

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER
COULSON, M.D.

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker: whereas, Captain Christopher Coulson has devoted himself to serving his country through his deployment to Iraq with the Ohio Army National Guard; and Whereas, Captain Coulson has dedicated 18 years in the Ohio Army National Guard; and

Whereas, Captain Coulson has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Captain Coulson must be commended for the hard work and dedication he continues to put forth in protecting our Nation's freedoms and liberties.

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio, Chris's family and friends in congratulating Captain Christopher Coulson as he continues to proudly serve our country overseas in Iraq.

RECOGNIZING FLINT HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Flint Hill Elementary School as it prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Since its establishment in 1955, Flint Hill Elementary School has committed itself to lofty standards of academic and extracurricular excellence. Over the years, as the Vienna area has expanded and diversified, Flint Hill has followed the community's example.

To this day, Flint Hill Elementary School remains a distinguished and greatly lauded school in many respects, from the arts to academics. The school boasts a number of unique programs, from a Cultural Arts Program to the Flint Hill Elementary School Morning News Team to an annual science fair. The garden serves as a living learning environment, which includes a butterfly garden and a greenhouse. The courtyard is a result of collaborative effort and hours of hard work by students, parents, and teachers. Technology continues to be paramount at Flint Hill, and every class is equipped with a computer presentation system and access to the Internet.

The mission of Flint Hill Elementary School is to promote student learning and high academic standards, while providing a respectful learning environment that develops individual academic achievement and supports social and emotional growth.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Flint Hill Elementary School faculty and staff for the immeasurable contributions they have made to the community by shaping today's youth and tomorrow's future. I congratulate the school on its successes over the last 50 years and I wish it more successful years in the future. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this outstanding and distinguished institution.

COMMENDING THE CONTINUING
IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise improved relations and partnerships between the United States and the Republic of India. The United States and India have never been as committed to each other as they are today. Our two countries are two democratic nations that hold many of the same goals and ideals in common, such as supporting democratic institutions and eradicating global terrorism. The transformation of U.S.-India relations over the past four years has indeed strengthened economic and diplomatic cooperation between our two countries.

In the past year, United States and Indian officials have met countless times to address our economic and political agendas. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns, Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and current Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have all recently visited India to engage in constructive dialogue on improving U.S.-India relations. Additionally, Indian Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee and External Affairs Minister Shri Natwar Singh have met with President Bush in Washington, D.C. The visit by the Honorable Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh to the United States, including last week's bicameral address in the confines of this great Chamber also marks a commitment to the growth of our bilateral relationship.

The current acts of friendship on the part of the United States and India have demonstrated the improvement in relations and should be commended. The signing of the Next Steps in the Strategic Partnership (NSSP) initiative was an important contributor to the improved relationship between the United States and India. It addresses civilian space cooperation, civilian nuclear activities, high-technological trade and missile defense issues. Last month, both defense secretaries of the United States and India signed a ten-year military agreement. Additionally, U.S. commercial military sales to India have risen from \$5.6 million in 2003 to \$17.7 million in

2004, and are projected to surge to \$64 million in 2005. This increase in sales demonstrates the trust and promise of our partnership.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and India have made significant strides in improving our relationship. Because of that, U.S.-India relations have never been stronger. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join me in commending the continuing improvements in relations between the United States and the Republic of India. May our partnership with India be everlasting.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION AU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3070) to reauthorize the human space flight, aeronautics, and science programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3070, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005.

To support NASA's mission is to support the fundamental ideals of the United States of America: discovery, progress, freedom and imagination. President John F. Kennedy said in September of 1962 that "we set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people." President Kennedy understood the value of the exploration of space and his foresight was correct. Since its inception in 1958, NASA has accomplished many great scientific and technological feats, and NASA remains a leading force in scientific research to this day.

Innovations created by our space program have found their way into the clothes we wear, the food we eat, our national security, the medicines we use, the computers we rely on and in the vehicles that transport us. More importantly, NASA's exploration of space has allowed us to view Earth and the universe in a new way. While the tremendous technical and scientific accomplishments of NASA demonstrate that humans can achieve seemingly impossible feats, we also are humbled by the realization that Earth is just a tiny speck in the universe.

I am pleased to know that the Science Committee brought a bill to the floor that provides clear policy and funding provisions to ensure that NASA remains a multi-mission agency with robust research and development activities in science, aeronautics and human

• 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.

space flight. In addition, I am happy to know that the House has continued its investment in the Hubble Space Telescope which has provided inspiration worldwide to young and old, scientists and non-scientists alike. Hubble is one of the most important astronomical instruments in the history of NASA, and has made extraordinary contributions to scientific research and the inspiration of our youth. Finally, I am grateful that this Authorization includes language that will help ensure equal access to NASA education programs for minority and under-privileged students. The bill also properly funds the Space Grant Program which helps to promote strong science, mathematics and technology education from elementary school through graduate school.

The innovation, discovery and invention that NASA has brought to not only the United States, but also to the world is not complete. We must continue to explore the bounds of space, demand scientific breakthroughs, and enrapture the minds of children. Congress' stewardship of NASA allows our Nation to reach for the stars.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
PAUL JOHNSON AND CHARLOTTE
JOHNSON ON THEIR 80TH BIRTH-
DAYS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Paul Johnson was born on September 4, 1925; and Whereas, Charlotte Johnson was born on July 29, 1925; and

Whereas, both Paul and Charlotte Johnson are celebrating their 80th Birthdays, on this day, June 25, 2005; and

Whereas, Paul and Charlotte Johnson have exemplified a love for each other, and must be commended on their upcoming 55th Anniversary on December 16, 2005.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Paul and Charlotte Johnson as they celebrate their 80th Birthdays.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
WITH RESPECT TO COMMEMORATION
OF WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 59, a resolution commemorating the women suffragists who fought, and won the right for women to vote in the United States.

This legislation applauds women's rights activists whose commitment to changing an unjust system led to the eventual passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. As we all know, the 19th Amendment granted women in the United States the right to vote.

The women's suffrage movement began in the mid nineteenth century when Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton held the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19, 1848. Established in 1869, the National American Woman Suffrage Association fought tirelessly against discrimination and oppression, often times receiving severe punishment in response to their protests.

After only several decades, due to the progress of women's rights activists, women in the U.S. experienced advancement in property rights, employment and educational opportunities, divorce and child custody laws, and increased social freedoms. As new generations of women continued to bolster the strength of the movement, they initiated a social revolution that would touch every aspect of life.

The time has come for Congress to recognize these brave individuals who struggled for equality in the face of adversity, and ultimately amended our constitution to allow for equality among both genders. The suffragists' accomplishments are a credit to American democracy. Their unfettered commitment to equality for women should serve as an example to nations in which this struggle is still being fought today.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by again expressing my support for this legislation and encourage my colleagues' support. It should be a precedence of this Congress to acknowledge the significance of the women's rights movement and honor its leaders with a day of commemoration.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT
GENERAL RICHARD A. HACK

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional officer in the United States Army, Lieutenant General Richard A. Hack, upon his retirement after 33 years of distinguished service.

Throughout his career, Lieutenant General Hack has personified the values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions the Army has provided in defense of our Nation. As the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commanding General of the United States Army Materiel Command, Lieutenant General Hack has made lasting contributions to the Army Materiel Command; an organization that employs more than 50,000 in 149 locations worldwide to include 43 states and 38 countries. It is my sincere privilege to recognize his many accomplishments. I commend his superb service to the United States Army and this great Nation.

Lieutenant General Hack is a second-generation Army officer, the son of Colonel (Ret) and Mrs. Sidney Hack of Columbia, SC. He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps. Upon completion of the Ordnance Officer Basic Course, he was assigned to Fort Knox, KY, where he served as Platoon Leader and later Shop Officer for

the 530th and 514th Maintenance Companies. He was then assigned to Schweinfurt, Germany, as Shop Officer of the 596th and 903rd Maintenance Company and served as Commander, 42nd Maintenance Company in Furth, Germany.

Following the Ordnance Officer Advanced Course, Lieutenant General Hack participated in the Training with Industry program at Sikorsky Aircraft Company in Stratford, CT, and was subsequently assigned to Rock Island Arsenal, IL, as a Materiel Management Staff Officer and later as Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Armament Materiel Command.

After graduation from Command and General Staff College, Lieutenant General Hack was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Stewart, GA, where he served as Materiel Officer and Support Operations Officer for the 724th Main Support Battalion, Executive Officer of the 24th Forward Support Battalion, and Chief, Division Materiel Management Center.

Following his Fort Stewart assignments, Lieutenant General Hack served as the U.S. Army Europe Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics staff in Heidelberg, Germany, and then commanded the 705th Main Support Battalion, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Polk, LA. After command, he was a staff officer at the Ordnance Center and School at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. After graduation from the U.S. Army War College, Lieutenant General Hack returned to 24 Infantry Division where he commanded the 24th Infantry Division Support Command. He then served as the Executive Officer to the Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command. His subsequent assignments include: Assistant Division Commander for Support of the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Hood, TX; Commanding General, 13th Corps Support Command, Fort Hood, TX; and Commanding General of the 21st Theater Support Command, United States Army Europe, Germany.

Throughout his military career, Lieutenant General Hack has been a sterling example of leadership and professionalism. Special thanks must also be given to Lieutenant General Hack's wife, Rosanne, and their son, 1st Lieutenant Richard J. Hack. First Lieutenant Hack carries on the family tradition as the 3rd generation to serve in our Armed Forces, and is currently serving in Iraq. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Lieutenant General Hack for his service to our country. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding his past accomplishments and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on official business on Monday, July 25, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall vote No. 417, "yea"; rollcall vote No. 418, "yea"; rollcall vote No. 419, "yea."

A PROCLAMATION THANKING MICHAEL SIMPSON FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Michael Simpson has served the United States in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of the United States Army; and

Whereas, Michael Simpson is to be commended for the honor and bravery that he displayed while serving our Nation in this time of war; and

Whereas, Michael Simpson has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence, and outstanding service;

Therefore, I join with the family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in thanking Michael Simpson of the United States Army for his service to our country. Your service has made us proud.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or the ADA. This landmark piece of legislation was the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities, making it the most significant piece of civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

There is no doubt that the ADA has improved the lives of the 54 million Americans with disabilities, including 450,000 disabled adults in Wisconsin, and the evidence of this progress can be seen all around us. Thanks to the ADA, we have curb cuts, wheelchair lifts, Braille signs, accessible transit systems, and perhaps most important, the ADA has begun to change peoples' attitudes towards people with disabilities.

But as part of the recognition of the progress that has been made, it is important for us to remember why the ADA was needed in the first place. Prior to the ADA's passage, the isolation of and discrimination against people with disabilities was staggering. Many disabled Americans were not working, even though they wanted to have a job. Many did not finish high school, and many lived in poverty. The ADA established a comprehensive prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability in the areas of employment, public accommodations, public services, transportation, and telecommunications.

So while I celebrate the ADA for the progress it has brought about, the fact remains that the promise of the ADA remains unfulfilled for far too many people. According to a 2004 survey done by the National Organization on Disability, only 35 percent of people with disabilities reported being employed full or part time; people with disabilities are three times more likely to live in poverty with household incomes below \$15,000 than their non-

disabled counterparts; and people with disabilities remain twice as likely to drop out of high school. And I fear that ongoing efforts to cut the Medicaid program and dismantle Social Security will threaten the wellbeing of many more people with disabilities.

I remain committed to the goals and promise of the ADA—equality and opportunity for all Americans, and I am delighted to reaffirm this commitment as we celebrate the ADA's 15th anniversary.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DOCTOR PORFIRIO LOZANO

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Portirio Lozano, a dedicated member of the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, community in El Paso, Texas.

Dr. Lozano has devoted many years of service to El Paso in many capacities. A distinguished pioneer of El Paso's medical community, Dr. Lozano was responsible for laying the groundwork of today's osteopathic medicine practitioners in West Texas, paving the way for the integration of Medical Doctors and Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine in El Paso's hospitals. His work performing compensation and pension examinations for El Paso's VA ensured that the dispensation of entitlements for our veterans occurred quickly and fairly.

Dr. Lozano's more than 20 years of service is especially important to me because my Congressional District in El Paso is home to nearly 60,000 veterans. These brave men and women have made tremendous sacrifices for our country, and Dr. Lozano has been steadfast in providing the best possible health care for our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the 16th Congressional District and the veterans across America, I would like to thank Dr. Lozano for his selfless service to and advocacy for veterans in El Paso and the Nation.

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise as we celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Most Americans take for granted the ability to enter a restaurant, speak on the telephone, or apply for a job without fear of discrimination. But until the passage of the ADA, tens of millions of Americans with disabilities were denied these basic rights. Over the past decade and a half, the ADA has enabled people with disabilities to realize more fully their place in American society.

But the promise of the ADA remains unfulfilled. Only about one-third of people with disabilities are employed, and those with disabilities are three times more likely to live in poverty.

If we are to honor our commitment to equal rights, we must work tirelessly to open society and the workplace to all Americans. To that end, I sponsored legislation to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act and recently introduced the Federal Employees with Disabilities Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what the ADA has accomplished so far. I encourage my colleagues to join me in working to honor its promise for all Americans.

OPERATION RED WINGS—
AFGHANISTAN

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on June 28, 2005, a U.S. Military MH-47D Chinook helicopter was hit by enemy fire and crashed near Asadabad, Afghanistan, killing 16 special operations forces operators on board. These special operations forces were attempting to rescue a 4-man SEAL special reconnaissance element which had come under heavy enemy fire. Three members of this SEAL team were killed by enemy fire as they tried to evade a vastly superior enemy force.

The special operations forces were engaged in Operation Red Wings, an effort to defeat terrorists operating in Kunar province. The operation was part of a larger campaign by U.S. and Afghan forces to kill and capture fighters from hideouts in eastern Afghanistan.

On behalf the United States Congress and its people—I extend my sincerest condolences to the families of these brave Navy SEALs and Army Special Operations Aviators. They need to know that the prayers of a nation are with them at this most difficult time.

