

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNITION OF BILL YOUNG

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Bill Young as State President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Bill has served the AOH as its President for the past four years with great distinction. His service to the community and in particular, the Irish American community, has been a constant theme throughout his life going back to his early days in Bayonne with Tommy Foley and his father's shoe shine box.

Growing up as a young Irish Catholic, Bill was instilled with a sense of Christian charity early on at St. Vincent de Paul Grammar School. Those values have guided Bill throughout his career in public service at the Port Authority of NY & NJ, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the United States Coast Guard Reserve.

In addition to his significant professional achievements, Bill has been actively involved in numerous community organizations where he has displayed his commitment to the purposes and goals of the AOH—to promote Irish culture and encourage civic participation. Bill has walked in the Annual Bloody Sunday march in Derry the past four years and pressures elected officials to recognize the contributions of Irish Americans ensuring that they fight for peace and justice in the North of Ireland.

Under Bill Young's leadership as State President the AOH has seen a 40 percent growth in Divisions, a strong increase in membership, and more accessibility of the State Board through roaming meetings and degree programs. The State Board has been instrumental in fundraising efforts to allow NJ Special Olympians to travel to Ireland for the Special Olympics and for the efforts to build a famine memorial in Keansburg.

Mr. Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Bill for his tireless service to the AOH and the Irish American community. I hope that he continues to remain actively involved in promoting the values of friendship, unity and Christian charity.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of the Order Sons of Italy in America, OSIA, as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary. As the oldest

and largest organization for Americans of Italian descent, OSIA has a rich history of making outstanding contributions to the community. The organization now has 700 local chapters across the Nation.

Since June 22, 1905 when an Italian immigrant, Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro and his five compatriots established OSIA, the organization has worked to preserve and disseminate the rich Italian heritage of 23 million Americans of Italiandescent. Men and women share equal status within OSIA. The Grand Lodge of New York founded in 1911, was OSIA's first Grand Lodge. There are now 20 Grand Lodges. Today there are 96 local chapters in New York State, with 50,000 family memberships. OSIA has also been dedicated to helping immigrants acclimate to their new country. In its early years, OSIA established free schools to teach immigrants English.

Imbued with a strong sense of patriotism, during World War I and World War II, OSIA members competed against one another to buy the greatest amount of war bonds and war stamps to raise money for the American Red Cross. To date, OSIA members have given more than \$83 million to educational programs, disaster advancement and medical research. Additionally, the organization has created The Sons of Italy Foundation, which has given over \$38 million for scholarships, medical research, cultural preservation and disaster relief. Today, OSIA researches Italian-American culture and history, promotes the study of Italian in the United States, provides scholarships to Italian Americans and organizes grassroots campaigns in support of legislation, as well.

Not only have the members of the OSIA dedicated themselves to charitable funding, but they have also actively promoted social justice through their anti-defamation arm, the Commission for Social Justice. The Commission has actively fought for equal treatment of people regardless of their race, religion or culture.

Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro gave an inaugural address the day the OSIA was founded. He stated, "Today I have a dream and a hope that some day even if it takes 100 years before we are ever fully accepted, our children, even if they carry a single drop of Italian blood, will be able and proud to carry on our traditions, our culture and our language. It is up to us, and what we do today." Vincenzo Sellaro would be proud to see what the Order Sons of Italy in America has accomplished for Americans of Italian descent over the past 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Order Sons of Italy in America has been an asset to the New York City community and our Nation as a whole for a hundred years. It has been my pleasure to work with this outstanding organization for many years, and I wish them another century of success. Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in honoring the Order Sons of Italy in America on their 100th anniversary.

### ON THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL DEBORAH ANDWOOD FROM THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE

#### HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, from the Revolutionary War to the mountains of Afghanistan and the sands of Iraq, Massachusetts' sons and daughters have answered the call for military service.

This weekend, after three decades of active duty service, Colonel Deborah Andwood will retire from the U.S. Army Reserve. In her 30 years of service she's gone from being a cold warrior to homeland defender. Colonel Andwood's commitment, dedication and professionalism has earned the respect and admiration of our entire community.

For several years, Colonel Andwood has served our Commonwealth as the Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. In this capacity, Colonel Andwood has assisted in coordinating responses for such events as the Democratic National Convention, LNG tanker arrivals and the 2004 World Series.

It is with some special pride, as a fellow native of the city of Quincy, that I commend to my colleagues the following narrative prepared recently by her fellow officers as they get ready to say farewell and thank you.

AWARD NARRATIVE—COLONEL DEBORAH J.  
ANDWOOD

COL Deborah Andwood distinguished herself by exceptionally meritorious service while serving in successive assignments of great trust and responsibility. COL Andwood received a direct commission as Second Lieutenant in the Women's Army Corps shortly after receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Westfield State College.

Following completion of Active Duty assignments as a Signal officer, COL Andwood joined the U.S. Army Reserve. COL Andwood served as the unit Training Officer in the 1037th U.S. Army Reserve School. COL Andwood completed the Transportation Officer Advanced Course and was assigned to the 1172nd Transportation Terminal Unit. She successfully completed assignments of increasing responsibility as Warehouse Officer, Chief of Cargo Documentation, Vessel Operations Chief, and Assistant Operations Chief. Later, COL Andwood was assigned to the 1173rd Transportation Terminal Unit as Vessel Section Chief and Battalion Executive Officer.

After successfully completing her tour as Battalion Executive Officer, COL Andwood was selected as Battalion Commander of the 1205th Transportation Railway Battalion. Through her efforts in recruiting, retention and training, she improved her battalion's rating to an overall C-3 status for the first time. A significant accomplishment leading to this was the effectiveness of her unit's on-the-job railroad training program that greatly enhanced the unit's MOSQ level. COL Andwood's leadership resulted in IDT attendance remaining above 85% and outstanding

● 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.

performance by her unit at multi-increment Annual Training. In addition to the Railway Battalion, COL Andwood was responsible for effectively managing two subordinate units, one of which was mobilized and demobilized to support Operation Joint Endeavor. Upon successful completion of her tour as Battalion Commander, she was assigned as Logistics Officer in the 1021st CA Group (RTU). From 1997 to 1998, COL Andwood served in an Individual Mobilization Augmentee position as Air Movement Control Officer, 37th Transportation Command in Germany.

From 1998 to 2002, COL Andwood served as Combined Arms Staff Service School (CAS3) Staff Group Leader, 13th Battalion, and 6th Brigade. In her role as Staff Group Leader, COL Andwood had a significant impact on the preparation of U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard Captains for promotion to field grade officers and staff assignments of increased responsibility.

Upon successful completion of her tour as CAS3 Staff Group Leader, COL Andwood was assigned as an Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer for the State of Vermont in 2002. In January 2003, COL Andwood was selected for the Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer in her home state of Massachusetts. COL Andwood has been responsible for the preparation and participation in numerous emergency preparedness exercises for the Commonwealth, the New England region, other Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. She has contributed to the effective working relationships between State Joint DoD services team and the federal, state(s), and civilian authorities tasked with responding to the all hazards requirements of the federal response plan. During her tour, COL Andwood significantly contributed to the education and preparedness of the Joint Service region and State Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer teams in New England, New York, and New Jersey by the planning, coordination, and execution of a 3-day conference in Boston. Federal, state, and local agencies were brought together to provide education and interaction in preparation for the Democratic National Convention. In July 2004, COL Andwood was called to active duty as a team member at the Joint Operations Center in Milford, Massachusetts during the Democratic National Convention as part of the DoD response in the event of an emergency or disaster. COL Andwood's dedication and selflessness at all levels within the disaster preparedness community has substantially advanced the state of readiness of the State Emergency Preparedness Liaison Team, the coordination with the Massachusetts National Guard, and the preparedness and training of the Defense Coordinating Teams that COL Andwood has supported. Her outstanding achievements and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon herself and the United States Army.

#### RECOGNITION OF JACK SULLIVAN

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Jack Sullivan as State Vice President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Jack has served the AOH as its Vice President for the past four years with great distinction. Jack's commitment to community and his love for Irish herit-

age go back to his youth in Brooklyn where he attended St. Brendan's school.

Growing up in the culturally diverse borough of Brooklyn, Jack became involved in politics at an early age to ensure that the voice of the Irish Catholic community was heard. He joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 35 in Brooklyn in 1984. He went on to serve in a number of capacities in the AOH there as well as with the Knights of Columbus and Irish Northern Aid. After moving to New Jersey, Jack transferred to Division 2, now the Volunteer Pat Torphy Division 2—Monmouth County, where he has served as President since 1996.

Under Jack's leadership the Division and State Board were able to raise money for the Great Hunger Monument in Keansburg. He was also instrumental in obtaining financial assistance and manual labor for a Christian Brothers run school in Harlem, the sisters of Charity in Asbury Park and the Medical Missionaries of Mary. The Division has also been able to donate significant amounts of time and money to the Bloody Sunday Committee, the Pat Finucane Fund, the Joe Doherty Irish Language School and the Joe Harper Fife and Drum band in county Down. Jack truly embodies the Hibernian ideal of Christian charity.

Jack has also made significant strides in the pursuit of peace and justice in the North of Ireland. He has led the annual trip to Ireland for the commemoration of Bloody Sunday and has highlighted the plight that many Catholics continue to face to this day.

Mr. Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Jack for his tireless service to the AOH and the Irish American community. I hope that he continues to remain actively involved in the AOH and in promoting the values of friendship, unity and Christian charity.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ED HORN, THE CHRISTOPHER SANTORA SCHOLARSHIP FUND MAN OF THE YEAR

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Ed Horn, who on June 17, 2005 will receive the Christopher Santora Scholarship Fund's Man of the Year Award. I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Horn last year on the 9/11 Queens Firefighters' Memorial; I will never forget sharing that beautiful and touching memorial service with Mr. Horn and many others who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001.

Mr. Horn grew up in Brooklyn, New York. Watching his mother take college courses at the age of 40 gave Mr. Horn a strong appreciation for education, which led him to pursue several college degrees and many courses of study in art and art history. Following his college career, Mr. Horn served our country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. Since then, Mr. Horn has raised six children and remains close to his extended family.

Mr. Horn's love of his family, friends and community might account for his dedication to ensuring that the idea of a Queens Firefighters' Memorial would become a reality. His

involvement with the memorial began when Chief Alexander Santora and his wife, Maureen, came to St. Michael's Cemetery to make their pre-need arrangements. The Santoras and Mr. Horn immediately became friends. On September 11, when the Santoras lost their son, firefighter Chris Santora, the three dedicated themselves to creating a memorial not only for Chris, but for all Queens firefighters that were lost on that tragic day. As a friend of the Santoras and as a memorial counselor at St. Michael's Cemetery in Queens, Mr. Horn began planning the firefighters' memorial. The Santoras and Mr. Horn along with many other community members spent two years creating, planning and finding funds for the memorial. On September 10, 2004, 76 firefighters who died on September 11 were remembered at a beautiful and poignant memorial service in St. Michael's Cemetery.

In addition to the memorial service, the Santoras honored their son through the Christopher A. Santora Educational Scholarship Fund. The Santoras grant scholarships to those students who attend schools at which Chris Santora was a student or a teacher. Mr. and Ms. Santora have already awarded over \$38,000 in academic scholarships.

Ed Horn's hard work and warm heart helped create a ceremony and place of remembrance for the brave firefighters who died on September 11, 2001. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to The Christopher Santora Scholarship Fund and its honoree, Mr. Ed Horn.

#### TRIBUTE TO EDWARD A. STUTMAN

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, 2005, my close friend, Edward A. Stutman, was recognized by the Justice Department for "A Career of Exceptional Public Service." I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ned on receiving this honor and thanking him for his distinguished contributions to our nation.

Ned began his government service at the former Department of Health, Education and Welfare, but he has spent most of his career at the Department of Justice. At DOJ he served as Senior Trial Attorney with the Special Litigation Section, Civil Rights Division, and later as Senior Trial Attorney with the Office of Special Investigations, (OSI), Criminal Division. At OSI, Ned led the investigations and cases brought against World War II-era Nazis, including the re-prosecution of the notorious John Demjanjuk, known as Ivan the Terrible.

In addition to an extraordinary career, Ned has devoted a tremendous amount of his personal time and resources to the well-being of the Washington Jewish community and as an active member of Adas Israel Congregation. He is the proud father of Shira Stutman Shaw and her husband Russell Shaw, Zach Stutman, and Gabe Stutman; the grandfather of Caleb and Maya Stutman Shaw; and the devoted husband of Suzanne Stutman.

Janet and I congratulate Ned on his retirement and we thank him, Suzanne, and their wonderful family for many years of friendship.

The Department of Justice's recognition of Ned Stutman is reprinted below:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 18, 2005.

The Civil Rights Division and the Office of Special Investigations, Criminal Division, thank Edward A. (Ned) Stutman for his Career of Exceptional Public Service.

While at the Department of Justice, Mr. Stutman took the lead in litigation or policy-oriented matters involving civil rights, immigration law, criminal law, and human rights. His duties included ensuring the rights of institutionalized persons, de-naturalizing World War II-era Nazi perpetrators, and pursuing language access for limited English proficient individuals.

Throughout his career, Mr. Stutman provided exceptionally outstanding contributions and leadership resulting in highly successful accomplishments in unique and challenging situations. His performance in three sections of the Department of Justice was of an outstanding and distinctive character in meeting civil rights and criminal enforcement goals of the Department.

Mr. Stutman began his government service at the former Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), but served the majority of his 26-year federal tenure as an attorney in the Department of Justice. From 1988 to 1992, Mr. Stutman served as a Senior Trial Attorney with the Special Litigation Section, Civil Rights Division. In that position, under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, Mr. Stutman investigated and brought litigation to enforce the constitutional and statutory rights of persons confined to state and local institutions. These matters addressed issues including abuse, medical and mental health care, fire safety, sanitation, security, adequacy of treatment and training, and education. Mr. Stutman's work was consistently outstanding, and the cases he handled resulted in broad relief for persons in facilities for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled, nursing homes, and juvenile justice facilities.

From 1992 to 2004, Mr. Stutman served as a Senior Trial Attorney with the Office of Special Investigations, Criminal Division. He took the lead in developing and/or litigating 13 denaturalization cases against World War II-era Nazi perpetrators, all of which resulted in victories for the Department. Mr. Stutman spearheaded development of the legal cases developed in the 1990s concerning the notorious SS facility at Trawniki, Poland, at which the Nazis trained men to implement the genocidal "Final Solution" against Jews in Poland. He played a key role in devising the legal arguments and strategies that have led to success in every one of those cases based on documentation uncovered after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Mr. Stutman's outstanding role in leading the investigation and prosecution of these cases has helped to establish important legal precedents in the fields of both immigration and human rights law. Critically, Mr. Stutman expertly led the re-prosecution of John Demjanjuk—arguably the most important case in OSI's history—even while suffering the adversity of his illness, which was identified on the first day of trial. Mr. Stutman served as a mentor and inspiration to numerous young litigators in his dedication to his work, his strong sense of ethics, and the dignity with which he comported himself before both courts and adversaries.

Mr. Stutman's passion for justice and intellectual energy could not be dimmed by health challenges. Quite the opposite, he continued to provide invaluable contributions to the Department. In February 2004, Mr. Stutman joined the staff of the Civil

Rights Division's Coordination and Review Section, which performs a range of administrative law, civil rights coordination, and policy-oriented functions for the Division and across federal civil rights offices. Mr. Stutman "hit the ground running." With a background in administrative law from his years at HEW and then the Department of Education, and a familiarity with the Division from his years in the Special Litigation Section, he was a perfect fit for the Coordination and Review Section. He provided invaluable leadership in the development of the Division's first conference on limited English proficiency and the creation of a major Tips and Tools resource document on language access. He helped to frame and pursue a groundbreaking investigation of language access in a state department of corrections. Mr. Stutman's statesmanship, creative inspiration, and wise counsel aided staff and managers alike.

Ned Stutman has tackled cutting edge legal issues spanning four decades, forging legal territory for the government and the Department. From tracking down and expelling Nazis to ensuring that limited English proficient individuals could access emergency and other services; from pursuing equal educational opportunities to stamping out mistreatment of institutionalized persons, Mr. Stutman has set his sights high and attained transforming results. Providing the nation with the highest quality legal representation ensures him a legal legacy. Doing so with humor, grace, and graciousness ensures a human legacy—we are all better people for having known and worked with Ned Stutman.

It is thus with the deepest appreciation and admiration that we, on behalf of ourselves and our staffs, recognize Edward A. Stutman for a career of exceptional public service at the Department of Justice.

R. ALEXANDER ACOSTA,  
Assistant Attorney  
General, Civil Rights  
Division.

ELI ROSENBAUM,  
Director, Office of Special  
Investigations,  
Criminal Division.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIPPMAN  
FAMILY AND THE DEDICATION  
OF A RESTORED TORAH SCROLL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Lippman family and their donation of a restored Torah scroll to the residents of Warsaw, Poland. I understand that Harley and Marie Lippman obtained the Torah in November 2004 to commemorate their daughter Juliet's Bat Mitzvah. On June 17, 2005, the Torah will be dedicated to the Jewish communities in Poland and will be made available for the public to enjoy.

Mr. and Ms. Lippman tell me that their decision to restore and donate a Torah scroll was prompted by a story told to Ms. Lippman by a close friend, Rabbi Adina Lewittes. Rabbi Lewittes learned that a group of Israeli girls stumbled upon fragments of a Torah scroll during their visit to Poland in 1990. The girls determined that the fragments were part of a complete Torah that had been split into two segments: the first three books of the Torah were still intact, but the other two books had

been used to decorate dolls depicting Hasidic men and sold at a local marketplace. For 14 years, the girls raised money to purchase the remains of the Torah and make necessary repairs. Once their work was complete, the girls dedicated the Torah to a synagogue in Israel that was attached to the school they attended.

Inspired by the girls' efforts, the Lippmans set out to find another European Torah in need of both repair and a permanent home. Soon, Rabbi Lewittes located a unique Torah that was originally made in Strasbourg, Austria. Following this discovery, the Lippman family brought the Torah to an artisan in New York City who carefully restored the fragile document. I am happy to report that later this month, the Lippman family will return the Torah to Eastern Europe.

"Why Poland, and not Israel or the States?" said Harley Lippman, whose maternal family hails from Poland. "In her Torah portion, Juliet talked about the importance of gravesites. Poland is certainly an immense Jewish gravesite that we must not abandon. We are Jews of the Diaspora and as long as there are Jews in Europe who want to celebrate their Judaism, we will be there for them. When the Israel girls discovered a Torah scroll in Poland, the Torah was brought home to Israel. In Juliet's Torah portion, Abraham has to bring Sarah home to the land designated for her. In our story, my family is bringing this Torah home to the Jews of Poland—restoring it not only physically, but to its rightful place."

"This Sefer Torah is unique, as it will be available for all Jews to use," remarked Poland's Chief Rabbi, Michael Schudrich. "Most Sifrei Torah are given to a specific synagogue or community. This is being donated to meet the needs of locals or visitors as the need arises anywhere in Poland. It is a greater honor to be the caretaker of this special Torah."

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Lippman family for their generous and thoughtful donation. I trust that the citizens of Warsaw will enjoy this gift for generations to come.

A MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following Memorial Day Prayer as offered by the Reverend Dean C. Ahlberg of The First Church of Christ in Redding, Connecticut.

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

Loving and Gracious God, we gather together on this Memorial Day weekend, young and old, diverse in political perspective, religious affiliation and ethnic heritage, yet we gather in our too-often divided nation as one community to offer a united tribute, a testimony of gratitude, and a celebration of remembrance.

We gather, O God, to honor those veterans who've nobly served this nation we love and who've walked beside us and with us this day; we gather to remember those men and women, patriots who fought and died, who offered up the supreme sacrifice to defend the country we love, to protect the freedoms we enjoy and too often take for granted, and

to advance the cause of liberty for humankind. We remember Reddingites who perished in the Revolutionary war, and those whose legacy echoes from places named Antietam, and Bull Run and Gettysburg; we remember the gallantry of doughboys, the bravery enshrined on battlefields from the Marne to Iwo Jima, from Bastogne to Korea, from the jungles of Viet Nam to the mountains of Afghanistan to the streets, cities and villages of Iraq. And we humbly offer prayers, not only for their patriotic souls, but also for the families they left behind, and for families who, even now, pray each day for the safe return of a soldier son or daughter, father or mother.

Thus we ask your guidance, O Holy One. We ask your guidance that our patriotism be filtered through the prism of your divine justice and love, that our nation's power might ever serve the cause of human dignity, that our most noble impulses be laced with humility and a wisdom that fosters solidarity and understanding among the world's nations.

And so we must close our prayers this Memorial Day weekend, O God, with a prayer for ourselves and our own stewardship of our beloved democracy. Give us, we pray, the strength, the grit and the insight to be citizen soldiers in the cause of peace. . . such that our children and our children's children never know the horrors of war. . . that our collective legacy might be a world of greater harmony, a nation of less internal enmity, and a community with an unwavering appreciation for all who've labored and fought, lived and died, to make our nation a beacon of light and our flag a signal of hope for all your peoples. May God bless the United States of America. And may each one of us, in ways great and small, be a blessing to our nation, and to God's world. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF RICHARD  
FARRICKER

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Richard Farricker as State secretary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Rich has served the AOH as its secretary for the past 5½ years with great distinction. Over the years Rich has undertaken a significant number of pursuits while remaining actively engaged in his community.

Enlisting in the Army in the first year of the Vietnam war, and serving two tours there immediately following high school, Rich has traveled much of the world. Upon returning to the United States, Rich traveled the country playing in a band before eventually settling in Monmouth County where he raised his family.

Rich's dedication to public service was instilled in him at a very young age and he has demonstrated throughout his life a commitment to the Hibernian ideals of friendship, unity and Christian charity.

Rich's service to the State board as secretary has seen the introduction of a comprehensive website where the minutes for State board meetings are posted within days. A variety of other measures have been taken to improve communications between the State board and the various divisions during Rich's tenure as secretary.

Proud of his Irish heritage, Rich has a deep love for genealogy that has led to membership in the Irish Federation, Irish Northern Aid, and his studying of the Irish language.

Mr. Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Rich for his tireless service to the AOH and the Irish-American community. I hope that he continues to remain actively involved in the AOH and in promoting the values of friendship, unity and Christian charity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 504  
DEMOCRATIC CLUB AND ITS DIS-  
TINGUISHED HONOREES COUNCIL

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 504 Democratic Club on the occasion of its annual banquet and award dinner. I am pleased to offer my best wishes to the club's members, friends and honorees for another year of outstanding public service.

The 504 Democrats derive their name from Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which mandates that all federally funded programs must be accessible to people with disabilities. This landmark legislation was the precursor to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For 21 years, the members of the 504 Democratic Club have been vocal advocates for people with disabilities. The club's membership works within the democratic process to promote policies that recognize the barriers faced by people with disabilities. Furthermore, the group strives to remind the people of New York to remain vigilant in the effort to improve access to housing, health care, education, voting, jobs, public transportation and other areas.

