation del Barrio for ten years and helped to develop the economic and political capital of the community. Robert has been an active contributor to local organizations and events and an important voice on the future of the community.

Like his brother Robert, David Acosta was raised in East Harlem and has become a major community leader and one of its strongest advocates. Starting with El Barrio Hardware in 1970, Robert and David, along with their brother Frank, became promising entrepreneurs in the community. They were part of the influential reactivation of the Third Avenue Merchants Association and helped to revitalize the struggling business community in the area. When David became the president of the Association, it accomplished its goals and provided opportunities for local merchants to advance political agendas and decisions in the interest of the community. David would further apply his entrepreneurial skills to the creation of the Local Development Corporation del Barrio and secured grants to enhance the image and economic base of the Third Avenue. He has and continues to be an active and influential member of the community.

Peter Spinella served this country as a member of the military police corps of the United States Army. He holds a bachelor's degree of science in marketing from New York Institute of Technology and is an Executive Vice President of the Hispanic Marketing & Advertising Group, Inc. He has honorably served on the boards of several organizations including the National Puerto Rican Forum and the Korean American Grocers Association. A member of the board of the New Bronx Chamber of Commerce, Peter brings a cultural awareness and sensitivity to economic development projects. He is also the CEO of "A Taste of East Harlem, Inc." which produces a magazine, a website, and a restaurant/tourism campaign. Peter brings a talented marketing portfolio to East Harlem and has worked to build an active and involved community.

I would like to thank Nick, David, Robert, and Peter for their hard work in putting together these important community-building events surrounding the 116th Street Festival. I join their families, friends, and community in being proud of their accomplishments and success.

A TRIBUTE TO DARREN K.
PEARSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Darren K. Pearson, an established entre-

preneur who has developed four running businesses in the Real Estate marketplace in Brooklyn, New York and parts of Queens. These businesses include Darren K. Real Estate, LLC, Darren K. Real Estate, LLC Maintenance Division, Howard Avenue Development, L.P., and Darren K. Real Estate Management Company. A part of Darren K. Real Estate, LLC activities involves the acquisition, rehabilitation and development of quality housing of previously owned city multi-dwelling buildings for low, moderate and middle-income families.

Before becoming involved in real estate, Mr. Pearson worked as an account executive for Amergold Corporation. He also worked for Vanguard Oil Corporation as a fuel salesperson in the commercial and barge departments, where his duties included fuel sales to Con Edison, PSE & G, LILCO and Government contracts. Within one year, he was promoted to Director of Public Relations for Vanguard and headed the "Robert F. Kennedy Memorial" Home Oil Transfer Program, a program that allowed Mr. Pearson to provide fuel oil to needy families and non-profit organizations at discount prices or even at no cost. Due to his success, he was promoted to Vice President of Procurement and Industrial Sales for Vanco Oil Co., a subsidiary of Vanguard Oil Corp.

After leaving Vanguard, Mr. Pearson worked as the Real Estate Sales Manager for Charles E. Simpson Real Estate Company and obtained his broker's license after one year. After that he started his four companies.

Mr. Pearson is active in both the Brooklyn and Manhattan communities, as Chairman of the Men's Caucus for Congressman TOWNS, member of 100 Black Men, Inc. and Senator David Patterson's Progressive Network.

Mr. Pearson is a devoted husband to his wife Lydia and a loving son to his mother Willie Mae. Mr. Speaker, Darren K. Pearson has continued to demonstrate through his efforts to improve the quality of life in his community that he is more than worthy of our recognition here today.

IN MEMORY OF DARRYEL NACUA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Darryel Nacua, a true hero who passed away tragically and unexpectedly on May 30, 2004 at the age of 48. Most of Darryel's twenty-three year law career was spent with California Rural Legal Assistance, where he dedicated his life to giving legal help to the farm workers of Central California, the community of his own roots.

Darryel's assignments with California Rural Legal Assistance took him to Santa Maria, Gilroy, Salinas and finally to the Watsonville/Santa Cruz office, where he acted as Directing Attorney. He fought hard against poverty, injustice, and substandard housing, and he was equally tenacious in his battles for education and employment. Darryel was fearless in taking on all entities in his pursuit of social justice. Darryel also served the greater Santa Cruz area as a member of the Lawyer Referral Service Governing Committee and the Human Care Alliance Advocacy.

Darryel was endearingly referred to within his community as a man of "sangre liviana," one of "light blood," or a pleasant disposition. They also called him "sano," a person of sincerity, honesty, and one without malice. He was appreciated as a mentor, a profound listener, and for his gentle sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, it is altogether fitting that California Rural Legal Assistance should name their office building in honor of Darryel Nacua. The community will miss him greatly, but we know his life will continue to inspire those he touched.

HONORING THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF ST. PAUL AND ST.
JAMES FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Reverend Barbara Cheney and the congregation of the Episcopal Church of St. Paul and St. James as they celebrate the restoration of this historic New Haven treasure. This is a very special occasion for the community and this New Haven institution.

Standing on the corner of Chapel and Olive Streets in New Haven, St. Paul and St. James has anchored the Wooster Square neighborhood for more than 175 years. Originally, the church was designed with two wooden towers, however, as the years past, it became evident that these towers would need replacing. In 1893 the west tower was rebuilt in stone and the wooden top of the east tower was removed—creating the church's distinctive look with one short tower and one tall. Recently, the need came once again to restore the west tower and it is the completion of that renovation which the community celebrates today with a rededication ceremony.

Our churches play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. In the nearly two centuries of its history, there have been many who have worshiped within the halls of St. Paul and St. James and many who have found peace and strength in the outstretched arms of the congregation. Beyond the spiritual guidance it has provided, St. Paul and St. James is also home to several successful outreach ministries. With congregants from New Haven, West Haven, Hamden, and Branford, it is an interracial, diverse congregation with a strong emphasis on social justice and advocacy. For the last twenty-five years, the church has run the Loaves and Fishes Food Closet, one of the largest food banks in the state. Other programs include a Clothes Closet, an alliance with the Neighborhood Health Project, a Children's Mission, and an active membership in the faith-based grass roots organizing effort, Elm City Congregants Organized. It is through all of these efforts that St. Paul and St. James touches the lives of thousands and makes a real difference in their lives.

With the completed renovations, the west tower is now lit at night and clearly visible from the New Haven Green—the heart of the City of New Haven. It serves as a shining beacon of hope for those most in need. For its

many spiritual and community contributions, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to the Episcopal Church of St. Paul and St. James and its congregation as they celebrate this very special occasion. It is my hope that they will continue to serve our community for many more years to come.

COMMANDER JEFFREY THOMAS
BERNARDI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of United States Navy Commander Jeffrey Thomas Bernardi, on the occasion of his retirement following 20 years of dedicated service to our country.

Following graduation from Strongsville Senior High School, Commander Bernardi attended the United States Naval Academy, earning his degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1985. Commander Bernardi began his distinguished career as a Naval Flight Officer in 1986.

His years of service have taken him to locations around the world. From Bermuda to Sicily and a wide variety of other locations, Commander Bernardi's career exemplifies the very best of our armed services. In February of 1994, for example, he directed tactical support for the first ever P-3C Electro-Optic reconnaissance missions overland Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation DENY FLIGHT.

Commander Bernardi received his Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College in 1996. In March of 1999, Commander Bernardi reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel Sea Duty Component in Arlington, Virginia. He was handpicked to support the execution of a CNO Special Project of national significance.

Most recently, in April of 2003, Commander Bernardi reported to Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Assessments Division at the Pentagon. His duties there included shaping the Navy of the future through independent analytical assessment of warfighting capabilities and Department of the Navy programs.

He has received numerous awards over his career for his dedication and commitment to this country. They include the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, four Navy Commendation Medals, and four Navy Achievement Medals.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Commander Jeffrey Thomas Bernardi. As Commander Bernardi marks his retirement from 20 years of dedicated service to our country, I extend my congratulations and deepest thanks to him, as well as his wife, Stephanie, son, Zachary, and daughter, Jennifer.

A TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE
BOSWELL

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great Floridian, the senior member of our State's Bar, a true gentlemen in every good sense of the word, and my neighbor. Clarence A. Boswell died on February 22, 2005 at the age of 102, and for 75 years of his life he actively practiced law in my hometown of Bartow, Florida.

Clarence Boswell was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1924, and with that admission he began one of our State's longest and most distinguished legal careers. During a time when lawyers tended not to specialize, Clarence Boswell distinguished himself as an accomplished litigator, an acknowledged expert in real estate, probate and trust matters, and a beloved adviser to businesses and families both great and small.

For 50 years Clarence Boswell was recognized in the Courthouse as the determined defense counsel for the railroad. Unknowing opponents were often surprised by the tenacity with which this soft-spoken, genteel southerner defended his client's interests. As a real estate attorney, Clarence Boswell handled some of the largest real estate transactions of his time, and was used by other attorneys as an expert witness on property issues. However, the traits that most endeared him to his clients were the effective, competent and calm counsel he consistently offered those passing through his office. A local judge once referred to Clarence Boswell as a lawyer's lawyer and a gentleman's gentleman.

In his community, Clarence Boswell was a charter member of the Bartow Rotary Club when it was founded in 1924. He served on the Board of Trustees of Erskine College in Due West, SC, and as that Board's Chairman. He was a life long member of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and served as the Moderator of that denomination's Synod. He was attorney for the Polk County School Board for forty years and was instrumental in the founding of Polk Community College.

Above all else, Clarence Boswell's greatest love was for his family and his wife of 63 years, his beloved "Toggie". He is survived by his two children, eight grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

Clarence Boswell was the last of a generation who were born into a time before the Depression, two great wars, I and the rise of the American Century. It was a generation of men who stood, bowed and wore hats, not baseball caps that they tipped to one another in passing and removed indoors. They were people who always presented a façade of innocence, who never spoke openly of certain things, and who detested rudeness and vulgarity. Now, I am not one who cries to bring back the "good old days" but with the passage of time, we have lost in this country many good things that once spoke of manners, respect, courage and honor. Today I pay tribute to one who represented those good things, Clarence Boswell.

HONORING THE 44TH ANNUAL
YMCA YOUTH GOVERNOR'S CON-
FERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 44th Annual YMCA Youth Governor's Conference that begins in Washington, DC next week. I am pleased to once again have the honor of being the Congressional sponsor for the Youth Governor's breakfast with my fellow colleagues in the House.

The YMCA Youth Governor's Conference brings together some of the most outstanding youth leaders in America. YMCA Youth and Government is a nation-wide program that allows thousands of teenagers to simulate state and national government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally recognize each of this year's YMCA Youth Governors for their dedication and service to America's youth.