These men bravely and unselfishly answered the nation's call to defend freedom and protect America and its allies from terrorism. We want the families to know the deaths of their loved ones, their sons, brothers, husbands and fathers, will only strengthen our resolve for ultimate victory in the Global War on Terror.

I would now like to pay tribute to those that paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Assigned to the Army's 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Hunter Army Air Field, GA:

Staff Sgt. Shamus O. Goare, 29, of Danville, OH.

Chief Warrant Officer Corey J. Goodnature, 35, of Clarks Grove, MN.

Sgt. Kip A. Jacoby, 21, of Pompano Beach, FL.

Sgt. 1st Class Marcus V. Muralles, 33, of Shelbyville, IN.

Maj. Stephen C. Reich, 34, of Washington Depot, CN.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael L. Russell, 31, of Stafford, VA.

Chief Warrant Officer Chris J. Scherkenbach, 40, of Jacksonville, FL.

Assigned to the Army's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, KY:

Master Sgt. James W. Ponder III, 36, of Franklin, TN.

Assigned to SEAL Team Ten, Virginia Beach, VA:

Chief Petty Officer Jacques J. Fontan, 36, of New Orleans, LA.

Lt. Cmdr. Erik S. Kristensen, 33, of San Diego, CA.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffery A. Lucas, 33, of Corbett, OR.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey S. Taylor, 30, of Midway, WV.

Lt. Michael M. McGreevy, Jr., 30, of Portville, NY.

Assigned to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One, Pearl Harbor, HI:

Senior Chief Petty Officer Daniel R. Healy, 36, of Exeter, NH.

Petty Officer 2nd Class James Suh, 28, of Deerfield Beach, FL.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric S. Patton, 22, of Boulder City, NV.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew G. Axelson, 29, Cupertino, CA.

Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy, 29, Patchogue, NY.

Assigned to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team Two, Virginia Beach, VA:

Petty Officer 2nd Class Danny P. Dietz, 25, Littleton, CO.

A grateful Nation salutes you.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING CHILLICOTHE'S KENWORTH PLANT

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Chillicothe's Kenworth Plant has provided a new milestone truck of which immense pride is accredited; and

Whereas, Chillicothe's Kenworth Plant has celebrated the completion of truck No. 250,000; and

Whereas, Chillicothe's Kenworth Plant employs approximately 1,700 people with great distinction.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in recognizing Chillicothe's Kenworth Plant for its impressive accomplishment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 25, 2005, I was unable to vote to suspend the rules and pass H.J. Res. 59, sense of Congress with respect to the establishment of an appropriate day for the commemoration of the women's suffragists (rollcall 417); H. Con. Res. 181, supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month (rollcall 418); and H. Res. 376, expressing the sense of the House that the Federal Trade Commission should investigate the publication of the video game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" to determine if the publisher intentionally deceived the Entertainment Software Ratings Board to avoid an "Adults-Only" rating (rollcall 419). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three measures.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I had submitted an amendment made in order by the rule to strike proposed changes to U.S. economic and military aid to Egypt because of concerns I have that these changes may harm the U.S.-Egypt security relationship. I decided not to offer this amendment.

Egypt is a friend and ally of the United States and their contributions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the global war on terrorism have made important contributions to our security and that of our military personnel serving abroad. Egypt is also a source of stability and leadership in the Middle East—they played an important role in convincing Syria to withdraw its military from Lebanon and have made important efforts to support peace and security for Israelis and the Palestinians.

Consider Egypt's role in Iraq alone. From the beginning of U.S. operations there, Egypt has provided Suez Canal transits and landing and overflight rights. Egypt permitted emergency transit of the Suez Canal when the 4th Infantry Division was not permitted to stage from Turkey, saving weeks of transit time around the Horn of Africa. Moreover, since the U.S.S. *Cole* was attacked in 2000 at the entrance to the Red Sea, Egypt has provided the increased security necessary to prevent any attacks on U.S. forces transiting through the Suez Canal or other Egyptian facilities. Egypt sent an ambassador to the new government in Iraq to help support the new and democratic government that has been chosen by the Iraqi people. Sadly, the Egyptian ambassador to Iraq, Ihab ai-Sharif, was kidnapped and murdered by the same insurgents who have claimed 1,775 lives of our troops.

Egyptians, like the people of the United Kingdom, have also been the victims of terrorism committed by Islamic extremists. The recent terrorist bombing in Sharm el-Sheikh against the people and Government of Egypt was a clear strike against a partner in the global war on terrorism. The need for continued security and military cooperation between the U.S. and Egypt could not be clearer.

Because of the contributions Egypt has made as a valued friend and ally, many of my colleagues, the administration, our military leaders at CENTCOM, have expressed deep concerns that the changes to military assistance proposed in section 921 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act could significantly harm the U.S.-Egypt security relationship that has been so critical for our efforts to promote peace between Israel and the Arab world and our ability to stop terrorist attacks. I also have concerns about whether the proposed restructuring of economic aid to Egypt contained in section 921 will actually yield substantive benefits for the Egyptian people.

Mr. Chairman, my district is home to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The safety of Marines from Camp Pendleton serving in Iraq is significantly increased due to support provided by Egypt. Without the active support of Egypt for U.S. operations in Iraq, transit times for U.S. ships to the theater of operation would be considerably longer and more dangerous. Supplying troops in Iraq would also take longer and cost more. And finally, without Egyptian leadership in the Arab world, the political reconstruction of Iraq would be even more complicated and far-off.

But perhaps most important, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that our Marines from Camp Pendleton will be able to come home, and stay home, in only one way: when Iraqi security forces are finally able to provide stability in their own country. This goal will be achieved more quickly because of efforts being made by Egypt to train Iraqi security personnel.

Maintaining the close working military-to-military relationship developed with Egypt over the past 26 years is important to successfully completing our mission in Iraq and bringing American troops home. Fundamentally altering that relationship seems ill advised to me. We must be certain that the actions we take enhance his ability to fight the war on terrorism whether in Iraq, Afghanistan, or anywhere else in the region.

Mr. Chairman, despite my concerns I recognize that Chairman HYDE and I share common goals of strengthening America's security relationship with Egypt and helping the people of Egypt build strong democratic institutions and a vibrant free market economy. I would also add that I support his efforts and those of the ranking member, Mr. LANTOS, to seek new ways to strengthen U.S.-Egypt relations.

I would, furthermore, like to thank Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS for agreeing to continue to work with me and the administration in order to protect our national interests and to help Egypt achieve the economic and political reform it needs.

RECOGNIZING DAN SCHAB, MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dan Schab on his selection as Michigan's 2005-2006 Teacher of the Year.

Over his 24 year career, Dan Schab has helped to inspire and enlighten students across mid-Michigan. He has worked tirelessly to help his students explore the concept of mathematics and learn both the importance of education and the power of knowledge. In addition to his work in the Williamston School District and at Lansing Catholic Central High School, Mr. Schab has also served on the national level. He assisted in developing meaningful national education strategies through his work as an Einstein Fellow with the U.S. Senate Education Committee in 2003.

Dan Schab has been consistently recognized as one of the best teachers in America. Over his career, he has been recognized time and time again for his dedicated service to his school, his students, and his community. In

2000, he participated in the prestigious Toyota International Teacher Program. In 1987, he received the Excellence in Education Award from the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, and in 1987 he was chosen as Lansing Catholic Central High School's First Teacher of the Year Professional Excellence Award Winner. But despite these many recognitions, Dan still believes that the work he does with his students is his greatest success. His dedication to teaching can be seen on a daily basis when he stays well after school hours to offer additional assistance or develop new ways to show his students the significance of math in daily life.

Mr. Speaker, education is the cornerstone of our economy and great teachers lay the foundation for greater prosperity. I wish to extend my gratitude to Dan Schab for his many years of service to his students. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Schab for his years of dedication to teaching and his recent selection as Michigan's Teacher of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to the launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery early Tuesday morning, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday evening. Had I been present, please let the official RECORD reflect that I would have voted in favor of the following three bills: H.J. Res. 59—Sense of Congress with respect to the establishment of an appropriate day for the commemoration of the women suffragists; H. Con. Res. 181—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month; and H. Res. 376—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Trade Commission should investigate the publication of the video game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas".

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JAY BAIRD

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Jay Baird has provided outstanding service and contributions to Licking County serving two terms as County Commissioner; and

Whereas, Jay Baird has served the people of Licking County with dedication, diligence, and goodwill; and

Whereas, Jay Baird is an asset treating everyone with respect and a sense of priority, carrying out his duty to the people; and

Whereas, Jay Baird is greatly appreciated by all who have worked with him. He is to be commended for the help that he provided to the citizens of Pataskala and the residents of Licking County.

Therefore, I join with members of Congress and their staff in recognizing Jay Baird for his exceptional work and immense contributions, and wish him the very best in future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF MISS CAMPBELL GRACE HALME

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Tracy and Matthew Halme of Tampa, Florida, on the birth of their beautiful baby girl. Campbell Grace Halme was born on July 20, 2005, weighing 7 pounds, 7.5 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. Campbell has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) profoundly improved the lives of approximately 54 million people with disabilities. Before the ADA, employers routinely denied promotions and jobs to individuals based not on skill, but on discriminatory stereotypes about disabilities. The lack of accommodations in the workplace shut people with disabilities out of the job force, resulting in astounding poverty rates. People with disabilities did not even have the legal tools to fight back because no law recognized their grievances.

On July 26, 1990, George H.W. Bush signed the ADA, transforming America into a more accessible country. The ADA gave people with disabilities the right to be accommodated in the workplace, a fair grievance process for discrimination suits, equal access to public services, transportation and telecommunications. People with disabilities are no longer unnecessarily shut away; they have the ability to counteract discriminatory practices and have a fair chance to become productive members of society.

I enthusiastically support the Hoyer Resolution commemorating the 15th Anniversary of the ADA, the largest civil rights achievement since the Civil Rights Act of 1964. By celebrating and recognizing the 15th Anniversary of the ADA, Congress honors the United States' commitment to equality and justice. I hope that by recommitting Congress to the full enforcement and support of the ADA, all members will work harder to reduce the still-high unemployment rate among people with disabilities with the capacity to work. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution that recognizes the enormous potential impact of this untapped workforce in our global economy.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. AMANDA PEACH SMITH

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of my most distinguished constituents, Amanda Peach Smith. Mrs. Smith, who everyone knows as Aunt Sam turned 100 years old today.

Aunt Sam moved to Philadelphia from Elloree, SC in 1925. She lived in West Philadelphia until 1931, when she moved to South Philly. In the 1950s, she returned to my part of the city, West Philadelphia.

Aunt Sam has a close and loving relationship with her community and with her God. She has been a member of the historic Union Baptist Church since 1927, shortly after her arrival in Philadelphia. A long time usher there, she was a part of the congregation that nurtured and supported Marion Anderson, Philadelphia's most famous opera singer.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Smith is known for her love of gardening and flowers. In so many ways, she has brought beauty and joy to all of us.

I know that all my colleagues will join me today in wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

SUPPORT FOR JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to voice my strong support for the President's Supreme Court nominee Judge John Roberts. His personal qualifications are exemplary and are more than befitting for a Supreme Court Justice.

Judge Robert's educational record speaks for itself. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Harvard in only 3 years and also received his law degree there with high honors. Additionally, he served as an editor of the Harvard Law Review.

I believe that Judge Roberts will be fair and non-partisan and serve America's highest court well. According to The National Journal, "John Roberts seems a good bet to be the kind of judge we should all want to have—all of us, that is, who are looking less for congenial ideologues than for professionals committed to the impartial application of the law."

Likewise, his personal integrity is unquestionable. For example, in 1995, Judge Roberts argued the case of Barry v. Little in which he represented a class of the neediest welfare recipients free of charge before the DC Court of Appeals.

Republicans and Democrats alike have also acknowledged Judge Roberts' outstanding character. Democratic lawyers Lloyd Cutler and Seth Waxman and former Republic White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray have cited his "unquestioned integrity and fairmindedness."

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Judge Roberts offers everything we could ask for in a Supreme Court nominee. I therefore urge the Senate to hold fair and speedy hearings in order to fill this vacancy as soon as possible.

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMBAS-
SADOR ALBERT RAMDIN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin is well prepared to serve as Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States during the 35th Regular Session of the General Assembly; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin has dedicated his life to public service having displayed his vast array of talents in multiple arenas such as Senior Adviser to the Minister of Trade and Industry of Suriname, Chairman and member of several national policy development committees including the "Establishment of the Investment Fund" and "Privatization of State Enterprises" committees, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Finance of Suriname, and Suriname's non-resident Ambassador to Costa Rica, among other endeavors; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin has had an extensive history with the Organization of American States including chairing the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, and serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative; and

Whereas, Ambassador Albert Ramdin's distinguished involvement with the Caribbean Community has involved serving as Co-Chair of the Central America High Level Technical Committee and as Assistant Secretary-General for Foreign and Community Relations.

Therefore, I join with the family, friends, and colleagues of Ambassador Albert Ramdin to honor and congratulate him in his new position of Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

SUPPORTING GOALS OF NATURAL
MARINA DAY AND URGING MARI-
NAS CONTINUE PROVIDING ENVI-
RONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GATE-
WAYS TO BOATING

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 308, a bill supporting the goals of National Marina Day, and urging that marinas continue providing environmentally friendly gateways to boating.

In my district on Eastern Long Island, business associated with local marinas is important to vacationers and residents alike. The tourism and fishing industries are two of the most important contributing elements of the local economy, and marinas help these economic engines create much needed revenue throughout Brookhaven and the five East End Towns.

There are more than 12,000 marinas nationally that benefit local communities by providing safe and reliable gateways to boating. The marinas of the United States serve as stew-

ards of the environment, and they actively protect the waterways that surround them for current and future enjoyment.

The Marina Operators Association of America has designated August 13, 2005, as National Marina Day to increase awareness among citizens and elected officials about the many contributions that marinas make to communities, and it is important that Congress support this initiative.

As vacationers throughout the country flock to the coasts for well-deserved vacations, it is important that we recognize the significance of marinas. I'd therefore echo the Marina Operator's support for National Marina Day and urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 25, 2005, I was unavoidably detained on official business overseas.