I am pleased to congratulate the club's distinguished awardees: my esteemed colleague Congressman JERROLD NADLER, who has always worked to promote the rights of the disabled; James Weisman, chairman of the American Association of People with Disabilities and counsel to the United Spinal Association; Alexander Wood, executive director of the Disabilities Network of NYC; Pamela Bates, president of 504 Northstar; and Micah Kellner, New York State Democratic Committeeman and former member of my staff. These five individuals are outstanding advocates. Individually, they have made significant contributions to improving the lives of the disabled. Collectively, they would be a force to be reckoned with.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to the 504 Democratic Club for its longstanding tradition of advocacy and public service.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN  
M. COLLINS

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the tragedy of September 11 casts a long shadow that still

haunts our lives. Our buildings will be replaced, our streets repaved, the infrastructure repaired. But the people we lost, and the promise they had for us, can never be anything but a loss. They leave a vacuum in us that cannot be filled.

John Collins was a firefighter when he died for us, a policeman who protected us before that, and always a generous and caring son, a loving brother, and a good friend, companion, and neighbor.

He was also generous. He knew that when hard times came on someone, it was not always their fault and he would help in any way he could. He was a key part of the Skehill Foundation, an annual softball tournament that has raised more than \$100,000 in scholarship money for several schools in the Kingsbridge/Riverdale area. As a police officer, friends tell of his often buying groceries for the people in his precinct or sneakers for their children.

On a personal note, John was, like my father, an Ironworker, a group I have known, loved, and admired since I was a boy and my father took me to work.

John Collins lived here and so it is appropriate that this memento of him be placed here. It is said that a man never truly dies as long as he is remembered. This small tribute will help us to remember that a true man, a hero, walked among us here, helping us in dozens of ways that, perhaps, we took for granted because he did it so effortlessly.

I want to borrow some words from a remembrance of John Collins by Karen Donnelly that so eloquently tells of our grief:

We all, have given pieces of ourselves to each other. We have taken from each other. This is bravery; this is courage. If we had not ventured out into life with both arms wide, we would not know this grief. If we had not courageously given, and taken, friendship from each other, we would have no memories of immeasurable joy and happiness. To know this sadness is our right. We have earned it. We are courageous enough to accept life's rewards, knowing we risk this almost unbearable, profound grief.

JUDGE BRUCE McMARION WRIGHT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Judge Bruce McMarion Wright, who passed away this week. His commitment to humanity and justice were hallmarks of his tenure in the judiciary. Rather than being honored for his courage and uncompromising stance in defense of the Eighth Amendment, Judge Wright was unjustly mocked by the system, which did not want to recognize the protection of the rights of the accused.

Judge Wright had known the challenges of a just and equal system on his life and had

worked to eradicate those harms from our society. He was raised by his black father and white mother who taught him about the importance of looking beyond skin color and into the hearts and minds of those before him. He would carry these childhood lessons into the administration of justice and look beyond the race of the defendants and plaintiffs before him.

In spite of the discrimination and racism he felt upon entering Princeton University, Judge Wright would further be exposed to the challenges of individuals through his educational, legal, and personal development at Virginia Union, Lincoln University, and New York Law School. Judge Wright learned about the impact of class, gender, and educational background on the common understanding of the human condition. He would understand that economic stature was not an indicator of one's worth and value.

He became aware that one could not truly achieve justice unless there was an understanding of the circumstances which led to the interjection of the law in response to behavior deemed to be anti-social. Judge Wright determined to become an advocate for competent representation of the interests of the poor in the criminal justice system. In his courtroom, he would see the Eighth Amendment as a protection of the poor against the system, not as a mechanism of deterrence for the wealthy.

The military would provide Bruce Wright with additional exposure to the universal struggle of humanity for justice and the need for compassion and understanding in government. Judge Wright was committed to this compassion and understanding and rendered judicial decisions that advocated and aided the poor. He was a defender of all classes and all races and recognized the importance of humanity in his work. While law enforcement and others often missed the significance of his reasoning, it is important to understand that he was a believer in justice and crusader for fairness.

I submit for the RECORD the following CaribNews article on the life of Judge Bruce McMarion Wright. I extend my condolences again to his family for their irreplaceable loss.

**JUDGE BRUCE McM WRIGHT MEMORIAL**

JUNE 6, 2005.—A memorial celebration on the life of fearless Supreme Court Justice Bruce McM Wright, who retired in 1995, will be held on Saturday, June 4 at 11 a.m. at the Aaron Davis Hall, 135th Street and Covert Avenue in Harlem, announced his son, Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright.

Judge Wright died in his sleep at age 86 on March 24 in his home in Old Saybrook, Conn. He was born in Princeton, N.J. on December 18, 1918 to a White mother and a Black father. A civil rights activist who faced lifelong discrimination first in the public schools in Princeton and, although outstanding student, in the rejection by Princeton University, which currently had no non-White students and which told him to apply elsewhere.

A graduate of "Historically Black" Lincoln University and New York Law School, he received an honorary degree from Princeton in 2001. The author of several books, he gained additional icon status when he wrote "Black Robes, White Justice," an expose of the entire criminal "injustice" system. Known in the White community as "Turn-Ern-Loose Bruce," he also addressed the abuse of police profiling and brutality, the dehumanizing conditions in jails populated primarily by non-Whites, and the discriminatory use of the death penalty against African-Americans.

A hero of magnificent proportions, his fame as justice, author, poet, and music lover will be celebrated by TV talk show host Gil Noble, who will serve as emcee of the memorial and the program will include Rep. Charles B. Rangel, Dean of the New York Congressional Delegation; former elected officials, namely Mayor David N. Dinkins, Manhattan Borough President Percy E. Sutton; Secretary of State Basil A. Paterson; and State Comptroller H. Carl McCall; and civil and human rights attorneys Jeff L. Greenup and John Edmonds; and family members.

**RECOGNIZING ROHO GROUP, OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS, AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S "E" AWARD**

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Roho Group, of Belleville, Illinois, for being awarded the President's "E" Award for Excellence in Exporting.

ROHO was founded in 1973 by Robert H. Graebe, an electrical engineer who wanted to develop a means to heal the pressure sores that plagued so many patients at the hospital where he was working. Mr. Graebe invented a dry flotation technology in which a cushion mimics the properties of water, in a dry, air-fluid environment. This technology has proven, in clinical studies, to assist in effectively healing and preventing pressure sores.

ROHO has since developed many variations of their original cushion model to address special seating and positioning needs in the medical industry. Besides producing a wide range of cushion models, ROHO has developed back support systems, mattresses and pressure measurement devices.

In the late 1990's, ROHO entered the consumer marketplace with cushions designed for motorcycles, trucks and heavy equipment. ROHO is continuing to develop new products and update its product line to provide their customers with the best seating and positioning solutions available worldwide.

The Presidential "E" Award was created by Executive Order of President Kennedy in 1961 as the nation's highest award to honor U.S. exporters. U.S. firms are recognized for their competitive achievements in world markets and their contributions in increasing U.S. exports.

The selection process for this prestigious award begins with a written application, accompanied by samples of the company's international marketing materials. U.S. Export Assistance Center directors make their endorsements of applicants and forward these to a committee representing the U.S. Government's various trade interests. Final selection is made by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, in the name and by the authority of the President.

Roho Group has distinguished itself as a world leader in the production of support surface products used in rehabilitation and wound care. The President's "E" Award recognizes Roho as a shining example of the innovation, product quality and continuous improvement that are required to keep U.S. companies competitive in today's global marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating CEO Tom Oleksy and all the employees of Roho Group for being awarded the Presidential "E" Award for Excellence in Exporting.

**HONORING THE AMERICAN AIRPOWER MUSEUM, THE DISCOVERY NETWORK'S MILITARY CHANNEL, AND CABLEVISION FOR THEIR TRIBUTE TO LONG ISLAND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY**

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three organizations: the American Airpower Museum, the Discovery Network's Military Channel, and Cablevision. Each of these organizations has taken tremendous time and effort to pay tribute to and acknowledge Long Island women who have served in the military. They have shown their deep appreciation for servicewomen by supporting a recent event that honored Long Island women who have served in the military.

Women have played a crucial role in our country's military history. They have served both on the home front and in combat throughout World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm and now, in our ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Over the last century, the contributions made to our nation's military forces by women are immeasurable. From the medics and support personnel of World War II, to the women currently serving in combat abroad, our Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines have been increasingly reliant on the heroism and leadership of our women in uniform. These esteemed women deserve to be recognized for their bravery and dedication and for the sacrifices they have made for our country.

For this reason, I commend both Long Island women who have served in the military and those who have made the effort to acknowledge their commitment, particularly, the American Airpower Museum, the Discovery Network's Military Channel, and Cablevision. It is crucial to take the time to recognize those who have made great sacrifices for our country.

Once again, I commend and hold in the highest esteem the women who have served in the military along with these three organizations that have taken the time and effort to acknowledge these women who have played such a crucial role in our country's history.

**IN HONOR OF FIRE CHIEF STEWART GARY'S 35 YEARS AS A DEDICATED FIRE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL AND LEADER**

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Stewart Gary on his retirement from the Livermore-Pleasanton California

Fire Department for 35 years of outstanding leadership in fire service.

Chief Gary began his career as a volunteer in a small Southern California fire department and rose steadily in his job responsibilities to his appointment in 1994 as Livermore Fire Chief.

Stewart has guided the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department to becoming one of the most technologically advanced, well-prepared, and harmonious fire fighting forces in the state.

He is a forward-thinker, embracing information technology innovations that expand information available to his fire fighters when they have to make emergency decisions about how to attack a fire.

Stewart also shares his professional expertise throughout the international fire-fighting community, writing and lecturing on models for optimal placement of personnel and equipment in fire situations.

Stewart is a gifted leader of people. He facilitated the merger of the separate fire departments of the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton, one of the few such successful mergers in California, and is a winner of the 1999 Helen Putnam Public Safety Grand Prize award by the California League of Cities. Under Stewart's leadership, the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department has continuously maintained good morale and solid employee relationships with consensus-building practices like interest based negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chief Stewart Gary for his contributions to the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and to the international fire-fighting community. The high standards he has set for his Department and his profession will strengthen fire service for many years to come.

WITHDRAWING APPROVAL OF THE  
UNITED STATES FROM AGREE-  
MENT ESTABLISHING THE  
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reiterate my reluctant support of Mr. Sanders's effort last week to withdraw the United States from the World Trade Organization. Make no mistake: I fully support global commerce. Almonds, which I grow on my land in Fresno, have become California's most valuable export through development of foreign markets. In fact, more than two-thirds of this \$1 billion crop are shipped outside of the United States every year. So, I truly understand the benefit of opening the world to the abundance of U.S. products.

However, free trade must also be fair trade. Unfortunately, regardless of the diligent work and excellent intentions of our trade negotiators, the bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements we have entered into are not serving America well, especially the interests of American agriculture.

The evidence of our trade failures is undeniable. Over the last four years, the U.S. trade deficit has grown exponentially. This year, in spite of the Trade Promotion Authority enjoyed

by the President and the plethora of agreements brought before this body, America's trade deficit is the largest it has been in nearly fifty years. More alarming is the fact that this year, though the U.S. dollar is valued well below most other currencies, our nation will import more goods than it exports.

For the sake of the American agricultural economy, we must do better. We must make a serious evaluation of the way in which we conduct trade, beginning with the agreements we negotiate. I am reminded of a quote from the distinguished former Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee, Charlie Stenholm: "When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging."

In conclusion, my vote today was a vote of protest. I truly hope and fully expect that we will successfully enter and engage in the WTO process. However, I believe it is time for the Administration to acknowledge that all of us who are concerned about American agricultural trade policy are dissatisfied. The "yea" vote I cast last Thursday is my message to the Administration and my colleagues in Congress that we absolutely must develop a new trade strategy. And, throughout that deliberation, American agriculture must have a seat at the table.

RECOGNITION OF JERE COLE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Jere Cole as State Treasurer of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Jere has served the AOH as its Treasurer for the past two years with great distinction. Jere's dedication to public service was instilled in him at a very young age and he has demonstrated throughout his life a commitment to the Hibernian ideals of friendship, unity and Christian charity.

After graduation from high school, Jere enlisted in the United States Air Force serving in Vietnam where he won the Air Force Accommodation medal. Much of Jere's service to the community since then has been with the West Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department where he has served as 1st Assistant Chief. He has served as President of Fireman's Association, State Secretary of the NJ State Exempt Fireman's Association, and has sat on the Board of Managers of the Fireman's Home in Boonton. Jere also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the NJ State Fire Chiefs Association.

In addition to his responsibilities with the fire service, Jere has served as the Democratic Chairman of the West Caldwell Democratic committee and has been very active in Essex County democratic politics.

Jere has spent a great deal of time in service with the AOH State Board while staying very active in the Irish American community in NJ. He is a member of numerous Irish American cultural and social organizations and has served as General Chairman of the NJ Irish Festival at the PNC Bank Arts Center as well as being an active member of the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade committee.

Mr. Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Jere for his tireless service to the AOH and the Irish Amer-

ican community. I hope that he continues to remain actively involved in the AOH and in promoting the values of friendship, unity and Christian charity.

53RD NATIONAL PRAYER  
BREAKFAST

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I had the distinct honor and privilege of chairing the 53rd National Prayer Breakfast, held at the Washington Hilton, here in our Nation's Capital on Thursday, February 3, 2005. As you know, this annual gathering is hosted by Members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives weekly prayer breakfast groups.

Once again, we were honored that President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush participated and we were greatly encouraged by the remarks given by The Honorable Tony Hall, Ambassador, U.S. Mission to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies.

This year, we hosted a gathering of over 3,500 individuals from all walks of life in all 50 states and from many countries around the world. Please find attached a copy of the program and the transcript of the 2005 proceedings that I respectfully request be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that all may benefit from this time together.

53RD NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005—INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM, HILTON WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON, DC

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men. . . .—Declaration of Independence.

Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy Holy protection; and Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.—George Washington's Prayer for the United States of America, June 8, 1783.

53RD NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Chair: The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson; opening song, Wintley Phipps; pre-breakfast prayer, the Honorable Emanuel Cleaver II, U.S. House of Representatives, Missouri.

BREAKFAST

Welcome, the Honorable Jo Ann Emerson, U.S. House of Representatives, Missouri; opening prayer, the Honorable Tom Osborne, U.S. House of Representatives, Nebraska; remarks—Senate and House breakfast groups, the Honorable Mark Pryor, U.S. Senate, Arkansas, the Honorable Norm Coleman, U.S.

Senate, Minnesota; a reading, the Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senate, California; song, Wintley Phipps; readings from the Holy Scriptures, Sergeant Douglas Norman, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment "The Old Guard," U.S. Army; prayer for national leaders, the Honorable Elaine Chao, U.S. Secretary of Labor; message, the Honorable Tony Hall, Ambassador, United States Mission to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies.

The President of the United States.

Closing song, Wintley Phipps; closing prayer, the Honorable Lincoln Davis, U.S. House of Representatives, Tennessee.

PROVERBS 3:3-6

Let not mercy and truth forsake you;  
Bind them around your neck,  
Write them on the tablet of your heart,  
And so find favor and high esteem in the  
sight of God and man.  
Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and  
lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.—King Solomon.

EZEKIEL 16:49-50

Thus said the Lord, behold the sin of your  
sister Sodom:  
She and her daughters were arrogant, over-  
fed and unconcerned; they did not help  
the poor and needy.  
They were haughty and did detestable things  
before me.  
Therefore I did away with them as you have  
seen.—The prophet Ezekiel.

MATTHEW 7:12, 22:37-40

Therefore, Whatever you want men to do to  
you, do also to them, for this is the  
Law and the Prophets.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all  
your heart, and with all your soul, and  
with all your mind." This is the great  
and foremost commandment. And the  
second is like it. "You should love your  
neighbor as yourself." On these two  
commandments depend the whole Law  
and the prophets.—Jesus of Nazareth.

It is impossible to account for the creation  
of the universe, without the agency of a Supreme Being.—George Washington.

I hold the precepts of Jesus as delivered by  
Himself, to be the most pure, benevolent,  
and sublime which have ever been preached  
to man.—Thomas Jefferson.

We have been the recipients of the choicest  
bounties of heaven; we have been preserved  
these many years in peace and prosperity; we  
have grown in number, wealth, and powers as  
no other nation has ever grown. But we have  
forgotten God! Intoxicated with unbroken  
success, we have become too self-sufficient  
to feel the necessity of redeeming and pre-  
serving grace, too proud to pray to the God  
who made us.—Abraham Lincoln.

Almost every man who has by his life-work  
added to the sum of human achievement of  
which the race is proud, almost every such  
man had based his work largely upon the  
teachings of the Bible.—Theodore Roosevelt.

No greater than could come to our land  
today than a revival of the spirit of faith—a  
revival that would sweep through the homes  
of the nation and stir the hearts of men and  
women of all faiths to a reassertion of their  
belief in God and their dedication to His will  
for themselves and for their world. I doubt if  
there is any problem—social, political, or  
economic—that would not melt away before  
the fires of such a spiritual revival.—Franklin  
Delano Roosevelt.

53RD NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005—HILTON  
WASHINGTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC  
CHAIR: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JO ANN EMERSON

Mr. Wintley Phipps: Good morning. I would  
like to share a song with you, a song of heal-

ing, a song of reconciliation, a song of God's  
love and God's power. May you be blessed  
this morning.

(Song.)

(Applause.)

Representative Jo Ann Emerson: Good  
morning. I am Jo Ann Emerson, and I rep-  
resent the 8th Congressional District of Mis-  
souri in the House of Representatives. I am  
also the president of the House Prayer  
Breakfast, and I am so honored and so hum-  
bled to be chairperson and your host today.  
Before we break bread this morning, I would  
like to take a moment to introduce the head  
table beginning to my right: Representative  
Emanuel Cleaver, Mrs. Nancy Osborne, Rep-  
resentative Tom Osborne, Alison Norman,  
Sergeant Douglas Norman, Senator Diane  
Feinstein, my best buddy, and husband Ron  
Gladney, Ambassador Tony Hall, Mrs. Janet  
Hall, Senator Mark Pryor, Jill Pryor, Laurie  
Coleman, Senator Norm Coleman, Secretary  
of Labor Elaine Chao, and her husband Sen-  
ator Mitch McConnell, the incredible  
Wintley Phipps and his wife Linda Phipps,  
and my colleague from Tennessee, Rep-  
resentative Lincoln Davis.

(Applause.)

Our colleague and Representative and rever-  
end, Emanuel Cleaver from Kansas City,  
Missouri, will give the blessing for our food  
today.

Representative Emanuel Cleaver: I am glad  
that none of you have begun to eat. (Laugh-  
ter.) The Hebrews of old said those who eat  
without thanking the Lord are thieves.  
(Laughter.) One evening last February I was  
driving home when I observed a large num-  
ber of men running across the parking lot of  
a florist shop. They were screaming and  
shouting and making obscene gestures at one  
another and pushing their way into the en-  
trance of a florist shop. Some were on cell  
phones with exaggerated use of their hands.  
Others still were kicking the ground in  
anger, but I knew immediately what this  
male, out-of-controlness meant. I had seen it  
many times before. It was Valentine's Day.

(Laughter.)

It was 5:30 p.m., and like many of the men  
frantically running amok, I too was among  
what I call the forgetful. (Laughter.) So I  
quickly, dangerously crossed lanes and  
pulled into the parking lot and ran inside,  
and approached a familiar looking woman  
and said to her, "Ma'am, this is an emer-  
gency, I need something fast." Very help-  
fully she said, "Mayor, you waited until the  
last moment again. What can I get for Mrs.  
Cleaver and how much do you want to  
spend?" I said, "Something nice, \$35 or \$40,"  
and she went into the back and returned a  
few minutes later with an assortment of  
flowers and said, "What about this?" I said,  
"Yes, this is lovely." And she said, "No,  
Mayor, lovely starts at \$75."

(Laughter.)

For those of us gathered here this morning  
at this National Prayer Breakfast, "lovely"  
begins with prayer. Let us pray. Forgive us,  
oh God, for waiting so often until things are  
chaotic before we come to you. We have so  
often been surrounded with boundless bless-  
ings and yet we fail to thank you. But in  
spite of our past failings and forgetfulness,  
on this morning we praise you for your good-  
ness. Thou art a lover of all human kind and  
as we partake of this food from your bounty,  
give us a heart that throbs with the sym-  
pathy for all your precious people, especially  
those Iraqis with fingers in the air claiming  
their democracy. And for those whose lives  
have been flooded with woe from the raging  
waters of the Indian Ocean. And now will  
God bless, please, our president. Allow your  
spirit to surround and sustain him, give him  
and us an extra ounce of your grace and  
mercy to conquer the great challenges

ahead. And may this food do for our bodies  
what your spirit does for our souls. Amen.

Representative Emerson: Please eat, and  
the program will begin again in several min-  
utes.

Thank you.

(Pause.)

Representative Emerson: Mr. President,  
Mrs. Bush, members of Congress, foreign dig-  
nitaries and distinguished guests, brothers  
and sisters all, welcome to this morning's  
gathering of faiths, the 53rd annual National  
Prayer Breakfast. Thanks so much for join-  
ing with us. Before I begin, I would like to  
share parts of a letter with you, and I quote,  
"It was my privilege to be at the first  
prayer breakfast and to go with Senator  
Frank Carlson to the White House to ask  
President Eisenhower if he would attend. He  
was very reluctant at first, but later decided  
to go, and went to all the others during his  
presidency, setting a precedent followed ever  
since by each president. Our world has many  
serious problems, some of them critical. We  
are in great need of a spiritual awakening. I  
believe one of the great contributing factors  
is this annual prayer breakfast that brings  
so many leaders together to worship. I very  
much regret that my strength will not allow  
me to return to Washington for the break-  
fast this year as I have done so many times  
in the past. Please convey my warmest  
greetings to our president and the first lady,  
and to my many old friends in attendance, as  
well as a welcome to those for whom this is  
the first opportunity to be part of the annual  
prayer breakfast. Cordially yours, Billy  
Graham."

(Applause.)

I am sure I speak for all of us when I say  
that Reverend Graham is definitely in our  
prayers here this morning.

As I mentioned earlier, I represent the 8th  
Congressional District in Missouri, and like  
every other congressional district in the na-  
tion, the 8th is grounded in faith. So is our  
Congress. Every week that the Congress is in  
session, I gather with colleagues in the  
House of Representatives for a prayer break-  
fast, and a similar group meets on the Sen-  
ate side of the Capitol. That hour is the most  
valuable and the very best hour of the week  
because we set aside politics, and we set  
aside policy. We leave our titles and our  
party labels at the door, and for that hour we  
are simply brothers and sisters gathered in  
conversation with one another and with God.

Today the agenda is the same: to find com-  
mon ground in the spirit of Jesus, to fellow-  
ship a while, to think about how we might  
walk more with him in the world. Today we  
are not only leaders, we are followers all. We  
are present here in the eyes of the Lord,  
equal, special, full of life. Though this is a  
National Prayer Breakfast, we have guests  
from over 140 countries. We are a cross-sec-  
tion of faiths, beliefs and backgrounds. We  
have gathered as friends bound by our per-  
sonal relationships to one another, and we  
defy any other classification.

In our world, early in this century, we face  
a familiar question on new terms. In the face  
of hunger, poverty, moral confusion, oppres-  
sion and fear, in the wake of a tsunami, in  
the midst of terrorism, how do we lift the  
heavy bushel of these troubles to shine light  
from the lamp of our faith? Our guests and  
speakers here today can help us lift this  
bushel. As we break bread together, let us  
set our minds to this rewarding task. Let us  
lift up in prayer our president and first lady.  
Let us seek God's blessing as we pray for the  
poor and less fortunate. As we follow the ex-  
ample which Jesus set for us, we are always  
making progress in the quest to share our  
faith. As brothers and sisters, let us free  
God's light in the world today. Let us look to  
the guidance he freely gives to us.