Hunter Patterson of Texas, Quentin James of South Carolina, Forrest McConnell of Alabama, Matthew Hughes of Arizona, Paul Gardner, III of California, Daniel Spellacy of Connecticut, Mansoor Zaman of Delaware, Taylor Siegel of Florida, Britt Bush of Georgia, Colin Clark of Illinois, Phil Reaves of Indiana, Arshiya Saiyed of Kentucky, Ty Bottoms of Kentucky, Beau Landry of Louisiana, Matt Gorman of Maine, Karima Tawfik, Amar Gupta of Massachusetts, Elissa Laskey of Michigan, Marvin Yates of Michigan, Jonathan Kent of Minnesota, Laura Kergosien of Mississippi, Sam Barrett of Missouri, Paul Morgan of Montana, Erik Ruediger of New Hampshire, Mohit Shah of New Jersey, Anne Baldwin of New Mexico, Andrew Vigliotta of New York, Niema Alimohammadi of North Carolina, Caroline DuWors of Ohio, Tony Viola of Oklahoma, William Glennie of Oregon, Davon Magwood of Pennsylvania, Dusty Good of Tennessee, Gentry Martin of Tennessee, Josh Tate of Virginia, Addison Tice of Washington, Janesse Lewis of the District of Columbia, and Iain Padley of Wisconsin.

I wish all of the 2005 YMCA Youth Governors a very successful conference here in Washington, and I encourage them to continue their sincere devotion to leadership and public service in this and their future endeavors.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF
POLYTECHNIC PREPARATORY
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Polytechnic Preparatory Country Day School. The school is a pillar of academic excellence in Brooklyn, New York. It is a true privilege to acknowledge the great strides Poly Prep has made over the years since it first opened its doors in 1854.

Since its inception as the Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute, the Polytechnic

Preparatory Country Day School has immersed its students in outstanding academic programs and provided a strong, supportive community. Like New York City, the school has opened its doors to students from all over the world, representing an array of cultures, languages and traditions. That commitment to diversity speaks volumes about Poly Prep's illustrious history.

The school's 150th anniversary provides a hallmark for reflection on Poly Prep's tireless efforts to provide a diverse and educationally sound environment which has led its students to academic success. Therefore, on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I congratulate the Polytechnic Preparatory Country Day School on the occasion of its 150th anniversary—its Sesquicentennial—for its efforts toward educational excellence and providing an environment that is as diverse and rich in experience and tradition as New York City itself.

TRIBUTE TO DARA FELDMAN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to congratulate my constituent, Dara Feldman, on receiving the 2005 Disney Teacher Award. The award was given in recognition of her creativity, innovative teaching methods, and ability to inspire her students.

Ms. Feldman, a kindergarten teacher at Garrett Park Elementary School, is being recognized for her efforts in the areas of Early Childhood Education. Her commitment to teaching results in a creative, high-tech kindergarten where children learn about the wonder of the world in which they live. Ms. Feldman hosts internet exchanges between her kindergarten students and kindergartners in other parts of the world. This year, her students corresponded with students in Southeast Asia who were victims of last December's tsunami.

Ms. Feldman's creativity and dedication to teaching have made her one of only 45 honorees selected from more than 50,000 nominations worldwide. Teachers like Dara Feldman are making profound contributions to the future of our country and provide a beautiful example of how America's teachers can excel.

I applaud Dara Feldman and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER
EDUCATION FOR FREEDOM ACT
OF 2005

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Higher Education for Freedom Act. This legislation establishes a competitive grant program making available funds to institutions of higher education, centers within such institutions, and associated nonprofit foundations. These grants would promote programs focused on the teaching and study of traditional Amer-

ican history, free institutions, and the history and achievements of Western Civilization at both the graduate and undergraduate level, including those that serve students enrolled in K-12 teacher education programs.

Several years ago I was involved in a congressional effort to highlight the decline in historical and civic literacy among American college students. This effort led to the unanimous, bicameral passage of S. Con. Res. 129 which stated, in part, that "the historical illiteracy of America's college and university graduates is a serious problem that should be addressed by the Nation's higher education community."

Given the increased threat to American ideals in the trying times in which we live, it is easy to see how the lack of historical and civic literacy among today's college students has become a more pressing issue. Nevertheless, most of the Nation's colleges and universities no longer require United States history or systematic study of Western civilization and free institutions as a general prerequisite to graduation, or for completing a teacher education program.

I believe it is time for Congress to take a more active role in addressing this matter. Our country's higher education system must do a better job of providing the basic knowledge that is essential to full and informed participation in civic life and to the larger vibrancy of the American experiment in self-government, binding together a diverse people into a single Nation with common purposes.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JOON BANG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Dr. Joon Bang. Dr. Bang is President of the Korean American Youth Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of Korean American youth. He has been involved since 1993 with Foundation.

The Foundation's mission is to help Korean American youth develop a positive, healthy identity through self-awareness, career planning, and mentoring. Every year, the Foundation sponsors an essay contest titled "What America Means to Me" for Korean American youth that awards college scholarships to the winners. In 2001 the Foundation collaborated with WNET Channel 13 to expand the contest to include young people of all backgrounds.

The Foundation raises money to create an annual career forum for Asian American youth presented by the Flushing branch of the YWCA and the Korean American Network. It also sponsors Korean cultural events and performances for the community that attracts performers from across the country. Dr. Bang is also a member of the Advisory Board for Youth Affairs for the Institute of Korean-American Studies, Inc. (ICAS in Philadelphia).

Dr. Bang has devoted his time to introducing positive images of the Korean American community to the metropolitan area through public television. In 1994, he founded "Korean Friends of Channel 13" and served as president until 1999. In this capacity, he helped WNET Channel 13 develop a number of fundraising events to assist the March 1999

production of "Korean American Spirits," a documentary featuring the lives of Korean Americans in the tri-state area. The program raised more than \$140,000 for public broadcasting. For his contributions, Dr. Bang was named the 1997 recipient of the National Friends of Public Broadcasting and Elaine Peterson Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Bang was born in Korea and graduated from the Medical College, Seoul National University, in Seoul, Korea in 1970. He came to the United States in 1973 and became a board-certified internist in 1978. He is an internist at the New York Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn.

Dr. Bang is the recipient of the 2001 Caring for Children Award. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Joon Bang has continuously demonstrated through his humanitarian efforts to improve the lives of the people in his community that he is more than worthy of our recognition today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOURTH
ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF
WOMEN IN THE LAW

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the state of New York's fourth annual Celebration of Women in the Law. On May 25th, 10 Western New York women were honored for their outstanding contributions to the bench and the bar. The event, hosted by the state's Gender and Racial Fairness Committee, is both inspiring and heartening. I would humbly like to submit brief descriptions of the careers of some of these remarkable women to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I hope all of the honorees are proud of their achievements; I know that I am proud to serve as their representative in Congress.

Genevieve Capizzi has come a long way since starting out as a clerical assistant in the Buffalo City court 27 years ago. Due to her perseverance and strong work ethic, she is currently the principal administrative assistant for the 8th Judicial district. In 2003 Ms. Capizzi was awarded the Office of Court Administration's Quality Service Award for her leadership and service.

Chautauqua county Family Court Judge Judith Claire graduated from SUNY at Buffalo Law School and has become a pioneer for women in the legal profession in Western New York. Not only was Judge Claire the only practicing female attorney in the Chautauqua county when she first arrived in 1978, but in 1999 Judge Claire became the first and only woman to be elected to a countywide judgeship. In 2004 she was appointed to New York State Family Court Advisory and Rules committee that helps formulate policy and recommends amendments to state laws.

Helen Ferraro-Zaffram is concentrated in the practice of elder-law. Ms. Ferraro-Zaffram previously held a position as a staff attorney for legal services for the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged of New York. Helen was nominated for this award by Supreme Court justices who recognized her tireless efforts on behalf of the elderly.

Ilene Fleischmann leads a busy life serving as the associate dean of the University of Buffalo Law School. She is the editor of the UB

Law forum magazine and the editor of the University of Buffalo Law Links, the Law School's quarterly email newsletter. Prior to her work at the law school, she was a staff reporter and features columnist for the Buffalo Courier Express as well as a freelance writer.

Retired Supreme Court Judge Rose Lamendola is another extremely distinguished award recipient. Judge Lamendola served in the state attorney general's office to go on to be the first woman Erie county court judge. On June 13th, in 1995 she was appointed by governor Pataki a State Supreme Court justice and served until her retirement in 1999.

Janic Rosa was honored for her outstanding career in family law. Prior to her election to the Supreme Court in 2002, Rosa served as an Erie county family court judge. Under her direction, the court has appointed social workers to assess the needs of families and children. She even allows parents to put parenting plans together instead of litigation. Judge Rosa's creativity and compassion are both greatly admired.

Anna Scott is a Buffalo Attorney who was an educator for over 20 years before becoming an attorney. She taught in the Buffalo city school and attended University at Buffalo Law school. She was honored for her pro bono work for members in the community who can not afford attorneys.

Carolyn Van Schaik, Esq., passed away two years ago, but her memory will be immortalized at a residence for homeless women. Ms. Van Schaik graduated from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1990 before moving to Western New York to practice law. She was a former executive director of the not-for-profit organization, center city neighborhood development corp. She teamed up with the YWCA of Niagara in Lockport on a project to renovate an abandoned historic building in Niagara falls and turned it into transitional housing for homeless women and their families. Her husband, Niagara county assistant district attorney Robert Zucco, accepted the award on her behalf.

Also awarded were State Civil Service Commissioner Margaret Dadd and Chief Clerk Joann Wahl of the Fourth department appellate court in Rochester.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate my appreciation for these women and the exemplary standards that they have set for members of their profession, male or female. As a strong supporter of gender equality, I hope that this celebration encourages other women to be involved in the legal system and to seek positions of leadership in all fields, regardless of profession. I congratulate all of the honorees.

A TRIBUTE TO MEL YOST

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mel Yost, one of our community's most compassionate advocates, who passed away on June 1, 2005. I had the privilege of knowing this remarkable man personally and working with him the past 8 years on numerous issues to help improve the lives of those oppressed by poverty, disease, and hopelessness throughout the world.

Mel Yost was one of three key founders of the first Colorado RESULTS chapter in 1983. He believed implicitly in the purpose of RESULTS "to create the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty and to empower individuals to have breakthroughs in exercising their personal and political power." Mel was active with RESULTS for 22 years and attended the first RESULTS Regional Conference in San Diego in 1986. In September 1990 in Denver's City Park at the World Summit of Children's Candlelight Vigil, Mel read Ina J. Hughes' "Prayer for Children" before 3,000 people, including the Governor and most of Colorado's national and local politicians. Often accompanied by his wife, Jan, Mel attended every RESULTS International Conference from 1985 through 2004.

He worked as a truck driver for Safeway for 30 years and frequently regaled his friends with stories of driving trucks in the mountains of New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. He happily used expressions like "hammer on down, blue whiskey," his radio handle, and "put the pedal to the medal, baby."