I respectfully request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 417: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.J. Res. 59); Rollcall No. 418: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 181); and Rollcall No. 419: "Yes" (On motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 376).

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago—on July 26, 1990—our great Nation made a promise to the disabled community that we have a moral obligation to keep. We said no to discrimination. We said no to sanctioned inequality. We said yes to inclusion and equality.

Today marks the 15th Anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the most sweeping civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act.

I am immensely proud to have been a part of reauthorization efforts of this important legislation, and I will never forget all of the advocates for the disabled at the signing ceremony on the South Lawn at the White House.

This landmark law sent an unmistakable message: It is unacceptable to discriminate against someone simply because they have a disability. Moreover, it is illegal—in employment, in transportation, in public accommodations, and in telecommunications.

The ADA recognized that the disabled belong to the American family; that a disability need not be disabling. Disabled Americans can share in all our Nation has to offer—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

Over the last 15 years, the ADA has allowed hundreds of thousands of Americans to

join the workforce, attend school, travel, or drive a car—many for the first time in their lives. The ramps, curb cuts, Braille signs, and captioned television programs that were once novel are now ubiquitous.

However, the first 15 years of the ADA have not been without challenge. Too often, the intent of the ADA has been misconstrued by our courts, which have given it a narrow construction that its authors never intended.

To date, people with diabetes, heart conditions, cancer and mental illnesses have had their ADA claims kicked out of court because, with improvements in medication, they are considered too functional to be considered disabled.

Together, these decisions represent a dangerous chipping away at the foundation of equality which we poured 15 years ago when the ADA was enacted. And they are a reminder as we commemorate this 15th Anniversary that our work is not done.

This is clearly not what Congress intended when it passed the ADA and the first President Bush signed it into law. We intended the law to be given a broad construction, not a narrow one.

Today, let us renew our commitment to the principles and spirit of the ADA—a law that befits our great Nation, which stands for liberty and freedom. Today, let's commit to keep the promise we made when we enacted the ADA, because while its promise remains unfulfilled, it still is within reach.

Thus, I join my Congressional colleagues and demand that we commit ourselves to expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities and all Americans. Only then will we live up to the ideals of equality and opportunity.

RECOGNITION OF PETER DERBY

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, staffers do not often receive proper recognition for the hard work they do in government for either Congress or the agencies. Many of us would like to thank one of those deserving of such recognition. That person is Peter Derby, the Managing Executive for Operations and Management at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mr. Derby has announced that he will leave the SEC at the end of July. He will be leaving a legacy of hard work and accomplishment at that agency. Chairman William Donaldson praised Mr. Derby thusly: "Peter has played a critical role as a trusted Member of our senior management team during a critical period at the Commission. He was instrumental in increasing the operational efficiency and effectiveness at the Commission and served with distinction and integrity. Peter will leave a strong and lasting legacy at the Commission."

Prior to joining the SEC, Mr. Derby was involved in a wide array of business and public service ventures which left him well prepared to take over a position of such importance. Peter served as an elected member of the

Board of Trustees of the Village of Irvington-on-Hudson, NY. Derby spent a decade in Russia, where at the forefront of democratizing that nation's markets and banking infrastructure. He participated in the founding of DialogBank in 1990, the first private Russian bank to receive an international banking license. He moved rapidly through the ranks and was named Chairman of the Board of this institution in 1997. In addition, Derby founded the first Russian investment firm, Troika Dialog. Prior to Derby's time in Russia, he was a Corporate Finance Officer at National Westminster Bank from 1985–1990 and an Auditor at Chase-Manhattan Bank.

Mr. Derby worked seamlessly with Chairman Donaldson to repair the damaged image of our Nation's corporations and financial markets. In addition to improving the overall efficiency of SEC operations, Derby oversaw the creation of the Risk Management Program to create a more proactive posture. He also produced the first-ever audited financial statements of the SEC as well as leading the development of an implementation program for aligning facilities, technology and organizational systems with the agency's strategic themes.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in giving thanks to Peter Derby for his service to our Nation in a time of challenge. It is reassuring to the United States to know that there are people who will give time from their lives to help our country.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
THE KENYA CANNING COMMITTEE UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF KEITH COPE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Keith Cope and the congregation of Leesville Faith Community Chapel began a ministry for the 1,000 members of Pastor John Okinda's church in Migori, Kenya; and

Whereas, the Kenya Canning Committee is committed to collecting two separate shipments of 30,000 jars with the purpose of teaching the Kenyan congregation to properly store food through canning to reduce the repercussions of malnutrition and starvation; and

Whereas, the Kenya Canning Committee has also raised \$45,000 to supply the congregation with a tractor and are planning to raise funds to purchase a water tank all to aid in their quest to end starvation in Migori, Kenya; and

Whereas, previous shipments enabled Pastor Okinda's members to successfully can food for the first time in June, 2005.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating the Kenya Canning Committee under the direction of Keith Cope for their outstanding accomplishments and best wishes for all their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on Monday July 25, 2005, I was delayed in returning to Washington, DC from Columbus, OH due to inclement weather. As a result, I was unable to record a vote on rollcall No. 41—H.J. Res. 59, No. 418—H. Con. Res. 181, and No. 419—H. Res. 376. I support these measures and had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 417, 418 and 419.

IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST
MICHAEL R. HAYES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army Specialist Michael R. Hayes, an American hero who lost his life in defense of liberty and freedom. He made the ultimate sacrifice so that others might know freedom, and I am humbled by his bravery and selflessness.

Spc. Michael Hayes was killed on June 14, 2005 when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Humvee while he and four other Marines were providing security around a suspected explosive device near Baghdad. He was 29 years old. Spc. Hayes was assigned to the 617th Military Police Company, Kentucky Army National Guard at Richmond, KY. In addition to his family, fiancée and country, Spc. Hayes loved soccer. He founded the girls' soccer program at Butler County High School of Kentucky six years ago and was a devoted coach. He took this love from the soccer fields to the streets of Iraq where he took particular pride in seeing the children attend their newly built or refurbished schools. He wrote often of the Iraqi children and how their smiles brought him comfort. His leadership, dedication and enthusiasm will be missed.

He is survived by his mother, Barkley Hayes, fiancée, Melissa Allen, sister, Spc. Melissa Stewart, and brother, Spc. James Hayes, both of whom serve in the 617th Military Police Company.

I want to thank his family for raising such a fine man. As the father of two sons, I know their sacrifice is indescribable. Spc. Hayes leaves behind a legacy marked by courage, integrity and character. It is an honor and a privilege to represent his family in Congress. May God bless them, and may I convey to them the many thanks of a grateful Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, I was detained in Florida due to a doctor's appointment and as a result, missed the day's votes. I ask that my absence

be excused and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD shows that had I been present: for rollcall No. 417—the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. J. Res. 59, I would have voted "yea"; for rollcall No. 418—the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 181, I would have voted "yea"; and for rollcall No. 419—the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 376, I would have voted "yea."

THE STAKES IN CAFTA

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for the RECORD:

[From the Washington Post, July 26, 2005]

THE STAKES IN CAFTA

The House is getting ready to vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), a deal that would bind the five nations of Central America plus the Dominican Republic to the U.S. economy. From a commercial standpoint, it's curious that most Democrats in the House resist the agreement: 80 percent of Central American exports already enter the United States without tariffs, so the main effect of the deal will be to open the region to U.S. products. But the political argument for CAFTA is at least as compelling. While the United States has been focusing on terrorism, a new challenge has been brewing in its own hemisphere. House members should consider this challenge before voting to slam the door on Central America's pro-American leaders.

For much of the post-Cold War period, U.S. anxieties in Latin America seemed to be fading. The disintegration of the Soviet Union left Cuba's Fidel Castro without subsidies, undermining his power to buy influence in the region. The peace process in Central America succeeded, ending leftist insurgencies in El Salvador and Guatemala and leading to elections in Nicaragua that removed its Marxist leadership. Democracy already had displaced often populist dictatorships across South America; in Mexico, a pro-American, pro-market presidential candidate succeeded against the long-ruling and traditionally leftist Institutional Revolutionary Party. The remaining U.S. problem in Latin America was the drug war. Although the cartels were rich and ruthless, they were not trying to rally Latin Americans behind an anti-Yanqui banner.

In the past few years, however, an attempt has been made to revive the political challenge once represented by Mr. Castro. It centers on Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, who combines Castroite rhetoric with the financial clout of Venezuelan oil. Mr. Chavez has spread his money around the region, sponsoring anti-American and anti-democratic movements and promoting alternatives to U.S. initiatives. To counter the U.S. trade agenda, for example, he has put forward a "Bolivarian Alternative." This has given critics of the United States something to advocate. El Nuevo Diario, a Nicaraguan newspaper that is critical of CAFTA, praised the Bolivarian Alternative recently, asserting that "America is for the Americans, not for the North Americans." In Costa Rica critics of CAFTA who draw inspiration from Mr. Chavez have made no secret of the fact that they oppose the deal because they oppose the United States.

Most House Democrats don't want to hear this; they claim that CAFTA is opposed by

“pro-poor” groups in the region. But this claim is troubling on two levels. First, CAFTA would actually help the poor: it would create 300,000 new jobs in shoes, textiles and apparel; it would create a new mechanism for enforcing labor rights; and a World Bank study has found that the vast majority of poor families in the region would gain from the deal. But second, the defeat of CAFTA would help not anti-poverty movements but anti-American demagogues, starting with Mr. Chavez. For them, the retreat of the United States from partnership with Central America would be a major victory.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER KEITH
D. ATKINS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Officer Keith D. Atkins is an exceptional individual worthy of merit and recognition; and

Whereas, Officer Keith D. Atkins has acted with graciousness and selflessness; and

Whereas, Officer Keith D. Atkins should be commended for his excellence, for his leadership and integrity, and for his ongoing efforts to affect other people's lives in a positive and in a changing way.

Therefore, I join with the family whose time was enhanced by Officer Keith D. Atkins' personal tour of the Capitol, which was beyond his realm of duty, and for his accommodating and courteous attitude while assisting them throughout their day at the Nation's Capitol.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERI-
CANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the signing of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA extended landmark civil rights protections to an estimated 43 million disabled Americans, which is roughly 1 out of every 7 Americans. It established a comprehensive prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability in the areas of employment, public services, transportation, and telecommunications.

The ADA seeks to guarantee that every American should have the right to live independently and fully participate in all aspects of our society. The ADA has had its greatest successes in improving physical accessibility, transportation and communications. The ADA has also begun to change society's attitudes toward people with disabilities.

Despite this impressive progress, the promise of the ADA unfortunately remains unfilled for too many disabled Americans. In the area of employment, for example, today only 35 percent of people of working age who have a disability are employed, compared to 78 percent of people without disabilities. Federal courts have also issued rulings interpreting the ADA whereby individuals may be considered too disabled by an employer to get a job, but not disabled enough by the courts to be pro-

ted by the ADA. This violates the spirit and intent of the ADA, which was designed to protect employees from discrimination based on real or perceived impairment. Congress should take action to correct these court decisions and strengthen the ADA.

As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, I was pleased that in 1999 Congress enacted the Ticket to Work Act, which provides Americans receiving disability benefits with greater access to vocational rehabilitation services. This initiative provides tickets to recipients of both Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) that can be used to purchase rehabilitation, employment and other supportive services designed to help them secure and maintain a job. Payments to providers of these services are based on the success individuals using the tickets have in overcoming barriers and ultimately in becoming employed.

The Ticket to Work Act also created state options to eliminate the dilemma faced by many individuals receiving disability benefits—choosing between work and health insurance coverage. The Ticket to Work Act allows States to adopt a Medicaid “buy-in” program to permit individuals to maintain Medicaid coverage while still working. Finally, the measure extended Medicare Part A coverage to working SSDI beneficiaries for a total of 8½ years—4 years beyond the coverage previously provided by Medicare.

As our Nation celebrates the 15th anniversary of the ADA, let us rededicate ourselves to carry out the commitment of that historic legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to important congressional business, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below: rollcall No. 417: yes; rollcall No. 418: yes; and rollcall No. 419: yes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM
CLEVELAND

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding performance of Officer Tom Cleveland at the World Police and Fire Games in Quebec City, Canada.

The World Police and Fire Games, the second largest international sporting event, has been a longstanding tradition for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters in several countries throughout the world. This international event takes place every other year as a chance for them to showcase their athletic abilities.

This year, Tom's determination and drive led him to be one of the best among the 10,000 competitors from 51 countries world-

wide. He finished 3rd in the 400 Int. Hurdles, 5th in the 110 High Hurdles and 12th in the Toughest Competitor Alive competition.

I am proud to recognize Officer Tom Cleveland a fine citizen and athlete. We are proud of his accomplishments and to have him represent and serve the North Richland Hills Community, the 26th District of Texas, and our great Nation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JIM
CARNES ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Jim Carnes is retiring from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources after years of exemplary service; and

Whereas, Jim Carnes served the people of the State of Ohio as a State Senator from 1995 until 2004 representing the former twentieth Senate district, having over forty pieces of legislation passed into law during his terms in office; and

Whereas, Jim Carnes has been among the most well-liked and well-respected men, noted for his energetic spirit and dedication to his job; and

Whereas, Jim Carnes will be deeply missed by all who have had the privilege to work with him.

Therefore, I join with his fellow colleagues, family, and friends in thanking Jim Carnes for his service to the State of Ohio and wish him the very best on the occasion of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, I was returning to Washington from an oversight trip in Iraq and, therefore, missed three recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes on recorded vote No. 417, yes on recorded vote No. 418, and yes on recorded vote No. 419.

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE FREEMYER—
THE PERFECT OLDER AMERICAN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maxine Freemyer. Maxine Freemyer is the perfect example of a successful older American. At 93 years young, she refuses to allow her advancing age, failing eyesight or

other health problems get her down. She makes every day count.

As a long-standing volunteer at the Bent County HealthCare Center, she has dedicated the past 25 years to helping the elderly. Some of the duties she has willingly performed include serving snacks each day, communicating with family and friends on their behalf, and just spending time listening to the residents reminisce about the past.