It is an honor to introduce my colleague and friend from the state of Nebraska, Coach Tom Osborne for our opening prayer.

Representative Tom Osborne: Thank you, Jo Ann. Jo Ann referred to my earlier misguided profession—(laughter)—and I was talking to Mitch McConnell before we came out here, and he said, “Why did you leave coaching?” I said, “Well it was really because of illness and fatigue.” He said, “I didn’t know that.” I said, “Yeah, fans were sick and tired of me.”

(Laughter.)

So anyway, I am here today, and I wanted to comment briefly on how important that prayer breakfast has been to me, and what a wonderful job Jo Ann has done.

I thought I would tell you a quick anecdote—this was a couple of years ago. We had another congressman who was going to speak to us. This fellow, when he hit the red button, I hit the green and vice versa. When he spoke on the House floor I did not really agree with anything that he said, and I really did not want to listen to him that day. But I stuck around. And as he began to talk a little bit about his childhood and his family and some of the struggles he had been through, I began to have a little bit of compassion for him. By the time he was done, I really cared about the guy. The interesting thing is that that relationship was changed, tremendously, and it remains that way today.

I began to puzzle about that. I thought: he is still the same person, what happened? And I think I began to see him through the eyes of Jesus, and not through my eyes, and the labels that I had put on him, the compartment I had put him in, began to pass away, and when that happened our relationship began to change. And that has happened over and over again as we have had various speakers come to us, and it has been very meaningful.

This morning, we come from all parts of the country, and as Jo Ann mentioned 140 nations, and I hope that the perceptions and the walls which divide us would all fall away this morning, that we see each other as we really are, fellow travelers on our spiritual journey. We are imperfect, but we are united by His love and His grace and His acceptance. So if you would, please pray with me at this time.

Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for your word and the promise you make that, “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and forgive their sins and heal their land.” So this morning, we who are called by your name ask that pride of position and power and possessions be removed from us. We seek your face this morning and acknowledge that we have missed the mark of your high calling, and have fallen short of what you would have us be. We pray that we might turn from those ways of ours that are not your ways, and ask forgiveness for our sins.

Please heal our land. Our nation has been blessed in so many ways, yet we also see strife and suffering and division and spiritual poverty, and we pray for a spiritual renewal that will heal our land and bring us together, united in your service. We ask especially this morning that you would bestow your blessing and a sense of your presence and sustaining power on our president and on his family. Please strengthen him and guide him and protect him and all who serve him as he starts his new term of office. We pray for the Congress, that we might devote ourselves to the common good, and rise above self-interest and partisanship. We request your blessing on elected officials everywhere as they bear the burden of leadership and responsibility.

We ask that you will be with those in South East Asia who have suffered so much, and we pray especially for children everywhere whose lives have been devastated by disasters around the world. Please sustain the Iraqi people as they enter this historic period. We thank you for their courage and example, and we pray especially for their recently elected leaders that they might be protected. Finally, we ask that you bless our soldiers and their families. We thank you for their sense of duty and honor, and their willingness to serve. Please protect them and bring them safely home. We pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Representative Emerson: Every week when we meet on the House side for our prayer breakfast, the Senate also does the same, and I am very proud now to introduce my two dear colleagues from the Senate, Senator Mark Pryor from Arkansas and Senator Norm Coleman from Minnesota.

(Applause.)

Senator Norm Coleman: It is an honor for my wife Laurie and me to be here today. Minnesotans are pretty reserved. There are a lot of Scandinavians in my part of the country. In Minnesota we talk about the guy who loved his wife so much he almost told her.

(Laughter.)

I will break that tradition: Laurie, I love you, and I thank you and the family for the faith you have shown to me. God bless you, thank you very much.

(Applause.)

I was the mayor of St. Paul for eight years. It is the twin cities and our twin city is Minneapolis. I always used to tell folks that I got the much more spiritual city to represent, and the proof of that was always found in the Bible in which there were many references to St. Paul, but not one to Minneapolis. So I had the right place.

(Laughter.)

At one point, Paul said, “Work out your salvation with fear and trembling,” and I am living that scripture up here today. It is a joy and a comfort to be here with my friend and my classmate, Mark Pryor.

The state of Arkansas has an amazing ability to produce national leaders, no doubt about that. I am not just talking about my colleague, Senator Clayton, or her husband, but people like former senators J. William Fulbright, Dale Bumpers and Mark’s dad, David, who I am told spoke to this breakfast a decade or so ago. This may be the first father-son combo in breakfast history. Mark is showing great leadership. He has strong faith that has only grown through personal trials. We may wear different jerseys, but we are becoming good friends. On behalf of all the sinners of the Senate breakfast group, we welcome you all.

(Laughter.)

Is it not true that more than anything else we want to connect? All the great joys of life are multiplied when we share them, all the griefs are divided. I think we are designed to be together, to fill the valleys and raise the mountaintops of our lives. But there are a lot of things that divide us: politics, religion, economics, gender, race, generational differences, competitiveness. Freud came up with the name of a mental disorder for this, called the “narcissism of slight difference.” We need a vaccine against that around here.

I believe that at their core people have a profound desire to connect, to be together, and to move towards the light, and that is why the Senate breakfast group began in the ’50s. It has continued every Wednesday the Senate has been in session. That is something like 3,000 meetings. The beauty and power of this event is an outgrowth of what has been happening in our group for years. We lead the group ourselves. We share our joys and griefs with each other. We listen

deeply, and we pray for the work of the Senate and the nation and the world. We meet around the person and principles of Jesus.

Republicans, Democrats, Catholics, Baptists, Jews, men and women, members who have been around the Senate for 30 years and 30 days. And as a Jew, I am learning a lot of new things which challenge me. I have a profound respect for the tangibility and accessibility of God that my colleagues find in Jesus. Here is the bottom line for me: This is a roomful of leaders from across the country and around the world, but we are all in the same boat. As sinners trying to be leaders, how do we find the connection we need to each other, to our communities, to God?

Well, here is a clue: God gave each of us two ears and one mouth, and we should use them in that proportion. The beauty of our breakfast group is that for at least an hour of the week we listen, really listen to each other as we talk about things that really matter. Despite our differences we connect. It is a small miracle that God gives us each week, and I am proud to experience that miracle. It is a miracle, taking place in this room right now, as brothers and sisters from Rwanda and Burundi, from Israel and Palestine, from India and Pakistan, from throughout the world, all come together looking to the same source for peace and guidance and comfort. Everyone in this room has a group of friends who need that. If you don’t, go find them because I would bet that they are already looking for you.

Thank you and God bless.

(Applause.)

Senator Mark Pryor: I agree with everything Norm said, and I want to echo everything he said. I know that two years ago when we came to the Senate, Norm and I stepped into a lot of traditions. The Senate is about tradition, if you have not noticed. For better or for worse, it is about tradition. One of the great traditions in the Senate is the Senate Prayer Breakfast. Every Wednesday morning we gather in the Capitol and, as they said a few moments ago, we check our partisanship at the door, and it is a time when we can come together and talk about things and share things that are in our hearts. It is a time that we do build deep and meaningful relationships with one another, and for many, many people who participate in the Senate Prayer Breakfast, it is the most important hour that they spend all week.

I want you all to know that every week that we are in session, there is a group of usually 20 or more senators that comes together and spends some time praying for each other and for the nation and for the president, and we pray for you all too.

Norm and I thank you very much, very sincerely from the bottom of our hearts, for your prayers, because we know that you lift up the Congress and lift up our government. It means more to us than you will ever know. We can feel it as we go through the week and go through our life’s work here in Washington. Thank you for being here and thank you for allowing us to serve you in this capacity.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

Representative Emerson: Thank you all.

Representing the great state of California and giving our first reading for today is United States Senator Diane Feinstein.

(Applause.)

Senator Diane Feinstein: Thank you.

President and Mrs. Bush, my colleagues at the head table, Senator Frist, Senator Nelson, and ladies and gentlemen, I have chosen two brief passages that I would like to read. One, the last one, is from the Old Testament, from Micah, and the first one is from the prayer book of the temple that I attend. It is

used in many synagogues during the high holidays. It means a great deal to me. It is about living our life.

"Birth is a beginning and death is a destination, and life is a journey from childhood to maturity and youth to age. From innocence to awareness and ignorance to knowing. From foolishness to discretion and then perhaps to wisdom. From weakness to strength, or strength to weakness, and often back again. From health to sickness, and back we pray to health again. From offense to forgiveness. From loneliness to love. From joy to gratitude. From pain to compassion, and grief to understanding. From fear to faith. From defeat to defeat to defeat, until, looking backward or ahead, we see that the victory lies not in some high place along the way, but in having made the journey, stage by stage, a sacred pilgrimage. Birth is a beginning and death is a destination, and life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage to life everlasting."

And now to Micah, chapter 6, verse 6.

"With what shall I approach the Lord, do homage to God on high? Shall I approach him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Would the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriads of streams of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for my sins? He has told you, oh, man, what is good and what the Lord requires of you: only to do justice, and to love goodness, and to walk modestly with your God. Then will your name achieve wisdom."

Thank you.

(Applause.)

Representative Emerson: Thank you so much, Diane.

We heard Wintley Phipps' magnificent voice already once this morning, but let me introduce him once again to sing "Here's One".

Mr. Wintley Phipps: That first song that I sang, "Heal Our Land", that I sang at the inauguration, was written by one of America's most prolific songwriters who has written for Gladys Knight, and Brooks and Dunn. His name is Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah.

(Applause.)

With this song that I would like to share with you this morning, we have found that even in the midst of broken English there is beauty and wisdom. In Florida, where I live, during the hurricane, they asked an old man what it was like during the hurricane. CNN put a microphone in his face, he realized he was on national television, so he had to bring his vocabulary up a notch or two, and he said, "They told us we had to leave, so we had to evaporate."

(Laughter.)

This song is a song of broken English. I sing it in honor of this month that we celebrate black history. It is a simple Negro spiritual of faith from the heart of a slave. Listen to the message in the song.

(Song.)

(Applause.)

Representative Emerson: You are awesome, Wintley.

Today's other scripture reading will be read by Sergeant Douglas Norman. Sergeant Norman is the recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart awards, and is a member of the Old Guard Honor Guard duty at Arlington National Cemetery.

(Applause.)

Sergeant Douglas Norman: I read this morning from two passages. First the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 19, verses 13 through 15.

"The little children were brought to Jesus, for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom

of Heaven belongs to such as these.' When he had placed his hands upon them, he went from there."

That's me. I was a child on my mother's knee when I first trusted God. I trusted him simply. As a boy growing up in Wyoming, all I ever wanted to be was a baseball player. Now, 20 years later, I am a soldier. I am a member of the strongest, most technologically advanced army in the world. But with all the advancements in weapons and equipment, I am still just a man, a man with dreams, hopes and fears, like public speaking.

(Laughter and applause.)

Though I have confidence in all my equipment, equipment fails when you need it the most. However one thing I have always been able to count on completely is my faith, affirmed by the prayers of others. Soldiers all over the world draw strength from their prayers of family, friends and strangers they have never met. Psalm 91 was given to me by my mother-in-law the night before I left for Afghanistan. It was a promise that both my family and I clung to as a prayer. On that July night 18 months ago, when an RPG tore into the Humvee in which I was riding, killing my two close friends and wounding me, it was the Psalm that I trusted in, and the prayers that sustained me. I offer these verses of Psalm 91 as God's promise. May you all find its blessing.

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings will you find refuge. His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart."

You are the leaders of the nations. Thank you for gathering here today to think of what it means to trust God, and to pray for peace and healing of the nations. We are the children before him.

President, Mrs. Bush, it gives us great comfort to know that you are praying. Be assured that we pray for you as well.

(Applause.)

Representative Emerson: It is fitting that no one would work harder in the federal government than the Secretary of Labor. She learned that principle at first hand as director of the Peace Corps and president and CEO of United Way of America. Please help welcome U.S. Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao.

Secretary Elaine Chao: Mr. President, first lady, my fellow cabinet members, leaders of the Senate and the House, and my wonderful husband, Senator Mitch McConnell, friends, brothers and sisters in faith, fellow sojourners in the journey of life, we are all here because we believe in the power of faith. We all have seen examples in our own life about what faith can and will accomplish. We all believe in a higher being and it is that belief in a higher being that shows us that indeed the powerful and the mighty can be transformed, and that the power of faith itself is transformational.

I remember when I was a little child, my family and I came to America when I was about eight years old. We didn't speak English, we didn't know anyone, we had no family, no friends nearby. We were fearful of everything in this new country. Yet what sustained us was our church and the power of faith. It was the power of faith that sustained us, that kept us going, that convinced us that we had a chance to survive in this wonderful new country that was so just and that has such generous and wonderful people. It was also faith that convinced us, that taught us, that led us, that indeed there is a better tomorrow.

I am in a room full of leaders today. Leaders not only in the United States, but throughout the world, and as you leaders lead and serve in all ways, please join me in this prayer. Let us pray. Dear Heavenly Father, we are deeply grateful for the many blessings that you have given us, especially the gift of freedom. This week we are reminded once again of the power of this precious gift to liberate the human spirit, bring hope to the oppressed and heal those who have suffered. Help us to never forget those who are called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice to proclaim and protect liberty, which comes from you. And bless President Bush, the first lady, Vice-President Cheney, the leaders gathered here and all those who love freedom throughout the world and seek to do your will.

Lord, as we go about our daily lives, help us also to look beyond ourselves and to listen to your voice. Teach us to know the difference between what we want and what you want, and to trust that you will never ask of us more than we can do. You have called upon each one of us to serve others in a special way. Help us to make wise decisions for the common good. And help us to understand that every kind act, every act of kindness, no matter how small, is equally worth doing because it is a reflection of you. This is the best and truest way to bear witness to your love, and to thank you for all that we have been given. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

(Applause.)

Representative Emerson: It is difficult in the brief time we have together to learn much about our keynote speaker, but it won't take you all long to get a sense of the man and his selfless spirit. I first met Tony Hall when he was a member of Congress, but I have come to know him over the years as a man who is one of those rare examples of how the person matters much more than the office. Today, Tony Hall is the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture. His mission, to fight hunger in the world by offering aid, giving guidance and creating self-sustaining communities. He is a leader in political and philanthropic communities. For Tony Hall, food for the hungry is not just a prayer to God, it is his life's work every day. My colleague, my friend, a great, great human being, Ambassador Tony Hall.

(Applause.)

Ambassador Tony Hall: Thank you. Mr. President, Mrs. Bush, distinguished head table, my wife Janet, so many leaders and friends from different countries around the world, ladies and gentlemen, it is wonderful to be with you. Thank you, Jo Ann, for your very kind introduction. I am very honored to be introduced by you, and your friendship, and have as a friend such a person of great integrity and compassion.

I am very thankful today too for the people in Dayton, Ohio, that for 24 years sent me here as their congressman. They gave me a lot of freedom, gave me a lot of encouragement to pursue important issues, and they were very good to me. I also want to thank the president for appointing me ambassador. It is a wonderful job. I get to help the hungry people of the world every day. It is an honor to serve the president of the United States, the country, and hungry people.

A list of thank yous would be incomplete if I did not thank God and I know that might sound kind of trite at a prayer breakfast. 26 years ago I did not know God, did not know anything about Him. I did not have the slightest idea that prayer breakfasts like this went on. It was at a prayer breakfast like this about 26 years ago that I began to ask myself the question: is this it? Is this all there is to life? Because I was successful, I had a wonderful wife and two great children—I still have a wonderful wife.

(Laughter and applause.)

I supposedly had arrived. I had money in my pocket, position, but I was hollow, and I was empty. I was sick and tired of my ambition. I was tired of what it was doing to me. I had this vague emptiness and I knew it had to be fulfilled. I decided to go on a search for God. I will not tell you how I went on the search, it is a long story, but the important thing is that I did find Him, and I found him through this amazing person of Jesus. What is interesting about this is that I had to come to the Congress of the United States to find God.

(Laughter and applause.)

I know that sounds strange. People have all kinds of images of what this city is all about. As a matter of fact, just before we moved here about 26 years ago, I was going past my daughter Jill's room. She was three or four at the time and she was saying her prayers, and she said, "Well, God, I guess it's time to say goodbye, for tomorrow we're moving to Washington."

(Laughter.)

There was another time not too long after that where a friend of mine introduced me to a gathering, and he got so excited he said, "Now I want to introduce to you my friend. He is a U.S. Congressman and a Christian." There were a few laughs that broke out in the audience. One older man down front couldn't take it any longer. As he was squirming in his seat he shouted out, "Make up your mind buddy, you can't be both."

(Laughter.)

In those days I was very excited about my faith. I was on fire. I wanted to tell everybody about it, and I did. I started with my wife. Big mistake. (Laughter.) Every night I would say to Jan, "How about saying that prayer to receive Jesus tonight?" Well, that didn't go over very well. She would get mad.

I learned my first lesson from my wife, and that lesson was that you cannot shove faith down people's throats. People get mad. They run. I could not understand it because a few months later my wife became a believer, and I asked her, "Why did you now become a believer?"

She said, "When you stopped preaching and stopped trying to shove it down my throat, I saw how real this was, how you changed towards me, towards your job, towards your children. I knew it was real."

When I first became a believer I had a mentor. After a couple of years he would come in and pray with me. We would talk about the scripture and I had a lot of questions. After a while he said, "Tony, don't you think it's time you start to bring God into your workplace?" I said, "Yeah, but how do I do this? I don't want to wear it on my lapel. I don't want to shove it down people's throats, but I love God and I want to do this. I must bring him into my workplace, but how? I'd rather see a sermon than hear one."

My answer came a short time later. I was serving on the hunger committee. I was the subcommittee chairman for international hunger in the world. I was asked to go to Ethiopia to see this horrendous famine in 1984, and 7,000 people were dying every day. When I arrived in Ethiopia I was not prepared for what I saw when I visited a site in the mountains run by World Vision and Sisters of Charity.

Early in the morning the doctor at the compound asked me to go outside with him to pick out children to try to save. Thousands of people had gathered overnight to receive help. As we walked among the people they held up their child for me to take. They thought I was a doctor. All of them were dying. Some were already dead. We had to decide which ones had a chance, and there was only about four or five out of thousands who were going to live that we could save. I

saw at least 25 children die in a matter of minutes.

I never got over that. I was stunned by it. On my way back from that trip I thought about what my friend had said about bringing God into ones' work place, and this was a way I could do it.

What does God say about this? It actually has a lot to say in the scriptures about the poor and the sick and the hurting and the people in prison, and the lonely, and the hungry. As a matter of fact, there are over 2500 verses. It is the second most talked about theme in the Bible. There are a lot of verses, most of you have heard them. The two verses that I like are both in Proverbs, and to paraphrase—they go something like this. God says to us, "If you help the poor, you lend to me." In another passage in Proverbs He says, "If you are gracious to the poor, you honor me." I do not know many places in the Bible where God says if you do this, you honor me, you lend to me, and I was excited about that.

I do not purport to speak for God today. I have read, I have prayed, I have experienced, I have seen many things over the last 25 years as a believer. These values and principles that I have seen and experienced seem to pass the time of day. They are not the values and principles—they are not American, they are not European or Asian. They are values and principles that have been handed down for thousands of years. I just talked about one of them, caring for the poor, and I will not say any more about that.

The second principle that we have talked a lot about today, is to pray for our leaders. It says in I Timothy 2, "First of all then I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all dignity." We don't pray enough for leaders. I know that today we are going to pray for the president, but what are we going to do tomorrow? We need to pray for our president every day, our vice-president, the cabinet, the Supreme Court, the Congress of the United States, our state representatives, our mayors, our leaders in our communities.

Why do we do this? Because they are better than us? No. We do this because number one, God says do it, he says do it so that you, the people in the world, can live better lives in all peacefulness and tranquility. We must not be doing enough of this, because today 25,000 people will die, and there are 850 million people in the world. There is somewhere between 30 and 45 crises going on right now as we are talking, so we need to pray. We need to do better. I need to do better. I need to remember to do this.

The third principle is meeting together, and so many of you know what I am talking about here. I know that a number of you here today meet together in small groups. I am sure that one of the most important things that you do during the week is that. When I was in the Congress of the United States, the most important thing that I did was to meet with my best friend, Congressman Frank Wolf. We met for 18 years. Frank is a conservative Republican, I am a Democrat. I think in all those years we never had a fight.

We decided early on not to talk about issues that divided us and this was pretty hard at first because we had many differences. We started to read together, we prayed together, we traveled together, our wives became friends, our children know each other and like each other. For several years there has been this deep trust between us, and we have been able to legislate and work on hunger and human rights and family issues in a wonderfully bipartisan fashion. We put aside the issues that could separate us, and now I trust him with my life, I would do anything for him.

My friend John Nakamura and his wife, Janice, have moved to Rome to be with my wife and I—just to be my friend and to pray for my work there. Can you imagine that? That is what he does. He comes to Rome, he prays with me. He prays for my work. He is my friend. With John and Frank, I have found that two are better than one.

Paul says that when you meet like this, God is there. In Thessalonians, as he was writing his letter, he was talking about Timothy, Silvanus and himself. He said, "When we came to you, three things happened. We had power, we had the Holy Spirit, we had true conviction." I have seen this happen time and time again—the proof of this passage. When we meet like this today, when we meet in small groups, when we travel together, we are powerful. There is a great strength when we go like this—the power and the Holy Spirit.

Recently I was in an African nation for a few days, and when I got ready to leave the people that were with us began to cry. They did not want us to go. It was not because of our sparkling personalities or charm or anything like that. They felt something good and right. When I arrived back at my post in Rome they e-mailed me and said, "As an ambassador you came here, you loved us, and you prayed. We knew that, and we think that if you can do that, we can too, so we have decided to do the same." When two or three people are together it is powerful.

I experienced many situations like this. A few years back, I took a private trip as a Congressman with a couple of friends, and we stopped in this one country. Our U.S. ambassador at the time stopped me, and before I could retrieve my bags, he said, "Congressman, there is one thing I want to say to you—don't talk about religion. Don't talk about faith, don't talk about Jesus, because you will set us back. You will set our whole plan back here in this country." He said, "Because, as you know, everybody here is a Muslim." I did not say anything, I just nodded, I listened. We had a lot of good meetings that day.

One of the men I met was the top leader of the country, and of course he was a Muslim, and we had a good meeting. We shared pleasantries and I found him very easy to talk to, and after about five, six, seven minutes of this kind of chit chat, he said, "Why have you come?" And I said, "Well, I've actually come to your country for the first time because I wanted to see it, and I wanted to meet you and some new friends here, and I wanted to invite you to the National Prayer Breakfast." I told him about this breakfast and told him that we invited people in the name of Jesus and that we have all kinds of people, all kinds of people of faith, and leaders come from all over the world.

He looked at me and he smiled. He slapped his leg and he got so excited. He said, "This is amazing. You've come all the way around the world to be my friend and talk to me about the kinds of things you're talking about. I always thought Americans were materialistic." He said, "This is the greatest conversation I have had in months." He said, "My mother used to talk to me about Jesus." And then he turns to our U.S. ambassador and he says, "Why don't you talk to me about Jesus?"

(Laughter and applause.)

That is an example of what happens when two or three go together quietly, making friends, loving each other, and there is power in it.