In recent years, Mel hosted many meetings of the Denver and Boulder RESULTS groups because his retirement community was located halfway between the cities. He was a founding member in 1997 of the "Experiment in Democracy and Citizenship" group begun by my predecessor Representative David Skaggs. He continued to serve on this task force for me, sharing consensus decisions and creative solutions about federal legislation.

Mel always urged people to have fun. If a project wasn't fun, he didn't want to do it. He frequently read poetry, sometimes his own, at RESULTS meetings. Friends always looked forward to receiving his letters because they were poetic, compassionate, and showed clearly his positive approach to life, along with his kindness, his love of family, his love for all children, and his caring for the poor and oppressed of the world.

In what was to be his final presentation to the Colorado RESULTS group, Mel recalled founding the organization in 1983 to work on ending hunger and poverty in the world and to provide hope to the hopeless. His final words of advice were to "hook your mind up to your heart and let 'er rip, because that's the only way to get anything done."

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Mel Yost. Our world is better because of him.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS STEVEN C. TUCKER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of United States Army Private First Class Steven C. Tucker of Grapevine, Texas.

Private First Class Tucker was killed in action on Saturday, May 21, 2005, at the age of 19, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He graduated from Colleyville Heritage High School in May of 2004, and completed boot camp in December of the same year. Private First Class

Tucker was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, in Vincenza, Italy.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Private First Class Tucker. This brave young man made the ultimate sacrifice for the security of his country and for the defense of democracy worldwide. He was an outstanding young man; and we should all be grateful for his noble contributions to this nation and the advancement of freedom.

I am proud to call Private First Class Tucker one of our own, and again deeply sorry for his family and friends who have suffered this loss. His legacy will remain, as the men and women of our armed services continue to fight for liberty—both abroad and on our home soil.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 234.

IN HONOR OF COLORADO TRAIL FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize seven men, George Bishop, Matt Celesta, Joe McConaty, Matthew McConaty, John-Paul Maxfield, Dan Murray, and Chad Spurway, all Colorado natives, who have embarked on an incredible journey for Multiple Sclerosis.

Multiple Sclerosis is the number one disabling neurological disease among young adults, and the most commonly diagnosed neurological disease among those aged 20 to 50. Some 400,000 Americans, including 7,000 Coloradans, have MS. The incident rate in Colorado is much higher, 1 in 625, than the rate of southern states such as Texas, which has a rate of 1 in 10,000. These men recognize the severity of the disease and are giving themselves in an exemplary way to combat the disease.

On July 2, 2005, seven life-long friends will begin a five-week hike along the famous Colorado Trail. The trail covers eight mountain ranges, seven national forests, six wilderness areas, and five major river systems in the 471 mile path from Durango to Denver. The purpose of this special journey is to raise awareness of Multiple Sclerosis and raise money to help find the cure to a disease that has the potential to become the polio of this generation.

These seven men are the definition of community service, giving their time and energy towards such an extraordinary cause. They have started an organization, Colorado Trail For Multiple Sclerosis, "CT4MS," and are raising money to donate to The Rocky Mountain Multiple Sclerosis Center. To date, CT4MS has raised \$132,192 of \$250,000 they hope to

raise by the time they finish in August. They are well on their way to raising an enormous amount of money towards a cause that needs immediate attention.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending George Bishop, Matt Celesta, Joe McConaty, Matthew McConaty, John-Paul Maxfield, Dan Murray, and Chad Spurway for their efforts and pledging support for Colorado Trail For Multiple Sclerosis.

RECOGNITION OF ARMY
SPECIALIST BRIAN M. ROMINES

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Army Specialist Brian Romines who was recently killed in action fighting for freedom outside Baghdad, Iraq.

Romines was a 20-year-old native of Simpson, Illinois who served as an Army Specialist assigned to the A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery Regiment, Army National Guard in Milan, Illinois. He was a 2003 graduate from Vienna High School, Vienna, Illinois. After his 18th birthday and his high school graduation, Romines felt the call to duty and signed up for the National Guard. According to reports, he was killed outside of Baghdad by a roadside bomb.

Romines is survived by his mother, Melinda Austin of Dongola, Illinois, his father, Randy Romines of Simpson, Illinois, and his brother Randall Romines, also a member of the National Guard. I am proud of the service this young man gave to our country and the service his fellow troops perform everyday. Not enough can be said about Army Spc Romines. It is troops like him that are risking their lives day in and day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy. May God bless them and may God continue to bless America.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE TENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF SPOTTED
EAGLE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of an outstanding high school in my district. On June 10, 2005, Spotted Eagle High School celebrates its Tenth Anniversary. For the past decade, Spotted Eagle High School has offered a supportive learning environment not only for the Native American students for whom it was designed, but for a multiracial body of at-risk youth whose needs require the intensive and individualized attention the school provides.

Spotted Eagle was established in 1994 by the Milwaukee Area American Indian Manpower Council in partnership with the Milwaukee Public Schools, the Milwaukee Area

Technical College and the Indian Community School of Milwaukee.

Spotted Eagle High School's mission is to promote an appreciation for all cultures, emphasizing their relevance in today's society. The school endeavors to create a sense of community while emphasizing building skills that can contribute to students' self-reliance. The curriculum includes strong School-To-Work components; a culturally-integrated, competency-based, student-centered curriculum; and social services designed to meet the educational needs of their students and their families.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that many young people in Milwaukee face daunting challenges in completing their education because they live in poverty. Spotted Eagle High School recognizes those challenges, and provides specialized support services to assist students in coping with them as they strive to complete their educational goals. Case managers work directly with students to ensure that family needs are being addressed. Students at the school benefit from the emphasis on parental involvement, and access to health-related services and alcohol and drug awareness programs. Members of the school staff are rooted in the same cultural communities as the students they teach. Education and support program are designed to be relevant to students' cultural backgrounds, increasing the likelihood that students will stay in school and complete their education.

I know firsthand that caring and committed educators have the ability to empower students. I salute the staff, board members, present and former students and parents of Spotted Eagle High School for their efforts to transform the lives of Milwaukee's youth. I wish them the best as they celebrate their Tenth Anniversary, and look forward to celebrating many more milestones and achievements with them.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. ROBERT
CHARLES JEFFERSON, FOUNDER
AND SENIOR PASTOR OF CULLEN
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Today I pay tribute to a noble spiritual leader, a friend and my pastor, Rev. Robert Charles Jefferson. As the founder and senior pastor of the Cullen Missionary Baptist Church, he will, on Sunday, June 12, 2005, celebrate more than 28 years of loyal and dedicated service to not only the ministry but to the people of the great city of Houston, TX, as well.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Jefferson was born on January 12, 1942 in Baton Rouge, LA. After completing his undergraduate education, he moved to Houston, TX, where he completed graduate study at Texas Southern University and InterBaptist Theological Center. For more than 17 years, before accepting his call to the ministry, Rev. Jefferson ran a very successful air-conditioning business. Because he is a great spirit-filled religious leader, in 1977, he was led to organize Cullen Missionary Baptist Church where, since its founding, he has served as senior pastor.

Rev. Jefferson is known throughout the community as a "bridge builder." Over the years, he has successfully been able to distinguish Cullen Missionary Baptist Church as a center for community activism as well as a haven for those in need of care. In 1991, he established the Cullen Christian Child Development Center, a daycare center for Christian youth. A few years later, in 1998, his leadership led to the creation of the Cullen Senior Citizens Ministry, Inc., which has provided more than 54 affordable housing units for seniors 55 and older. His housing ministry also recently created: "Brand New City, Inc.," which has built, since its inception, more than 500 houses for low income families and is well on its way to surpassing that number this year.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Jefferson is not one who takes his role in the business of saving lives and souls lightly, and his membership in the Houston Branch of the NAACP, where he has served since 1987 as the Director of Religious Affairs, is indicative of that commitment. Even as he works tirelessly as a full-time pastor, he has managed to fulfill the roles of moderator of the Houston Gulf Coast Baptist Association; president of the Ministry Advisory Council of Houston and chairman of the board of Love Our Kids, Inc. He is the founder president of city-wide summer recreational programs and since 1979, coordinated programs for Houston's Ministers Against Crime, Inc.

Rev. Jefferson is the recipient of a number of honors and awards that include, but are not limited to certificates of appreciation from then-Governor of Texas, Ann Richards, and Houston Mayor Bob Lanier in 1992. That same year, he also received the Barbara Jordan Leadership Award in recognition of his uncompromising commitment to diversity and human rights. Over the years, tributes from Texas Southern University, the Houston Defender, Anheuser-Busch Companies and others have all highlighted the accomplishments of one of Houston's greatest spiritual leaders.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, when history records the legacy of Rev. Robert Charles Jefferson, I believe he will be touted as a visionary who has dedicated his life to ensuring that no one is left behind.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVER-
SITY OF MICHIGAN WOMEN'S
SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING
THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD
SERIES.

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the University of Michigan women's softball team on Winning the Women's College World Series (WCWS), bringing home the first national championship in the softball program's history. Displaying the hard work and tenacity they acquired through a grueling 72 game season, this team dug deep and rose to victory, defeating the two-time defending champion UCLA Bruins 4-1 in extra innings.

This season Michigan advanced to its eighth WCWS, earned its first No.1 national ranking and won its 10th Big Ten Conference championship and seventh Big Ten Tournament

title. Head coach Carol Hutchins earned the 900th victory of her career in 2005, while junior Jennie Ritter earned the honor of Big Ten Pitcher of the Year and was one of three finalists for USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year.

Michigan was the first team east of the Mississippi to reach the championship game of the Women's College World Series and the first non-West Coast school to be ranked No. 1 midseason.

Proving they are more than just athletes, these inspiring young women balanced classwork and community service with practice and over 15 games per month—all while maintaining strong academic records with six team members earning Academic All Big Ten honors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of my colleagues join me in sending our heartfelt congratulations to coach Carol Hutchins for her coaching and leadership, and to the Women's College World Series Champions, the remarkable Wolverine women: Lorilyn Wilson, Jennifer Kreinbrink, Lauren Talbot, Tiffany Worthy, Stephanie Bercaw, Michelle Teschler, Stephanie Winter, Grace Leutele, Lauren Holland, Jennie Ritter, Samantha Findlay, Alessandra Giampaolo, Nicole Motycka, Rebekah Milian, Tiffany Haas, Michelle Weatherdon, Jessica Merchant, Becky Marx, and Angie Danis.

INTRODUCING THE TEACHER EXCELLENCE FOR ALL CHILDREN ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce an important piece of new legislation, the Teacher Excellence for All Children Act, that is the next step our country needs to take to ensure that every teacher in every classroom, teaching every child, is highly qualified.