She has received several prestigious awards for her volunteerism, including Colorado Volunteer of the Year and the Colorado Cares award, presented by Governor Bill Owens. Serving others is her passion, which helps keep her active and spry.

Maxine Freemyer's gardening abilities are second to none. Her hard work and special skill in tending to her flowers are showcased in a dazzling display of color from early spring until late fall. Her magnificent garden is a gift to her neighbors and community.

Caring, compassionate, hard working and dedicated are all words that describe Maxine. Her zest for life is inspiring to young and old alike. I am proud to represent such an individual in the U.S. Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF 20 YEARS OF SERVICE BY PASTOR BERNARD YATES TO THE ZION HOPE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend my congratulations to Pastor Bernard Yates for having served as the pastor to the Zion Hope Baptist Church in my district for 20 years.

Since 1985, Pastor Yates has led the growth of the Zion Hope congregation from approximately 300 to over 2,000 members, with three Sunday services and a major mid-week service as well. Pastor Yates initiated the Zion Hope Centre for Training and Biblical Study, founded the Hope Christian Academy, and launched the Young-at-Heart ministry. These three ministries are just a few examples of the many ministries that he has helped start within the church.

Pastor Yates is joined in much of his work by Vonda Yates, his wife of 23 years. Together, they have worked diligently through Bible studies and writing to help families live Godly lives. Vonda is known for her work with women's conferences as well, while Bernard is called upon to speak at men's conferences and retreats across the Nation.

The selfless contributions of this man are not limited to just one church; Pastor Yates has also been a civic leader, dedicating time to the Boys and Girls Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletics, a special community advisory board for the county commissioners, advisory for the Escambia County Sheriffs Office, and the Escambia County School District. His wisdom is regarded just as highly at a meeting table as it is at the pulpit.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to a man who could serve as a role model to us all. A deep sense of personal service to a congregation for 20 years is

something to truly be admired, and I am thankful for his dedication to the Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2005

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to reauthorize two important aspects of the National Historic Preservation Act. Specifically, my legislation will extend authorization for deposits into the Historic Preservation Fund through 2011 and will permanently authorize funding for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In effect, we are extending authority for the money and expertise necessary for the Historic Preservation Act to continue fulfilling its purpose.

Allowing the Act to continue fulfilling its purpose is critical. As Americans, we revere our past. The individuals, cultures, institutions and events which precede our arrival at this place and time provide insight not only into who we are today, but also who we aspire to be tomorrow. This is true for the brief 229-year history of this nation, the 513-year history of Europeans in North America, and it is especially true for the tens of thousands of years of Native American history on this land.

Preserving this rich tapestry of cultures and traditions requires coordination of federal, state, local and private efforts. The centerpiece of federal historic preservation is the National Historic Preservation Act. Enacted in 1966, the Act provides an array of tools, as well as a funding source, which are central to preserving that which came before us.

One of those tools is the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation which has two important roles under the Act. One is to assist the Secretary of the Interior in cataloguing and preserving known historic resources through the National Register of Historic Places and other programs. In addition, the Council assists all federal agencies in avoiding damaging or destroying historic resources through consultation under the Act. The Council is not empowered to control agency decision-making or federal property.

Last reauthorized for five years in 2000, the Council is made up of Agency heads and Presidential appointees with diverse backgrounds. My legislation recognizes the critical importance of the Council by providing it permanent authorization while also making several technical changes in the Council's make-up and operation.

In addition, this bill will extend authorization for deposits into the Historic Preservation Fund for the next six years. The Fund is administered by the National Park Service and provides matching grants to states and territories for a variety of historic preservation programs including statewide historic preservation surveys and preservation plans. The Fund also provides matching grants to Indian Tribes, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians and Historically Black Colleges and Universities for cultural heritage projects and the preservation of historic structures.

The source for the Historic Preservation Fund is a small percentage of the enormous

revenues generated by oil and gas development in the Outer Continental Shelf. This legislation would allow that funding to continue flowing into the Fund through 2011.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that we can move forward quickly on this legislation to allow the Council and the Fund to continue working. This legislation is nearly identical to a companion bill in the Senate as well as legislation introduced in the previous Congress which received the support of the Advisory Council, the National Park Service, and the Historic Preservation Community.

These are vital programs serving to preserve and protect the story of American and its people.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ROMAN BUHLER AND MARY JABLONICKY BUHLER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Roman and Mary Buhler have dedicated their lives to each other; and

Whereas, Roman and Mary Buhler have shown the love and commitment necessary to live a long and beautiful life together; and

Whereas, Roman and Mary Buhler have chosen share their special day with friends and family.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Roman and Mary Buhler on the occasion of their marriage.

COMMENDING THE LAUNCH OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "DISCOVERY"

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today is a truly momentous day in the history of our space program. The liftoff of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* is significant achievement for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). It is also a solemn tribute to the astronauts lost in last shuttle mission and the East Texans who helped in the wake of that tragedy.

Two years ago, on a quiet Saturday morning, millions of Americans witnessed the tragic loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* and its seven heroic crewmembers in the skies over East Texas. While we will never be able to bring back the crew of Space Shuttle *Columbia*, I am pleased to see our space program reaching for the stars once more by launching the first shuttle since that terrible disaster.

The crew of the *Discovery*, and their support team at NASA, have been working hard to get our shuttle program back on track. To increase the safety of the crew, the scientists at NASA have made multiple improvements on the shuttle. The *Columbia* accident investigation board made 15 recommendations that have been implemented for this flight, as well as 29 other improvements to launch, orbit, and reentry procedures. Commander Eileen Collins

and her crew, James Kelly, Andrew Thomas, Wendy Lawrence, Charles Camarda, Stephen Robinson, and Soichi Noguchi are piloting the safest, most sophisticated, and most reliable spacecraft ever built.

This successful lift off, NASA's 114th shuttle mission, is a tremendous event. It is important that we remember the dangerous nature of space flight and exploration. As President Ronald Reagan said after the loss of the Space Shuttle *Challenger*, "We've grown used to the idea of space, and perhaps we forget that we've only just begun."

This week, we congratulate the scientists and technicians who are upholding the greatest traditions of America's space program. We recognize the spirit and courage of the space shuttle's crew. We thank the countless number of East Texans that helped in the search for evidence and answers in the wake of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* tragedy. And finally, we honor the memory of those brave men and women who have gone before in the name of exploration and in the quest for discovery.

HONORING KEVIN BRAGG ON THE
COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions Kevin Bragg has made while interning in my Washington, DC, office. Kevin has been a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

But Kevin must return to Murfreesboro, the hometown we share. This fall, Kevin will begin his senior year at the University of Tennessee, where he is a political science major and a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha honor society.

During his internship, Kevin won over the entire staff with his ever-present eagerness and genuine interest in public affairs. He has attended briefings, addressed constituent concerns and served as a friendly and informative tour guide of the U.S. Capitol, providing visitors from Middle Tennessee with a personalized look at a national treasure.

I hope Kevin has enjoyed his internship as much as my staff and I have enjoyed his presence in the office. I wish him all the best in the future.

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the importance of the fifteenth anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the ADA. This legislation has played a vital role in ensuring that all Americans are granted the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of society.

With the bipartisan support of this body and the Senate, President George H.W. Bush

signed the Americans with Disabilities Act as a mechanism to ensure that "every man, woman and child with a disability can now pass through once closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom."

Thanks to the ADA, we have taken significant steps towards the achievement of that goal. The Act required educational facilities to become accessible to those in wheelchairs, opening the doors to learning and opportunity for thousands of Americans. It ensured the availability of transit, entertainment, and communications systems to the hearing-impaired and the blind, guaranteeing them an opportunity to participate in cultural events, media events, and public engagements.

The ADA has substantially moved this country forward in terms of our relationship with a group of Americans who had once been unfairly excluded for their physical abilities. We have taken important steps to increase the opportunities and lower the barriers to the equal and just treatment of all Americans. We have opened doors through the ADA for the full participation and contribution of individuals to our society.

Despite the efforts of the last decade and a half, we still have further to go. We still have more work to do to assist our citizens with disabilities. Today, approximately two-thirds of people with disabilities of working age are still unemployed. While many factors influence the high rate of unemployment for the disabled, a third of non-workers with disabilities reported their need for some type of accommodation as a major factor in their unemployment. An interesting aspect of this is their requests are minor accommodations—elevators, closer accessible parking, and special worksite features modifications that are not particularly expensive to make, especially with advance planning.

Likewise, proposed cuts in housing, assistance technology, training, and other assistance programs threaten to undo many of the advances we have made in the last 15 years to help those with disabilities.

Whether it is the costs involved or the unwillingness to reach out to this brave segment of our national workforce, people with disabilities are still discouraged from opening some doors of opportunity. They still need more assistance in their fight for justice.

I encourage the Members of this chamber, as well as citizens and employers across the country, to pursue reinvigorated efforts at ensuring that every man, woman, and child is afforded an opportunity to success. Let us find ways to help every citizen build a better life as we create the conditions for a better America.

THANK YOU, BONNIE RINALDI

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Bonnie Rinaldi. Bonnie recently retired from the position of Henderson's Assistant City Manager on July 14th, and will be sorely missed by all.

Bonnie's public service spanned almost 30 years, starting as an intern in North Las Vegas. Since her intern days, Bonnie served

in many aspects of city government, including assistant city manager for Clark County, before accepting the position of Assistant City Manager for Henderson in 1999.

I have known Bonnie for many years and consider her a good friend. I have also tremendously enjoyed working with her. Her intelligence and personality made her a strong and effective leader throughout Southern Nevada. Those who worked with Bonnie sometimes referred to her as "the little engine that could," skipping from meeting to meeting without missing a beat. Bonnie's life philosophy is that, with some determination and hard work, anything could be accomplished—a quality that will continue to take her far in life.

I wish Bonnie the best of luck in her retirement. It will be hard to imagine the City of Henderson without her.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER TATUM
ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS IN-
TERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Christopher Tatum for his service during his internship this summer. Chris is a resident of Gallatin, Tennessee, and he has been a tremendous help to my constituents in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Chris is returning home to prepare for his junior year at the University of Mississippi. As he finishes his experience in Washington, he already is looking toward the next adventure—studying in Italy during the fall semester.

Chris's remarkable attitude and eagerness have served him well as he has experienced the many facets of Congress first-hand. He has been very helpful in answering constituent concerns, guiding visitors through the U.S. Capitol and assisting me and my staff with countless projects.

I hope Chris has enjoyed this learning experience as much as we have enjoyed having him in the office. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

THE STRUGGLES OF DAMU SMITH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention and consciousness of this body the important and significant battles of a courageous warrior for justice, peace, and equality, Mr. Damu Smith. Damu has been a constant and consistent champion of peace and continues his fight for love and justice despite his struggle with cancer. I applaud this simple man, this mighty activist, and this concerned citizen of the world for his tireless struggle to make the world a better place. I encourage him to continue his fight, knowing that others are aware of his struggle and continue to need his leadership.

A passionate believer in peace and global peace movements, Damu has fought to raise the awareness of the world community of the

ugliness of apartheid in South America, the brutality of government injustice and gun violence, the need for environmental awareness and justice, and the international fights against racism, injustice, and discrimination. He has advocated peace instead of nuclear arms. He has sought reconciliation rather than violence. He has battled intolerance in lieu of understanding.

A mere perusal of his life story would demonstrate to any of us that Damu has been a consistent champion of peace and justice wherever hatred and injustice reside. His humanitarianism knows few limits and his sense of person responsibility is not bound by social expectations.

Damu, this champion of justice and peace, nonetheless is currently waging a battle with cancer. I wish him well in his persistent fight against the disease.

I hope the struggle of Damu Smith does not go unnoticed by my colleagues in this body. I hope we see the challenges and struggles that face our relentless pursuers of peace, justice, and equality. I hope we take steps to prevent Damu's struggle from being repeated on future generations of Americans. While he is a true fighter to the core, Damu's struggle has not been easy. Yet he continues to persist in his advocacy of peace and justice.

What is more disturbing about Damu's case is that there appears to be both genetic and environmental causes behind his disease: A family history and a location in "Cancer Alley"—a small section of Louisiana with a number of industrial plants and facilities and high rates of cancer, lung conditions, and skin irritations. It would seem that the Congress could do more to address whether there is a correlation between these incidence and the industrial population of the community.

I nonetheless praise the continued struggle of this fighter for justice and warrior for peace. I submit the following article written by Shantella Y. Sherman of the Afro-American highlighting Damu's struggle and his fight. I thank Ms. Sherman for bringing this to the Nation's attention.

FAITH AND DELIVERANCE: DAMU SMITH WAGES WAR ON CANCER

Damu Smith's name bounces around rooms with the same quiet reverence often reserved for more popularly known figures: Nelson Mandela or Desmond Tutu. Sometimes, there's a knowing smile or two. Smith is a kind of modern-day superstar among activists: fierce, passionate, courageous, God-fearing. His celebrity has reached far and beyond Washington, D.C., into the far corners of the Earth. Where there is any semblance of injustice, rest assured, Damu Smith is planning strategic countermoves.

Smith's activism rallied civic consciousness against apartheid in South Africa, gun violence, police brutality and government injustice. He worked to effect peace and a freeze on nuclear weapons, and advocated for environmental justice, both in America and abroad. In fact, Smith was in Palestine, heading up a delegation of protest against unfair treatment suffered by Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli government, when he collapsed, subsequently being diagnosed with colon cancer.

As a result, Smith has always appeared larger than life, particularly to this reporter, who met him more than 20 years ago as a pre-teen. Interviewing Smith became a challenge that 15 years of reporting experience couldn't overcome. I was nervous. I wasn't sure what to expect, so I stood outside his

apartment door for a solid five minutes, willing each knock to become just a little more audible to him on the other side. Finally, I entered at his behest, "Come on in, the door is open."

Once I'd taken off my shoes and peered around the corner, I was able to get a full glance at Damu. His eyes were bright, his skin flawless and his smile brighter than ever. He bustled around his apartment with a small contingent of associates: his friend and doctor of more than 30 years, Jewel L. Crawford; a friend from St. Louis; and others who came and went in fluid motions.