The last principle that I observed over the years is the one that may be familiar to many of you. It is the commandment to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love others as we love ourselves. It seems to me that all the values and

principles come down to this. It sounds easy to say and understand to love God. Love Him, walk with Him, talk with Him, but how do we do this?

Sometimes when I am reading the scriptures in the morning, I read something that just really stings me because it is so wonderful. It is so true and pure that I take the Bible and I hold it to my chest. I do not want this moment to pass because it is so good. It is so real, so wonderful. I know perhaps that some of you are thinking that sometimes it is very hard to understand God. Why do some of the things happen in our lives? Why do the tsunamis of the world happen? I do not know.

Our 15-year-old son, Matt, died of leukemia eight years ago. My wife and I saw him suffer for four years. I really struggled with God. I had a difficult time with him. I remember one night I was just like hanging on a wall. I was just like hanging on by my fingernails every day. One day he had an especially bad day, and he had a lot of complications. I got so mad that night that I screamed and cursed and swore and yelled. I asked God to come down, to confront me, to talk to me, why? After my son died, the most incredible thing about that experience is that my faith and love for God got better, got stronger. I cannot explain it, but my love for Him is beyond understanding and imagination.

In conclusion, I wish I could say I follow these principles every day, but I do not, I fall very short of them. But when I do, it is glorious. I tried many things in my life—when I was a congressman I voted for war, I voted against war. I voted to eliminate programs, I voted for programs. I used to work against treaties, now as an ambassador, on behalf of the president and the people of the United States, I sign treaties. Sometimes they work and they work well, but often they do not. These words that I have spoken to you today, to love the poor, to pray for our leaders, to meet together, to grow with each other, to love God, and love others, they work. They have been working for thousands of years. They simply work.

What a great honor it has been for me to share my story with you this morning. I am very thankful to you and to God for this opportunity. Thank you.

(Applause.)

Representative. Emerson: Thank you, Tony. Thank you.

This breakfast began, as I said earlier, 53 years ago when a senator wanted to encourage and help lift up President Dwight Eisenhower. It is a great honor for all of us to have the president and first lady with us here today. Ladies and gentlemen, please help welcome the president of the United States.

(Applause.)

President George W. Bush: Thank you all. Thank you all very much. Thank you for the warm welcome.

Last night was a prayerful occasion. I noticed a lot of members were praying that I would keep my speech short. (Laughter.) I want to thank you for getting up so early in the morning, you resisted temptation to sleep in. Thanks for having us. I appreciate Jo Ann Emerson's leadership on this prayer breakfast.

(Applause.)

I want to thank Elaine Chao for her prayer and for representing my cabinet, and I want to thank all of my cabinet officers who are here today.

(Applause.)

I appreciate the leadership of the Congress, Senator Frist and Leader Pelosi, Leader DeLay. I want to thank the senators who spoke, and I appreciate the Congress people who are on the stage here as well. I want to thank His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana,

from Madagascar, the president of that great country.

Welcome to our country, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

Y tambien, mi amigo, the president of Honduras, Ricardo Maduro, welcome, glad you are here.

(Applause.)

We thank Wintley Phipps for his beautiful music.

(Applause.)

Sergeant Norman, your prayers work. You did a fantastic job.

(Applause.)

Pretty darn eloquent for a person from Wyoming.

(Laughter.)

Don't tell the vice president—(laughs).

(Laughter.)

Tony Hall, as you can tell, I obviously made the right choice to send somebody in there. Really good job.

(Applause.)

Janet, thank you for your service as well. Laura and I are really honored to be here.

It is a fabulous moment in our nation's capital. This morning reminds us that prayer has always been one of the great equalizers in American life. Here we thank God for his great blessings in one voice, regardless of our backgrounds. We recognize in one another the spark of the divine that gives all human beings their inherent dignity and worth, regardless of religion. Through fellowship and prayer, we acknowledge that all power is temporary, and must ultimately answer to his purposes. And we know that affirming this truth is particularly appropriate in the heart of a capital built upon the promise of self-government.

No one understood this better than Abraham Lincoln. In November 1864, after being re-elected to his second term, Lincoln declared he would be, "the most shallow and self-conceited blockhead on earth if he ever thought he could do his job without the wisdom which comes from God and not from men." Throughout a terrible civil war, he issued many exhortations to prayer, calling upon the American people to humble themselves before their maker and to serve all those in need.

Our faith-based institutions display that same spirit of prayer and service in their work every day. Lincoln's call is still heard throughout the land. People of faith have no corner on compassion. But people of faith need compassion if they are to be true to their most cherished beliefs, for prayer means more than presenting God with our plans and desires. Prayer also means opening ourselves to God's priorities, especially by hearing the cry of the poor and the less fortunate.

When the tsunamis hit those on the far side of the world, the American government rightly responded, but the American response is so much more than what our government agencies did. Look at the list of organizations bringing relief to the people from Indonesia to Sri Lanka. They are full of religious names: Samaritan's Purse, American-Jewish World Service, Baptist World Aid, The Catholic Medical Mission Board. They do a superb job delivering relief across the borders and continents and cultures.

Today, millions of people across this earth get the help they need only because our faith-based institutions live the commandment to "love thy neighbor as thyself." Often, that means remembering the people forgotten or overlooked in a busy world: those in Africa suffering from HIV/AIDS, young girls caught up in the global sex trade, victims of religious persecution. In these great moral challenges of our times, our churches, synagogues, mosques and temples are providing the vision that is changing lives.

I have seen some of their miracles up close. Last June I met Veronica Braewell, a 20-year-old refugee from Liberia. The 13-year-old child Veronica witnessed armed men killing children in horrific ways. As she fled this madness, Veronica was left for dead atop a pile of bodies until her grandmother found her. In August 2003, the Catholic Social Agency helped resettle her in Pennsylvania. Veronica is now completing the circle of compassion by working in a home for the elderly in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and studying to become a certified nursing assistant. When Veronica told me of her story, it was through the kind of tears no young woman should ever know. And when she finished she dried her eyes and said, "Thank you, Mr. President, for my freedom," but I told her it was not me she needed to thank. She needed to thank the good hearts of the United States of America.

The America that embraced Veronica would not be possible without the prayer that drives and leads and sustains our armies of compassion. I thank you for the fine tradition you continue here today, and hope that as a nation we will never be too proud to commend our cares to providence and trust in the goodness of His plans. God bless.

(Applause.)

Representative Emerson: I hope that you all will not mind hearing Wintley Phipps one more time—(applause)—I have asked him to sing my personal favorite today, and I know the favorite of so many of you, "Amazing Grace."

Mr. Phipps: This was awesome. This song, "Amazing Grace," the melody strangely enough sounds very much like a West African sorrow chant. The words were written by a man who, before he became a Christian, used to be the captain of a slave ship. Many believe he heard this melody coming up out of the belly of a ship. I looked up this song in the Library of Congress and wherever you see it authentically printed, it says "Words, John Newton; melody, unknown." And so I recorded this song the way I believe John Newton probably first heard it coming up out of the belly of a ship with the sounds of the slave ships in the water.

Listen, you will hear them too.

(Song.)

(Applause.)

Representative Emerson: "Amazing Grace" indeed. Wintley, we have to give you one more round of applause, because you are amazing.

(Applause.)

Thank you all so very much for joining us here today. It has truly been a morning full of spirit, and I so want to thank you for participating in this fellowship. I hope in the days and weeks and months ahead that you will see your faith affirmed in the world as you extend the lessons of today. I hope to see all of you here one year from now, celebrating the progress of faith in the world and sharing God's light. To conclude today's events is our closing prayer, and it will be delivered by Tennessee's own, Congressman Lincoln Davis.

(Applause.)

Representative Lincoln Davis: We should have just said, amen when Wintley finished that song. What a wonderful song. If you have not been blessed today, you have not been listening. I am not good at humor. My wife and my friends tell me never to attempt that. When I came here two years ago, I traveled through what they call a candlelight tour of the Capitol, and I saw there a statute of Will Rogers. I had read some of his wit and some of his humor, so I realized that I did not need to attempt that, and that he had probably perfected that. One of the things he said was, "If you burglarize a home, we will send you to prison. If you steal a railroad company, we'll send you to Congress."

(Laughter)

Tony Hall, it is wonderful to hear of your life, and the message that you have given us. It is wonderful to have a president and a first lady who give us spiritual leadership. Jo Ann, you have done an outstanding job in the last year for that special hour that we each meet on Thursday morning, as our president and as the chairman of this event today. And for all of us who have gathered here today, as we give praise to God, there is a blessing that we all have received. Since the dawn of the age of civilization, man has turned to our creator, through prayer for guidance in the times of difficulty. Today in modern day America, we are no different. In fact, thanks to our founding fathers, one of the oldest traditions of the United States Congress is to begin each day with prayer so that we may have spiritual help in making decisions that affect our country, and our world.

On June the 28th in 1787 when the Constitutional Convention was lost in a sea of confusion and could not agree upon a course of action, Ben Franklin rose and addressed then-president George Washington. I quote what he said,

"We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings, 'except that the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this and I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel. We shall be divided in our little, particular, local interests, our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword down the future ages. And what is worse, mankind may, hereafter, from this unfortunate instance despair of establishing the government by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war or conquest. I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its' blessing on our deliberations be held in this assembly each morning before we proceed in business, that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service."

Each morning we still pray when we start our actions in Congress. These words are as relevant today as they were over 200 years ago. Following in the tradition of Ben Franklin's request, rise please, and let us pray.

Father, we ask that you look down upon us today, and instill in our hearts and minds the faith and perseverance to do your will. We ask for courage and wisdom as we look toward the future and aim to establish a world where your children will not suffer from the actions of man. In these trying, uncertain times, your inspiration and love is desperately needed. Bless our endeavors and guide our steps so that we may truly do your work. Too often in today's world man's vision becomes cloudy with constant temptation. When this occurs, man can easily become lost in a Godless wilderness, void of spirituality. Sin thrives in this wilderness, and selfishness abounds. Lord, free us from temptation and give us strength. Please allow your light to shine upon our paths and bless us with the compass of your will so that we will seek to do what is best, just not for ourselves, but for others. Let us know the beauty of Godly deeds.

Lord, I have often turned to you for aid and strength in making difficult decisions. I ask divine help for each of us to continue to seek the satisfaction found only in a spiritual life. Today I ask for you to continue to bless the lives of all your children, and give today's attendees the strength to lead morally and ethically as we embrace the challenges of achieving lasting peace in the face of an unknown future.

Lord, you have blessed our country. Let us realize that it is only through your grace that we receive these blessings. Burden us to continue to give our hearts to you. Give our nation and the nations of the world the passion to clothe the naked, to feed the hungry, to quench the thirsty, heal the sick and help the oppressed break free from the torments of their oppressors. Let our passion for a Godly world never fade.

Lord, for our America, give the leaders the courage to ask for your stewardship through faith. Give our leaders peace of heart and assist us in our endeavors so that we may positively impact America and the rest of the world. Allow our spirits to feel your guiding hand. Bless all the nations of the world and fill their leaders' hearts with hope for a better tomorrow. Shepherd them through their daily challenges toward the goal of everlasting peace. Help these leaders strive to make decisions reflective of your resolve, for if we enact your will, we can know a blessed life.

Lord, help us recognize the value of mankind throughout the world. Help us to continue to thirst for peace and an end to anguish. Help us embrace our differences as we work to achieve the goals of common good. May peace, hope and God's love burn in our hearts. These things I only ask in Jesus' name, amen.

(Applause.)

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, personal business in my district prevents me from being present for legislative business scheduled for today, Monday, June 13, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on S. 643, a bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to authorize State mediation programs (Rollcall No. 241), and "aye" on H.R. 2326, a bill designating the "Floyd Lupton Post Office" (Rollcall No. 242).

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROCHE

### HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations in honor of the 100th Anniversary of Roche, one of the leading healthcare innovators in the world. Roche is a specialty care company that employs over 10,000 people in America and 60,000 globally. I am pleased to represent Roche Molecular Systems, which employs hundreds of people in my District, all of whom are dedicated to improving the quality of health care for millions of people.

For a century now, Roche has invested in advanced research and manufacturing techniques that have yielded breakthroughs in healthcare. Founded in Switzerland in 1896, Roche's roots in America are deep and strong, dating back to the opening of its New York office in 1905. From its start in Manhattan in 1905, Roche has extended its reach to nine sites across the United States, in California, Indiana, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Colorado.

As an industry leader in the field of diagnostics, Roche's products help patients manage their diabetes, give physicians and hospitals the ability to identify illnesses more quickly and more accurately, and tailor treatments in a way that best suit an individual's personal medical condition. These inventions are part of why we are proud that Americans enjoy the highest quality medical care in the world.

I commend the people of Roche Molecular Systems in California and Roche employees worldwide for their impressive achievements, and congratulate them again on this very special 100th Anniversary.

#### A TRIBUTE OF DAVID LEWIS MOORE

### HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Reverend David Lewis Moore for his important work in North Carolina. Reverend Moore was recently chosen as one of 10 national recipients of the 2005 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award. This honor includes a monetary award of \$105,000 which Reverend Moore can utilize to assist him with his work in the community.

Reverend Moore's efforts in rural Beaufort County, North Carolina have transformed the lives of hundreds of residents and provided health care to thousands struggling with poverty and illness.

After attending Seminary and receiving a Master's Degree at Yale University, Rev. Moore became Pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Beaufort County and immediately set out to improve the quality of life of the region's low-income residents, most of whom are African-American. The county, which is also home to a small but significant number of Latino farm workers, has the highest rates of HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and heart disease in North Carolina; and we should commend Rev. Moore's diligent efforts over the years to combat these very serious and detrimental conditions.

Rev. Moore founded Metropolitan Community Health Services in 1990. One of its core programs is the Agape Community Health Clinic which offers health care to some 4,000 low-income people every year. Initially, the clinic operated with little financial support, but it grew in size through grants that Rev. Moore obtained, including one that paid for a doublewide trailer to serve as the clinic's headquarters. Soon the clinic will expand to a renovated bowling alley, thanks to funds raised by Rev. Moore.

Not stopping at improving health care for the region's poor, Rev. Moore also mobilized area churches from across the U.S. and Canada to assist in the reconstruction of homes following Hurricane Floyd. As a result, 43 new homes were constructed.

Rev. Moore has also helped to develop more than 500 units of housing for families, single mothers, senior citizens, victims of domestic violence, people with disabilities and migrant workers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Rev. David Lewis Moore on receiving this

award and ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his work, past, present and future, on behalf of the people of North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOHN L. BURTON TRIAL ACT

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, along with the majority of California's House delegation, I am introducing legislation to name a trail in a northern California redwood grove after former State Senate President John Burton.

With this legislation, we are honoring our former colleague in the House for his pivotal role in the landmark 1999 state-Federal agreement to protect the ancient redwoods of the Headwaters Forest Reserve.

In addition to being a great ally for those who have needed a helping hand, John Burton has been a powerful advocate for environmental values throughout his time in public service. His work to protect this important redwood forest was just one of the many highlights of his inspiring career.

Among other accomplishments, he was instrumental in forcing a debate over the appropriate use of the Headwaters. That debate eventually led to a 1999 negotiated agreement through which the Federal and State governments were able to protect a total of 7,400 acres.

That agreement was not only a victory for these threatened old-growth trees and all the fish and wildlife living in this ecosystem. It was a victory for all of us: generations in the future, Americans will be able to visit this amazing natural landscape.

Under this bill, all future maps of the Reserve will include the "John L. Burton Trail" designation, ensuring that visitors to the ancient redwoods are aware of Burton's leadership to help save the grove from destruction.

I look forward to the speedy passage of this non-controversial legislation to properly recognize John Burton for just one of his many contributions to the state of California and our country.

HONORING FIRST PLACE WINNERS OF EXPLORAVISION AWARDS

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two very bright young men from the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, Alec Lai and Atreya Rajagopalan. These two students from Hawken Middle School in Lyndhurst, Ohio received first place honors in the Exploravision Awards.

Exploravision is a competition for students of all interest, skill, and ability levels in grades K-12. The purpose of the competition is to encourage students to combine their imaginations with the tools of science to create and explore a vision of a future technology.

Alec and Atreya's project was titled "Visible-Light Photocatalysis," this technology is intended to be used to clean and detoxify water and air, to create self-cleaning walls, and to prevent bacteria contamination and spreading. Their project was selected as a regional winner and then given the first place award for the middle level (grades 7-9) at the national competition.

I am very proud to say that such creative young men from my district have been honored so greatly. They are part of the next generation of great minds that keeps our country leading in the field of new and profound ideas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH WORKER PROTECTION ACT

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, while many of us think that exploitive child labor is no longer a problem in the United States; the sad fact is that some of the most exploitative forms of child labor continue to occur in our country. In farm fields and in fast-food restaurants all over this country, employers are breaking the law by hiring under-age children and making them work in hazardous conditions.

In fact, the Child Labor Coalition (CLC), a consortium of over 30 non-profits and non government organizations (NGO's) has a new report that shows how the Administration has failed to meet its obligations to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in our country. This extraordinary report, which I urge all of my colleagues to read, is titled Protecting Working Children in the United States—Is the Government's Indifference to the Safety and Health of Working Children Violating an International Treaty? I request the executive summary of this report and the recommendations made by the CLC be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The CLC's report details four specific developments that have occurred in the five years since the United States ratified the International Labor Organization Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (a/k/a ILO Convention 182), which raise serious concerns as to whether or not the United States remains compliant with its ILO 182 obligations.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you agree with me that the United States must remain committed to enforcing its international obligations. That is why I am pleased to announce that along with 25 of our colleagues, today I am introducing the Youth Worker Protection Act (YWPA), legislation that would erase any doubt whether the United States is in compliance with its ILO 182 obligations.

Among the worst forms of child labor that the signers of the ILO 182 agreed to prohibit and eliminate included work which, by its nature and the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. The United States regulates these types of practices through regulations known as Hazardous Orders (HOs) that are issued by the Secretary of Labor. These regulations are amended from time to time as new information becomes available or when revisions are recommended.

Despite numerous changes in our nation's economy, these HOs have not been substantially changed or revised for over thirty-years. Even more troubling is that because of the law creates a difference for the rules governing Agriculture and non-agriculture employment, the HO's contain numerous anomalies, including the fact that a 16-year-old worker can use a power driven circular saw if they're working on the farm—but not if they're working in the shop.

Mr. Speaker, I can only assume that the Department of Labor recognized that it had not substantially revised the Hazardous Orders, and that this recognition was the impetus behind the Department's commissioning of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to engage a detailed analysis of the HOs. After a comprehensive view of injury data and scientific literature NIOSH's recommended revising existing HOs as well as the creation of some new orders.

The NIOSH report was completed more than three years ago and unfortunately the Department of Labor has taken zero action on NIOSH's recommendations, including such common-sense proposals such as revising the rules on children whose employment involves construction work, using chainsaws, or operating dangerous motorized vehicles.

Given the gravity of the fact that more than 200,000 youth are injured in the workplace every year, and a young person is killed while working in this county once every five days, this inaction is inexcusable and inappropriate. The Youth Worker Protection Act would implement the NIOSH recommendations into Law ensuring that our nation's children are prevented from working in hazardous jobs and keeping America compliant with ILO 182.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to ensuring that the United States is in compliance with its international obligations to end the worst forms of child labor, the YWPA also takes crucial steps to modernize America's child labor laws to reflect the changed nature of America's economy since our child labor laws were enacted nearly 70 years ago.

In some ways kids today are working just as long as their "Mill Children" predecessors, especially when one considers the hours a student is in school. Mr. Speaker, the average time a student is in class is about 7 hours a day, or 35 hours a week. This does not include additional time for extracurricular activities or homework. Going to school is almost a full-time job itself. Therefore, in addition to devoting a minimum of 35 hours a week to their schoolwork, many high-school students are also working 30 to 40 hours a week for some of America's largest corporations, often working well past midnight while simultaneously trying to balance school requirements. When one combines the hours some of today's teens are at school with their hours at work, the 70-hour workweek is still in place.

Mr. Speaker, research clearly indicates that working more than 20 hours a week in addition to a normal school schedule has a negative effect on student's academic progress. Additional studies show that children who work long hours also tend to use more alcohol and drugs, which is why the YWPA creates common-sense limits on the hours that students can work during the school year.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation will reduce the problem of children working long hours when school is in session, and it strengthens existing limitations on the number of hours children

under 18 years of age can work on school days. The bill would eliminate all youth labor before school, and after-school work would be limited to 15 or 20 hours per week, depending on the age of the child. Additionally, it will require better record keeping and reporting of child labor violations.

Mr. Speaker, the issues of children working early in the morning or late into the evening is a problem facing our country. Students continuously tell me that working long hours, late into the night negatively affects their school performance, that they are too tired for class, and that the long hours on the job take away from important extra-curricular activities and take away time from their family.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 60 years our nation's agribusinesses have enjoyed special exemptions under the FLSA. Many of these exemptions were based on the historical prominence of the family farm in the American economy. Current labor laws allow children—even those less than 10 years of age—to be employed in agriculture. Child farm laborers can work unlimited hours before and after school, and they are not even eligible for overtime pay. At the age of 14, or even earlier, children working in agriculture are using knives and machetes, operating dangerous machinery, and are exposed to dangerous toxic pesticides. In no other industry are children so exploited as they are in agriculture. Despite all these dangers, there are no protections for children working on farms and in the fields.

Mr. Speaker, most of today's farms are not owned by families, but by large corporate entities, and deserve to be treated like any other company employing children. Although I am pleased to report the YWPA keeps the existing family farm exemption, I am delighted that it amends the FLSA to treat companies such as Archer-Daniels-Midland and Dole just like McDonalds and Wal-Mart, because obtaining parity in the regulations and restrictions of jobs in agriculture and the rest of the economy is long overdue.

My colleagues and I introduced the Youth Worker Protection Act because the exploitation of child labor is a national problem that continues to jeopardize the health, education and lives of many of our nation's children and teenagers. This legislation seeks to eliminate the all-too-common exploitation of children working long hours late into the night while school is in session, and working under hazardous and dangerous conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I adamantly want to make it clear, as supporters of child labor reform, we do not oppose young people working. We wholeheartedly believe that children need to be taught the value of hard work and to learn the valuable lessons of responsibility and enjoy all the rewards of working. It is not our aim to discourage employers from hiring young people. Rather, our goal is to ensure that the job opportunities available to young people are meaningful, safe and healthy.

What we oppose are the senseless deaths and needless injuries of our teenagers. We oppose the negative effects on academic achievement that result when children work excessive hours while school is in session. An education, not after-school employment, is the key to a successful future.

PROTECTING WORKING CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES: IS THE GOVERNMENT'S DIFFERENCE TO THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF WORKING CHILDREN VIOLATING AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY?

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1999, the United States ratified an international treaty known as International Labor Organization Convention 182, which requires the U.S. to "take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor as a matter of urgency." The U.S. claimed that it was already in compliance with the treaty at the time of ratification. This report shows that U.S. compliance with the treaty is in serious doubt as a result of disturbing developments since 1999.

First, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), which enforces the federal child labor laws, has done almost nothing to update its outmoded "Hazardous Order" regulations, which are designed to forbid employers from permitting children to do particularly hazardous jobs. This failure is particularly shocking in view of the fact that more than three years have gone by since the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in May 2002 published a detailed study, commissioned by DOL, which pointed out numerous safety hazards to young workers that require many improvements in the Hazardous Order regulations.