First and foremost, I want to thank our teachers for their dedication and commitment to taking on the overwhelming demands of their profession. We ask them to perform miracles every day in our underfunded and overcrowded system. And we owe it to them and to their students to provide more than rhetoric about our commitment to encouraging talented people to enter the field and stay there.

Let me also thank the organizations, and their members, who go to work every day with the commitment to help our schools and our students succeed. They are a great constituency for this legislation, and I welcome their support and their input in its development. Thank you to the Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Federation of Teachers, the Business Roundtable, the Center for American Progress Action Fund, the Children's Defense Fund, the Council of Great City Schools, the Education Trust, the National Council on Teacher Quality, the National

Council of La Raza, the National Education Association, New Leaders for New Schools, the New Teacher Project, Operation Public Education, Teach for America, the Teacher Advancement Program Foundation, and The Teaching Commission.

We know the dismal effects on students when they lack the highest quality teachers. And we know that there are many reasons why people decline to enter the teaching profession, or decide not to remain there. Reasons such as low pay, lack of professional development, unreasonable burdens, or little opportunity for advancement. Congress cannot afford to ignore this immediate and mounting crisis in the teaching profession that will grow exponentially as an unprecedented number of teachers retire in the next five years.

My 45 colleagues who are original cosponsors and I are prepared to respond to this challenge facing American education with an innovative approach that matches the seriousness of the challenge with the "The TEACH Act of 2005"—the next step our country needs to take to ensure that every teacher, in every classroom, teaching every child, is highly qualified.

The most important single factor in determining a child's success in school is the quality of his or her teacher. We all remember a teacher—or even several teachers—who made us proud of ourselves for what we accomplished and helped us face our future with hope and confidence. Imagine if every one of our teachers over the years had given us that same strength.

The TEACH Act will accomplish four critical goals: Increase the supply of outstanding teachers; Ensure all children have teachers with expertise in the subjects they teach; Identify and reward our best teachers; Keep the best teachers and principals in our schools.

This bill is a major legislative initiative that will attract our most talented teachers to the classrooms of our nation's toughest public schools—and encourage them to stay there.

When our nation's school doors close for the summer later this month, more than 200,000 teachers, nearly 6 percent of the teaching workforce, will leave the profession. Over the next decade, we will need to hire more than two million new teachers to serve in our public schools. Yet today, we have no national plan for attracting outstanding students into the teaching profession, or keeping them there.

A large proportion of those who do enter teaching remain a short time, discouraged by low salaries, inadequate opportunities for professional development, and low public esteem. By failing to address this problem, Congress is shortchanging our children and costing taxpayers more than \$2.6 billion annually replacing teachers who have dropped out of the profession. We need to act immediately to assure that we have an adequate supply of exemplary teachers for the next generation of students.

My bill addresses this need by helping school districts to pay more competitive salaries and by offering up-front tuition assistance to talented undergraduates committed to a ca-

reer in education, to established teachers working in fields like math and science, where the teacher shortage is most acute, and to retirees with math and science expertise who would like to join the ranks of our nation's teachers.

The TEACH Act also offers up to \$20,000 in loan forgiveness to highly qualified teachers who are working in high priority communities.

The TEACH Act also helps new teachers transition into the classroom and build their skills through state-of-the-art induction programs that include proven strategies such as structured mentoring, common lesson-planning, and intensive professional development.

My bill also addresses the problem that poor children are far less likely to be taught by expert teachers. Nearly three-quarters of math classes in high-poverty middle schools are taught by teachers who lack a major—or even a minor—in math. The TEACH Act provides higher pay for exemplary highly qualified teachers and principals who transfer into the hardest-to-staff schools where they can help the children who need them most. Making sure these children are taught by a well-trained teacher is crucial because over a five year period, it can close the performance gap between low-income and high-income students.

The TEACH Act also helps create true career ladders that allow teachers to advance in the profession as they gain new knowledge and skills. The bill would augment the salaries of teachers who seek out opportunities to advance their own professional development and to mentor colleagues who are new to the profession.

We also know that nothing is more important in attracting—and keeping—outstanding teachers than outstanding principals. My bill raises standards and improves recruitment and training for new principals.

Teaching is not just another job. Teaching is a career that must be satisfying in itself, that must attract the best people, and that must instruct our children to succeed in an increasingly competitive world.

We can have a dynamic and exciting future for America's schools and their students. We have the national resources. Now, we must make the commitment.

We must dedicate the necessary resources, demand the necessary results, and stay with it to the end to make sure that every child in America has a teacher we can all be proud of and that every teacher in America can say they are proud of us too for the support we give them.

I would also like to acknowledge three reports that were particularly useful. The Teaching Commission's report, *Teaching at Risk: A Call to Action*; the Center for American Progress report, *Ensuring a High Quality Education for Every Child by Building a Stronger Teaching Force*, and the National Academy of Education report *A Good Teacher in Every Classroom: Preparing the Highly Qualified Teachers Our Children Deserve*. All three reports were extremely instrumental, particularly in identifying practices that are working well and need to be taken to scale.

The TEACH Act will take us where research and experience say we need to go: stronger teachers, stronger principals, stronger schools. I look forward to achieving the vision of a better school system for all of our children.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW
APOLLO ENERGY ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, in April 2005, the House of Representatives once again passed an antiquated and outdated energy bill that fails to address the grave realities that our country faces today. With record high gasoline prices, we need an energy bill that diversifies our automobile fuels and encourages domestically manufactured fuel efficient vehicles.

With millions of family wage manufacturing jobs lost since 2001, we need an energy bill that takes bold action to tap into American ingenuity in order to lead the world in new clean energy technology, rather than playing catch-up to the Japanese, Danish, and Germans. Just as concerning is that our reliance on Middle Eastern oil, creates a need to establish an energy policy that allows us to end our historically objectionable policies in this area. Additionally, the science is clear that our greenhouse gas emissions are threatening to significantly change the world's climate, yet this energy bill does not even contain the words "climate change" or "global warming". The House passed Energy bill does little, or nothing, to address these mounting concerns.

That is why I, and several of my colleagues, have joined together to introduce the most innovative and comprehensive energy plan in recent decades, known as the New Apollo Energy Act. New Apollo seeks to solve America's energy crisis through technological innovation much in the same way that President Kennedy channeled the resources of the American people in the 1960's to meet the challenges of the race to the Moon.

The New Apollo Energy Act has the three simple goals of: (1) breaking our addiction to Middle Eastern oil, thereby increasing our Nation's homeland security; (2) creating millions of high paying domestic jobs; and (3) addressing the environmental problem presented by global warming.

Highlights of our New Apollo Energy Act include: Significant tax incentives for the development, manufacturing, and purchasing of domestic clean energy technologies; Investment in energy efficient infrastructure and regulatory oversight; An oil savings provision that requires the President to use existing authority to reduce the daily consumption of oil by 600,000 barrels by 2010 and 3,000,000 barrels by 2020 (approximately what we currently import from the entire Middle East); Increased funding for LIHEAP and weatherization projects; A 10 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2021; Electric grid reliability standards; Appliance efficiency standards; A renewable fuels standards set at 8 billion gallons by 2013.

The New Apollo Energy Act creates jobs. It is often falsely assumed that environmental protection and innovation comes at a cost to the economy, yet study after study concludes that environmental stewardship and technological ingenuity can walk hand in hand. The University of California at Berkeley reported that the renewable energy sector generates more jobs per megawatt of power installed, per unit of energy produced, and per dollar of investment, than the fossil fuel-based energy sector.

The Apollo Alliance has found that a substantial federal commitment to clean energy could yield up to 3.3 million jobs nationally. The University of Michigan concluded that United States stands to lose 38,000–207,000 jobs if the domestic automotive industry fails to retrofit their plants to adjust to the growing hybrid vehicle market. Further, the Department of Energy has estimated that standards just on clothes washers, water heaters, and fluorescent lamp ballasts will create 120,000 jobs through 2020.

The New Apollo Energy Act reduces our dependence on foreign oil. We no longer have to accept an energy bill that fails to encourage the usage of renewable energy or one that fails to reduce our consumption of foreign oil. The Department of Energy's own independent research body—the Energy Information Agency (EIA)—concluded that under the Administration's proposed energy plan over the next 20 years, our oil imports will increase to 80 percent, and gas prices are likely to rise 3–8 cents, which would be the equivalent projections of enacting no energy bill at all. The EIA has also reported that despite the electric utilities' repeated claims that a renewable energy standard would hurt consumers and the economy as a whole, a 10 percent renewable energy standard by 2020 would cost consumers almost nothing—about the difference of 1 percent spread out over the next 15 years.

The New Apollo Energy Act reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Among other things, the New Apollo Energy Act provides tax credits and loan guarantees to develop more cellulosic biomass and biodiesel while providing incentives to produce and purchase energy efficient projects and developing new efficiency standards for the home.

Most importantly, this bill includes a tradable greenhouse gas permit scheme that closely resembles McCain-Lieberman's Climate Stewardship Act. In 2010, our bill would cap carbon dioxide emissions at 2000 levels. This would also include an auction for 5–10 percent of the permits for new entrants. As Members of Congress we are continually amazed that many of our colleagues have yet to accept global warming as fact. Many of us have seen the effects of global warming with our own eyes—the disappearing glaciers in Glacier National Park, the melting permafrost in the Arctic, the disintegration of ice shelves, the rapidly rising temperatures, and the sudden appearance of birds and other animals in places where they have never before existed. Global warming is about as much a theory as gravity, yet some in Congress continue to ignore nature's warning signs. Congress needs to embrace a policy that directly confronts the problem of climate change with the kind of innovative technology that has made science aware of these issues.

The New Apollo Energy Act is revenue neutral. This bill is funded by closing corporate tax shelter loop-holes, and from funds generated by the carbon emissions cap and trade program set up in this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. JONATHAN
OWHE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rev. Jonathan Owhe, a native born Nigerian who immigrated to the United States of America in 1989 in answer to God's Call to restore a dying world. Rev. Owhe, a distinguished scholar holds a Bachelors of Arts in Earth Science, Masters of Science in Non-profit Management and Ministry Ordination/Licenses

from Assembly of God's Church, Coastville, PA.

Since coming to the United States he has served in different capacities and worked with various organizations and community leaders. He once served as a Special Assistant to Rev. Clearance Williams, pastor of the House of Prayer Church; Director of Project & Program, Vice President of Human Resource under the late Chief Adebowale Joshua of Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council; Director of Human Resource/Public Relations/Grants under Ngozi Moses of Brooklyn Perinatal Network.