There is a handwritten note attached to a hand-carved mirror, one of the many African treasures decorating Damu's home. Above a litany of daily affirmations, is written, "With God All Things Are Possible." All along, Damu answered questions and telephone calls, gave directions to Dulles International Airport, passed out fresh juice and (laughed).

Dr. Crawford answered my question and confusion without me asking: "Damu approached his disease the same as he does everything in his life. He's a fighter, and he's getting stronger because of his faith."

Crawford would know. She was one of the first people Smith spoke with following his hospital admission. While Crawford says she cannot be certain of how cancer struck Smith, she is certain he will beat it.

"Damu has a family predisposition to this type of cancer: His paternal grandmother and his father both had it. It's hard to put a definite on it, because even though Damu is a vegetarian, never smoked [and] never drank, he was in one of the most toxic areas on the planet for an extended period of time. Being in Louisiana all that time could have been the element that pushed him over into being affected," said Crawford.

The area Crawford referred to is known as "Cancer Alley," a small section of Convent, LA., where a smorgasbord of industrial plant run-off brought on cancers, lung conditions and skin irritations among residents. In the early 1990s, Smith led an all-out campaign against the Japanese owners of the Shintech plants, and lived with some of the area's residents.

Smith himself agrees that living in a toxic environment could be the culprit in the development of cancers, including his own, but says the family factor should not be overlooked.

"The air we breathe, the water we drink, the foods we eat and the homes in which we live are toxic. This is a very toxic environment we live in this millennium. I live a healthy lifestyle: I don't drink, don't smoke, never did an illegal drug. I'm a vegetarian and I eat organic food. And yet, I end up with colon cancer. Why? Could be a number of things," he surmised.

"Could be the toxic environment, could be the fact that within my family there's a genetic marker of colon cancer. My father died of it. My grandmother, his mother, had it. She didn't die from it, but she had it. So, according to conventional medical doctors, I'm at greater risk because I have this family marker," said Smith.

Though he says he should have seen a doctor regularly, like most minorities, he didn't make it a top priority, especially since he was so health-conscious.

"I should have been at the doctor every year getting checked. I wasn't. I have to be honest with you, I used to think about going to get a checkup and I'd say to myself, 'I don't want to find out anything bad. I just can't imagine anything bad happening to me because I eat so well.' I used to say that stuff. So, this is one of the things I want to be a poster child for: getting screened and checked for colon cancer," said Smith.

But how does a poster child maintain in the fight for his life? According to Smith, with an unwavering conviction in God.

"First of all, I have to have faith in God—in a higher power, greater than us. And so, that's the most important thing to me, having faith in God and knowing that he can deliver me from this," said Smith.

"I was told by one of the doctors when I was initially diagnosed at the end of March that people in my condition, statistically, have only three to six months to live. And he made it a point of saying to me twice during our conversation, 'Don't hesitate about anything.' That was Easter Sunday morning of this year. I had to really reflect on that."

Doctors also informed Smith that his liver was three-quarters full of tumors—a condition that effectively made the illness terminal. After going through what he called "about 30 minutes of anguish and seeing my whole life race in front of me like a video clip," Smith announced he was fighting it.

"There are a lot of people out there, when they hear that, allegedly, they have only three months, six months, a few days or a few weeks to live, they plan their lives accordingly. I plan to be here for several more years, and I'm thinking in that direction," said Smith.

The reality of death is all the more gripping because he lost a close friend to colon cancer around Christmas. Unlike his friend, who went in for surgery and passed a few days later without a moment to prepare, Smith said he is grateful for the opportunity to fight for his life.

"Here I am. I've been alive three months since I was told, and I'm feeling great right now. Those tumors are shrinking. I'm sitting here with you now doing this interview and drinking this organic kale and carrot juice, and I am drinking it as much as possible because it heals the liver . . . I'm taking chemotherapy, acupuncture, sound healing, breathology, everything in the toolbox of healing. I'm picking up and using on my body right now. And I'm keeping God at the center of everything. So, I don't plan to lose."

Smith is only human, and is clear about what his body is going through. He says that having a clear understanding of his body's day-to-day function and how to improve those functions while his body is under attack is essential. Even this though, he says, takes a back seat to faith.

"I'm also a very practical person. I understand that I have a very serious disease occupying my body, but I'm claiming victory! . . . I am expelling that disease from my body by having faith in God and having faith in my family and the community of angels who have descended upon me and who surround me now," he said.

Still, others wonder why Smith would make such a personal struggle public. The answer for Smith is an echoed sentiment understood by everyone who encounters him. He wouldn't be Damu Smith if he wasn't helping out the next man—even during his own crisis.

"So many people hide what's wrong with them and stuff, and he was open and went public with it so that he could possibly help someone else," said Crawford. "Even facing a life-threatening situation, Damu is {still} organizing and trying to touch someone else's life."

"When I was lying in the bed at Providence Hospital once I returned from Palestine in late March, I decided that I had to, one, walk publicly in this journey of healing [and], two, that I had to organize people to help me and organize people to help others understand that they don't want to go through what I was about to go through.

"There were literally hundreds of people who came to see me at Providence Hospital,

and some of my friends were getting upset, saying I needed my rest. But I knew what I was doing. God knew what I was doing. I needed to organize my friends and family first, and I told them that we've got to fight this, because it's not just me. People have to go get checked, and we need to organize around this."

Out of those bedside meetings, Smith was able to establish the Spirit of Hope campaign, which seeks solutions to health disparities among minority and poor Americans. The campaign focuses on universal health care, education about the need for screening measures, addressing astronomical health care costs and promoting general well-being among minority and poor people.

"The whole spectrum of wellness is what the Spirit of Hope campaign is focusing on, and I wouldn't have it any other way. It wouldn't be me if it didn't focus on something other than me," said Smith.

Smith says that despite the cost and fear associated with the procedure, it is imperative that people of color and those living below the poverty line get regular checkups, including colonoscopies.

"What are you going to fear most? [If] you want to live, you cannot fear doing what you have to do to live. Colonoscopies are expensive. They're between \$700 to \$900 dollars. And if you're not insured, that's a major problem. For Black people, and people of color and poor people, that's a major problem."

"It's very important we organize a campaign that insures that everyone has access to effective, holistic, comprehensive, prevention health care and access to treatment facilities so they get what they need when they need it," he argued.

Smith is also thinking about access for his 12-year-old daughter Asha, who he lovingly refers to as "Asha Boo-Boo" and the "crown jewel of his life." "I don't want her to go through this. I want her and all of her little friends to get screened when the time is right. So, I have to work for them too," said Smith.

As my time with Smith draws to a close, I begin to wonder if maybe he hadn't been misdiagnosed. The wristband, which resembles a hospital clasp, is in fact a tag from the Essence Music Festival that he's simply neglected to remove. Damu Smith is doing life Damu Smith-style: happy, brilliant and winning the fight.

"This has been one of the happiest times in my life, in the midst of this crisis. Now some people might say, 'How is that possible?' It's possible because I have seen the love come to me in such wonderful ways. I cannot begin to describe how profound, how rich and warm and beautiful the love has been from my family and friends and God. I thank God for this moment and for the chance to fight," said Smith.

IN HONOR OF MICKEY OWEN

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mickey Owen, who distinguished himself in southwest Missouri by his 16 years of public service and his commitment to improving the lives of young people.

Mickey Owen began his Major League Baseball career in 1937 when he was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals. Mickey Owen went on to play 13 seasons as a catcher with the

Cardinals, Dodgers, Cubs and Red Sox and was named to the all-star team four times. After Mickey Owen retired from professional baseball in 1954, he started the Mickey Owen Baseball School in Miller, Missouri. Mickey Owen created an environment for young players, focused on improving their skills and enhancing their appreciation for the game he loved. Owen promoted the idea that young players showed more improvement when relaxed and would excel if a non-threatening atmosphere was present. Mickey Owen Baseball School has instructed thousands of young players from around the world since its inception in 1959. Mickey Owen became the sheriff of Greene County, Missouri in 1965, where he honorably served for 16 years.

Mickey Owen's contributions throughout his life and the impact he had on thousands of young lives will not be forgotten.

HONORING AMY TAYLOR ON THE
COMPLETION OF HER INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Amy Taylor for her service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while interning in my office. Both Amy and I are proud to call Murfreesboro, Tennessee, home.

Amy will soon begin her senior year at Middle Tennessee State University, where she is an English major. She is a member of the Kappa Delta sorority and a radio personality on the local jazz station.

Amy was a tremendous help and a wonderful addition to my office. She helped address constituent concerns, assisted me and my staff with numerous projects, and served as a friendly and informative tour guide of the U.S. Capitol, providing visitors from middle Tennessee with a personalized look at a national treasure.

I trust that Amy enjoyed her whirlwind internship and her first-hand examination of the workings of Congress. I know I enjoyed her fresh perspective and enthusiasm during her time here. I wish her all the best in the future.

HARLEM WEEK 2005: THE LEGACY
CONTINUES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 31st anniversary of a series of festivities honoring the wonders of Harlem, my home community which I am privileged to represent in the Congress. Harlem Week 2005 is a cultural, educational, and entertaining series of activities designed to highlight the history, traditions, and future of the Harlem community that has grown from its modest beginnings to become a major attraction for the residents of the community and thousands of visitors annually.

A lifelong resident of Harlem, I have long been proud of the many facets of my community. From the music and arts of the Harlem

community to the politics and strategies of Harlem's activists and leaders, this is a community that is rich in diversity, entertainment, culture, and love. It is a community that embraces its differences and its commonalities in order to represent the rainbow of beauty and culture that characterizes our great city of New York.

Harlem Week is a celebration of this embrace. It is a time for the community and the families that make up that community to come together, to be exposed to their variety of traditions and customs, and to affirm their individual identities as well as their American consciousness. This community will always, in my mind, represent the essence of America. And, during Harlem Week, we pay tribute to the soul of America.

Harlem Week is not simply a series of festivities and parties. It is an educational experience where individuals are taught to appreciate the arts and the history of the community. This summer, in theatrical performances, dance exhibitions, story-tellings, and other artistic expressions, the Harlem community will come alive in recognizing its rich and beautiful cultural attributes. The accomplishments and history of the African-American cinema will be highlighted alongside a celebration of Jazz and music that has originated in Harlem. Harlem will applaud the history of a diverse community that has struggled with the soul and legacy of generations of Americans.

Harlem Week is also a family event. Children of all ages will be entertained throughout this recognition of the wonder and cultural diversity of Harlem. Petting zoos, story-tellers, fashion shows, and interactive arts—all with an emphasis on achievement and education—will be displayed throughout the events of Harlem.

This year, attendees will also be exposed to the diverse sports and entertainment heritage of Harlem. The National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame will induct such entertainment luminaries as Phylicia Rashad, Bonnie Raitt, Marian Anderson, Alvin Ailey, Pearl Bailey, Ray Baretto, Donald Byrd, Kenny Gamble, Frankie Crocker, Symphony Sid, and Tito Rodriguez. Sports stars such as John Chaney, Fritz Pollard, Rafer Johnson, Lou Carnesecca, Zina Garrison, Jack Johnson, Elston Howard, Johnny Sample, and Al McGuire will also be inducted in the Hall of Fame.

Harlem Week 2005 promises to be one of the best celebrations of the vitality of the Harlem community this year. It will be an important celebration of the soul of America and the community that has long nurtured that soul. This celebration, exposure, and education of the community will truly be instrumental in understanding and appreciating the beauty of the Harlem community.

As always, I welcome the Members of this Congress, as well as all citizens of these United States of America, to join me and the Harlem community during Harlem Week 2005. You will not regret your time there. I submit for the RECORD the calendar of events for Harlem Week and I look forward to seeing you in Harlem.

HARLEM WEEK 2005: THE LEGACY CONTINUES
NEW YORK'S PREMIERE FESTIVAL CONTINUES TO
CELEBRATE DECADES OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

June 29, 2005 (Harlem, USA)—Back by popular demand, HARLEM WEEK, which celebrates its 31st Anniversary, returns with a

spectacular line up of exciting events, outdoor activities, concerts, and fun for the entire family. Themed "The Legacy Continues", the culturally-rich affair swung into gear on Wednesday, July 13, as Mayor Bloomberg and the city of New York paid tribute to HARLEM WEEK, with a special private celebration and concert at Gracie Mansion. The festive affair will include a special harmonious presentation from the hit musical, "Three Mo' Tenors", along with soulful, rhythmic selections from Ron Anderson and the Harlem Jazz & Music Festival All Stars.

On Sunday, July 31st, HARLEM WEEK salutes the grand village of Harlem during its "Great Day in Harlem" celebration at Ulysses S. Grant National Memorial Park, 122nd Street and Riverside Drive. This all-day, three-part affair opens with the "Family Unity Day Cultural Festival" at 1:00 p.m., featuring family-oriented outdoor activities including theatrical excerpts, dance performances, story-telling, spoken word, and more. The celebration continues with the Harlem Jazz & Music Festival's fashion extravaganza, featuring the latest, cutting-edge creations and accessories from emerging and leading urban designers. Runway activities begin at 5:00 p.m. The festive day will end with the annual Concert Under the Stars. The Harlem Jazz & Music Festival and WBLS FM invites the entire family to join them for this enchanting moonlit night of great music as Meli'sa Morgan, Layla Hathaway, Freddie Jackson, the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater and other surprise guests pay homage to Harlem's legacy. This spectacular affair, sponsored by Time Warner and Citibank, runs from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

From August 2nd-6th, EBONY Magazine, in concert with HARLEM WEEK, presents Hollywood in Harlem. This annual four day affair, which celebrates the accomplishments and history of African-Americans in cinema, will take place at various venues in the Harlem community. On each evening, there will be a VIP reception, film screenings, and award presentations. With this event, EBONY continues a 60 year tradition of giving recognition to African-American actors, actresses, and filmmakers.