Second, a DOL report from November 2004 discloses that during the last four years, the time spent by DOL investigators in enforcing the child labor laws has decreased by 21.6 percent. The equivalent of only 34 full-time investigators are available to enforce the law, even though there are an estimated 3.2 million workers under age 18. This amounts to one investigator per 95,000 working children. Moreover, even though the maximum fine that can be imposed for a child labor violation is \$11,000, the average fine actually imposed by DOL last year was only \$717.78. This is the lowest seven percent of the entire range of fines, from \$1.00 up to \$11,000, that DOL has the authority to assess.

Third, Congress's watchdog agency, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), issued a report in September 2002 that was highly critical of DOL's child labor enforcement priorities. DOL has done little to heed this report, and what it has done shows that DOL's enforcement activities continue to suffer from serious flaws.

Fourth, in March 2000, the GAO issued a report urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to improve its pesticide regulations in order to ensure the safety of farmworkers and their children. The GAO noted, among other deficiencies, that the EPA's Worker Protection Standard for farmworkers has reentry intervals, or REIs (which establish the minimum amount of time that workers must be kept out of a field after pesticides have been applied), that are based on the effect of pesticides on a 154-pound adult male, and hence do not adequately protect children. EPA has made no changes to remedy this deficiency, or other deficiencies, in the Worker Protection Standard that would better protect children from toxic pesticides.

These failings are deeply troubling in themselves, and they also raise the question of whether the U.S. government is in compliance with the 1999 international child labor treaty.

The last few pages of this report set forth specific recommendations for action that should be taken by DOL and EPA, as well as by the U.S. Congress, to remedy these failings. Only by taking these actions can the United States live up to its obligations under International Labor Organization Con-

vention 182, and thereby provide adequate protection against the safety and health hazards facing America's working children.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Child Labor Coalition (CLC), representing a constituency of more than 40 nongovernmental organizations concerned about protecting the health and safety of working minors, believes the U.S. government should address the questions related to U.S. compliance with ILO Convention 182. In light of the safety and health hazards to working children outlined in this report, the CLC makes the following recommendations to the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Congress:

To the U.S. Department of Labor:

1. NIOSH Report. DOL should prioritize the many NIOSH recommendations for strengthening Hazardous Orders, in order to protect children from the most dangerous jobs. DOL should revise first those HOs that would have the greatest likelihood in reducing the greatest number of occupational deaths and serious injuries and illnesses, and then address the other HOs. DOL should issue proposed regulations making these changes and invite comment from interested parties. All of this should be done within 12 months. DOL has already had more than three years to work on this important project, and further delay is not justifiable. Prompt action is now essential to protect working children from deaths and injuries.

2. Enforcement. DOL should take three steps immediately. First, it should greatly increase the number of hours devoted to child labor enforcement. Doubling the 58,043 hours spent in fiscal year 2004 would still not reach the 143,000 hours spent in fiscal year 1990 in child labor enforcement, but doubling the hours should be accomplished within two years. There are more children working now than in 1990, and in any event until there is a private right of action, thus enabling children to bring their own lawsuits, enforcement activity by DOL is all the more important. Second, DOL should target enforcement more effectively. The key is to find employers who are most likely to have violated the law. Making use of state workers' compensation data on deaths and injuries to children is one very helpful way to do this. DOL needs to use this approach and other means to find child labor violations. Third, DOL must cease immediately the practice it used in the Wal-Mart case and a few other cases in which it gives employers advance notice of investigations and thereby enables the employers to cover up evidence of violations.

3. Civil Money Penalties. DOL needs to revise on a top priority basis its regulations on determining the level of a child labor civil money penalty. These penalty regulations need to (a) use more objective criteria, (b) indicate how each criterion is to be weighted, and (c) provide for higher penalties. Penalties set by DOL are too often lowered by judges, often drastically, because of the subjective factors in the present regulations and inadequate regulatory guidance on how to weight the various factors. And for a law in which the maximum penalty is \$11,000, the median penalty assessed of \$717.78 in 2004 is far too low.

To the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

1. Pesticides. Within no more than 12 months, EPA needs to make every reasonable effort to devise reentry intervals (REIs) for children, so that young workers are not allowed to reenter a field after pesticides have been used on it until it is safe for children, with their developing organs and greater sensitivity to toxic chemicals, to be there.

This is the main revision needed to EPA's Worker Protection Standard, but there are others, as well, spelled out in the report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

To Congress:

1. Amend the FLSA to provide children in agriculture the same protections as children in other industries. Three key amendments are needed to achieve this result. First, the minimum age for hazardous work in agriculture must be raised from 16 to 18, so that all children in all employments will be protected equally. Second, the normal minimum age for non-hazardous work in agriculture must be raised from 14 to 16, in order to equalize the rules for all working children. Third, the restrictions on hours that children can work must be strengthened in agriculture, so that children in agriculture enjoy the same hours of work protections as all other children.

2. Amend the FLSA to provide a private right of action for child labor violations. Under existing federal law, if any child is employed in violation of the child labor requirements, only DOL can bring a lawsuit, and the penalty that is finally determined must be paid to the United States Treasury. In order to provide a greater incentive on the part of employers to comply with the law, lawsuits should also be permitted by children who are employed in violation of the law. The maximum employer liability for each violation should remain at the level for a penalty assessed by DOL (currently \$11,000), but the money in a private action should be paid by the employer to the child (or, in the case of a death, to the parents or guardians of the child). The inability of DOL to enforce the law adequately requires that others have a role in enforcement. FLSA minimum wage and overtime lawsuits are permitted both by DOL and by individual employees, and the FLSA should be amended to allow the same approach in child labor cases.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE  
GARRY MALPHRUS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Judge Garry Malphrus, his family and friends, on his appointment to the Federal Immigration Court.

I am very grateful to represent the Malphrus family in Congress and one of the great honors of serving in Congress was having the opportunity on June 3rd to join in a swearing-in ceremony to recognize the achievements of a constituent. As a former attorney who has practiced immigration law, I know the importance of this judgeship.

Garry was born and raised in Jasper County, South Carolina, a son of the Lowcountry, which is in the district that I represent. Garry's impressive career track includes his graduation from Thomas Heyward Academy of Ridgeland and his further education at the University of South Carolina for his undergraduate and law degrees. Garry was a law clerk to Federal Judges Chauncey Patterson and Dennis Shedd. I particularly appreciate the importance of clerkships because Judge Dennis Shedd was a clerk in our office. Garry

also worked on the Senate Judiciary Committee for South Carolina's former Senior Senator Strom Thurmond and was an attorney for the current Bush Administration. I know he will do well with that list of former employers.

Not only do I want to congratulate Garry, but I also want to congratulate the people who helped make this possible, his family; Judy and Donnie Malphrus, his brother Barry and sister Kim and his grandmother Lorene Langford.

Garry has been instrumental in furthering the cause of justice for many years through his work on the judiciary committee and political campaigns.

Garry has been involved for campaigns, including mine, for as long as I can remember. He and his brother Barry actually recruited my chief of staff, Eric Dell, involving him in politics for the first time in 1986 as a volunteer in the gubernatorial race of Congressman Carroll Campbell in his successful election. I always enjoyed seeing Garry and Barry at state conventions; it was encouraging to see their bravery and enthusiasm to be dedicated activists in a county where they were a persistent political minority.

In the seventeen years I served in the South Carolina Senate, I had the opportunity to vote on dozens of candidates for judgeships and appoint numerous magistrates. In every election, I looked for judicial temperament of a person who would respectfully give every participant a respectful day in court, no matter who they were or what they looked like. I am confident Garry possesses this unique quality.

Again, I want to congratulate Garry, his family, and friends on his appointment as a federal immigration judge and wish him success and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. On House rollcall vote No. 239, H.J. Res. 27 a bill "Withdrawing approval of the United States from the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization." I voted "yea" on this vote, and intended to vote "no." I am asking that the record show that I am supportive of the United States membership in the World Trade Organization.

LET'S KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker. I rise today because legal immigrants and their families need our help.

As Congress continues to debate ways to address illegal immigration, we must remember the many hard-working legal immigrants that contribute so much to our nation's economy and culture. In Congress' zeal to crack down on illegal immigration, it has unfairly punished many of these legal immigrants.

That's why I invite all my colleagues to join my fight to reverse certain unfair provisions of so-called "immigration reforms" instituted by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. This law has allowed stable, long-term families headed by legal immigrants to be torn apart because of minor crimes committed years ago—crimes for which the offenders have already served their sentences.

A basic legislative attempt to fix this law was passed by the House of Representatives in the 106th Congress, but it was never taken up by the Senate. So I have re-introduced my "Keeping Families Together" Act (H.R. 2865). This bill would reinstate judicial review to the immigration process, restore the definition of aggravated felony that existed prior to 1996, end the practice of automatically detaining productive members of our society for minor crimes they committed years ago and for which they have already served their sentence, and allow legal immigrants previously deported to appeal that decision.

Please join me in supporting this critical legislation to restore justice to our immigration processes and keep families together.

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

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Albuquerque Biological Park Title Clarification Act. This legislation would assist the City of Grande.

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

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

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

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

THE BELLS OF BALANGIGA: IT IS  
TIME TO GO HOME

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about my resolution, H. Res. 313, which urges the President to authorize the transfer of ownership to the Philippines of one of the bells taken in 1901 from the town of Balangiga in the Philippines. The bells are currently displayed at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In the 100 years since the taking of the bells occurred, the citizens of the United States and the Philippines have shared many historic and political ties. The Philippines was a staunch ally of the United States during World War II. Brave Filipino soldiers were drafted into service by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, fought side-by-side with American soldiers, and were instrumental in the successful outcome of World War II. Filipino soldiers also fought alongside our soldiers on the battlefields of Korea and Vietnam.

Since the independence of the Philippines in 1946, the U.S.-Philippine relationship has been largely one of friendship and cooperation. The Philippines is a republic patterned basically on our own system of government. The Philippines is a valuable trading partner of the U.S. and an ally in the war against terrorism. Approximately two million Americans are of Filipino descent and close to 130,000 United States citizens reside in the Philippines. The acts of conflict that surrounded the taking of the bells of Balangiga are not consistent with the friendship that is currently an integral part of the relationship between our two nations.

The Republic of the Philippines has repeatedly requested the return of the bells. They are an important symbol to the Filipino people, who wish to have them re-installed in the belfry of the Balangiga Church. I believe that it is time to resolve this situation in order to solidify the bonds between our two nations. My resolution would honor and promote the positive relationship our countries enjoy.

A compromise measure has been suggested to return one of the bells, as my resolution calls for, and to create two replica bells—one for each country. This compromise would satisfy most Filipino veterans.

As the years pass, I am confident that relations between our two nations will grow even stronger. To that end, the United States Government, which has final disposition over the Bells of Balangiga, should transfer ownership of one of the bells to the people of the Philippines as a measure of good will and cooperation. I urge the passage of my resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on June 7, 2005. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 228 and 229.

I also inadvertently missed rollcall vote 192 on May 19, 2005. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 192.

COMMENDING MS. ALMA OLIVAS

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to the important work of one of my constituents, Alma Olivas, and her recent selection for the nation's highest community health leadership distinction.

Ms. Olivas was one of the 10 outstanding individuals from across the country chosen to receive this year's Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award. The award also comes with a \$105,000 grant for Ms. Olivas to use to further her important efforts. Ms. Olivas works with the Coalition for Community Healthcare Access, which helps poor and uninsured people access health care in Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

A persistent and courageous advocate for the uninsured, Ms. Olivas has been working to increase access to health care from an early age. Since she was seven years old, when she moved from Mexico to Albuquerque, Ms. Olivas has served as an interpreter for extended family members and neighbors. But it was her grandmother's devastating encounter with the medical system that made it her life's work.

Her uninsured grandmother was repeatedly denied surgical treatment for a broken hip because she could not afford to pay half of the cost of the surgery upfront. Ms. Olivas became a fierce advocate, learning how to negotiate the health care system on her grandmother's behalf and eventually winning her the treatment she needed.

Since working with the Coalition for Community Healthcare Access, Ms. Olivas has increased the availability of interpreter services, improved financial assistance for low-income people, and raised community awareness of the health care problems of immigrants and the uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take the opportunity to commend Ms. Olivas for her tremendous work and to congratulate her as a recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROGER F. WICKER**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes Nos. 171–175, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On Nos. 171–174, "yea"; on No. 175, "aye."

CONGRATULATION TO THE TOWN  
OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 13, 2005*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, in the fall of 1996, a bill was proposed to the Broward County Legislative Delegation to annex all of the unincorporated area between Griffin Road to the north, Sheridan Street to the south, Flamingo Road to the east and SR 27 to the west, into the City of Pembroke Pines.

Hundreds of citizens from that unincorporated area, known as the Southwest Ranches, packed the Delegation hearing in November of 1996, to protest this attempted takeover and to call for the right to form their own city. As a result of this grassroots effort, the State Legislature passed a bill during the 1997 legislative session, calling for a vote of the citizens of Southwest Ranches in March of 2000.

In the summer of 1997, Southwest Ranches Homeowners Association members agreed to actively promote incorporation of a new city for the area and formed a political committee to explore this option. A feasibility committee was appointed to determine if a new city would be viable.

On July 3, 1999, the SWRHA sponsored a parade and picnic to declare the area's independence. The bill was passed by the Florida Legislature in 1997, authorizing the vote in 2000 to determine if residents wanted to annex or form their own city. On March 14, 2000, residents voted overwhelmingly to form a new Town. The election to approve the Town's charter was held on June 6, 2000, and Council Members were elected on July 25, 2000. On that day, Southwest Ranches was officially in business.

This year, we celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of the Town of Southwest Ranches and commemorate the preservation of the beautiful land and environment that its residents love so much.

HONORING AL VAN METRE, SR.,  
CEO AND FOUNDER OF VAN  
METRE COMPANIES

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Al Van Metre, the founder and CEO of Van Metre Company. This recognition is well deserved for his contributions to the communities of Northern Virginia.

Al Van Metre attended the U.S. Naval Academy from June 1944 to March 1945 before graduating from George Washington University with a degree in engineering. Mr. Van Metre established the Van Metre Company in 1955, since that time his company has built over 15,000 single family homes, town homes and manages 2,200 apartments throughout Northern Virginia. These dwellings proudly serve over 50,000 homeowners and residents throughout Northern Virginia.

The developments created by Van Metre Company include Lansdowne On the Potomac, Broadlands and Stone Ridge. These planned communities have received numerous Finest for Family Living Awards including the developments of Lansdowne on the Potomac in 2001, The Lee at McNair Station in 1999 and a three time winner from 1998–2000 for The Fitzgerald at Broadlands. The company, based in Burke, Virginia, has received numerous "Major Achievements in Marketing Excellence" awards, including the Best Community Brochure, Best Print Advertising, Best Web Site and Multi-Media Campaign for Planned Communities. The success over the last half-century, growth of the company and award winning planned communities are due to the hard work and dedication of Mr. Van Metre.

Not only has Mr. Van Metre helped to create superb living communities, but he has been an active member in the community serving as a board member for the Navy Marine Coast Guard Resident Foundation and the Naval Academy foundation. He also served as the chairman of the Race Committee of the Northern Virginia Hospice Cup and as a board member of the St. Stephen's School In Alexandria, Virginia.

With his background and support for the Naval Academy and as Chairman of the Northern Virginia Hospice Cup, it is no surprise that Mr. Van Metre is an avid and accomplished sailor. He has guided his yacht, the *Running Tide*, to wins at virtually every major yachting event on the East Coast. He was a five-time overall annual champion in Chesapeake Bay racing and has earned over 200 trophies in his distinguished sailing career.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Al Van Metre for helping to create planned communities that benefit numerous residents and families in Northern Virginia. I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Al Van Metre on his accomplishments and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING LTC MICHAEL P.  
ANDERSON

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the dedication of the Michael P. Anderson Memorial Statue in Spokane, WA, and to posthumously honor LTC Michael P. Anderson for paying the ultimate sacrifice while serving his country, his community, and each one of us by challenging the constraints of this world. As not only an astronaut, but a man committed to his family and community, Anderson continues to inspire us even though he is gone.

Anderson died aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia* as it entered the Earth's atmosphere on February 1, 2003. He was the payload commander on this flight and a mission specialist, responsible for the science portion of the mission. Having a long and distinguished career with both the United States Air Force and NASA, Lieutenant Colonel Anderson exemplified hard work and a determination to reach his dreams.

As a native and resident of the Spokane region, Michael Anderson graduated from Cheney High School in 1977 and went on to pursue a Bachelor of Science in physics/astronomy from University of Washington, and a Master of Science in physics from Creighton University. Anderson leaves behind his two daughters, Kaycee and Sydney, and his wife, Sandra.

As an African-American, he was an inspiration and testament that men and women of every race, with the aid of hard work and determination, can rise to meet their goals. From a young age he dreamed of being an astronaut, and as a result he became a local hero and national inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor LTC Michael P. Anderson for his spirit and sacrifice. I invite my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring Lieutenant Colonel Anderson for his service to our country and the community of eastern Washington, and for the debt we owe him for never losing his sense of wonder.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST  
DERRICK LUTTERS

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, SPC Derrick Lutters of Burlington, Colorado.

On May 1, 2005, Specialist Lutters died while serving south of Baghdad, Iraq, when attacked by a suicide bomber while his unit was inspecting a bridge for enemy tampering along a supply route.

As a member of the Kansas National Guard, Specialist Lutters was in Detachment 1 of the Guard's 170th Maintenance Company and assigned to the 891st Engineer Battalion.

In 1999, after Derrick graduated from Goodland High School in Goodland, Kansas, he moved to Burlington, Colorado, where his mother currently lives.

Coming from a military family, he joined the service in 1998 and followed in the footsteps of his brother and sister.

I am proud to honor SPC Derrick Lutters for his courage and sacrifice on behalf of all Americans. His courage has helped to protect our democracy and keep our homeland safe. I urge all of my fellow colleagues to applaud Specialist Lutters for his service to our great Nation.

IN MEMORY OF RUDY EASTMAN

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Rudy Eastman, from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his lifelong contributions to his community and to his fellow citizens. Eastman committed his life to the promotion of African-American theater through his service as a teacher for the Fort Worth Independent School District and later as the founder of the Jubilee Theater in Fort Worth. Eastman passed away on May 31, 2005.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Eastman's life today. Born in Oklahoma in 1944, he later moved to Texas where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1966. That same year he began teaching in Fort Worth while studying theater at the University of North Texas and Texas Christian University. In 1972, he helped form the Sojourner Truth Players. While still teaching students who routinely earned recognition in State competition, Eastman in 1981 founded the Jubilee Theater.

Through the perseverance of its founder, the Jubilee Theater would realize its goal of providing an outlet for African-American theater. Eastman produced innovative plays of his own, but also shared his knowledge with others, and helped many young talents realize their own dreams. Above all, he made African-American theater accessible to the people of Fort Worth and through this was able to positively impact race relations in the area.

It was my honor to represent Rudy Eastman. I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. May the example of this man, whose contributions made richer the fabric of our American culture, be inspiration to all who seek their dreams and serve their fellow man by them.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD  
EDMUND CLEMENT

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Richard Edmund Clement. He is survived by his seven children, 24 grandchildren and former wife, Joan.

The love that Mr. Clement displayed for his country was not only evident in his work, but also recognized by his family. A second generation American, Mr. Clement had served his country throughout his life by working in both the private and public sectors.

With his expertise in the area of counterterrorism, Mr. Clement was able to contribute to the capturing of terrorists in Central America during the 1970s. His accomplishments led to his appointment as Director of the Federal Protection Agency during the Reagan Administration. Working with many great American leaders throughout the 1970s and 1980s he was willing to stand in the shadows and continued to serve and protect his country. The resolve that Mr. Clement displayed for his work had a lasting impact on his family and many others.

His children and grandchildren are carrying on the tradition of service that Mr. Clement provided to our country. Mr. Clement's sons Craig and Christopher along with grandsons Christopher, Aaron and Andrew have either served or are currently serving in this Nation's armed forces.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to pay tribute to the life and work of Mr. Clement, and express my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved him.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE  
ARMED FORCES

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and for those service members who throughout the course of our country's history have given their lives in the line of duty. The men and women we honor on this day have dutifully carried out their service to our country and it is in great respect that we remember their bravery and unselfish character.

This day is of a marked importance in commemorating the great sacrifices that so many Americans have made in the defense of our Nation and in upholding the ideals of freedom at home and abroad. In Washington State there are over 500,000 veterans and thousands more who came before them. Motivated by a love of their country and instilled with strong morals, these men and women have demonstrated courage and resiliency that has followed them throughout their deployments all over the globe. The gallantry and valor that has guided their actions is the cornerstone of our military's power and prestige.

Wars and conflicts have tested the will of our Nation and the principles on which our Nation was built. These wars have helped defined American history, as well as the lives of those directly involved. These conflicts have enveloped the lives of service members, their families, and loved ones. Despite all hardship, the proven strength and character of those who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces have ensured that our Nation remains strong, free and proud. We owe them an irreplaceable debt.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all veterans for their sacrifice and unselfish concern for the security of our Nation. On this Memorial Day, many Americans will remember someone close to them who has served in the Armed Forces with gratitude and admiration. As Americans we recognize each day that we owe many of our comforts and liberties to the fortitude demonstrated by those in the Armed Forces.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF EADS,  
CO

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fine city of Eads, CO.

The Economic Developers' Council of Colorado (EDCC) recently presented their annual achievement awards at the organization's Annual Awards Luncheon held in conjunction with the Spring Conference in Burlington, Colorado. The "EDIE Awards" recognize outstanding achievement in economic development by honoring individuals, businesses, and communities throughout the State of Colorado.

The award for Small Community of the Year is presented to a community under 20,000 in population that demonstrates support for eco-

nomical development through an organized economic development program and strong leadership. The community must also illustrate long-term planning and investment in the development of the community through infrastructure planning, permanent economic development funding and strategies. Realization of a special project or development is also a criterion.

The 2004 Small Community of the Year is the Town of Eads, located in Kiowa County. The Town of Eads epitomizes the criteria for this award. Eads has been actively working with the Arkansas Valley Marketing Coalition (a five county organization) to establish itself as a community in search of expansion for its citizens. The town was awarded a \$22,000 scholarship by "Your Town" for the recreation of their downtown. They are near completion of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, and are working actively with surrounding counties on a coalition tourism project. The Town of Eads is also actively involved with CRDC and Action 22 on tourism and economic development efforts.

In addition, the acquisition of the 800-acre Jackson Property is, and will continue to create, great economic opportunities for Eads and Kiowa County. Efforts to comprehensively plan how the property might best be utilized have included many areas and groups within the community and county. Working with all elected officials, businesses and most impressively, the youth have established a human capacity and formula for success that would be difficult to top anywhere.

Congratulations to the Town of Eads, the 2004 Economic Developers' Council of Colorado's Achievement Award recipient for Small Community of the Year. It is an honor to represent this community in the United States House of Representatives.

NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK  
AND DR. ROBERT ADMIRE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to clearly state the necessity of men's health awareness. This week is National Men's Health Week, and it comes at an important time as we pause to honor our Fathers. As a practicing physician for over 20 years and now having the pleasure of sitting on the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, I wholeheartedly understand the importance of regular health screenings.