In 1995 Rev. Jonathan Owhe and his wife started the Christ The Rock International Church in their living room with just a couple of members. The church now has over 400 parishioners at its Brooklyn headquarters as well as two branches in Tennessee and Georgia and over 300 churches in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Rev. Owhe is a community oriented individual. Concerned with the health disparities and social disintegration of inner city neighborhoods, he founded the Rockgate Community Development Inc. Through this organization, various social, health and educational programs have been created, including Faith in Action Volunteer Care Services, Housing Referral and Counseling Services, Infant Mortality Reduction & Maternal Health Initiative, Comprehensive Youth Leadership & Mentoring Program, HIV/Aids Outreach Services, and a Food Pantry program which feeds hundreds of people weekly.

Rev. Jonathan Owhe is the Chairman of the Rockgate Tours, a transportation ministry—taking passengers all over the United States. He sits on various boards and steering committees of major health and social service organizations including the Brooklyn Prenatal Network Inc., Brooklyn Pediatric Health Network, New York City Comprehensive Prenatal Network, and the Greater Southern Coalition Network.

Rev. Owhe has a television program called Hour of Restoration, which reaches thousands of homes each week. He and his wife, Toyin, have five children. Mr. Speaker, Rev. Jonathan Owhe has continuously demonstrated his dedication to his community through his role as a religious leader and his commitment and generosity in helping others that he is more than worthy of our recognition today.

RECOGNIZING SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
AIRPORT AS THE 2005 RECIPIENT
OF THE GENERAL AVIATION AIR-
PORT OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Southern Illinois Airport for being awarded the General Aviation Airport of the Year for 2005 by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Southern Illinois Airport is located between Carbondale and Murphysboro, and is among the busiest airports in the state, with 120,000 takeoffs and landings each year. In addition to the private and business customers who use the airport on a daily basis, Southern Illinois Airport is also home to the Aviation Management and Flight programs for Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

The airport is designed to accommodate aircraft from the smallest propeller airplanes to the small jets used in business fleets. Its proximity to the commercial, recreational and educational facilities of Southern Illinois make it convenient for the private or business traveler.

Location alone is not responsible for the success of Southern Illinois Airport. Airport Manager Gary Shafer and approximately 200 full and part-time employees have earned through their hard work and commitment to excellence not only the General Aviation Airport of the Year Award for 2005 but the continued respect and confidence of the flying public. This marks the fourth time that Southern Illinois Airport has been the recipient of this prestigious award, the second highest number among all the airports in the state of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Airport Manager Gary Shafer, the Commissioners and staff of Southern Illinois Airport for this very well-deserved award.

**CONGRATULATING THE WESTERN
NEW YORK LETTER CARRIERS
FOR THEIR "STAMP OUT HUNGER"
WIN**

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Western New York Letter Carriers for coming in first National Association of Letter Carriers in the "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive.

On June 7th, the NALC announced that Branch 3 of Buffalo/West New York managed to collect a whopping 1,896,038 pounds of donations, placing them in the lead for a third consecutive year. The resolve of the 2,100 members of Branch 3 to collect and process donations at community food banks is commendable, and it is just another example of the hard work and dedication that our letter carriers put into their jobs.

The National Association of Letter Carriers is over 100 years old and the Buffalo/Western New York branch was one of the founding branches in the union. The members are active in both labor issues and the community. The post officers are considered neighbors and friends, delivering mail daily and offering reliable service to residents throughout the county. Despite long winters and the harsh cold, each year the postal carriers have been dependable and enthusiastic, and their first place position in the "Stamp out Hunger" food drive perfectly illustrates these traits.

I would like to thank all the letter carriers for their tireless efforts and to thank the union laborers in Buffalo and throughout Western New York. The union workers of my district comprise the foundation of our sense of community and values. We would be lost without their help. I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for the indispensable part that they play in our daily lives, and to congratulate them in their "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive win.

**FREEDOM FOR HORACIO JULIO
PIÑA BORREGO**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Horacio Julio Piña Borrego, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Piña Borrego is a pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. He is a member of the Party for Human Rights in Cuba. Because of his belief in freedom, democracy, and human

rights, Mr. Piña Borrego has been a target of the nightmare called the Castro regime.

According to Amnesty International, in 2001 Mr. Piña Borrego was detained by the tyrant's security thugs. However, despite constant harassment, and the ever present threat of being thrown in the gulag for his beliefs, Mr. Piña Borrego bravely persisted in advocating for human rights and freedom.

On March 19, 2003, as part of the dictator's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Piña Borrego was arrested because of his belief in freedom and human rights. In ashram trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the inhuman, totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Piña Borrego is currently languishing in an abhorrent, inhuman cell in the totalitarian gulag. These depraved conditions are truly appalling. The State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes. It is a crime of the highest order that people who work for freedom are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions.

Because of courageous Cuban men and women, like Mr. Piña Borrego, freedom and democracy are on the march in Cuba. These pro-democracy activists languish in abhorrent dungeons, they defy the dictator's machinery of repression and, despite every threat and obstacle, these opposition leaders continue to demand liberty for the people of Cuba. Through their bravery and because of their unwavering commitment and the hard work and commitment of countless other patriots, Cuba will be free again.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Piña Borrego is suffering in a grotesque gulag because he believes in human rights. My colleagues, we cannot allow peaceful pro-democracy activists to languish in the depraved prisons of tyrants. We must demand immediate and unconditional freedom for Horacio Julio Piña Borrego and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

**REMEMBERING NATHANIEL
KRUMBEIN**

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of Nathaniel Krumbein. Nat Krumbein was a pillar of the Richmond community and a key figure in the growth of the Richmond-based Heilig-Meyers furniture company.

Mr. Krumbein was a successful pharmacist in Charlotte, North Carolina before moving to Richmond in 1950 in order to help with his wife's family business. He worked with Chairman and CEO Hyman Meyers and President and Vice Chairman Sidney Meyers to help Heilig-Meyer become the nation's largest furniture retailer. As one of the owners and the creative force behind the company, he is credited with the expansion of product lines to include non-furniture departments and was responsible for initial store acquisition and construction for all the company's locations. The company had more than 100 stores by the time he retired as vice chairman of the board in 1984.

Mr. Krumbein was also a dedicated philanthropist and activist. He served as Chair of the Virginia Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League as well as on the National Board. For his service, he was made an Honorary Life Commissioner of the ADL. Also, Mr.

Krumbein's commitment to the fair treatment for all people led to his involvement in the development of the Council of America's First Freedom. He was a strong proponent of education, conservation, and equality for all and worked enthusiastically throughout his life to improve our society. Among all of his commitments, Mr. Krumbein continued his work as a pharmacist and received the Virginia Outstanding Pharmacist Award in 2002.

Mr. Krumbein is survived by his wife of 61 years, Amy Meyers Krumbein; three sons, Charles Krumbein, Michael Krumbein, and Lee Krumbein; and one daughter, Joyce Slater. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in honoring Nathaniel Krumbein and offering our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

**TRIBUTE TO DR. EVERETT L.
DARGAN**

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Everett L. Dargan, an outstanding surgeon, a devoted husband and father, and an all-around good citizen of South Carolina.

At the age of 15, Everett Dargan, a native of Columbia, won a scholarship to Morehouse College in Atlanta. He later transferred to the University of Buffalo in upstate New York where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1949. Dargan credits the faculty and administration of Morehouse College, in particular then-Morehouse College President Benjamin E. Mays, Ph.D. and Harold Eugene Finley, Ph.D., for instilling a lifelong sense of academic discipline, the inspiration to dream that a career in medicine was possible for him, and a dedication to personal excellence. "Dr. Finley put me into warp speed and opened up new worlds to me—embryology, anatomy and zoology. Seeing bacteria and red blood cells was like discovering new life forms on 'Star Trek.' He was a taskmaster and insisted on perfection," Dargan recalls. "But he also had a sense of humor. He was my mentor."

Dargan continued his education at Howard University's College of Medicine where he earned his M.D. and also won First Prize in Medicine. After medical school, he completed his internship at Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn, NY, and was later named chief resident surgeon at the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Dargan interrupted his specialty training to serve in the United States Air Force as a captain and commander of the 3910th USAF Hospital in Mildenhall/Lakenheath, England, during the Korean War. Later, he would continue his commitment to providing quality medical care to military veterans through his service to the Dorn Veterans Administration Medical Center in Columbia, SC.

Dr. Dargan completed his training in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at Boston City Hospital, achieving the post of chief resident surgeon, and became a thoracic surgical instructor at Boston University Medical Center in Massachusetts. He returned to New York and continued his commitment to academic medicine as a researcher and instructor through various appointments, including associate professor of Surgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, chief of surgery at Lincoln Hospital, and director of surgery at Sydenham Hospital. In keeping with his commitment to academic surgery as teacher, practitioner and researcher, he taught medical students and surgical residents for more than 12 years. Dargan expected perfection and taught

his students what he learned from his mentor, Dr. Finley. At Lincoln Hospital, he met his future wife, a registered nurse and flight attendant at TWA, Carol Poyner.

Dargan has published many surgical papers in leading national medical journals and has participated in preparing practicing surgeons for board certification. He has given presentations at national and international medical meetings. Dargan returned to South Carolina in 1978 and began a private practice in thoracic, vascular and general surgery in Columbia, sharing an office with the late Dr. Cyril O. Spann, who had urged him to come home. Two years later, Dargan and Dr. Gerald A. Wilson formed Midlands Surgical Associates, P.A., out of a shared sense of commitment to competent, compassionate, and appropriate patient care in South Carolina. The practice has grown to include Dr. Dennis A. Wilson. In 1979, Dr. Dargan joined the faculty of the University of South Carolina as a clinical associate professor of surgery, hoping to inspire a new generation of physicians to provide compassionate medical services to South Carolinians.

Dr. Dargan is a founding member of Physician's Health Plan of South Carolina, now Carolina Care Plan, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a former chief of staff at Palmetto Health Richland. A life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he is also a member of the Kappa Pi and Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor societies. The Dargans have two children, Jennifer Dargan and Catherine Dargan Phelps; a son-in-law, Peter Phelps; and two much-loved grandchildren, Addison Morgan Phelps.

Dr. Dargan is being honored in his hometown next Thursday night and I ask you, my colleagues, to join me in congratulating him and commending the University of South Carolina for helping all Columbians recognize Dr. Dargan's contributions by establishing a scholarship at its medical school in his name.

TRIBUTE TO DELORES M. HANDY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of one of the constituents in my district. Delores M. Handy has been a valuable employee of the Acadia Parish Tax Assessor's Office for over 3 decades. On June 30th, 2005, she will retire after 33 years of service to her community.

This woman, affectionately known as Dee, has become a friendly face in local government. The most common phrase used to describe her is "tremendous asset." Working at the counter in the Assessor's Office, she will always be remembered as a woman who greeted every customer with a smile and an offer to help them solve whatever problems they were facing. Through the years, she has developed friendships with people from every walk of life and no one left her office without feeling like she had done everything possible to serve their needs.