On August 20th and 21st, HARLEM WEEK invites everyone to come to uptown New York and take part in one of the city's most exciting weekends, beginning on Saturday, August 20th, with the annual "Uptown Saturday Nite" music festival. This all-day celebration consists of a plethora of exciting events as attendees take to the streets throughout Harlem, enjoying outdoor cultural arts, crafts, exotic foods and live entertainment from a variety of stages along West 135th Street (between Malcolm X Blvd and St. Nicholas Avenue). The annual "Flava" fashion show burst onto the stage on Uptown Saturday Nite, and concert acts will be provided by stations Power 105, WKTU-FM, and Lite FM. Also taking place on August 20th is The Children's Festival which features such activities as a petting zoos, story-tellers, and interactive arts, all with a strong emphasis on education and achievement, sponsored by Washington Mutual, The New York Post, and WWRL 1600.

Sunday, August 21st, is HARLEM DAY and the good times continue to roll. The entertainment stages and the Children's Festival remain on 135th Street along with the addition of several exiting events: The Children's Festival adds a fashion show featuring the hottest back-to-school fashions; The 16th Annual Upper Manhattan Auto Show includes a display of cars from antiques to 2005 preview models; students and families discover college options and how to pay for them at The National Historic Black College Fair & Expo; and The NYC Health Fair &

Expo features free health information and screenings. Music and other entertainment will be courtesy of Kiss-FM, Hot 97, & CD 101.9.

On August 30th, the National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame Induction Gala will be held, honoring both live and posthumous luminaries in the fields of sports and entertainment. This year's inductees in the area of entertainment include Donald Byrd, Iman, Kenny Gamble & Leon Huff; Phylicia Rashad, Ray Baretto, Bonnie Raitt, Frankie Crocker, Marian Anderson, Alvin Ailey, Pearl Bailey, Symphony Sid, and Tito Rodriguez. In the area of sports, inductees include John Chaney, Fritz Pollard, Rafer Johnson, Lou Carnesecca, Zina Garrison, Jack Johnson, Elston Howard, Johnny Sample and Al Maguire. Vignette tribute for various inductees will air on WNBC-4 throughout the summer.

If HARLEM WEEK only accomplished giving people a sense of pride and enjoyment, that alone would be a worthy feat; however, HARLEM WEEK does that while also addressing other community needs. With the support of sponsors and elected officials, HARLEM WEEK, Inc. has been a proponent for advancing education by giving grants to educational organizations, plus scholarships to thousands of students who have worked diligently inside the classroom and outside in the community. The relationship between those parties and HARLEM WEEK has not only garnered higher enrollment, but also provided internships and careers for students. Scholarships and grants are presented at virtually every HARLEM WEEK, Harlem Jazz & Music Festival, and National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame event. HARLEM WEEK also hosts events focused on economic development and on the welfare of Senior Citizens. Perhaps this is why mayors, governors, senators, members of congress, foreign leaders, and other inspirational figures, have opted to address HARLEM WEEK audiences over the years.

The HARLEM WEEK's 31st Anniversary is a great celebration of accomplishment through unity. Those unable to attend can still partake in the festivities by listening to live radio broadcasts on stations throughout the New York City area.

HARLEM WEEK invites you to come discover the treasures of a proud community. Discover Harlem. For further information about the excitement and culture that is HARLEM WEEK, log on to www.HarlemDiscover.com

INTRODUCTION OF THE CURES CAN BE FOUND ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Cures Can Be Found Act. This legislation promotes medical research by providing a tax credit for investments and donations to promote adult and umbilical cord blood stem cell research, and provides a \$2,000 tax credit to new parents for the donation of umbilical cord blood that can be used to extract stem cells.

Mr. Speaker, stem cell research has the potential to revolutionize medicine. Stem cells could hold the keys to curing many diseases afflicting millions of Americans, such as diabetes and Alzheimer's. Umbilical cord blood stem cells have already been used to treat 67 diseases, including sickle cell disease, leukemia, and osteoporosis. Umbilical cord blood

stem cells have also proven useful in treating spinal cord injuries and certain neurological disorders. Adult stem cells have shown promise in treating a wide variety of diseases ranging from brain, breast, testicular, and other types of cancers to multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, heart damage, and rheumatoid arthritis.

By providing tax incentives for adult and umbilical cord blood stem cell research, the Cures Can Be Found Act will ensure greater resources are devoted to this valuable research. The tax credit for donations of umbilical cord blood will ensure that medical science has a continuous supply of stem cells. Thus, this bill will help scientists discover new cures using stem cells and, hopefully, make routine the use of stem cells to treat formally incurable diseases.

By encouraging private medical research, the Cures Can Be Found Act enhances a tradition of private medical research that is responsible for many medical breakthroughs. For example, Jonas Salk, discoverer of the polio vaccine, did not receive one dollar from the federal government for his efforts. I urge my colleagues to help the American people support the efforts of future Jonas Salks by cosponsoring the Cures Can Be Found Act.

HONORING NATHAN ZIPPER ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions Nathan Zipper made while interning in my Washington, DC, office. Nathan, a fellow Middle Tennessean, was a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Nathan soon will begin his junior year at the University of Knoxville, where he is majoring in sports management and a member of Phi Alpha Delta.

During his internship, Nathan was a tremendous help to me and my staff as he assisted us in various projects. He attended briefings, addressed constituent concerns and endeared himself to visitors as he guided them through the U.S. Capitol.

I hope Nathan enjoyed his fast-paced internship as much as my staff and I appreciated his hard work and eager attitude. I wish him all the best in the future.

95 YEARS OF SERVICE AND EMPOWERMENT: THE LEGACY OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE CONTINUES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues and the country an important conference and series of events being held in Washington this week. On Wednesday, July 27, the National Urban League will celebrate its 95th anniversary with

a conference-summit on the challenges and advances in the empowerment of our communities to change the daily lives of Americans.

With a broad and exemplary series of panels and discussion sessions, the Urban League will continue its legendary service in support of raising awareness of the limited job opportunities, challenging health care costs, increasing economic and social disparities, and disappointing gaps in educational equality. The Urban League will not only highlight and question the challenges and limitations faced by communities across the county, but they will also propose and examine solutions for those communities.

For almost a century now, the Urban League has championed and advanced solutions to the crippling disparities that exist within our communities. They have long been involved with the struggle for equality and opportunity that faces the Black community, in particular, but economically disadvantaged groups nationwide.

In reaction to the Supreme Court's 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision approving segregation in the United States, Black Americans were quickly relegated to the most menial jobs, the poorest conditions of housing and health care, and the least access to quality education. Individuals, such as Mrs. Ruth Standish Brown and Dr. George Edmund Haynes, led the effort to adopt and prepare Black Americans for their economic struggles in urban America. Their efforts led the Committee on Urban Conditions, the Committee for the Improvement of Industrial Conditions Among Negroes, and the National League for the Protection of Colored Women to form the National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, later shortened to the National Urban League.

Since that merger of groups and interests, the National Urban League has been at the forefront of fighting for equal opportunities and treatment of Americans in this country. They have pursued public and private strategies designed to provide training, assistance, development and awareness programs about the struggles for equal treatment and opportunity. Working with Whites, Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians, the National Urban League has been a champion of the economic welfare of the disadvantaged.

Today, the League continues that legacy of championship for economic justice. They continue to provide useful information to policymakers in their evaluation and development of programs to aid the poor. They continue to inform the community of mechanisms to overcome the challenges that lay before them. They continue to be an advocate for the poor, an information-provider for the decision-makers, and a champion of justice and equality for the Nation, and they do all of this at the local community level through its chapters in communities around the Nation.

This week, led by its president, Marc Morial, who is providing superb leadership to the Urban League in the tradition of the great Whitney Young, the League continues its legacy and consciousness-building. I hope my colleagues will be reminded of the importance of this group to our economic development. As they conference in the Nation's Capital, I hope we would reach out and listen to the proposals and solutions the League provides. I hope we would provide them a voice for and an ear to their causes.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article written by Zenitha Prince of the Afro-American concerning this week's meeting. I welcome the attendees and conferees of this year's conference to their Nation's Capital, Washington, DC.

URBAN LEAGUE CELEBRATES 95 YEARS

JULY 23, 2005—About 15,000 people are expected to join the National Urban League in "Celebrating 95 Years of Empowering Communities and Changing Lives" during its annual conference, which will convene at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., from July 27 to 31.

"As we celebrate 95 years of direct service to communities across the nation, we expect the annual conference in Washington, D.C., to be the largest gathering of the Urban League Movement," said Marc H. Morial, National Urban League president and CEO, in a prepared statement.

The annual conference will feature innovative and interactive plenary sessions and events that present some of the Nation's most illustrious and influential leaders. It also gives us a chance to discuss and find ways to help one another in closing the tremendous gaps that exist in health, education and economics. The annual conference helps bring people together around issues of concern to our community and the Nation.

Among the featured speakers are U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.); hip-hop historian and author Kevin Powell; author, activist and comedian Dick Gregory; and Rainbow Coalition/PUSH founder and president the Rev. Jesse Jackson. The conference will also feature performances by India.Arie, Brian McKnight, Doug E. Fresh and Chuck Brown.

Most notably, however, the 2005 conference will feature a new Influencer Summit geared towards engaging, connecting and building young professionals. The list of speakers includes (The Apprentice) star Kwame Jackson, who plans to discuss how he parlayed his reality television experience into opportunities that include a new company, Legacy Holdings, which is even now brokering a \$3.8 billion deal to build a real estate development called Rosewood, just miles outside of the District of Columbia, and a lucrative career on the international speakers' circuit.

"I wouldn't be on this phone or have any notoriety if I had stayed on my job [with Wall Street firm Goldman Sachs]," said the 30-year-old D.C. native. Modestly deflecting any praise about his achievements, Jackson advised young entrepreneurs that corporate America is a tough environment for a young Black person, and that it takes tenacity and vision to attain success. "Being an entrepreneur is for people who enjoy getting their teeth kicked," Jackson said. "You have to be the kind of person that will get up and ask for more."

The Influencer Summit will also examine the changing civil rights landscape and the young Black professional's role in it.

"I think we're the up-and-coming leaders. Any civil rights movement from here on out will be carried out by us," said Larry Meadows Jr., president of the Washington National Urban League Young Professionals.

Both Jackson and Meadows agreed that the Black community is moving into the "second generation" of the civil rights struggle, which involves the fight for economic parity.

"We've grown by leaps and bounds, but if you look at it economically, we've not gone very far," Meadows said. "We have a lot of successful individuals, and that creates the perception that we're OK. But overall, we're still struggling."

For more information about the 2005 National Urban League Annual Conference, go

to www.nul.org; and for more information about Kwame Jackson, check out his Web site, www.kwamejackson.com.

PAUL KASTEN POST OFFICE
BUILDING

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Government Reform Committee and this body for joining me in recognizing one of my constituents, Paul Kasten, an employee of the U.S. Postal Service for the past 57 years.

Before his retirement this spring, at the age of 86, Paul Kasten had spent the last half-century serving eastern Montana. He began his postal career in 1947 riding a saddle horse to the farming community of Watkins.

In 1959, many of the rural routes consolidated expanding Mr. Kasten's route to 93 miles. Despite the immense distances, he would deliver regular mail to 30 families three times a week. His dedication and faithfulness earn him praise above which he will acknowledge. In addition to his mail deliveries, Paul would also deliver groceries, supplies, and anything that was needed by his rural customers. He was and is a valued and dedicated member of those communities.

Paul Kasten is a tribute to the entire U.S. Postal Service and I urge your support for his distinguished career. In honor of all his years of faithful service please join me in recognizing Mr. Kasten's achievements by designating the Brockway Post Office as the "Paul Kasten Post Office Building." Thank you.

HONORING KASSI SCOTT ON THE
COMPLETION OF HER INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions Kassi Scott made while interning in my Washington, DC, office. Kassi, a native of Moss, Tennessee, was a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Kassi soon will begin her junior year at Tennessee Tech University, where she is a political science major and president of the College Democrats.

Kassi has gained a wealth of congressional experience. She interned in my Cookeville, Tennessee, office prior to her internship in Washington. While in our Nation's capital, she attended briefings, addressed constituent concerns and served as a friendly and informative tour guide of the U.S. Capitol.

I hope Kassi enjoyed her internship as much as my staff and I have enjoyed her presence in the office. I wish her all the best in the future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE
HON. L. DICK OWEN, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Baldwin County, Alabama, and indeed the entire First Congressional District recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Senator L. Dick Owen, Jr., was a devoted family man and dedicated public servant throughout his entire life. A native of Bay Minette, Alabama, he was a 1941 graduate of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Governor George Wallace appointed him to the position of Baldwin County Probate Judge in January 1964 following the death of his predecessor, Judge Ramsey Stuart. One year later, he was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives, where he served two terms before running for and winning two terms in the Alabama Senate. His work in the state legislature was met with wide praise, and he was honored by the Alabama Wildlife Federation as "Legislative Conservationist of the Year," and, in 1976, by the Alabama Press Association as "Most Effective Senator."

Senator Owen was also actively involved in his community and was a charter member of the Bay Minette Rotary Club. He was also honored in 1982 when the performing arts center of Faulkner State Community College—an institution which he helped locate in Bay Minette—was named the "L.D. Owen Performing Arts Center." His devotion to his fellow man was unmatched, and I do not think there will ever be a full accounting of the many people he helped over the course of his lifetime.

Senator Owen was also a proud veteran of the United States Army and served with distinction as a member of the famed 82nd Airborne Division during World War II, where he earned six Bronze Stars. During the Korean War, he returned to active duty, and in 1963 retired from the Army Reserve with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for Baldwin County, Alabama. Senator Owen will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Annie Ruth Heidelberg Owen; his son, L.D. Owen, III; his brother, James R. Owen; his sister, Nell Owen Davis; his three grandchildren; and his two great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

GAZA: TEST CASE FOR PEACE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last week I opposed an amendment to the State Department Authorization Bill that would have put restrictions on the ability of the President to decide on the appropriate flow of aid to the Palestinian Authority, because I believe that a Palestinian Authority both willing and

able to confront violent opposition to the peace process with Israel is essential for peace to succeed. Later that day, after our debate, I read—a bit tardily—an excellent article that had been published in the Washington Post, for Wednesday, July 20, by the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Daniel Ayalon. I believe that Ambassador Ayalon is an extremely able diplomat, who is himself a dedicated supporter of a rational process leading to a genuine two state solution in the Middle East. The article he wrote underlines the importance of a commitment by the Palestinian Authority to take the steps necessary to curtail the activities of those in the Palestinian community who are determined to bring the peace process to a violent halt.