On May 10 of this year, I introduced the Medicare Osteoporosis Measurement Act to address the issue of male osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is a degenerative bone condition that can make bones fragile and can gradually erode quality of life for our seniors. But contrary to popular belief, osteoporosis is a serious health problem for men, as well as women. Two million American men suffer under this debilitating illness, and 12 million more are at risk for developing the disease.

It is crucial that men everywhere seek out regular health check-ups. Routine medical examinations are key to detecting—and preventing—serious men's health concerns like high cholesterol and blood pressure, prostate

cancer, cardiovascular disease, and osteoporosis. In addition, men should strive to equip themselves with the knowledge and information necessary for personal health awareness. They need to know about important illnesses facing men and at what age specific screenings are needed.

Dr. Robert Admire, founder of Denton Urology in 1997, has been a leader in the field of men's health for 30 years. He sits as a diplomat for the American Board of Urologists and was Chief of Staff for Denton Community Hospital for over a decade. In addition to his work at Denton Community Hospital, he also works at Presbyterian Hospital of Denton and Denton Regional Medical Center.

A graduate of U.T. Southwestern Medical School, Dr. Admire completed his residency at Parkland Hospital just a few years behind me. Today, I am honored to represent Dr. Admire in Congress. He is an upstanding member of the medical community as well as the community at large currently serving on the board of trustees for Liberty Christian School in his hometown of Argyle.

The fight for better men's health is a partnership. It is a partnership between men and their physicians. For this reason, I honor Dr. Admire, his staff and National Men's Health Week.

THANKING WILLIAM DELLAR FOR  
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in June 2005, we rise to thank Mr. William Dellar for over 30 years of outstanding service to the United States government, most recently here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bill began his career with four years of military service in the United States Marine Corps. He continued his government service starting in 1979 at the United States Department of Energy. He followed that with service at the Naval Sea Systems Command, the Naval Air Test Center, and the United States Coast Guard, honing his procurement skills throughout this time. Bill brought his expertise to the House in 1999 as Associate Administrator of Procurement. His passionate customer service, organizational knowledge and resourcefulness, and his leadership on numerous initiatives have benefited countless Members and staff over the years.

Among his many other achievements, Bill was instrumental in leading the merger of the Office of Finance and the Office of Procurement into a single business unit, resulting in resource savings, process efficiencies, and enhanced customer service capabilities. Bill has also established the framework for the implementation of a Center of Excellence concept geared toward providing streamlined enterprise system solutions to all CAO customers and stakeholders. Over the past 6 years, Bill has been instrumental in managing the award of contracts for numerous customer-focused requirements, such as the House Fitness Center, the Modular Furniture Program, Postal Operations and a 21st century state-of-the-art enterprise resource planning system.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Bill for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Bill many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES W.  
SIMMONS, PH.D.

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Charles W. Simmons, Ph.D., founder and president of Sojourner-Douglass College, Maryland's only independent institution of higher learning specifically focused on educating African Americans.

Like Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass, for whom the college is named, Dr. Simmons has devoted his life to helping others obtain the education and skills necessary to succeed both professionally and personally. Through his efforts, Sojourner-Douglass College has helped thousands of working adults become confident, self-reliant community leaders and decision-makers.

Dr. Simmons served in the U.S. Marine Corps and graduated from Antioch College. After graduating from college, he dedicated his life to empowering African Americans through education. In 1972, he established the Home-stead-Montebello Center of Antioch College with just 13 students in donated space in east Baltimore. In 1980, the school was accredited under a new name, Sojourner-Douglass College. Today, it serves more than 2,000 students in locations throughout Maryland, as well as in Nassau, Bahamas.

Because of Dr. Simmons' vision, many more African American adults have obtained the skills necessary to improve not only their own lives, but the communities in which they live.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the achievements of Charles W. Simmons, Ph.D. His vision and commitment to the education and self-determination of African Americans is an inspiration to all who want to ensure that others have the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. Speaker, on rollcalls Nos. 241 and 242, I was delayed due to weather related issues. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRY  
CLINTON

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the outstanding citizens of my District.

Jerry Clinton is a native St. Louisan who is Chairman and CEO of Grey Eagle Distributors. Grey Eagle employs more than 175 people in St. Louis and has been recognized as one of America's premier Anheuser-Busch wholesalers.

Through Grey Eagle and his own personal generosity, Jerry Clinton provides financial support to hundreds of philanthropic organizations in the St. Louis area each year. One such organization is The St. Louis Backstoppers, an organization which assists the families of police officers and firefighters who lose their lives in the line of duty. Jerry created and sponsors the Budweiser "Guns 'N' Hoses" annual event that features friendly sports competition between area police and firefighters. The event has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for The St. Louis Backstoppers.

Jerry's vision as a civic leader found its greatest expression in his pivotal role in the construction of one of St. Louis' most significant public buildings, the Edward Jones Dome. St. Louis residents benefit extraordinarily from his dedication and vision for a domed stadium in the downtown area. Not only did the Dome return St. Louis to the ranks of the NFL, but it provides a venue for numerous concerts and cultural events, and has hosted both Pope John Paul II and the Rev. Billy Graham. The Dome sparked the revival of professional sports in St. Louis, as reflected in the Bowl victory and the selection of St. Louis to host the 2005 Final Four NCAA basketball tournament.

In addition to providing a location for world-class sporting and cultural events, the Edward Jones Dome has proven to be an important economic engine, attracting major conventions to St. Louis that would have gone to other cities apart were it not for Mr. Clinton's financial leadership in the development of the Dome.

Having joined Grey Eagle as a dispatcher/cashier when it opened in 1963, Jerry Clinton personifies what is possible in America with hard work and dedication. His generosity and hard work have made St. Louis a better place for all its citizens. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring this fine American today.

HONORING WEBSTER  
ELEMENTARY SCIENCE TEAM

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor four students from Webster Elementary School in Webster, Florida. These gifted and dedicated 6- and 7-year-olds were recently honored as the Southeast Division Elementary School Champions in the 2005 National Toshiba/NSTA Explora Vision Awards Contest.

Each year the National Toshiba/NSTA Explora Vision Awards Contest is held for K-12 students throughout the United States and Canada. This year, the contest received more than 4,000 entries. Webster Elementary's website and research project was selected as the top entry for the entire Southeast Region.

Webster's student team was Dylan Brannen, Erin Tuten, Micah Lanham and Matthew Garrepy. Their coach was Mrs. Lynn Thomas and the team mentor was Mr. Kevin Garrepy.

The national contest required the students to conceive an invention that was both innovative and creative, combining imagination with scientific principles. Once the team was selected as the Southeast Champion, they entered the semifinal round where their challenge was to design five real web pages and a prototype of their invention. They should be commended for their successes.

Each member of the team received a framed certificate and a VCR/DVD player for their winning project. A Toshiba representative presented the students with the certificate and player and gave Webster Elementary a new laptop to use to complete the project.

Mr. Speaker, these students should be applauded for their hard work and innovation. Dylan Brannen, Erin Tuten, Micah Lanham and Matthew Garrepy have shown the ingenuity and hard work that all schoolchildren should strive for.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS FROM  
SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the participation of students from the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio in the National History Day competition. The students are from Shaker Heights High School, and they will be competing this week at the University of Maryland.

National History Day is a year-long education program that engages students in grades 6-12 in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Students produce dramatic performances, imaginative exhibits, multimedia documentaries and research papers based on research related to an annual theme. These projects are then evaluated at local, state, and national competitions.

Steven Aviram, Katharine O'Gorman, Miriam Mack, Samantha Miller, Rebecca Glazer, Hannah Engel-Rebitzer, Nteni Nlandu, Annie Sivertson, Laura Stern, Michael Stavits Bohl, Emily Krassen, Kelly Jackson, Nate Bixenstine, Tom Chokel, Andrew Wiedemann, Sarah Sy and Carter Wang are the 17 students from Shaker Heights High School that will be representing the State of Ohio at the national competition. I take great pride in the students of my district and it always give me great joy to see them distinguish themselves nationally.

HONORING JOHN L. BURRIS

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and achievements of civil rights attorney John L. Burris of Oakland, California. Throughout his legendary career, John has provided hope and help to people who fall victim to the inequities inherent in our justice system. A leading civil rights advocate for more than 25 years, John has changed the

course of thousands of lives through his work on behalf of individual clients, and through the systemic changes his work has affected.

John was inspired to enter the legal profession after interviewing a number of lawyers in the black community for a research paper he was writing as a student at U.C. Berkeley's Haas School of Business. While working as an accountant and later attending business school in the late 1960s, he was deeply moved by the struggle for civil rights. During these socially and politically volatile years, he was affected most by the use of attack dogs and other brutal tactics by the police against peaceful civil rights activists. After successfully completing his MBA at Haas, where he helped found the National Black MBA Association and served as the president of the local chapter, he entered U.C. Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1970 to study criminal defense and civil rights law.

John first made his mark in the civil rights arena with the publication of the "Burriss Reports I and II," which were the culmination of his investigation into the shooting of 15-year-old Melvin Black by Oakland police officers in 1979. Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson appointed John as an independent investigator of this case, and his findings provided an in-depth evaluation of flaws inherent in the law enforcement system, and of the urgent need for reform. The result for John has been over two and a half decades of work dedicated to redress for individuals and systemic reform that will decrease the number of people who need this kind of assistance. Furthermore, throughout his professional career, he has taken on extensive pro bono work, helping countless individuals and families to get their cases handled with efficiency, efficacy and compassion in a legal system that where these attributes are often lacking.

Though John's service to our community in the area of civil rights is truly unparalleled, his devotion to improving the lives of others extends far beyond the realm of direct legal assistance. In addition to his active membership in the National Bar Association, the American Association of Trial Lawyers and the National Lawyers' Guild, he was a founding member of the California Association of Black Lawyers and has done presentations and advocacy work in areas including sexual harassment, racial profiling, affirmative action, hate crimes and cameras in the courtroom. John has spoken in churches around the Bay Area on topics such as leadership, diversity and black family life, and has sponsored local youth athletic teams for over ten years.

John has also spoken at a number of local institutions of higher education, such as U.C. Berkeley, Golden Gate University, Vista Community College, and the law schools at Berkeley, Hastings, and Stanford University. At each institution he has taken the time to reach out to and mentor students at various stages of their education, providing them with advice and guidance, and often times employing them at his law offices. His legal work and community service have been recognized in a number of different forums throughout his life, and he has received dozens of prestigious awards such as the Clinton White Outstanding Trial Advocacy Award, the Pueblo Local Hero Award, and the Peace and Justice Award from California State University, Sacramento's Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution.

On June 11, 2005, the friends and family of John Burriss will gather to celebrate the sem-

inal achievements and tireless advocacy that have marked his career. In Oakland and across the country, John is known for being the champion of people whose rights, and indeed whose humanity, have been ignored by the law enforcement and criminal justice systems. As a result of John's commitment to helping others, thousands of lives have been changed, and on behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I salute and thank him for his service to Oakland, the Bay Area, the state of California and our entire country.

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TRIBUTE TO PATRICK L. CONNOLLY: A MAN OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND CARING

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**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the late Patrick L. Connolly, a long-time resident of Miami and a person who unselfishly donated his time, intelligence and efforts to helping improve the educational opportunities for thousands of Floridians as a Board Member of Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida.

Mr. Connolly was a special kind of man who really had two careers in his lifetime. He built a very successful career in the delivery business in both the Minneapolis and Atlanta markets. He served as president of Air Courier Dispatch Inc. of Minnesota, as Chairman of the Board for Mail Dispatch Inc., and as president of Courier Dispatch in Atlanta.

When he retired from his business to live in South Florida, he was not content to sit back and simply enjoy the fruits of his labor. He became actively involved in the community, joining the Board of Trustees of what was then Barry College for Women in 1978, and remained an active member of the board for 27 years until he passed away last week. During this time, he planned and oversaw the growth of Barry into a major educational institution with a national reputation in health sciences and minority education. He helped establish a scholarship in the name of Barry's 4th president, Sister Trinita Flood. He also led an executive council which helped revise the bylaws for the Advisory Board of the Andreas School of Business. He donated generously to Barry's capital campaigns, earning the designation as member of the Society of Founders. He became a member of the University's Covenant Society, by remembering Barry in his estate planning.

Mr. Connolly's name will always be associated with the institution he loved, Barry University. He embodied the spirit of Barry through his commitment and dedication to Catholic higher education. By any standard, he was a remarkable man, and he will be missed by his family, his friends, his extended family at Barry University, and by the countless people he never met who were given opportunities in life because of his efforts.

HONORING HIS HOLINESS  
KAREKIN II

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch-Catholicos of All Armenians and universal head of the Armenian Apostolic (Orthodox) Church, upon his visit to the San Joaquin Valley. An event to celebrate his pastoral visit will occur on June 12, 2005 in Fresno, CA.

His Holiness Karekin II, baptized Ktrij Nersissian, was born in 1951 in the village of Voskehat in the former Soviet Republic of Armenia. In 1965, he entered the Theological Seminary of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and graduated with honors in 1971. Upon graduation from the seminary, he was ordained a celibate priest, taking the religious name Karekin.

Father Karekin then graduated from Bonn University in Germany while serving as pastor to the local Armenian community. He earned a postgraduate degree from the Russian Orthodox Academy in Zagorsk, Russia in 1979.

In 1980 he was assigned to the Araratian Pontifical Diocese, the Armenian Church's most populous diocese, which includes Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. In 1983, he was appointed primate of the Araratian Pontifical Diocese, and was elevated to the rank of Bishop and subsequently to Archbishop.

His Holiness was elected as the 132nd Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians on October 27, 1999 by delegates from Armenian Churches worldwide at a National Ecclesiastical Assembly, in the Republic of Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch-Catholicos of All Armenians and universal head of the Armenian Apostolic (Orthodox) Church, upon his pastoral visit to the San Joaquin Valley. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking the religious patriarch for his dedication to the service of all Armenians.

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STATEMENT HONORING CONSUMERS ENERGY AND THEIR EFFORTS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM THEIR POWER PLANTS

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**HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a utility company in my district that is working diligently to reduce emissions from its power plants. By investing in the future, Consumers Energy is demonstrating the understanding and foresight that sets it apart from its peers.

Founded in Jackson, Michigan in 1886, Consumers Energy has superbly served mid-Michigan by providing reliable and affordable electricity, supporting communities, operating in the best interests of the public, and respecting the environment.

Consumers Energy is in the midst of an \$815 million commitment to reduce emissions as part of current Federal and State requirements. As of March 2005, Consumers Energy

has already spent \$543 million to comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rulings, including the requirement that power companies significantly reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from coal-fired power plants. The Utility is currently making separate plans for future investments in compliance with the EPA's new Clean Air Interstate Rule and the Clean Air Mercury Rule, the first-ever rule for reducing mercury emissions. Today, the air in Michigan is clean, and the policies pursued by Consumers Energy will continue the forty year trend of improved air quality.

Consumers Energy operates in the belief that economic growth, energy demands, and environmental quality are inextricably linked. In the past 25 years, as our Nation's economy has expanded, demand for electricity and other forms of energy have substantially increased. At the same time, Consumer Energy consistently lowered emissions from its coal-fired power plants: the rate of nitrogen oxide emissions has been reduced 70 percent and the rate of sulfur dioxide emissions has been reduced 80 percent. Consumers Energy is actively planning to reduce these emissions even further as it implements the new Clean Air Interstate Rule. In addition, the company is preparing to implement the first-ever mandate to reduce mercury emissions under the Clean Air Mercury Rule. Consumers Energy is also participating with peer companies in the Administration's voluntary greenhouse gas reduction program to reduce carbon intensity, even though this greenhouse gas is not federally regulated.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to offer my highest praise to Consumers Energy for its extraordinary efforts to address air quality in the United States. This company's initiative and forethought will not only benefit the people of the Seventh District and the State of Michigan, but the United States as a whole.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, on June 13 and 14, 2005, I was unavoidably absent and rollcall votes 241–243. For the record, had I been present, I would have voted: No. 241—Yea; No. 242—Yea; No. 243—Yea.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of June 13, I missed three Rollcall votes.

I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on Rollcall votes 241 and 242.

It was my intention to vote:

“Yes” on Rollcall 241 for S. 643—A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize State Mediation programs.

“Yes” on Rollcall 242 for H.R. 2326 to designate the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 614 West Old County Road in Belhaven, North Carolina, as the “Floyd Lupton Post Office”.

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the RECORD following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the RECORD.

#### HONORING THE GRADUATING SIXTH-GRADE CLASS OF ATLANTIC AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sixth grade class of Atlantic Avenue Elementary School for its fundraising efforts to aid South-East Asia's tsunami victims during their epic crisis. The class's touching response to an event half a world away reflects the students' broad horizons and a mature appreciation for how connected we are to others.

In response to the tsunami, these students organized a spirit week with fun activities requiring a donation to participate. During the course of this week, under Mrs. Elizabeth Smith's leadership, Jacquelyn Andrews, Claudia Biddle, Peter Capano, Tyler Carr, Caitlin Cohen, Tyler Franceschini, George Gans, Gregory Gardner, Theodore Hagenbucher, Benjamin Huber, McKenna Knoettner, Marisa Konopka, Nichole Landis, Joshua Matchett, Angela Mongoni, Alexander Oswald, Jillian Pauls, Kathleen Quinn, John-Patrick Rabena, Yelaila Ramos, Andrew Snyder, Tori Southern, Michael Wasienko, and Samantha Wentz, significantly surpassed their fundraising goals and raised an incredible \$1000 to help those in need. These students have grown into empathetic citizens and will continue to contribute their extraordinary talents to the betterment of humankind. In their dedication, ability, and contribution to the tsunami relief effort, the sixth graders of Mrs. Smith's class are an inspiration to students everywhere, and indeed to all citizens of the Great Nation of the United States of America.

On June 17, 2005, Mrs. Smith's class will be joined by family and friends to celebrate graduation to junior high school. I am certain that they will carry proud memories of their admirable efforts throughout their lives. I congratulate the graduating sixth grade class of Atlantic Avenue Elementary School for its noble fundraising efforts, and look forward to the continued success of these future leaders.

#### HONORING THE MURFREESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS SAFETY EXCELLENCE

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishment of a dedicated group of men and women who work together to protect and educate their community about fire safety: the Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Fire Department.

The department has earned the Achievement Award for Excellence in Fire Safety from the Tennessee Municipal League.

Each day, these men and women put their lives on the line to protect and help their community. They have joined with Murfreesboro Police and Emergency Medical Services to establish a top-notch first-responder program.

Residents of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, can be proud of their fire department for receiving such a prestigious award. I congratulate each member of the department for making my hometown a safe and exceptional place to live and raise a family.

#### IN MEMORIAM

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the editorial page of The Richmond Times-Dispatch of Richmond, Virginia, recently carried the names of all the service men and women from Virginia who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom from September 11, 2001, through May 29, 2005.

I submit for the RECORD a copy of the editorial, titled, “In Memoriam.” Words cannot express the appreciation of a grateful nation to the families of these brave men and women.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Virginians who have died in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in America's defense since September 11, 2001—listed in the order of their death. R.I.P.:

Marine Staff Sgt. Donald C. May, Jr., 31, of Richmond.

Marine Sgt. Michael V. Lalush, 23, of Troutville.

Army Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield.

Air Force Maj. William R. Watkins, III, 37, of Danville.

Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey J. Kaylor, 24, of Clifton.

Marine Lance Cpl. David Edward Owens, Jr., 20, of Winchester.

Army Pvt. Jason L. Deibler, 20, of Coeburn.

Army Sgt. Michael E. Dooley, 23, of Pulaski.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecker, 40, of Alexandria.

Army Capt. John R. Teal, 31, of Mechanicsville.

Army 1st Lt. Joshua C. Hurley, 24, of Clifton Forge.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael J. Gray, 32, of Richmond.

Army Spc. Frank K. Rivers, Jr., 23, of Woodbridge.

Army Pfc. Andrew L. Tuazon, 21, of Chesapeake.

Army 2nd Lt. Leonard M. Cowherd, 22, of Culpeper.

Marine Pfc. Michael M. Carey, 20, of Prince George.

Army Spc. Leslie D. Jackson, 18, of Richmond.

Army Capt. Humayun S.M. Khan, 27, of Bristow.

Army Spc. Jeremy M. Dimaranan, 29, of Virginia Beach.

Army Staff Sgt. Gregory V. Pennington, 36, of Glade Spring.

Army Staff Sgt. Robert K. McGee, 38, of Martinsville.

Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, of Burke.

Army Staff Sgt. Craig W. Cherry, 39, of Winchester.

Marine Lance Cpl. Tavon L. Hubbard, 24, of Reston.

Marine Staff Sgt. John R. Howard, 26, of Covington.

Army 1st Lt. Timothy E. Price, 25, of Midlothian.

Army Spc. Clarence Adams, 28, of Richmond.

Marine 1st Lt. Alexander E. Wetherbee, 27, of Fairfax.

Marine Lance Cpl. Brian A. Medina, 20, of Woodbridge.

Marine Lance Cpl. Demarkus D. Brown, 22, of Martinsville.

Marine Cpl. Bradley T. Arms, 20, of Charlottesville.

Army Sgt. Jack Bryant, Jr., 23, of Dale City.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Travis W. Grogan, 31, of Virginia Beach.

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obles-Prado Pena, 36, of Falls Church.

Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, of Alexandria.

Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, of Springfield.

Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, of Arlington.

Army Sgt. David A. Ruhren, 20, of Stafford.

Army Spc. Nicholas C. Mason, 20, of King George.

Army Sgt. Maj. Robert D. Odell, 38, of Manassas.

Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, of Reston.

Marine Sgt. Dayton D. Patterson, 26, of Sedley.

Marine Lance Cpl. Darrell J. Schumann, 25, of Hampton.

Marine Cpl. Christopher L. Weaver, 24, of Fredericksburg.

Marine Lance Cpl. Karl R. Linn, 20, of Chesterfield.

Marine Cpl. Jonathan W. Bowling, 23, of Patrick.

Marine Lance Cpl. Jason C. Redifer, 19, of Stuarts Draft.

Army Staff Sgt. Kristopher L. Shepherd, 26, of Lynchburg.

Army Pfc. Lee A. Lewis, Jr., 28, of Norfolk.

Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, of Falls Church.

Army Pfc. Pendleton L. Sykes, II, 25, of Chesapeake.

Marine Capt. James C. Edge, 31, of Virginia Beach.

Army Sgt. Tromaine K. Toy, Sr., 24, of Eastville.

Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas C. Kirven, 21, of Richmond.

Marine Lance Cpl. Jourdan L. Grez, 24, of Harrisonburg.

Army Pfc. Kyle M. Hemauer, 21, of Manassas.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO PLUM BOROUGH SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER

### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Plum Borough Senior Community Center on its 25th Anniversary, and recognize the exemplary performance of service that the organization provides the 4th District of Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1980 by two senior activists, Henry and Alice Corvino, the Plum Community Senior Center has been providing Plum Senior

Citizens with a "home away from home" for the last quarter century. Initially, the Plum Senior Citizens Center was open 3 days a week for 6 hours per day. Patrons, however, complained and demanded more from the Center as its popularity grew. Eventually, every activity from cards, crafts and meals were provided at the center. In 1985 a large room addition was added to the center so bingo games could be held. Today, the center is open 5 days a week, eight hours each day and has over 1,800 members. In 1992, the center began its home delivered meals program and delivers an average 40 meals per day to homebound seniors. In 1995, a multi-purpose room was added and now serves as a computer lab where hundreds of the center's members can surf the internet.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Plum Borough Senior Community Center. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of organizations like the Plum Senior Center that make the communities that they live in truly special.