I join the residents of Acadia Parish, along with the people of the 7th District, in thanking Delores Handy for her contribution to making Southwest Louisiana a great place to live. She is a fine example of what is right in our government and will be missed.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN P. MURTHA AND HIS WIFE, JOYCE

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our dear friend and colleague, JOHN P. MURTHA as he and his wife Joyce celebrate the 50th anniversary of their marriage. I would like to submit the following statement of Father William George to honor this occasion:

DINNER BLESSING BY FATHER WILLIAM GEORGE, S.J. AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER FOR CONGRESSMAN AND MRS. JOHN P. MURTHA

Blessed are you, God of all Creation. We are created in your image and likeness and share the gifts you have bestowed on us, especially your gift of divine Love. Source of all Love and Kindness, we thank you for the love we share this evening of Jack and Joyce Murtha's mature and wonderful love as we celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

St. Paul speaks of how without love, we gain nothing; that Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, is not inflated; it is not rude; it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails. (1 Cor.)

The faith that Joyce and Jack have in each other is witnessed to by their 50 years of marriage, but also how hard they work to support each other and their generosity to others. Their hopefulness is revealed in their patience and continued generosity even when criticized and challenged. Their love is a witness to the divine spirit within all of us and we thank you for them.

Their gift of self to each other reveals the richness of the union of husband and wife in the sacrament of marriage. We ask you to continue to bless their love with your grace.

Jack and Joyce have united in a strong and productive way in service to their country. As one nation under God, we appreciate their dedication and love of country. If every member of Congress had such a supportive spouse, the laws of our land would be more in accord with your will, bringing peace through justice. Please, dear Lord, continue to bless them with vigor, insight and courage.

We ask your care for our young men and women in uniform all throughout the world who are in harm's way. Inspire them and make them shining witnesses to justice wherever they serve.

Please bless our celebration of Jack and Joyce's 50th. Bless this food we are about to receive from your bounty, as we have faith in you, our God, who lives forever and ever, Amen.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BY LINDA HOWARD GARRETT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to submit for the RECORD the compelling statement of Linda Howard Garrett who gave the valedictory address at the Ann Arundel Community College Commencement Ceremony on May 26, 2005.

Linda is a wonderful and inspiring example of someone who has the will and perseverance to make a brighter future for themselves and their family. Her determination and persistence to go back to school later in life shows that it is never too late to pursue the "American Dream" and succeed!

I was proud to join Linda at Anne Arundel Community College's Commencement and am pleased to submit her address for the RECORD.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BY LINDA HOWARD GARRETT

"Good evening, President Smith, Congressman Hoyer, Trustees, honored guests, faculty, staff, friends and families, classmates.

If anyone had told me 2 years ago that I would be standing here tonight, I would have stared in disbelief. It was with great trepidation that I returned to school after 37 years, and I wasn't sure I would succeed, much less excel. And yet here I am—here we all are because of our hard work and dedication to a goal.

Many people have asked me what motivated me to work so hard and to remain so dedicated, and as I began to think about that question, I realized there were several answers.

It helped to know that I was enrolled in one of the premier paralegal studies programs in the country, and attending Ann Arundel—a shining star in the Nation's network of community colleges.

Of course there was my family who inspired me by their unflinching support—especially my 14-year-old daughter who temporarily relinquished her self-proclaimed position as center of the universe and willingly assumed more responsibility at home because I had a test scheduled or a paper due.

And the professors who gave so generously of their time and talents: Professors Kelly Koerner, Robyn Brown, Karen Cook, Mona Clark, Stanley Robbins, Susan Kilgard, Richard Faircloth, Sarah Glenn, Cathy Hayes, Sherry Hopkins, Wade Taylor. I could go on and on as I'm sure each of you could as you remember those dedicated teachers who were a profound influence on you.

Sometimes it was a staff member—like Miss Ina in the Florestano student lounge my first year. Even though she wasn't officially scheduled to open until 8:30, she was there every morning at least an hour early, dispensing hot coffee and encouragement.

Often, it was a classmate: the student older than I—in his seventies—still seeking knowledge and growth and intellectual stimulation. Or the 18-year-old who took the earliest classes available so she could hurry home to care for her ailing mother. And all of the amazing single parents juggling families and full-time jobs and still managing to attend every class, turning in every assignment on time.

But perhaps the most compelling influence was a sense of history and an appreciation for what many Americans take for granted. I gained that appreciation while serving for 26 years with the U.S. Army. During that time I had the opportunity to travel all over the world—from the Far East to East Berlin. And the more I saw of the world, the more I came to value the freedoms and opportunities that are uniquely American. And at no time did I feel that appreciation more than during a visit to Ellis Island.

Over a hundred years ago, immigrants poured into this country seeking a better life. And they weren't satisfied to just be in America. They wanted to be Americans, and that meant that they had to learn a new language and a new history so they could pass a citizenship test. They sought out classes wherever they could find them—in church basements and elementary school classrooms and community halls.

So when it seemed he too much effort for me to write another brief, or struggle to learn the arcane vocabulary of the law or drag myself to one more early class, I would remember those immigrants who, after working backbreaking 12-, 14-, 16-hour days, went willingly, joyfully to class because they understood that every step toward that classroom brought them one step closer to realizing the American Dream. And when I remembered them, I could not dishonor their memory by turning in shoddy work or failing to fully embrace the opportunity their legacy provided because from those humble beginnings an entire system of adult education evolved. Single scattered classes became

night school and then City College and junior college and finally the community college, as we know it today.

And although at one time the classes at one of these local colleges was considered less prestigious than at the four year colleges, that is no longer true today. In response to a growing need, as community colleges' facilities and curricula expanded, so did their reputations. Today, while community colleges continue to serve those who, because of families and jobs, need to stay close to home, they also serve those who recognize that many community colleges provide specialized programs that rival those available at four-year universities.

I hope that everyone of you as you go forward will also look back and remember that you are carrying the torch for all those educators and students whose commitment and vision made today's community college a reality. And I hope you will tell all of your friends and families and neighbors that the first step toward realizing the American dream begins with an education, and that a first-class, top-notch education is accessible in their backyards, right here at Ann Arundel Community College. I hope that you will never take for granted the history of freedom and opportunity that made it possible for you to take that step. And I hope, as you go forward, that you will never miss the opportunity to say, with great pride, as I say tonight, I am a graduate of Ann Arundel Community College."

TRIBUTE TO MONUMENTAL BAPTIST CHURCH—105TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the Monumental Baptist Church of Jersey City, New Jersey as it celebrates its 105th anniversary. Established in 1900, Monumental was incorporated in 1904 and has been serving the needs of its congregation and the community continuously.

Throughout the illustrious history of Monumental Baptist Church, effective leadership has been at the core of all the accomplishments the church has had. Beginning with Pastor William Edwards and continuing with Pastors Garlick, Smith, Fitzgerald, Webb, Ashley and the current pastor, Reverend Joseph L. Jones, Sr., Monumental has made many enhancements over the years. In addition to its leadership, the success of all of Monumental's initiatives can be attributed to the faith, hope, commitment and prayers of the loving membership that fill the pews of this landmark facility. In fact, Monumental Baptist Church is blessed to have 55 members who have fifty or more years of continuous membership. Clearly, that statistic is representative of the marvelous activities taking place at the church.

Recently, Monumental Baptist Church was officially approved as a 501(c)(3) religious organization. The church's finances have improved over the years enabling the on-going renovations and upgrades to church owned properties.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that Monumental Baptist Church and the surrounding community have every right to be pleased with the lasting contributions that the church has made to the residents of Jersey City. I am pleased to congratulate Monumental Baptist Church on its 105th anniversary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. NELSON "FUZZY" THOMPSON

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Doctor Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson, a minister, humanitarian and a political activist whose legacy continues to enrich the lives of all Kansas Citizens. After 14 years of service, on June 5, 2005, Rev. Thompson retired from his pastoral helm at Mason Memorial United Methodist Church, which is the cause of recognition and celebration of the dedication that he exudes in all aspects of service to the Kansas City community.

Rev. Thompson's reputation as a community leader extends beyond the local or national level, but is inclusive of the international community. He was one of 22 U.S. ministers that traveled to South Africa on a fact finding educational exchange, at the request of Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and the South African Council of Churches. "Fuzzy," as he is affectionately known, was one of three U.S. ministers to conduct Easter services for U.S. hostages held in Tehran, Iran in 1980. He was also one of 17 U.S. ministers and activists who served as official observers for the first election ever held in South Africa that allowed the right to vote to all races. He said it was a humbling experience seeing people lining up the night before and standing in line for blocks in order to exercise their right to vote for the first time.

Since 1984, Rev. Thompson has been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He served as Regional Coordinator of Rev. Jesse Jackson's 1984 Presidential campaign and as the Missouri State Coordinator of the Jackson Campaign in 1988. "Fuzzy" is currently President of the Kansas City Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

He has served on the boards of Freedom Incorporated as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Black Adoption Program and Services, Human Rights Commission of Kansas City, Missouri, and Northwest Political Faction. He has been involved in helping to solve the problems of young adults, especially in the areas of education and unemployment. He held the position of Executive Director of the Martin Luther King Urban Center for 30 years.

Rev. Thompson graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in Education, and received a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry at St. Paul School of Theology. He has been married 39 years to Cheryl (Love) Thompson. His mother, Marvia Thompson, was a founding member of the St. James United Methodist which I pastor. In 2003, we joined Rev. Thompson to celebrate and mourn her death and life. He baptized my youngest son, Evan, and he has been a friend and a confidant to me for more than 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to the Rev. Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson for his relentless efforts in extending service not only within the areas surrounding Kansas City, Missouri and the United States, but for his contributions to the global community. I urge my colleagues to please join me in congratulating "Fuzzy" on his retirement as Pastor of Mason Memorial United Methodist Church, for we know that he has not retired from the ministry nor from the community, because God's work is never done.

RECOGNIZING JOHN NEARY UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the tremendous career of Mr. John Neary, an educator and friend who will be formally honored on June 10, 2005, at his retirement celebration in Concord, California.

Mr. Neary has over thirty-three years experience as an educator for California's youth, including twenty-six years with the Mt. Diablo Unified School District. His remarkable commitment to the educational system began in 1972 as a classroom teacher and athletic coach. Since then he has served as teacher, coach, athletic director, vice principal and principal. In all of these roles he delivered high-quality education and maintained a strong commitment to his students. Mr. Neary works with incredible heart and has consistently placed "the student first" in all his endeavors. He routinely showcased his commitment by attending every school event from drama to water polo.

For the past seven years Mr. Neary has served as principal of Clayton Valley High School. The students and faculty have been fortunate to have him at the helm and will surely miss his presence. Mr. Neary has invested all that he has to give and is well loved and appreciated as a result of his dedication.

