

passed in May that directs the Department of Commerce to work with business and industry groups to hold a conference this fall in Washington on science and innovation, and where the United States is headed.

Among the participants will be the Council on Competitiveness, the Business Roundtable, the National Association of Manufacturers and the American Electronics Association.

EDUCATION IS KEY

Education is key to our Nation's commitment to innovation and technology prominence. I have been pleased to work with Representatives BOEHLERT and EHLERS—two members who have been leaders in Congress on promoting science and technology issues—on legislative solutions.

My proposal to forgive interest on student loans for math, engineering and physical science majors is in the higher education reauthorization bill now moving through the House.

Education and the Workforce Chairman BOEHNER and Representative MCKEON of the committee have been very supportive of efforts to advance the loan interest provision, and I thank them for their work.

The genesis for this legislation was from the book, *Winning the Future*, by former Speaker Newt Gingrich, who has done a good job of outlining America's challenge to remain the world's leader in innovation and technology.

I am hopeful that this legislation will attract more students into the science and engineering fields by offering to forgive the interest on their college loans. We must fill the critical shortage of math, science and engineering students in the United States.

The provision allows up to \$5,000 in interest to be forgiven on federally backed government loans if science majors agree to work in their field for five years upon graduating.

RESEARCH IS ALSO KEY

The House, through passage of the FY 2006 Science-State-Justice-Commerce bill, has supported funding for science education and research: \$4.38 billion for National Science Foundation (NSF) research and related activities, an increase of \$44 million above the president's request.

This is the Nation's largest resource pool for basic scientific research across all fields: \$807 million for NSF's education programs, which is \$70 million above the request; \$169 million for NASA education programs, which is \$2 million above the request; \$28.9 million for a new consolidated education program for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The measure also encourages the National Science Board to establish a commission to present recommendations for broad Federal action to address the crisis in science and math education.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that administration's FY 2007 budget include a significant investment to respond to this crisis and I urge members to make their support known.

I also urge members to read the latest article in *Fortune* if they have not done so.

All is not lost, but America is at a crossroad. It's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work on this issue, and respond to this challenge through the commitment of the administration and Congress and the American people. America's future is at stake.

GOOD HOPE PICNIC

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the residents of Lone Star, SC who are coming together on Friday, August 12, 2005 for the 90th annual Good Hope Picnic. This historic event began on the second Friday of August in 1915, and has continued on the same day every year since.

The Good Hope Picnic was founded by black farmers in this Calhoun County town as a way to market their crops. It became a holiday for many black farm workers whose white employers gave them the day off to attend the picnic.

Today, the Good Hope Picnic is a family reunion for many Lone Star residents who have moved away. Over the years, this once thriving community has lost its vibrancy and its jobs. There are few opportunities for children who grew up here, and most must leave to find work and a better quality of life for their families. Yet Lone Star remains their home, and families plan their annual vacations to come home for the Good Hope Picnic swelling the population of that small community by as many as 400–500 people on that day.

I have spent a lot of time in Lone Star during my service in Congress. I am proud to have brought a new baseball field to the community, and am currently working on funding to build a new community center. Plans are moving forward on the Briggs-DeLaine-Pearson Connector that will bring new opportunities to this area in hopes that many of those who consider Lone Star home can reconnect with their families and once again find vibrancy in their native community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the members of the Good Hope Picnic Foundation, who are descendants of the picnic's original founders. They are continuing a proud tradition that reflects the heart and hope of the Lone Star community.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN C. BALMERT

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Stephen C. Balmert of Cranberry Township, PA on receiving a Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship, sponsored by Discover Card in cooperation with the American Association of School Administrations. Mr. Balmert has been honored for his exceptional community service and solid academic performance.

Stephen was one nine students statewide that was awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$2,500. Each year Discover Card offers over \$1 million dollars in scholarships to 459 high school students who have displayed strong dedication to academics as well as service to their respective communities. This scholarship is the largest of its kind in the entire country. The Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship Program has been dedicated to

enhancing American students' educational experience and opportunities by providing funds for students to help them pay for any form of higher education.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Stephen C. Balmert. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the achievements of citizens like Stephen whom make our District great.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ARREST OF DISSIDENTS IN CUBA BY THE AUTHORITARIAN CASTRO REGIME

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for freedom in the face of fascism on the island of Cuba. Last Friday, advocates of liberty who simply wanted to hold a peaceful demonstration against the Castro government, were surrounded and thrown into jail—all for expressing their personal views.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation was founded on the principle of freedom of speech. As Americans, we should find it particularly appalling when such a basic and fundamental human right is abridged by a tyrannical regime right here in our neighboring waters.

At a time when freedom is on the move around the world, it is a shame to see the flame of liberty snuffed out by such despots like Cuba's Fidel Castro and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez.

I call on our European allies to stand with the United States and condemn the egregious abuses of human rights in Cuba and the copycat abuses in Venezuela. Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to turn our backs on those who seek freedom and democracy. Now is the time to find ways to promote freedom, security and prosperity for all people and for the United States to continue to stand firm against totalitarian regimes.

IN HONOR OF DR. JOSE MANUEL RODRIGUEZ DELGADO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, August 8th is the 90th birthday of an outstanding American scientist who deserves to be recognized and remembered. I wish to recognize Dr. Jose Delgado's scientific achievements and contributions to our understanding of the brain and human behavior. He has been a pioneer in the exploration of brain function, including how our minds work based on electrical and chemical studies in many animal species.

Dr. Jose Delgado was born in Ronda, Spain. At the age of 22 he joined the Republican army fighting against Franco as a military doctor, and toward the end of the Spanish Civil War was interned in a concentration camp from which he escaped twice and was