#### CONGRATULATING RON CROWDER, RECIPIENT OF THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON NATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ron Crowder for his extraordinary accomplishments as the founder of the Street Works HIV prevention and education center in Nashville, Tennessee. Ron was recently selected as one often people to receive the nation's most prestigious community health leadership honor—the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program Award.

This recognition, which carries with it a \$120,000 award, is given to those who have overcome significant challenge and demonstrated an exceptional and effective approach to addressing the many health care challenges facing communities across the country. After hearing Ron's remarkable story, I can think of no one more deserving of this distinguished award.

Ron Crowder, an African-American, grew up in a home with nine other children in a segregated, impoverished section of Nashville. After dropping out of high school at the age of 17, he served his country as a rifleman in the Vietnam War. The constant fear and stress of combat led to his 20-year drug addiction and contraction of HIV. Ron turned his life around in 1991 and has been drug free for 14 years. He graduated from Tennessee State University in May 1993 with a Bachelors Degree in Accounting. In 2000, he completed the Institute for HIV Prevention Leadership Program that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Association of Schools of Public Health, and has since devoted his life to uplifting and educating others.

Ron's personal battle with drugs and HIV fueled his desire to start Street Works, which he founded in 1997 on a shoestring budget.

Using his car as his headquarters, Ron walked the streets distributing HIV and AIDS prevention information to those in the community whom no one else had tried to reach: drug dealers, addicts, prostitutes, and inner-city youth exposed to drugs and sexual promiscuity.

Today, thanks to his tireless leadership and dedication, Street Works operates two all night drop-in centers and helps ore than 5,600 Tennesseans annually, with a focus on reaching minority populations. Street Works provides a variety of HIV and AIDS-related prevention and care services at locations where high-risk behavior is most likely to occur and at the hours when most other outreach services are closed.

On behalf of the 5th District of Tennessee, I congratulate Ron Crowder for overcoming adversity and committing his life's work to improving the conditions of others through HIV and AIDS education and prevention. Through Street Works, he has brought help to Tennessee's disenfranchised and is an inspiration to all who work to end this terrible disease.

#### DEDICATION OF THE ST. IGNACE PUBLIC LIBRARY

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedication of a small town public library that was once a vision for a better place to learn and discover. The vision became a dream and today the vision is a reality. It can best be described through the words of the American Writer Normal Cousins—"a library, to modify the famous metaphor of Socrates, should be the delivery room for the birth of ideas—a place where history comes to life". On June 18th, 2005, the City of St. Ignace, Michigan will dedicate their new library that will serve as the central location to explore historic knowledge, current cultural awareness and unlock future technological advancements.

To fully embrace the significance of the work and commitment that went into the completion of this new library, we must understand the humble beginnings of the original public library in St. Ignace. In 1924, the first library began as a Civil League Library in the old City Hall comprised of only 100 books donated by the local League. For a short time following, the books were transferred to the LaSalle High School Library. However, upon the completion of the new Municipal Building in 1940, the Civic League was given a new home for their growing collection of over 1,000 volumes.

The League understood that if the library was to continue to grow at the successful rate it had been, they would need an oversight group to maintain the collected works, so they established a Library Board in 1944. Within a short 10 year period, the library had 4,000 volumes and a circulation of 10,000. In 1969, when the Civil League dissolved, the Library Board continued on with a new mission of creating a building to permanently house their library resources.

Fourteen years later, in 1983, the 10,000 volume collection moved out of City Hall and into the Spring Street building where it would

stay until 2005. In 1993 the library received its first computer and one year later began providing Internet access. Today, the St. Ignace Public Library has a circulation of over 22,000 books, videos, audio books, and CD-ROMS and has access to six computers.

The library informs me that over the past 10 years they have watched their circulation grow by 57 percent. They have issued roughly 2,000 library cards. Between the influx of people and learning materials, their 2,600 square foot building could hardly keep up with the growth. The new library, being dedicated this Saturday, is 6,600 square feet and contains a larger children's section and expanded computer facilities. In addition, the library will contain a community room for programs, lectures and public use making this library today's new town square that will bring families together to share, learn and grow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the St. Ignace Library Board, Funding and Building Committee and Steering committee for continuing the strong legacy of growth for the library and the vision to see it through. This nearly \$1.5 million structure took many partners to accomplish. This was financed through private donations, foundations and state and federal grants as well as in-kind support went into making this happen. I was happy to be able to earmark two grants in the federal appropriations process for \$175,000 and \$225,000 to help the vision of this amazing project go from dream to reality.

Just as the City of St. Ignace is the northern home to the Mackinac Bridge that connects to our neighbors in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, this library bridges and connects to neighbors next door and across the globe. Local residents now have the opportunity to connect with their neighbors through learning and activities while also connecting to those around the world through better access to technology. I applaud the St. Ignace community for their commitment to this great accomplishment that is clearly bridging them to the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BEAVER  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Beaver United Methodist Church of Beaver, Pennsylvania on its 175th anniversary.

The Beaver United Methodist Church will celebrate two momentous anniversaries this year. Not only will the congregation celebrate the 175th anniversary of its first meeting, but they will celebrate the 100th anniversary of meeting in its current location in Beaver, Pennsylvania. The church will celebrate these anniversaries with two months of activities, including plays and music recitals.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the congregation Beaver United Methodist Church in Beaver, Pennsylvania. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute an enduring institution like Beaver United Methodist Church.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES T.  
WILKERSON

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Charles T. Wilkerson, 30, originally of Columbus, Georgia, died on May 22, 2005, in Iraq. Sergeant Wilkerson was assigned to the Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment of Fort Carson, Colorado, and according to initial reports was killed when an unknown ordnance detonated. His survivors include his wife Whitney and his two children; his mother Tomasa Goodwin of Columbus; and his father, Thomas Wilkerson of Phenix City, Alabama.

Charles Wilkeson was a proud father and had been a member of both the Marine Corps and the Army, Mr. Speaker. He had a strong faith in God, and like all soldiers he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Sergeant Wilkerson died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

HONORING MICHAEL L. COOK

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, after 27 years of serving people with intellectual disabilities, Michael L. Cook is retiring as the Executive Director of Orange Grove Center in Chattanooga, TN. After receiving his Master's degree in Behavioral Disabilities, Mike Cook began his career as a direct support professional with Central Wisconsin Center and Training School. He then served as a field representative with the Accreditation Council for Individuals with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities before coming to Orange Grove in 1978. During his tenure at Orange Grove Center, Mr. Cook transformed this community organization into one of the most respected agencies in the field of mental retardation in the Nation. Today, Orange Grove has a comprehensive, person-centered program serving in excess of 650 adults and children in a variety of settings.

Mike Cook's quiet dedication to improving the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities has been the foundation of all that Orange Grove has accomplished over the years. Having served as Executive Director for more than half of the center's 52 years, Mr. Cook has left an indelible mark on every aspect of life for the people who are in their care. Mr. Cook's devotion can be best summed up in

the words of Orange Grove's vision statement: "To recognize, support, and celebrate the qualities of the individual." That has been Mike Cook's vision for the past 27 years. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute and honor Orange Grove Center's Mike Cook.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WEST  
PITTSBURG UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the West Pittsburg United Methodist Church on its 100th anniversary.

This spring, the church will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its foundation in 1905. The congregation is a source of inspiration and symbol of strength for all its members and the Lawrence County community as a whole. In order to mark the special occasion, the church will host a 4 p.m. dinner to be followed by a 5:30 p.m. service featuring former pastors who will no doubt share memories of their times at West Pittsburg.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the West Pittsburg United Methodist Church. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute an enduring institution like the West Pittsburg congregation.

CONGRATULATING ROCHE ON ITS  
ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of Roche, one of the leading healthcare innovators in the world. Roche is a specialty care company that employs over 10,000 people in America and 60,000 globally. I am proud to represent the 3,000 people employed by Roche North America at its headquarters in Nutley, New Jersey, in my Congressional District. We are fortunate that these folks chose to lend their tremendous talents individually and collectively to improving the quality of healthcare for us.

For a century now, Roche has invested in advanced research and manufacturing techniques that have yielded breakthroughs in healthcare. Founded in Switzerland in 1896, Roche's roots in America are deep and strong, dating back to the opening of its New York office in 1905. From its start in Manhattan in 1905, Roche has extended its reach to nine sites across the United States, with facilities in New Jersey, South Carolina, Colorado, Indiana, and California.

There are many examples of how Roche's commitment to deepening our understanding of human health and developing revolutionary treatments and tools has reaped benefits for Americans. Roche's discoveries have led to an immunosuppressant to help people fight off

organ transplant rejection, the creation of a new class of drugs that is used to combat HIV/AIDS where other medications have failed, and the production of the most widely used treatment for Hepatitis C, one of the foremost threats to public health today. As an industry leader in the field of diagnostics, Roche's products help patients manage their diabetes, give physicians and hospitals the ability to identify illnesses more quickly and more accurately, and tailor treatments in a way that best suit an individual's personal medical condition. These life-saving and life-enhancing products make a tremendous difference for hundreds of thousands of people around the world each and every day, and are part of why Americans enjoy the highest quality healthcare.

As Roche employees in New Jersey, and around the world, reflect on all these accomplishments on this 100th Anniversary, I believe they can take great pride in the successes they have enjoyed as a result of their dedication and industriousness. I am confident that the century ahead holds great things in store for the Roche community.

JARAMOGI ABEBE AGYEMAN

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, in tribute to Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman, an induction ceremony into the Ring of Ancestors will take place on Sunday, June 12, 2005 at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. It is with great respect that this tribute is offered as a memorial for the life of Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman, the founder and First Holy Patriarch of the Shrines of the Black Madonna of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church.

Whereas, Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman was born Albert B. Cleage, Jr. in Indianapolis, Indiana on June 13, 1911. He graduated from Wayne State University, where he studied sociology, and the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology. He was a social caseworker with the Detroit Department of Public Welfare before entering the seminary. Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman served pastorates at Lexington, KY, San Francisco, CA, and Springfield, MA before founding what became known as Central United Church of Christ in 1953.

Whereas, during the civil-rights and "black power" movements of the 1960s the then Reverend Cleage was Detroit's most eloquent and uncompromising advocate and activist for African American freedom, rights, and dignity. He led campaigns for quality education and black economic empowerment and spearheaded opposition to job discrimination, police brutality and the forced removal of blacks from the central city. Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman later co-founded the Black Slate, a not-for-profit public relations and advertising group that selects and supports candidates for public office, which helped to elect Coleman A. Young as Detroit's first African American mayor.

Whereas, on Easter Sunday in 1967, he launched the Black Christian Nationalist Movement (BCN) and unveiled a 19-foot chancel mural of a Black Madonna and child by Detroit

artist Glanton Dowdell. In 1970, Central formally became the Shrine of the Black Madonna and the Reverend Cleage was rechristened Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman. At this point he focused his energy inward, toward building institutions and developing a theology and program that would enable black people to become independent and self-determining.

Whereas, Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman wrote two books, "The Black Messiah" (1968) and "Black Christian Nationalism: New Directions for the Black Church" (1972). In 1978, he founded the PAOCC as a new black denomination, with branches in Atlanta, GA, Houston, TX, and Calhoun Falls, SC where the church established Beulah Land, which is believed to be the largest black owned farm in the U.S. Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman passed away at Beulah Land on February 20, 2000.

In special tribute, this document is dedicated in memory of the life of Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS HANNAH PILEGGI AND MR. WARREN SAKEY OF FOX CHAPEL HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Miss Hannah Pileggi and Mr. Warren Sakey of Fox Chapel High School on being named the winners of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America Essay Contest. Ms. Pileggi and Mr. Sakey will represent Pennsylvania at the NCSDA's 2005 Washington Workshops Congressional Seminar in Washington, D.C.

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America is an organization dedicated to furthering an appreciation of our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational projects. One of these projects is the annual essay contest that challenges high school students to critically evaluate a certain period of history or topic of international significance. This year's topic presented students with an opportunity to select the American President, serving between 1850 and 1950 that they most admired.

Hannah Pileggi's winning essay focused on President Harry S. Truman, pointing out the extremely difficult decision he faced in deciding whether to drop the atomic bomb in the Pacific Theatre of Operations. Warren Sakey decided to focus on Woodrow Wilson and his tireless efforts focused at achieving peace in the world through his "Fourteen Points."

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating both Hannah Pileggi and Warren Sakey. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the achievements of such fine young leaders.

HONORING "MR. DIABETES,"  
ANDREW MANDELL

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of a man who has brought a new sense of awareness to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diabetes in America. On June 16, Andrew Mandell, Executive Director of the Defeat Diabetes Foundation, and known throughout the world as "Mr. Diabetes," will be in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, as part of his "Wake Up and Walk Tour"—a 10,000+ mile journey along the perimeter of the United States.

A disease afflicting 22 million Americans, diabetes ranks among our nation's leading causes of death, and is the leading cause of adult blindness, kidney disease, heart attack, stroke, and non-traumatic amputations. Knowing no boundaries, it impacts the lives of people of all ages and from all walks of life.

One such person is Andy Mandell. An avid runner, triathlete, and martial artist, Andy witnessed his life change in 1985, when he was first diagnosed as a diabetic. Although he continued to live his life as he had, the disease grew stronger, causing him to grow weaker, to the point where he was bedridden for 20 hours a day for two years. It was then that Andy made a conscious choice and developed his own recovery program of proper diet, exercise, and monitoring. Andy also decided to share his experiences with the world, and in 1990, he founded with his brother Jerry, the Defeat Diabetes Foundation, an organization whose purpose is to educate and inform the public about diabetes and the dangers it poses through articles, lectures, and personal appearances.

On December 1, 2000, Andy began the "Wake Up and Walk Tour" in Madeira Beach, Florida. Having already traveled through the South and the Pacific Northwest, he will have logged over 6500 miles by the time he reaches Flint. Upon returning to Florida, his plans are simple: to start the walk over.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew Mandell is a shining example of triumph in the face of adversity. He is a survivor rather than a victim of his disease, living with it rather than suffering from it. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding his strength as well as his commitment to improving the quality of life for us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLYWOMAN LORETTA WEINBERG, NAMED FIRST RUNNER-UP FOR THE 2005 GOOD HOUSEKEEPING AWARD FOR WOMEN AND GOVERNMENT

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor my dear friend of more than 25 years, New Jersey Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg, who has been named first runner-up for the prestigious 2005 Good Housekeeping Award for Women

and Government. The award will be presented tomorrow, June 15, 2005, at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP). Each year, *Good Housekeeping* magazine and the CAWP honor women, in government—elected or appointed officials, career civil servants, or members of the military—for their achievements in government that have improved people's lives. Assemblywoman Weinberg was selected from over 200 extraordinary women as first runner-up for this award because of her exemplary record of public service.

As one of only 13 women in the 80-member New Jersey General Assembly, Assemblywoman Weinberg serves as the Majority Conference Leader and represents New Jersey's Legislative District 37, which includes a number of towns we both have the privilege to represent, such as Englewood, Hackensack, and Teaneck. She has spent 13 years advocating on behalf of New Jersey's women and families and has spearheaded the passage of several pieces of landmark legislation. Two of her efforts have included passing a law, which mandates that new mothers must be allowed at least a 48-hour stay in the hospital after giving birth, as well as her law that established the first child-proof handgun law in the nation. Her leadership roles also include being the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and Vice-Chair of the Family, Women and Children's Services Committee. Aside from her professional work, Loretta is above all devoted to her children, grandchildren, her entire family, and her many, many friends.

Founded in 1971, the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) is a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey. The CAWP mission is to promote greater knowledge and understanding about women's participation in politics and government and to enhance women's influence and leadership in public life. This is the eighth year the CAWP has participated along with the Ford Foundation in administering the Good Housekeeping Award for Women and Government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions that New Jersey Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg has made, that make the lives of all New Jerseyans so much better. I would like to acknowledge Loretta's lifetime of good works and dedication. I am proud to call her my friend.

CONGRATULATIONS, GEORGE  
SACCO

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate George Sacco on receiving the "Silent Defender" award from the International Code Council Foundation.

George, who is currently the fire marshal for O'Hara Township, was selected among more than 30 applicants from around the world. Mr. Sacco has held several different job titles during his incredible 76 years of dedicated service including fire chief and president of the Allegheny County Fire Chiefs Association. He has twice been named the Allegheny

County Fireman of the Year and continues to mentor aspiring firefighters, teaching courses ranging from hydraulics and arson investigation to home fire safety. Currently, he is the oldest fire instructor in age and service in the entire state of Pennsylvania.

The "Silent Defender" award is given to a person or organization that exemplifies the selflessness, dignity and credibility of the profession and dedication to safety. According to his peers, George personifies all of those qualities and continues to instill them in future generations of firefighters. Mr. Sacco received the award May 16th during the Building Safety Week at the annual International Code Council Foundation Dinner in Washington, D.C.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring George Sacco. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as George who truly embody the spirit of public service.

INTRODUCING THE WORKING  
FAMILIES GAS TAX CREDIT ACT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will go a long way to reducing the burden placed on American consumers due to escalating gas costs.

My bill, the Working Families Gas Tax Credit Act, provides a \$250 tax credit to individuals who make \$25,000 or less, and \$500 for joint filers who make \$50,000 or less, if the cost of a gallon of gasoline over a taxable year has increased from the previous year by more than twice the rate of inflation.

The credit will increase annually at an amount equal to the rate of inflation. The cost for a gallon of gasoline is based on the U.S. Regular All Formulations Retail Gasoline Prices, prepared by the Energy Information Administration of the Department of Energy.

Except for housing costs, low- and middle-income households in the United States spend more of their earnings on transportation than anything else. This minimal credit would go a long way to helping low- and middle-income families cope with escalating gas costs and limited resources.

I ask for my colleagues' support, and I urge the House Leadership to bring this bill to the floor swiftly for its consideration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SER-  
VITUDE AND EMANCIPATION AR-  
CHIVAL RESEARCH CLEARING-  
HOUSE (SEARCH) ACT OF 2005

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Servitude and Emancipation Archival Research ClearingHouse (SEARCH) Act of 2005, companion legislation to a bill soon to be reintroduced by Senator LANDRIEU

of Louisiana. The SEARCH Act would authorize the creation of a national database of servitude and emancipation records within the National Archives.

Mr. Speaker, for most Americans, researching their genealogical history involves searching through municipal birth, death, and marriage records—most of which have been properly archived as public historical documents. However, African Americans in the United States face a unique challenge when conducting genealogical research.

Due to slavery and discrimination, and their residues, African-Americans were denied many of the benefits of citizenship that produce traceable documentation such as voter registration, property ownership, business ownership, and school attendance. As a result, instead of looking up wills, land deeds, birth and death certificates, and other traditional genealogical research documents, African Americans must often try to identify the name of former slave owners, hoping that the owners kept records of pertinent information, such as births and deaths. Unfortunately, current records of emancipation and slavery are frequently inaccessible, poorly catalogued, and inadequately preserved from decay.

Although some states and localities have undertaken efforts to collect these documents with varying degrees of success, there is no national effort to preserve these important pieces of public and personal history or to make them readily and easily accessible to all Americans. While entities such as Howard University and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Library have extensive African American archives, the SEARCH Act would create a centralized database of these historic records. This database would be administered by the Archivist of the United States as part of the National Archives.

The SEARCH Act would also authorize \$5 million for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to establish the national database, as well as \$5 million in grants for states and academic institutions to preserve local records of servitude and emancipation.

On behalf of the many African Americans throughout the United States, and in recognition of the observance of June 19th as African American Emancipation Day or Juneteenth, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the SEARCH Act. I believe that this legislation will be a vital step in resurrecting the rich history of African Americans and the vital role that they played in building America. This legislation is not only a means by which African Americans can trace their lineage, but also as a means by which our nation can preserve historically comprehensive and accurate information for generations yet unborn.

Author Maya Angelou once said that "No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place." Let there be no mistake Mr. Speaker, the SEARCH Act will provide African Americans an opportunity to forge a crucial nexus between the past and the present. Just as important, it will give our nation an opportunity to continue to correct the unintended consequences of the past.

Join me in ending the horrible legacies of slavery and discrimination by giving African Americans a real chance to understand who they are and from whence they came.

RECOGNIZING QUAKER VALLEY  
HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Quaker Valley High School on being named one of Newsweek Magazine's top American Public High Schools.

Quaker Valley High, located in Leetsdale Pennsylvania, was recognized for its high academic standards and student scores on Advanced Placement tests. The school's Superintendent, Jerry Longo, takes pride in the fact that Quaker Valley offers its students a "well rounded curriculum, that combines traditional academic courses with the arts and sciences, technology, community service and a second language." The students of Quaker Valley also display a well rounded attitude with 80% of the student body participating in extracurricular activities.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Quaker Valley High School on this wonderful achievement. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the achievement of such a fine institution that plays such a vital role in the development of the future leaders of tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 241 and 242, I was absent because I was detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 241 and 242 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATIONS TO WEST  
PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the West Penn Allegheny Health System on the Grand Opening of a Joslin Diabetes Clinic at the Citizens Ambulatory Care Center in New Kensington, Pennsylvania.

The Joslin Center for Diabetes and the Joslin Clinic are international leaders in diabe-

tes management, research and education. The Joslin Diabetes Clinic, as part of the West Penn Allegheny Health System, will provide a variety of services including diagnostic imaging, laboratory services, chemotherapy, outpatient surgery and an Urgent Care Center. It is estimated that over 18 million people living in America today have diabetes, 13 million of whom have been diagnosed. That leaves over 5 million Americans unaware of the fact that they have the debilitating disease. The Alle-Kiski Medical Center's primary service area includes 200,000 residents and it is estimated that 16,000 people are suffering from diabetes, while 6,000 are still undiagnosed.

The West Penn Allegheny Health System and the Joslin Diabetes Center will employ medical directors and physicians that are board certified in internal medicine and endocrinology. The Clinic will also consist of diet, exercise and mental health professionals and will oversee aggressive patient education and public awareness initiatives aimed at detection and treatment of Diabetes.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the West Penn Allegheny Health System on bringing a world leader in diabetes detection, research and management to the Alle-Kiski Area. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the achievements of fine institutions that truly improve the lives of the citizens that benefit from their services.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF RICHARD PRICE FROM THE  
CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH  
SERVICE (CRS)

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my appreciation for the outstanding service that Mr. Richard Price of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) has provided to the U.S. Congress. In June, Mr. Price is retiring from CRS after 32 years of service. In his position at CRS, Mr. Price has been an invaluable asset to Congress both through his own work analyzing major health care legislation, and in his tireless efforts to guide other analysts in Health and Medicine unit.

Over three decades at CRS, Mr. Price has worked on or supervised work on most, if not all, of the major health care legislation that Congress has considered. Mr. Price is a recognized expert in Medicare and Medicaid, the major U.S. health care financing programs; his particular areas of expertise span most aspects of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement policy, public health service programs and long-term care issues, including Medicaid eligibility and nursing home reform. His contributions to the development of legislation in these areas have been substantial. Through thoughtful analyses, balanced presentations, and clear explanations, Mr. Price has also helped countless Congressional staff understand the effect of the legislative proposals being considered. The importance of his dedicated support to the Ways and Means Committee when major health legislation was pending cannot be understated. We have re-

lied on the CRS staff through the years both for analytical and technical assistance during consideration of major legislation and for help in writing up reports to accompany bills that move through the Committee and the Congress. Mr. Price has played a key role in these processes.