As Ambassador Ayalon notes, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has confronted those within Israel who are opposed to the peace process in general, and very specifically to the withdrawal of Jewish settlers from Gaza. This is of course, as the Ambassador points out, a cause of great anguish within Israel, and Prime Minister Sharon and his allies ought to be commended for the dedication to peace they are showing in their willingness to confront this opposition. It is entirely reasonable for Israel to ask, as Ambassador Ayalon does, for a comparable level of effort from President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority.

I do not mean by this to equate the opposition faced by President Abbas on the one hand and Prime Minister Sharon on the other. While I disagree strongly with those settlers who are seeking to derail the peace process, they have not in any significant degree resorted to the kind of murderous violence that has been the response of Hamas and others within the Palestinian community seeking to put an end to peace. I say that they are people seeking to put an end to the peace process, Mr. Speaker, because there is no other explanation for the decision to engage in terrorist murders of Israelis within Gaza while the Israeli Government is in fact in the process of withdrawing from Gaza. Individual Israelis are not the only victims of these murders—the peace process is also an intended victim.

I believe it is important for the United States to provide strong support for all those trying to go forward with this difficult peace process, and I think it is fair for Ambassador Ayalon to point out that the effort so far of President Abbas have fallen short of what Israel has a right to expect.

I will continue to oppose, as I did last week, measures that seem to me to undercut President Abbas' ability to go forward with this admittedly difficult task. At the same time, I think it is important for those of us who are strong supporters of the peace process to join in reminding President Abbas of the importance of his being more successful than he has in the past in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Daniel Ayalon's article be printed here.

[From the Washington Post, July 20, 2005]

IN GAZA, A TEST CASE FOR PEACE

(By Daniel Ayalon)

Next month thousands of Israelis will be uprooted from their homes in 25 settlements, against the backdrop of widespread political opposition and intensifying Palestinian terrorism. Israel faces difficult days ahead.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is boldly determined to move forward with disengagement from Gaza and the northern West Bank

out of a deep conviction that it is critical to Israel's future. Unfortunately, the Palestinian leadership has failed to meet him halfway. The Palestinian Authority's refusal to disarm terrorist organizations has enabled the terrorists to regroup and renew deadly attacks against Israelis, compounding the difficulties of this engagement and casting an ominous shadow on the possibility of future progress.

The sharp increase in Palestinian terrorist attacks, particularly in the past week, underscores the precariousness of the situation. While Israel is committed to completing the disengagement as planned, we will not sit idly by while our civilians are under attack. Time is running out for the Palestinian leadership to confront the terrorists. Should it fail to do so, Israel will be forced to take the necessary steps to defend its people. Lest the Palestinians miss another historic opportunity, the world should insist that they crack down on terrorism now.

After numerous failed attempts by Israelis and Palestinians to reach peaceful accommodation over the past 15 years, Sharon decided to embark on a different course. Disengagement is an immense political, strategic and indeed historical undertaking, aimed at reducing friction between Israelis and Palestinians, jump-starting the peace process and providing the Palestinians with a unique opportunity to build institutions of responsible self-governance.

At the same time, it puts a terrible burden on thousands of Israelis called on to leave their homes against their will. Many have lived there for more than three generations. Specially trained, unarmed units will move from house to house as part of a massive logistical operation involving some 50,000 security personnel, accompanied by teams of social workers and psychologists. Living, breathing communities, some more than 30 years old, will simply vanish. Businesses, factories and farms will be shut down. Schools, synagogues and cemeteries will be relocated. The removal of graves, including those of terrorism victims, will be especially heart-wrenching.

The trauma of disengagement has unleashed dangerous rifts in Israeli society. While the withdrawal is supported by most of the public, many Israelis deeply oppose it on moral, religious and security grounds. Sharon has demonstrated steadfast leadership in the face of an unprecedented political backlash from his traditional supporters. Given the intense political opposition and growing civil disobedience, the prospect of violent resistance cannot be ruled out. Regardless of the outcome, the repercussions of disengagement will be felt in Israel for years. At stake is not only the success of disengagement but also the very fabric of Israeli society.

Adding fuel to the fire, public anxiety in Israel has increased because of the resurgence of Palestinian terrorism, including suicide bombings, drive-by shootings and rocket attacks. Rather than confront the terrorist organizations and disarm them, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has invited Hamas into his government, thereby providing a terrorist organization with an official seal of approval. The result has been an emboldened Hamas, a further weakening of the Palestinian Authority and a potentially disastrous perception that disengagement is a victory for terrorism rather than an opportunity for peace.

Abbas must seize the moment and lead the Palestinians toward peace. The terrorist organizations must be disarmed as called for in the "road map" if Palestinian statehood is to be achieved. This is nonnegotiable. Gaza is both the opportunity and the test for the Palestinian leadership. Will that leadership

prove itself capable of governing a functioning democratic society, free from terrorism and focused on improving the lives of its citizens, or will it squander yet another opportunity? After leaving Gaza, Israel will no longer provide an easy excuse for Palestinian failure.

The rock-solid, principled and bipartisan support for Israel in the United States has been vital to our ability to overcome terrorism and prepare the ground for a political initiative. The notion of disengagement would have been unthinkable had Israel not prevailed in the latest round of sustained terrorism waged by the Palestinians since September 2000.

The stakes for Israel are enormous. We are a strong but small country facing a largely hostile region roughly 500 times our size. We can ill afford to make mistakes. Iran's nuclear weapons program is imminent, posing an existential threat. Syria and Iran promote and support Palestinian terrorist groups sworn to our destruction. Hezbollah has intensified terrorist attacks against Israel from Lebanon, opening a second front aimed at derailing any progress. Despite these challenges, Israel has shown it is prepared to take difficult steps to achieve President Bush's vision for peace in the Middle East. The world should insist on no less from the Palestinians.

The writer is Israel's ambassador to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL EDWARD
HUGHES

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Paul Edward "Ed" Hughes who died Sunday, July 17, 2005, at his home in Sunset Beach, North Carolina.

Mr. Hughes, who retired to Sunset Beach in 1992, was serving his third term on the Sunset Beach City Council. He was born in Pennsboro, West Virginia in 1926 to John and Mary Hughes, and grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. Ed served in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War and later graduated from Loyola College, where he was named an All-American in lacrosse, playing on the All-South team in 1948 and 1949. He later received his master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ed Hughes moved to Wilmington, Delaware in 1958, where he taught at Tower Hill School for 34 years, chaired the History Department and served as Dean. Over the course of his tenure he introduced anthropology to the school curriculum and headed the summer school program. He wrote a book about his founding of the Junior Humanities program for gifted inner-city students, a model project for which he received the Hollingworth Award. He was a head basketball coach for 14 years, coached football, and started the golf team.

Ed Hughes was a candidate for President of the City Council in Wilmington, Delaware and chaired the Republican City Committee. He was a frequent lecturer on current events and world affairs at Crosslands in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania and was a longtime manager of the Hagley Museum on the Brandywine River. He was a devoted husband, a proud father of five, a golfer, and in later life, a painter. He loved crossword puzzles, his golfing buddies and a good steak.

Ed Hughes is survived by his wife of 54 years, Jody Hughes, his daughters Mary and K.C. Halpern, his sons Paul, John and Mark, as well as seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of knowing Ed Hughes. He was a gentle man with a superb intellect and a wonderful wit. He was a man who was content with his life and achievements, most of all his magnificent children and theirs. Ed Hughes loved his family, his community and his country. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and works of this good man and in extending to his wife and entire family our most sincere sympathy.

USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM
PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3199) to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes:

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chairman, in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States Congress passed the USA PATRIOT Act with broad bipartisan support to better equip law enforcement and intelligence agencies in their struggle to combat terrorism. As the shock of those horrible events subsided, many from both political parties began to question some of the more invasive aspects of the Patriot Act, including a number of provisions that allow Federal investigators to enter homes, tap phone lines, and search library records without a warrant.

Since then, the Patriot Act has become a much-debated issue, symbolizing a Federal Government abusing its power and violating civil liberties for some, and a necessary bulwark against the barbarity of terrorists for others. And yet, all agree that the United States faces a daunting challenge in combating terrorism, both abroad and at home, through continuing efforts to safeguard borders, protect airports, and monitor centers of trade and commerce. In order to overcome these challenges, we must remain vigilant in our fight against terror and continue to strengthen our resolve even in the face of depraved and desperate acts such as the bombings that terrorized London this past week and a few short weeks ago.

The events in London provide a somber and revealing backdrop for the current debate regarding the renewal of a number of provisions contained in the USA PATRIOT Act. Many of my colleagues have voiced well-reasoned and thoughtful objections to the current bill, the USA Patriot and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2005, H.R. 3199, which would make permanent 14 of the 16 provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act. I share the concerns of my colleagues who fear that the proposed legislation will endanger the civil liberties of U.S. citizens and create the potential for abuse of Federal powers. Additionally, I am disturbed by the administration's lack of cooperation in providing detailed information re-

garding the effectiveness of the increased enforcement power contained in the Patriot Act. The members of the 9/11 Commission specifically directed the Bush administration to explain how the expanded powers of the Patriot Act "materially" enhance U.S. security. They also directed the administration to make certain that proper supervision was in place to monitor these enhanced powers. The administration has ignored these recommendations and showed a repeated willingness to place the acquisition of increased power above the common interest of individual citizens.

But as we deliberate over this bill, it is important to consider the ongoing fight against terrorism, so violently displayed in the terrorist bombings in London this past week. These attacks are a reminder that we remain susceptible to terrorism and must protect ourselves from continuing threats. While I have deep concerns regarding the effect of certain provisions of the Patriot Act on the civil rights of Americans, I strongly believe that we must not end this legislation but amend it. "Mend, don't end" should have been the guiding theme in redrafting and analyzing the Patriot Act.

We cannot let our partisan differences obscure our common fight against terrorism. We cannot let our very real concerns about the violation of civil liberties overwhelm our oath to protect the citizens of the United States from further terrorist activity. While I would have preferred a "mend don't end" strategy to reshaping the Patriot Act, the leadership chose a different tactic and brought the bill to the floor with the most disconcerting provisions included. In light of recent events, and our continued war on terrorism, I chose to stand on the side of law enforcement and the intelligence community and protect our country by voting for the Patriot Act reauthorization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall votes 415 and 416 on July 22, 2005, because I was unavoidably detained on official business with President George W. Bush in Atlanta, Georgia, at a roundtable discussion on retirement security for future generations of Americans. I was also unable to cast rollcall votes 417, 418, and 419 on July 25, 2005, as I was traveling on official legislative/policy business. Had I been present I would have cast the following votes: On rollcall No. 415, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 416, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 417, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 418, I would have voted "yes"; and on rollcall No. 419, I would have voted "yes."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished Chairman of this

Subcommittee as well as Chairman LEWIS of the full Committee for their hard work and dedication to our Nation's service members and veterans. Working with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the conference report accompanying H.R. 2361, the fiscal year 2006 appropriations act for the Department of Interior, addresses the urgent need in VA with an additional \$1.5 billion allocated to the Veterans Health Administration. These funds are especially critical for VA to treat new veterans, those returning from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans.

Year after year, the annual budget for the Veterans Health Administration is the subject of great debate. On February 16, 2005, VA Secretary Nicholson and other VA officials stood before the VA Committee and justified the Administration's budget request. Subsequently, we learned that all the hard work and tough choices Congress has made to increase VA health care funding—by no less than 42 percent in just the last four years—has now been overshadowed by a "discovery" of inadequate funding. Since then, the VA Committee has held three separate hearings over the past month and a half to understand and examine VA's methodologies for forecasting health care costs and utilization projections, to identify the breakdown in the budget process, and to bring to light the serious flaws in VA's usage assumptions.

Equally important, the conference report demands new levels of accountability inside VA. In fact, the VA Committee is seeking to institutionalize accountability in the budget process at VA to ensure that similar circumstances can be averted in the future. There is but one constant we can all agree upon: the VA must ensure a continuity of care for our severely disabled veterans.

While \$1.5 billion seems to be the right figure at this point in time, there are only two months left in the fiscal year. This means that the Department of Veterans Affairs has the ability to roll over into fiscal year 2006 whatever sums remain unspent in fiscal year 2005; I expect department officials to spend wisely. With this particular provision, we are not only seeking to meet the urgent needs for the remainder of this year, but are providing a significant down payment on the shortfall we anticipate in fiscal year 2006.

Mr. Speaker, again, I applaud the work of Chairman LEWIS and Chairman TAYLOR of the Appropriations Committee, as well as the leadership of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees.

IN HONOR OF JAMES FLANNERY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of James Flannery, a statesman dedicated to his family, his church, his community and his country. Named Cleveland's "Man of the Year" in 1981, his life of service continued for more than two decades and will be carried on by the friends and family whose lives he touched through his generosity and enthusiasm.

While he was always ready for a game of basketball or football, Jim was more of a math

wiz than an athlete. He earned his degree in accounting at the University of Notre Dame before turning to politics and serving Ohio's 48th district as a State Representative from 1967 to 1972. But his service did not end there. He served on the Ohio Board of Regents and the Ohio Accountancy Board before becoming the Chairman of the City of Lakewood Financial Review Commission and the Charter Review Commission. Jim also served as a member of the Board of Revision for the Cuyahoga County Treasurer's Office and was the founding president of both the University of Notre Dame National Alumni Board and the St. James Parent Teacher Union.

As those closest to him know, even with his extensive community involvement, Jim's family was his true calling and passion, and was always a huge source of pride—and with good reason. His extensive family (33 grandchildren) known by many as "The Flan Clan," has had quite an effect on their community. Almost a dozen of his family members have followed his footsteps at St. Edward's High School to receive a Holy Cross education, and the family's local political involvement goes back three generations.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of James Flannery and the family he leaves behind, for their outstanding service to their community. Jim's life of service will be remembered and he will be greatly missed by the many people whose lives were blessed by his presence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER TRAINING EXPANSION ACT OF 2005

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, currently, too many of our nation's "special needs" children are underserved due to inadequate training of general education teachers. It was recently reported that approximately 80 percent of students with learning disabilities receive the majority of their instruction in general education classrooms. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 50 percent of disabled students between the ages of 6 and 11, and 30 percent of disabled students between the ages of 11 and 12, are taught in regular classrooms.