I congratulate Mr. Neary for his hard work and dedication to the students, faculty and community. I am pleased to join with Mt. Diablo Unified School District and Clayton Valley High School in recognizing his outstanding commitment toward education and send my best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Hunger Awareness Day and to honor the Arlington Food Assistance Center, which is located in my congressional district.

National Hunger Awareness Day was established to help inform individuals, communities, corporations and policy makers that hunger is a severe domestic issue and deserves our critical attention.

The Arlington Food Assistance Center's sole mission is to feed the hungry. This important action allows their clients to make other necessary purchases, such as paying for rent and utilities, without having to sacrifice their health and nutritional needs.

Despite the fact that Arlington County is one of the wealthiest areas in the country, plenty of local residents do not have enough to eat. The Arlington Food Assistance Center, AFAC, seeks to remedy this problem by distributing bread, vegetables, meat, milk, eggs and other food items to those in Arlington who are in need. The Arlington Food Assistance Center currently distributes approximately 1100 bags of groceries each week to over 900 clients, nearly half of whom are children. Each week,

families with one to three members receive one bag of food and families of four members or more receive two bags of food—amounts that are expected to supplement a week's meals.

AFAC obtains surplus food at a minimal cost from the Capital Area Community Food Bank and at no cost from local bakeries, supermarkets, farmer's markets, food drives and private donors.

I would like to commend the staff and volunteers of the Arlington Food Assistance Center who work hard to provide needy families in Arlington with groceries each week.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
COMMENDING W. MARK FELT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a Resolution commending W. Mark Felt for his extraordinary service to the country in exposing the "Watergate" scandal. Good faith whistle blowers like Mr. Felt represent high ideals of public service and the American tradition of challenging abuses of power. They also provide the diversity of views and information necessary for the checks and balances in a democracy.

As the world now knows, Mr. Felt, the then Deputy Director of the FBI, disclosed that he was the confidential source known as "Deep Throat," that assisted Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein in their investigation of the Watergate scandal, which eventually led the House to the verge of impeachment and the ultimate resignation of President Nixon.

Quite frequently, it is courageous whistle blowers such as Mr. Felt who are responsible for disclosing corruption in our government. We have no doubt that absent Mr. Felt's involvement, we would never have learned about the illegalities and obstruction of justice at the highest levels of our government, up to and including President Nixon.

This Resolution recognizes that Mr. Felt was not only a courageous public servant, willing to risk his career to expose wrongdoing, but a model agent and administrator as well. I therefore believe it is altogether fitting and proper that Mr. Felt's service be commemorated and honored by the Congress.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGETOWN
COUNTY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Georgetown County, South Carolina, and its efforts to make healthcare services accessible to its rural population.

Several years ago, Georgetown County conceived the idea of turning a former schoolhouse—purchased for just one dollar—into an affordable and accessible healthcare facility for residents who previously had to travel more than a half-hour to reach needed

wellness resources. This center is critical, since more than 15 percent of citizens in the area do not have transportation, 56 percent live below 200 percent of the poverty level, and the community is not served by public transit.

I am extremely pleased to announce the completion of the Choppee Regional Resource Center, a medical "One Stop Shop," providing the first step towards an integrated, holistic healthcare delivery system for some of South Carolina's most underserved residents. Residents now have access to medical care, drug and alcohol counseling, mental health services, children's and seniors' services, and adult education opportunities.

This center is important to me because it brings together key players from across the state to make a difference in the individual lives of those who too often are not reached by broader efforts. It is these underserved people who each of us is sent here to help in any and every way we can.

Georgetown County continues to develop the Choppee facilities and is now implementing a second phase of the project: the creation of a Family Wellness Center. Together, these resources will provide comprehensive healthcare, vocational, and support services to benefit the county's rural residents.

Mr. Speaker, please join me as I commend the Georgetown County Council, the Administrator, School District, and all those individuals and groups who have been so personally involved in making this center a reality. Without your help, the citizens of Choppee would still be forced to travel great distances, at great expense and effort for the day-to-day services they need to live healthy, productive lives.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI ROBERT S.
GOLDSTEIN

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Robert S. Goldstein. Rabbi Goldstein is a community leader, spiritual advisor, and dear friend. For 15 years, Rabbi Goldstein has led the congregation at Temple Emanuel in Andover, Massachusetts.

Rabbi Robert Goldstein was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1953. He was raised in a large and compassionate family. His mother taught in an inner-city elementary school, and volunteers her free time at Jewish charities and other groups serving the community. His late father was deeply involved in the Jewish Nursing Home of Western Massachusetts.

Since coming to Temple Emanuel in 1990, Rabbi Goldstein has grown his congregation, and endeavored to make Judaism more accessible to all who come to it with an open ear and an open mind. He has led his flock to explore the meaning of the Jewish faith to find purpose and spiritual enrichment. Under Rabbi Goldstein's leadership, Temple Emanuel has expanded its membership to over 600 families with more than 400 children in its religious school.

In addition to his work at Temple Emanuel, Rabbi Goldstein serves on the Board of the Lawrence General Hospital, and he is a trustee of the Edgewood Retirement Community.

Rabbi Goldstein continues to foster dialogue between Catholics and Jews at the Center for the Study of Jewish/Christian Relations at Merrimack College.

On June 17, 2005 Rabbi Goldstein's congregation, friends, neighbors and loved ones will recognize him for the wisdom and compassion he has shown to all, and for dedicating his life to sharing the virtues of the Jewish faith and heritage.

The people of the Merrimack Valley, of all faiths, are truly blessed to have Rabbi Goldstein as a friend, neighbor, counselor and spiritual leader.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF MID-MISSOURI ENERGY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to announce the grand opening of Mid-Missouri Energy, Inc. Many Missourians have worked hard to create this farmer-owned ethanol production facility in Malta Bend, Missouri. Ground was broken on the facility on October 4, 2003, and the facility was opened for business on June 3, 2005.

From the time I was young, I was taught that a farmer's livelihood depends on two things: the weather and the markets. With the opening of Mid-Missouri Energy, farmers will have an additional market for their corn and will be able to get more bang for their agricultural buck. Missouri farmers, especially those who make the Fourth District home, will now have a facility that allows them to capitalize on the growing renewable fuel opportunities across the nation. Ethanol production is not only beneficial to the farmers of America, but to the American public at large. Ethanol is a renewable energy resource that, when utilized most effectively, will reduce America's dependency on imported oil and decrease pollution.

The ethanol production facility in Malta Bend will also benefit the rural economy. Farmers will not only have an additional market for their corn, but Mid-Missouri Energy will employ rural citizens and will have a far reaching, positive impact on the local economy. Mid-Missouri Energy's founding fathers, especially Ryland Utlaut and Don Arth, deserve credit for making Mid-Missouri Energy a reality.

As Mid-Missouri Energy opens and begins to produce ethanol, I know that Members of Congress will join me in honoring their outstanding work.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGIA JONES
AYERS: COMMUNITY LEADER,
CIVIL RIGHTS CHAMPION AND
ROLE MODEL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker I rise in tribute to Georgia Jones Ayers, a community servant and civil rights pioneer who for decades has spent her days righting the wrongs

she sees in society. I have known her for many years, and, I can speak from first-hand experience about the positive impact she has had on our community and on the lives of countless young people. She says what she thinks, she stands up for what she believes in, and she works hard to achieve her goals. She is a person of intelligence, determination and accomplishment.

Some of Ms. Ayers' experiences and deeds were recently chronicled by South Florida's preeminent political reporter, Michael Putney, in an article that ran in the Miami Herald on June 1, 2005. I want to share this article with my colleagues, so they can get a sense of this remarkable woman's character.

[From the Miami Herald, June 1, 2005]

COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, INJUSTICE IS A GREAT
MOTIVATOR

(By Michael Putney)

Community activist Georgia Jones Ayers carries more than memories of racism in Miami; she carries the proof. She keeps it in her purse as a constant reminder. It's a yellowed, well-worn abstract of title to her grandmother's home in "Railroad Chops (sic), Colored Addition." That's the home where Ayers, now 76, was born and raised. And which her grandmother, Eliza Pierce, lost to the city of Miami, in a racist land grab and for \$3.29 in unpaid taxes. The tax sale is dated Aug. 29, 1924.

"It's because of this," she says, brandishing the legal document like a dark talisman, "that I am who I am and do what I do."

For more than half a century, Ayers has worked to right what she considers wrongs done to her community, and by her community. Currently, she runs Alternatives to Incarceration out of the Metro Justice Building where first-time offenders are released to her custody to complete programs that allow them to avoid having a permanent criminal record.

Then there's her Janet Reno New Chance Alternative School, which takes disruptive sixth-to-eighth graders and instills discipline and learning in them. "I don't believe in brutality," Ayers says, "but when I was in school I'd get a spanking for arriving late. These days you tell 'em you're going to tan their backside, and they say they'll call HRS (the predecessor to DCF). But that's what some of 'em need."

Make no mistake, Ayers is tough. And smart. And still angry after all these years about the injustice done to her grandmother.

She says that her grandfather, Charles Pierce, went in 1923 to pay the overdue property taxes with \$100 he had saved from his job with Henry Flagler's railroad. But he was never seen again—probably murdered for the money.

"My grandmother would have paid those taxes if she'd been able to read," Ayers told me. "But she was illiterate and couldn't read the notices. So she lost her home for a few dollars." It was on land in Allapattah between 46th and 50th streets and 12th and 14th avenues that had been set aside for black railroad workers. But Ayers says whites eventually wanted the land and found ways to seize it. First, through foreclosure because of unpaid taxes.

"And then on Aug. 1, 1947 at 11 a.m. the police came in and evicted 35 families, including mine, because they wanted the land for an all-white school."

That was Allapattah Elementary. Ayers attended Liberty City Primary, the predecessor to what is now Charles R. Drew Elementary. On the 25th anniversary of the McDuffie riots we stood across from the

school in an empty lot at Northwest 62nd Street and 17th Avenue. One of the many empty lots along Martin Luther King Boulevard since the 1980 riots.

"I knew Arthur McDuffie," she says. "He sold insurance like I did for many years. He was a sweet, gentle man."

On the Saturday in May 1980 when four Metro policemen were acquitted of beating McDuffie to death, Ayers went to the Metro Justice Building with other black leaders to organize a peaceful protest. "We wanted an orderly meeting where people could vent their anger," she recalls.

The anger could not be contained. Injustice is a great motivator. It's what keeps Ayers going with vigor.

She's upset that Haitian immigrants fail to recognize or respect what American blacks went through here before they arrived. She's upset that black kids who struggle to learn standard English are expected to learn Spanish. "I'm not prejudiced against Haitians or Cubans. I just want people to respect our heritage." She says this caressing that abstract of title, which is smooth from touching but still carries a sharp sting.