In addition to his own work on legislation, Mr. Price has been responsible for managing an array of CRS analysts who assist Congress across a broad spectrum of health care issues, including those related to Medicare, Medicaid, the Public Health Service, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and the Veterans Administration. In his position as section head in the Domestic Social Policy Division at CRS, Mr. Price was instrumental in building the health care staff of CRS into a large team of experienced senior analysts.

His service to Congress in the analysis and development of policy alternatives affecting the range of private and public health care programs, his ability to conceptualize complex public policy issues, as well as his leadership of staff who work on many varied and complex health care issues, set the highest standards for assistance provided by CRS in service to the Congress. I am grateful for his assistance through the years, and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

AN ARTICLE BY MR. LEE JACKSON

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in today's record the following article by Mr. Lee Jackson, a constituent of mine who is battling a perverse tax law. Mr. Jackson and several other individuals were the target of a frivolous lawsuit that rightfully was dismissed for its lack of merit. Mr. Jackson and his fellow defendants—all totally blameless—spent many thousands of dollars in legal fees fighting the meritless suit. They understandably filed their own lawsuit against both the original plaintiffs and the plaintiffs' law firm. However, they cannot reach a monetary settlement for damages because our tax code treats all proceeds from such a settlement—even the portion Mr. Jackson owes to his attorneys—as taxable income for Mr. Jackson. As a result, Mr. Jackson literally cannot afford to settle his case because he will owe more in income taxes than he receives from the settlement! Furthermore, he cannot deduct his attorneys fees because of the alternative minimum tax. Mr. Jackson's story, as told below, provides a vivid example of why Congress must change the tax code to ensure that attorney fees are deemed taxable income to the attorneys who actually receive them, not their clients.

TAXING JUSTICE

*"It is in justice that the ordering of society is centered."* Aristotle

*"Justice is the constant and perpetual will to allot to every man his due."*—Domitus Ulpian

(By Lee Jackson)

There is perversity in using tax policy to reduce the numbers of frivolous lawsuits. Courts were developed in the first place to adjudicate impartially the relative merit of

one person's argument over another's in a dispute. The controlling premise was that courts were best able to sort through facts and opposing arguments in specific cases and arrive at impartial resolutions.

Distrust in the courts has upset the delicate balance between the legislature and the judiciary. When judges pick and choose the laws they will or will not enforce; when they dictate new law from the bench; when their standard strays from the Constitution and looks to current popular thinking and foreign decisions; or when judges bow before the force of political money during confirmation re-election cycles; when those things happen, citizens lose confidence in the ability to achieve justice, and turn to the legislature for relief. Therein lies new danger.

Courts are uniquely suited to try the facts of particular cases. Legislatures are not. However, legislatures must react to concerns of constituents, and so they have sought solutions as Americans pressed them to weigh in on the perceived high volume of seemingly frivolous cases that drove up medical and other costs, and seemed to precipitate a downward spiral in quality of crucial services.

Attending these issues were actions of legislatures, courts, and executive branches of government. Take the case of Cynthia Spina, the Illinois Forest Preserve policewoman who won a judgment against her employer after a six-year sexual-harassment lawsuit. Instead of netting \$300,000 after paying \$1 million to her attorney, she was taxed \$400,000 by the IRS. The law that made such travesty possible was promulgated in 1996 that differentiate between types of damages. Gone was the concept of damages being a monetary amount determined by a jury as the amount necessary to bring a plaintiff back to equilibrium. Justice is now a taxable event.

A new premise seems to permeate the land: That all plaintiffs are suspect, and likely to be greedy money-grubbers forwarding spurious complaints. Such a premise does a disservice to juries whose members receive negligible compensation for their services and to the vast majority of plaintiffs who turn to courts as a last resort.

Consider our case still pending in California. My partner and I appealed to the FBI and the SEC for alleged corporate malfeasance. We also alerted the public via the Internet. For our trouble, we, along with friends and family were sued personally for \$60 million. The courts in California found we had done nothing wrong and further, that we were sued primarily to silence us.

In effect, the courts in California were used as a weapon to interfere with our rights to free speech. Along the way, this case resulted in a binding precedent extending First Amendment rights to the Internet. That precedent has been used all the way to the US Supreme Court as well as in several state supreme courts.

Left with hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal bills accumulated for our defense, we sought to recover through the courts. As we proceeded, we became aware of the Spina case, and feared that the same tax provisions could apply to us.

What we found was even more perverse. Spina's debacle resulted because the attorney's fee was charged as income to her, and then Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) was applied. In tax court, Spina pleaded the unfairness with the judge, who sympathized with her but said his hands were tied by the law (a fine time to be a strict constructionist! I think it intuitively obvious to the casual observer that a US government that taxes a citizen more than the citizen receives is breaking a Constitutional proscription somewhere!).

In the California case, we (the erstwhile defendants) became plaintiffs in pursuit of recovery of our legal expense and other damages. It is worth mentioning that our wives were also sued, and another couple as well. Neither our wives nor the other couple were even alleged to have done anything wrong—they were sued in order to bring pressure on us. My partner and I live in Texas. The other couple lives in Maine.

We soon learned of a difference in treatment depending upon residence. In Texas, the legislature had defined attorneys' fees as belonging to attorneys, and therefore not taxable to plaintiffs. In Maine, no such determination had been made. Also, the Federal District court in which Texas lies had decided that damages were not subject to Alternative Minimum Taxes. The federal court district in which Maine lies had decided the opposite. As a result, the Maine plaintiffs could expect to realize an after-tax net that would have been an estimated 1/5 of the net that the Texas plaintiffs could have expected on the same estimated award. Ironically, all we plaintiffs in our case had been subjected to the exact same set of circumstances; we would have appeared together in the same court; and, if damages were awarded, they would have been determined by the exact same jury.

Enter the Supreme Court. In January, 2005, the Supreme Court issued a decision that decreed equal federal tax treatment among all plaintiffs across the breadth of the United States; that attorneys' fees should be taxed to plaintiffs; and that Alternative Minimum Taxes apply. In effect, the Supreme Court's decision put almost all plaintiffs in the same tax position as Spina. Taken to its logical and viable extreme, this decision puts civil courts off limits as an alternative to violence to resolve bona fide disputes.

There is an exemption to that decision. Inspired by the Spina case, Congress last year passed the Civil Rights Tax Relief Act. It provided that, in Civil Rights cases, attorneys' fees would not be taxed to plaintiffs (on the basis that the amount had been taxed twice—first to plaintiffs, then to attorneys). Unfortunately for Spina, the law was not made retroactive, so as of this moment, she still contends with the IRS over her tax bill. However, other plaintiffs with similar cases realized tremendous relief.

Not so for us in our California case, and thousands of other plaintiffs also facing ruinous taxes after winning their cases. Clearly the courts in California were used as a weapon to infringe on our civil rights. However, in that underlying case, we were then defendants. When we filed suit to recover damages, the case was characterized differently and was no longer, technically, a civil rights case. Our dilemma had been to seek court assistance to recover, or face paying our legal expense for our own defense in the underlying case for years to come. It did not occur to us at the time we filed with the court that we could win and end up owing an even greater amount to the IRS.

That is the effect of the Supreme Court ruling. Because ours is technically not a civil rights case, we do not enjoy the benefits of the exemption inspired by the Spina case. We had properly appealed to our government for help, and the government has now placed us in a position where our own best interests are indeterminate, so we cannot settle (ironic, since the intent of most tort reform has been to encourage settlement). When a jury makes an award, the tax exposure will likely be ruinous. Another irony is that the higher the award, the greater our tax exposure. And we are middle-class citizens.

The basis on which the Supreme Court decided that attorneys' fees are taxed as income to plaintiffs is that plaintiffs pay at-

torneys; that the amount they pay comes to them as a result of the award; that money to pay attorneys was something they did not have prior to the award, and therefore coming, as it would from the award, must be income. The rationale is held irrelevant (in contingency cases) that attorneys receive payment only if and after an actual award is received and that there is shared risk between plaintiff and attorney.

There is another problem with taxing awards as income, and this is even more poignant. As mentioned earlier, awards are a jury's determination of the monetary equivalent of restoring a client to equilibrium (without consideration for tax consequences). By definition, plaintiffs owned that equivalent value prior to the need to seek court intervention and thus is not income.

Where back wages are sought and won, obviously income is received. However, even in those cases there should be no more taxes assessed or collected than would have been had the plaintiff been paid normally.

Another major factor that should weigh in favor of plaintiffs and obviate taxes on awards is that courts, state legislatures, and Congress establish the rules under which a citizen seeks justice. A plaintiff going into court in pro per is in extreme jeopardy of losing over factors as innocuous as presenting the case in a form that violates local-court determined rules. When citizens are sued, they often have no choice but to retain the very best legal expertise possible. When they win their cases and are left with oppressive debt, they should have recourse to the courts for relief without incurring even more horrendous debt to the government. The idea is laughable that people would willingly choose to spend their hard-earned income and scarce time to be in court for recreation (i.e. the "pursuit of happiness").

The concept of exemptions presents its own difficulties. By legislatively determining that some cases are entitled to favorable tax treatment over others, lawmakers are making judgments over the relative merits of cases in advance of either a judge or jury examining specific facts. On its face, such policy screams violation of Constitutional equal protection and equal access to the courts. Justice is no longer blind. And to the extent that such laws continue, the Federal government becomes complicit in chilling citizen participation on issues such as the ones in our case in California. Bad guys already know this, and they know that as a result, they can do bad things to good people with impunity. The combined branches of government have evolved those conditions.

At present, there is legislative effort under way to cure the situation for plaintiffs excluded by current exemptions. There is also a strong Congressional move to abolish AMT altogether. (That would be a great thing for the country, but a subject for another time.) A danger for plaintiffs is that, should AMT be abolished, a strong sense could I devolve that the plight of plaintiffs would then be resolved. Such is not the case.

AMT only increases the degree of travesty. Eliminating them for plaintiffs still leaves them exposed to ordinary tax rates (think of an ordinary citizen paying taxes on a \$1 million award, half of which goes to pay attorneys, and much which goes to pay other expenses. The citizen could still be in a break-even or deficit position, and certainly one that in no way approaches restoration or justice.).

Studying ways to include others in exemptions is self-defeating. There are too many circumstances to contemplate and leaves

citizens with the dubious proposition of having to seek a legislative solution after having won in court. It further requires the impossible task of timing the court decision such that it is issued only after the passage of the legislation in order to be sure that the new law protects them (retroactivity is frowned upon in the House).

The real issues are: Should any legislature ever be deciding the relative merit of any civil dispute over any other civil dispute by creating rapacious tax laws and then establishing exemptions? (As soon as they do so, they create violations of equal protection and access.) Should the government ever be entitled to a share of what a jury has decided is the amount required to restore a plaintiff to equilibrium? (Every dollar taxed on an award is a dollar subtraction from that plaintiff's restoration as determined by a jury after due deliberation over all facts pertinent to the case—justice becomes impossible as a practical and mathematical matter.) Should attorneys' fees be taxed to plaintiffs? (The government is going to tax that amount to the attorney. When the attorney is retained on a contingency basis, both attorney and plaintiff are entering into a transaction that is high risk with no gain for either unless they win at court. And, it is the courts, Congress, and state legislators that set the conditions under which requiring an attorney for any court proceeding is mandated as a practical matter for most citizens.)

If the answer to each of the above questions is "no" (and I think a reasonable man would conclude that is the correct answer for each of question), then the proper legislative response is easy: Define attorneys' fees as belonging to attorneys; and, do away with taxes on awards.

If both of those actions are taken, plaintiffs with bona fide complaints rightfully will enjoy a full measure of restoration to equilibrium as determined by a jury of their peers. Admittedly, that allows for occasionally rewarding miscreants. The alternative ensures penalizing law-abiding citizens who have already suffered.

Adopting the above leaves unsettled how to discourage frivolous cases. There are other ways to do that including award limits, and attorney fee caps. However, the solution cannot and must not include provisions that deny justice and impose further penalties on law-abiding citizens who appeal to their governments.

As these things are contemplated, a figurative call to arms is in order. Taxes imposed on individual citizens across the breadth of the original Thirteen Colonies in our early history were only a fraction of the burden thrust on individual contemporary citizens now carrying these burdens. These unjustly treated citizens already number in thousands; and their numbers will grow rapidly as the effects of the Supreme Court decision become felt.

It is hard to conceive of a single congressional district left unaffected. Corrective action should be swift.

Citizens that must contend with government taxes and tax collecting agencies of the government after prevailing in court are denied justice. Allowing them to negotiate to a reduced amount after the fact is neither justice nor a solution—it is a mockery and refutation of the most fundamental principles which gave birth to our great country and for which patriots gave their lives.

In contemplating concepts of taxing justice, it is appropriate to recall that plaintiffs seek court resolution as an alternative to violence; that they pay in advance for their "day in court" through normal taxes; that in entering the court, they demonstrate tremendous faith in their fellow citizens and

government; that the aim of the court is to return prevailing plaintiffs to equilibrium; and that if plaintiffs are successful, they are entitled to an assumption of having brought a bona fide complaint. To require more is to delay justice, and in that regard, it is well to remember William Gladstone's words: "Justice delayed is justice denied."

Or as Theodore Roosevelt said, "Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but in finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong." Leaving citizens stranded in bewildering circumstances that destroy the pursuit of happiness and is brought about by poorly thought out government action is wrong. Correcting quickly is right.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOMAS J. SEMANCHIK

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the entire Semanchik Family on Thomas J. Semanchik achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Thomas is the fifth Semanchik family member to receive the prestigious honor, carrying on the tradition set by his father and three older brothers.

John Semanchik III, Thomas's father, first received the rank of Eagle Scout on January 9th, 1969. He currently is ranked an Eagle Scout with three palms, has been the presiding Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop #171 for 10 years and received the Silver Beaver Award, the Boy Scouts of America's highest distinction. Thomas's oldest brother, John Semanchik IV is currently a 3 palm Eagle Scout, after receiving the rank on June 2nd, 1998. Michael Semanchik, currently an Eagle Scout with 6 palms, received the rank June 8th, 1999 while Robert Semanchik became an Eagle Scout with 9 palms on December 3rd, 2002.

The award ceremony will be held June 7th at Ingomar Methodist Church beginning at 6:30 p.m. Sadly, Janet M. Semanchik, the late wife of John and mother of the Semanchik boys will not be able to witness the rank being bestowed on her youngest son. Janet succumbed to cancer in 2003. However, her spirit still lives on in the lives and actions of the Semanchik men. I believe that it is safe to say Janet would be proud of all of her Eagle Scouts.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Semanchik family. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of citizens like these men who personify civic pride and who truly make the communities that they live in better.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID P. SKINNER

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exceptional service of Dr. David Skinner to the United States Navy.

Dr. Skinner is retiring at the end of May after more than three decades of service at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City (NSWCPC). Dr. Skinner has served the Navy most recently, with a national focus as the NAVSEA Product Area Director for Littoral Warfare Systems. In this capacity, Dr. Skinner was responsible for all activities in the Naval Surface Warfare Center supporting Navy and Marine Corps' operations in the littoral environment. Systems developed at NSWCPC are currently in service today helping fight the global war on terrorism.

Dr. Skinner's service has played a pivotal role in the development of systems in use today across the NSWCPC mission spectrum. His accomplishments in this leadership role have produced many results including the next generation of modular air and surface mine countermeasures systems, soon to be introduced to the Fleet; (2) Fleet introduction of the Gator Class Swimmer Delivery Vehicle; (3) Fleet introduction of a Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) with fully integrated fly-by-wire communications suite and craft control system; (4) installation of Fire Fighter Breathing Apparatus systems on all Navy ships and submarines and Coast Guard ships; (5) establishment of, and technical support for the Deployable Joint Command and Control Program Office in Panama City; and (5) unmanned underwater vehicles, computer-aided detection and classification techniques, and electro-optic sensors for mine detection, classification and identification, respectively.

During his career, Dr. Skinner held leadership roles at NSWCPC including Head of the Nonacoustic Division, Deputy Head of the Engineering Test and Evaluation Department, Head of the Submarine Undersea Weapons Defense Program, Head of the Coastal Research and Technology Department, and Executive Director of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City.

Dr. Skinner received the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award in 2001, the Presidential Meritorious Executive Award in 2002, and the NDIA David Bushnell Award in 2005. Dr. Skinner has authored or co-authored more than 30 publications and holds a patent for the Naval Continuous Tone Frequency Modulated Sonar.

A native and resident of Panama City, Florida, Dr. Skinner is also a leader in his community. His activities include working with the youth at Northside Baptist Church and coaching both youth soccer and basketball. Dr. Skinner is also a former ex-officio board member of the Coastal Operations Institute.

I invite my distinguished colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Dr. Skinner for his invaluable service to the United States Navy. His work has made, and is making, a difference to our troops and our country. He will be deeply missed. We wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS, BEAVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Beaver United Methodist Church of Beaver, Pennsylvania on its 175th anniversary.

The Beaver United Methodist Church will celebrate two momentous anniversaries this year. Not only will the congregation celebrate the 175th anniversary of its first meeting, but they will celebrate the 100th anniversary of meeting in its current location in Beaver, Pennsylvania. The church will celebrate these anniversaries with two months of activities, including plays and music recitals.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the congregation of Beaver United Methodist Church in Beaver, Pennsylvania. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute an enduring institution like Beaver United Methodist Church.

PATIENT NAVIGATOR, OUTREACH  
AND CHRONIC DISEASE PREVEN-  
TION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. BROWN, as well as Mr. DINGELL, the Ranking Member on the Energy and Commerce Committee; Chairman BARTON; Mr. DEAL, the Chairman on the Health Subcommittee; and all of their staff. And I particularly want to thank my good friend and lead cosponsor, DEBORAH PRYCE, and her staff who have been actively engaged in this effort and have been instrumental in getting this bill to the Floor today. And, of course, her own personal experiences and her family's struggle with cancer have made her such a powerful advocate in this regard. This is truly a bipartisan effort and a case study in how—if we choose to work together, across the aisle—we can really make a difference.

And we cannot talk about patient navigators without thanking Drs. Harold Freeman, Elmer Huerta, and Gil Friedell, who have been pioneers in creating patient navigator programs that can be replicated across the country—which is exactly what we're doing today.

There is no question that we have a health care crisis in this country. Not only does the cost of our nation's health care system discourage people from getting the care they need, but the sheer complexity of the system can be so overwhelming that patients don't even know what their treatment options are.

The Patient Navigator bill addresses these issues, as well as other barriers that America's families—just like New Jersey's families—face in getting the health care they need and deserve. The bill encourages prevention and early detection in order to keep the costs of health care down, and provides a patient navigator to help families navigate the complex health care system so that they get the best treatment options available when a family member is diagnosed with cancer or another chronic disease.

It will ensure that all Americans, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, language, or geography, will have access to prevention screening and treatment, and that they will have an advocate at their side, helping them navigate through today's complicated health care system.

For example, a mother who has just been told that she could have breast cancer and needs to see a specialist would benefit from a patient navigator who would help her under-

stand her diagnosis, make sure she follows through and sees the doctor, and identify health coverage options that might be available to help with the cost of her treatment. And, because that mother heard about the importance of getting regular check-ups, hopefully her cancer will be found at a much earlier stage, giving her a much better chance of survival and giving her family a better chance at a long, healthy life together.

The bill addresses what I believe are the root causes of health disparities in minority and underserved communities: that's lack of access to health care, particularly prevention and early detection. The bottom line is: the only way to stay healthy is to see a doctor when you are healthy. Unfortunately, patients in underserved communities are less likely to receive early screening and detection, so their disease is found at a much later stage and they have less chance of survival. That's why we're here today—to give those people the chance they deserve for a long, healthy life.

The Patient Navigator bill does this by replicating the successful models developed by Drs. Freeman, Huerta, and Friedell in a national demonstration project. It focuses on outreach and prevention, through Community Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, Indian Health Clinics, and cancer clinics. And it does so by providing patient navigator services and outreach in health disparity communities to encourage people to get screened early so that they can receive the care they need. Patient navigators educate and empower patients, serving as their advocates in navigating the health care system.

In addition to having visited both Dr. Freeman's program in Harlem and Dr. Huerta's program here in Washington, my constituents in New Jersey and I have seen first-hand the difference patient navigators can make in a community. I was able to secure funding for a one-year demonstration project at a Community Health Center in Jersey City, New Jersey. That program has screened more than 1,400 people and has a caseload of about 300 patients who were identified through these screenings with abnormal findings and are currently benefiting from the help of the patient navigator in finding follow-up care and treatment.

And before I close I want to share one of the most compelling stories I've heard and one of the reasons I've worked so hard to make this program a reality for more Americans. It's the story about Hazel Hailey, one of the patient navigators in New Jersey, and her daughter, Robin Waiters. Robin, who was only 36 years old, suffered severe stomach pains for 2 years and refused to see a doctor, despite her mother's pleas for her to seek medical care. Finally, she had no choice but to go see a doctor. Tragically, 3 months later, Robin died from colorectal cancer. Her mother, Hazel, tells about her daughter's last request—she made her mom promise to tell all her friends, family and everyone she could “that if your body is trying to tell you something, listen to it. You could possibly save your life.” Hazel quotes her daughter as saying, “I am dying because I chose not to get help. Fear set in and I lost out on life.” Hazel is fulfilling her promise to her daughter as a patient navigator, working every day to ensure that what happened to her daughter doesn't happen to other families. And that's why we're here today, to ensure that the Hazels across the country have the tools they need to educate and empower people about the importance of early detection and screening, and to help them navigate the complexities of the

health care system so that they get the treatment and follow-up care they need.

Again, I want to thank my colleague DEBORAH PRYCE for all of her work on this effort, as well as all of those who have worked behind the scenes to make this concept a reality. We have strong bipartisan support for this bill in both the House and Senate, and I am more optimistic than ever before that we can make this program a reality and help families struggling to afford their health care and to understand the complex system in order to get the care they need. There's simply too much at stake if we don't act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRIS  
COLLIER

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Chris Collier on being named the 2005 Lawrence County Entrepreneur of the Year.

Chris is the President of S&S Processing, a company that he established in 1990, which is located in West Pittsburg. Mr. Collier, after acquiring the mining rights to a large plot of land along the Little Beaver River, has turned his company into one of the largest suppliers of specialty soils in the Tri-State area. S&S Processing distributes specialty soils for athletic fields and playgrounds, while also providing custom blended soils, premium top-soils and composts to architects, engineers and contractors.

Mr. Collier will be honored at the 2005 Lawrence County Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Dinner to be held at the New Englander Banquet Center in New Castle, Pennsylvania. Chris was selected as the 2005 winner because he personifies the entrepreneurial spirit that is so prevalent in the Lawrence County Area. Mr. Collier has indeed had a significant impact on the community as a whole and has provided the young people of Lawrence County a rich example of what it takes to be a successful business owner.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Chris Collier. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as Chris who add so much to the community in which they live.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes numbers 241 and 242. Had I been present, I would have voted:

“Aye” on rollcall number 241, S. 643—A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize State mediation programs,

“Aye” on rollcall number 242, H.R. 2326—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 614 West Old County Road in Belhaven, North Carolina, as the “Floyd Lupton Post Office.”