I generally reject the idea of reparations for slavery. Many generations stand between us and the direct victims, although the shame of slavery endures. But Ayers is still very much alive, and she carries proof of the racism that robbed her family. Twice, in fact. How do we repay her? I'm not sure, but we can begin by simply saying thank you for channeling so much anger into so many good works.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IN HAITI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make note of the distressing developments unfolding in Haiti. The situation in that country is becoming increasingly unstable, with elections scheduled to take place a few months from now. The current state of Haiti does not bode well for a peaceful and legitimized election process.

A June 9th article in the Miami Herald entitled "Senior U.S. official visits unsettled Haiti" points out that the ongoing instability is causing widespread discontentment with the interim government led by Prime Minister Gerard Latortue. The lack of confidence is even being voiced by respected and influential members of Haitian society, such as Ariel Henry, a member of the U.N. sanctioned "Council of Wisemen" which nominated Latortue to head the interim government.

Mr. Henry has gone so far as to call the governmental performance of the country a failure, and has warned that the Council of Elders may call for Latortue's resignation if some semblance of stability is not achieved soon.

It has been over a year since the forced removal of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the nation's democratically elected leader. Without question, conditions in the country are worse since Aristide's removal due to the widespread violence and human-rights violations perpetrated by the lawless elements which overthrew the Aristide government.

Indeed, 700 people have died in less than a year in Haiti. The violence is escalating to such a level that the U.S. State Department's top official for the Americas, Roger Noriega, arranged a last-minute visit this week to assess the situation. Secretary of State Rice herself labeled the developments in Haiti "troubling" on Monday, and called for close examination of the strength of the country's U.N. force.

On the election front, all is not well. The nation's electoral council is stricken by internal strife and wrangling. A campaign to register up to 4.5 million eligible voters has signed up only 113,000 in a month and a half. The only party with wide support among Haiti's impoverished majority is the Lavalas Party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Still angered by his removal, the party has so far refused to participate in the upcoming election.

All this presents a very troubling picture for Haiti. In the short-term the U.N. force must be increased. In addition, all the stakeholders involved must take a long and hard look at whether the scheduled date for Haitian elections is practical considering the current reality.

[From the Miami Herald, June 9, 2005]

SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL VISITS UNSETTLED
HAITI

(By Jacqueline Charles and Joe Mozingo)

The U.S. State Department's top man for Latin America and the Caribbean arrived in Haiti on Wednesday to assess a surging wave of violence and increasing demands for the resignation of U.S.-backed Prime Minister Gerard Latortue.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Roger Noriega met with the political head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission and other top officials in Haiti at the start of his two-day visit.

Haiti's violence has turned so worrisome that even the so-called Council of Wisemen—a group of respected Haitians that picked Latortue to head the interim government after the hasty departure of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide last year—has lost confidence in him.

"It's a failure," said Ariel Henry, a neurosurgeon and vice chairman of the seven-member council. "There is no governance." He added that the council will soon issue an ultimatum to Latortue: bring the country under control in 30 days or resign.

What leverage the council has is unclear. But Henry's statement carries political weight.

During the weekend, a meeting of about 20 political parties sponsored by the U.N. mission here came largely to the same conclusion about Latortue, although three major parties say they would not go so far as to call for his resignation.

The Bush administration has pinned its hopes for stability on Latortue's ability to pave the way for elections this fall. But many Haitians doubt the country is ready, given a paroxysm of recent violence in the capital.

The 7,400-strong U.N. peacekeeping mission that began arriving in Haiti after Aristide fled during an armed revolt has not been able to tamp down the kidnappings, carjackings and shootouts that have left hundreds dead in recent months and have kept a ruined economy from recovering.

Washington has stood by Latortue and focused more on the need to strengthen the U.N. peacekeeping force, which has been criticized as too passive. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice this week said the U.N. mission needed to increase its forces or conduct more aggressive operations. She appeared to reject a growing push among the Haitian political class for the return of the U.S. Marines deployed here in the three months after Aristide's departure. She said it was crucial that the Brazilian-led force in Haiti succeed.

"It was a real breakthrough for this hemisphere to have Brazil in the lead and then to have other Western Hemisphere states actually engaged in peacekeeping," Rice said at a news conference Tuesday. "We are devoted to making that mechanism work, and so we are talking with the U.N. about what more needs to be done."

Chantal Regnault contributed from Port-au-Prince.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of weeks, I have heard from all sides of this very impassioned debate regarding the issue of stem cell research. There are many arguments on both sides which resonate with compassionate people, and I have taken a great deal of time and reflection to reach my current position in favor of stem cell research as provided under H.R. 810.

As a Member of Congress, I have been a very consistent supporter of the value of human life in all of its stages. I have had personal experiences with diseases that hold the greatest hope of being treated with the help of research on stem cells including diabetes and Parkinson's disease, and I believe that our respect for human life should compel us to strive to treat diseases which are currently untreatable.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is important to closely consider what is in this bill and what is not in this bill. This bill would allow researchers to apply for federal grant money to perform research on tissue which would otherwise be discarded as medical waste. I have heard some of my colleagues say that they are against the creation of embryos for the purpose of scientific research, and I agree. This bill would not allow research on any lines of stem cells unless they had been created for reproductive purposes and if the people involved grant their consent. I do not believe that this bill would encourage the creation of more embryos because the bill would not allow funding to be used if the donating parties had received any compensation for the donation of tissue for research.

It is important that we recognize that stem cell research is a reality in our time, and what is uncertain are the parameters through which it will be pursued. I would prefer that this type of research is done at home rather than abroad where it can be pursued with the oversight of the United States Congress and where we can be certain of the moral restraint of American values.

When the President issued his guidelines for acceptable research on stem cells in August 2001, he acknowledged that federal funding could be appropriate, provided that it was done so in a moral way. In his judgment, a moral way included research with the informed consent of the donors involving excess embryos created solely for reproductive purposes; and that it was done without any financial inducements to the donors.

I believe that H.R. 810 respects human life in the way that we should by allowing scientists to use human tissue which would otherwise be discarded as medical waste, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOME-
OWNERSHIP MONTH AND THE IM-
PORTANCE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP
IN THE UNITED STATES**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate homeown-

ship in America. Recently, the President designated June as National Homeownership Month as he has done for the past three years. To complement this designation, I have introduced a resolution to recognize National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the House of Representatives:

- (1) fully supports the goals and ideals of National Homeownership Month; and
- (2) recognizes the importance of homeownership in building strong communities and families.

IMPORTANCE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP IN AMERICA

For generations, the goal of owning a home has been the bedrock of our economy and a fundamental part of the American Dream. Over the last three years, as we have faced the challenges of war and economic uncertainty, the housing and refinancing markets have helped to keep our economy moving. Nationally, housing generates more than 22 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and accounts for nearly 40 cents of every dollar spent. America's housing markets are the envy of the world. We enjoy the lowest interest rates and the highest homeownership rates of any developed nation. In fact, the national homeownership rate in the United States has reached a record high of 69.1 percent and more than half of all minority families are homeowners. Over 73.4 million Americans are now homeowners, with many more achieving this goal on a daily basis.

Homeownership is the single largest creator of wealth for Americans. It is the largest investment most families will ever make and a key to promoting long-term economic stability for all Americans. For these reasons alone, we must continue to promote strong housing and refinancing markets in America.

HOMEOWNERSHIP BUILDS STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Aside from helping millions of Americans achieve their dreams, homeownership also helps to build neighborhoods and strengthen communities.

Families who own homes have a vital stake in their communities, a stronger interest in the safekeeping of their neighborhoods, and a deeper commitment to the quality of their schools and libraries. Each home is a critical piece in a successful neighborhood, allowing families to enjoy community events together and share in the lives of their neighbors and friends. Owning a home also provides children with a place to learn, play, and grow, and gives homeowners a tangible stake in their cities and towns. As millions of American families have demonstrated, increased homeownership helps to build better communities, and better communities help to build a Better America.

CONGRESS'S ROLE IN PROMOTING HOMEOWNERSHIP

As responsible legislators, we need to ensure that government helps, rather than impedes, homeownership in America. When I came to Congress, I made it my top priority to highlight federal policies that have hindered the availability of housing in this country and to find ways for government to positively impact homeownership in America. While we have done much to help Americans become homeowners, we must do more. I firmly believe that Congress must cultivate an environment where more Americans can turn the dream of homeownership into reality.

I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT HOMEOWNERSHIP
MONTH

I am very pleased to see the President has made it a priority to promote affordable housing and homeownership. The Administration

has taken a leading role in finding new and innovative ways to expand homeownership, particularly among minorities. I want to commend the hard work of Secretary Jackson and his team at HUD for their work in developing programs to increase affordable housing and encourage homeownership. I urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of homeownership in the United States and reinforce our commitment to providing homeownership opportunities for more Americans by cosponsoring this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO LUIS RODRIGUEZ
MAYORAL**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to baseball legend Luis Rodriguez Mayoral. For his outstanding service to the game of baseball, the National Puerto Rican Day Parade will honor Mr. Mayoral by having him serve as the Puerto Rican Grand Marshall for the world-famous parade June 12, 2005 in New York City.

Mayoral has been involved in baseball for over thirty years as a scout, manager, journalist and author. Throughout his many years of service to the game, he has had a positive and important impact on the sport and many of its players.

Mayoral's resume is long and impressive. He served as a scout for the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Chicago White Sox from 1972 to 1980 and as General Manager for the Arecibo and San Juan Baseball clubs in Puerto Rico from 1983-1985. He has also served as director of Spanish broadcasting for the Texas Rangers and as Latin American Liaison for the Detroit Tigers. In addition to this experience, Mayoral has been an important baseball broadcaster and journalist. He has broadcast over 2,000 baseball games for CBS, including All-Star and World Series games, and served as chief baseball correspondent for Puerto Rico's El Vocero newspaper for 18 years. He also found the time to write five books about baseball including a well received biography of the late, great Roberto Clemente.

As a result of his hard work and dedication, Mayoral has received numerous honors and awards. He has been honored by the Puerto Rican, Mexican and Laredo-Texas Halls of Fame. He was also a guest of President George W. Bush in the White House in 2001 and was named Puerto Rico's Sports Commentator of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues already know, I have a deep love and respect for the game of baseball. It is my belief that it is not just a game but an institution that has helped to bridge the gap between generations of Americans. As a lover of the game, I have a deep respect for all those who have had a hand in building and sustaining this uniquely American institution. While the players get all the attention, people like Luis Mayoral play a key role in making the game what it is by finding the players, bringing the joys of the game to the people, and expanding its accessibility. Mayoral's efforts have not only helped to bring new talent to the game but also new insight.

For his many years of service to the game of baseball, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Luis Rodriguez Mayoral.