These figures reflect the mandate under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that requires, to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities . . . are educated with children who are not disabled, and that special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. IDEA 612(a)(5)(A).

As more children with disabilities enter general education classrooms, it is critical that general education teachers and personnel are adequately trained to adapt curricula to suit their needs. Regular education teachers and personnel must be equipped to collaborate with special education teachers to ensure that the best individualized approaches are utilized for the successful integration of disabled students into the classroom.

For these reasons, I am reintroducing the Teacher Training Expansion Act of 2005, legislation that would address this crucial area of teacher development. Specifically, this legislation would authorize the Secretary of Education to give preference, in the distribution of certain grants under IDEA, to local educational agencies and certain public or private nonprofit organizations that provide training to regular education personnel to meet the needs of children with disabilities.

Under current law, institutions of higher education are already granted such a preferential status in the distribution of these grants. However, I firmly believe local educational agencies and public or private nonprofit organizations that are at the forefront of training teachers who work with disabled students, must be eligible to receive equal consideration in provide this vital type of professional development and training.

Mr. Speaker, by supporting this legislation we will help our teachers gain the skills they need to work effectively with disabled students in general education classrooms and help make good on our promise to provide a quality education to all students.

Lastly, as we celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act today, let us be ever mindful to continue to level the playing field for our disabled and special needs communities in any way that we can. This bill would help in furthering this goal and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Teacher Training Expansion Act of 2005.

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Signed into law by George H. W. Bush on July 26th in 1990, and enacted with bipartisan support in the Congress, the ADA served as the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities.

Following in the footsteps of civil rights legislation from the 1960s, this landmark legislation has sought to end discrimination against people with disabilities in the workplace and encourage full integration into American society, particularly through enabling independent living.

In its fifteen years of existence, the ADA has accomplished much. Access ramps, curb cuts, Braille signs, and assistive listening devices at movie theaters now appear in communities around the country. Transit and communications systems have become more accessible. Indeed, the ADA has contributed to a greater awareness among Americans as to the needs and potential of people with disabilities.

Yet despite this progress, I remain deeply concerned that the promise of the ADA has not been fulfilled for many of America's 54 million citizens with disabilities. For example, empirical evidence demonstrates that there has been little change in the employment rate of people with disabilities. Only 32 percent of

working-age people with a disability are employed. Today, people with disabilities are three times more likely than those without disabilities to live in poverty. There is much progress still to be made.

Unfortunately, in recent years the federal courts have narrowly interpreted the ADA and have not enforced key provisions of the Act, especially in regards to the workplace and the applicability of ADA to state law. Moreover, the Administration has proposed funding cuts to key programs—Section 8 housing, Medicaid, and vocational rehabilitation and assistive technology—which enable many people with disabilities to achieve self-sufficiency and live independently.

On this anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act, we must make sure that we fulfill the promise made to our disabled brothers and sisters fifteen years ago. Indeed, the goals of the ADA could not be more pertinent than they are today, when thousands of soldiers are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan with severe injuries. It is my hope that we can move forward today to fully realize the goals of equality and integration set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
VASILJE BUDIMIR SOKOLOVIC
AND THE LEGACY OF HIS FA-
THER, SAINT BUDIMIR
SOKOLOVIC

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Reverend Vasilje Budimir Sokolovic, pastor of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio, for his thirty-five year ministry with the church. I also rise today to honor the life and spiritual legacy of his father, Priest martyr Saint Budimir Sokolovic of Dobrun, recently canonized by the Serbian Orthodox Church, who was executed by communist oppressors for his religious beliefs.

Tyranny and violence took the life of Saint Budimir Sokolovic, yet his legacy of strength, spirit, faith and ministry to others continues to live on in the life and works of his son, Reverend Vasilje Sokolovic. Reverend Sokolovic was just a young boy when his father was jailed and executed, shortly after the end of WWII. Saint Sokolovic's vocation directed him to the battlegrounds in Yugoslavia, where he provided spiritual guidance to Serbian freedom fighters battling the German occupation. He lived to see the Nazis expelled from his homeland, only to be felled under the violence of the ensuing communist regime.

Oppression and poverty dominated Eastern Europe after the war, magnifying the fear and loss for Saint Budimir Sokolovic's wife and two young boys. Rather than shrinking from his father's great legacy, young Vasilje carried his father's life and memory within his heart, following the path of ministry and service cultivated by Saint Budimir Sokolovic. Equipped with the spiritual guidance of his father and his own unwavering faith, Reverend Sokolovic entered the seminary, becoming the 42nd generation of Sokolovics to dedicate their lives to the priesthood.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and tribute of Reverend Vasilje Budimir Sokolovic, whose ministry and leadership continues to provide faith and support to countless individuals and families of the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, and serves as an instrument of spiritual connection to the life and works of his father, Priest martyr Saint Budimir Sokolovic of Dobrun. With courage and steadfast conviction in his faith, Saint Budimir Sokolovic paid the ultimate sacrifice in his quest for religious freedom.

Reverend Vasilje Sokolovic continues to carry the faithful torch of his father—a blazing legacy of freedom from tyranny, a burning reminder of the fragility of democracy, and a light of hope and inspiration for people around the world searching for the light of liberty.

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTEENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERI-
CANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago today, our Nation enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act, giving civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities. This landmark legislation can be described as nothing less than monumental and groundbreaking for those with disabilities as it brought this community into the mainstream folds of our Nation.

The ADA has brought about many changes in workplaces, transportation, schools, public buildings, parks and telephone services. Closed captioning, sidewalk curb cutouts, accessible entrances and restrooms, equal employment opportunities—all are a direct result, making the ADA one of the most far-reaching pieces of legislation ever enacted by our Nation. Perhaps more important than removing physical barriers, the ADA has been successful in changing the way society views our members with disabilities. Society understands and now demonstrates that people with disabilities could, and should, fully participate in all aspects of life.

Mr. Speaker, despite the progress achieved through the ADA, there is still a long way to go before we truly achieve "full participation" for people with disabilities. In 1985, the widely regarded Harris poll determined that two-thirds of working age Americans with disabilities are unemployed, the highest unemployment rate by far of any group, and much of the impetus for enacting the ADA. The U.S. Census Bureau shows that little has changed in the last 20 years. Today, only 42% of working-age men, and 34% of working-age women, with disabilities are employed.

The ADA levels the playing field, but it cannot ensure that an individual with a disability is actually able to apply for that job, or to that university. As technological advances continue to close physical gaps for people with disabilities in and out of the workplace, let us also be mindful to provide the tools needed to cross the mental gaps they may face.

Confidence and recognition of self-worth are absolutely necessary to taking those big steps toward employment, or education. To promote this, we need legislation like the Medicaid

Community-Based Attendant Services and Supports Act, H.R. 910, a bill introduced by my colleague Rep. Danny Davis and which I have cosponsored. This bill would provide individuals with disabilities equal access to community-based attendant services and supports, taking many out of institutional care and placing them back into their homes, families and communities where they belong. In supportive and familiar environments, people with disabilities will be better prepared to take advantage of education and employment opportunities.

We must continue to educate the public, and help inspire employers to seek out qualified employees with disabilities. We must fight to broaden, not narrow, the scope of the ADA as we continually redefine the meaning of "disability." America has become more accessible to people with disabilities. This fact rightfully deserves 3 celebration today. However, Congress must continue to level the playing field and continue the promise to push for full, unrestricted access and participation for our disabled communities.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL DEALING
WITH CLAIMS FOR RIGHTS-OF-
WAY UNDER R.S. 2477

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today again introducing a bill to establish a process for orderly resolution of a problem that affects private property owners and the sound management of the Federal lands.

What is involved are claims for rights-of-way under a provision of the Mining Law of 1866 that later was embodied in section 2477 of the Revised Statutes, and so is usually called R.S. 2477. It granted rights-of-way for the construction of highways across Federal lands not reserved for public uses. It was one of many 19th-century laws that assisted in the opening of the West for resource development and settlement.

More than a century after its enactment, R.S. 2477 was repealed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, often called "FLPMA," and was replaced with a modern and comprehensive process for establishing rights-of-way on Federal lands. However, FLPMA did not revoke valid existing rights established under R.S. 2477—and, unfortunately, it also did not set a deadline for people claiming to have such rights to file their claims.

As a result, there is literally no way of knowing how many such claims might be filed or what lands might be affected—including not just Federal lands but also lands that once were Federal but now belong to other owners. But it is clear that R.S. 2477 claims could involve not only thousands of square miles of Federal lands but also many lands that now are private property or belong to the states or other entities.

This is obviously a serious problem. It also is the way things used to be with regard to another kind of claim on Federal lands—mining claims under the Mining Law of 1872. However, that problem was resolved by section 314 of FLPMA, which gave people 3 years to record those claims and provided that any

claim not recorded by the deadline would be deemed to have been abandoned. The courts have upheld that approach, and I think it should have been applied to R.S. 2477 claims as well. If it had been, R.S. 2477 would be a subject for historians, not a headache for our land managers or a nightmare for private property owners. I think that now, finally—more than a quarter of a century since it was repealed—the time has come to let R.S. 2477 sleep in peace. And that is the purpose of the bill I am introducing today.

The bill is based on legislation proposed by the Secretary of the Interior in 1997, with changes and refinements based on extensive consultations with many interested persons and groups.

The bill follows the sound example of FLPMA by providing that any R.S. 2477 claim for which a notice is not filed with the government within 4 years will be considered to have been relinquished and void. I think this is more than reasonable, because people interested in claiming rights-of-way under R.S. 2477 have had ample time to decide whether they want to file a claim.

The bill also spells out what information a claimant is to provide, how claims are to be considered administratively, and the rules for judicial review of administrative decisions about claims.

Recognizing the potential threats to private or other non-Federal landowners from R.S. 2477 claims, the bill spells out that claims involving their lands will be considered to have been abandoned when the lands were transferred out of federal ownership unless the claimant can establish by clear and convincing evidence that at the time of transfer there was a well-established right-of-way whose use for highway purposes was intended to be allowed to continue. And it applies a similar standard to claims involving lands used for national defense purposes as well as National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, wilderness and wilderness study areas, and other conservation areas.

Since last year, my staff and I have discussed this subject with many people, representing a wide range of views. In particular, we worked closely with Commissioners and staff members from many of Colorado's counties. The results of those discussions are reflected throughout the bill, which differs from the previous version in many respects.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fair, balanced bill. It gives anyone claiming to hold a valid right under R.S. 2477 ample opportunity to come forward and seek to have that claim upheld, with an opportunity to seek ultimate redress from the courts if necessary. At the same time, it gives private property owners and the American people—the owners of the Federal lands—assurance that the time will come when they will know what they own, without having to worry about new R.S. 2477 claims being made against their lands.

In my opinion, such legislation is long overdue.

I am attaching an outline of the main provisions of the bill.

OUTLINE OF R.S. 2477 BILL

SECTION 1

Section 1 provides a short title, has findings about the bill's background, and states its purpose, which is to provide certainty to affected private landowners, State and local governments, and the public by establishing

a deadline for filing of claims for highway rights-of-way under R.S. 2477 and providing a process for consideration and resolution of such claims.

SECTION 2

Section 2 defines key terms used in the bill.

SECTION 3

Section 3 deals with the filing of notices of claims for rights-of-way based on R.S. 2477:

Subsection (a) sets a deadline of 4 years after enactment for filing notices of claims.

Subsection (b) specifies the information to be included in each notice of a claim.

Subsection (c) deals with the places for filing notices of claims and other aspects of filing.

Subsection (d) requires publication and other steps to inform the public.

Subsection (e) provides that failure to timely file a notice of a claim shall be deemed to constitute a relinquishment of any rights purported to have been acquired under R.S. 2477 related to that claim. This parallels Section 314 of FLPMA, which required recordation of unpatented mining claims. A claimant would have 3 years to file a lawsuit challenging the effect of this provision on a claim. Claims already subject to final determination by any Federal court or agency are exempt.

SECTION 4

Section 4 addresses evidence to support claims.

Subsection (a) sets a deadline of 6 year after filing a notice of a claim for a claimant to submit evidence in support of the claim.

Subsection (b) requires submission of the following: 1) Name, address, and contact information of the claimant; 2) names and contact information of all persons or entities with property interests in lands affected by a claim, as shown on public records; 3) proof that notice of the claim has been provided to the persons and entities listed under (2); 4) identification of the entity that would have a property interest in the right-of-way for which a claim is being made; 5) a description of the highway on which the claim is based; 6) evidence of construction of a highway on the claimed route; 7) evidence that the claimed route constitutes a highway; 9) a statement regarding the availability of materials related to the claim; and 10) evidence that the claimed right-of-way traversed public land not reserved for other use at the time of construction of the highway.

Subsection (c) requires additional evidence to support claims involving certain lands: 1) for claims involving conservation lands, tribal lands, or defense lands, evidence that prior construction and continuing use of the lands for highway purposes were so open and notorious on and after the date on which the lands acquired such status that management of the lands by the Federal government was intended to be subject to continuation of their use for highway purposes; and 2) For claims involving lands no longer in Federal ownership, evidence that prior construction and continuing use of the lands for highway purposes were so open and notorious on the date that the lands were transferred from Federal ownership that the transfer was intended to be subject to the continued use of lands for highway purposes.

Subsection (d) provides that a claimant who fails to submit all the required evidence to support a claim will have an additional 30 days to complete the submission, and that failure to submit all required evidence shall result in a determination that the claim is deemed abandoned and that any rights purported to be based on R.S. 2477 with respect to the claim have been relinquished. Such a determination is subject to judicial review pursuant to section 5(j).

SECTION 5

Section 5 addresses review of claims and determinations regarding them.

Subsection (a) requires the authorized officer to review timely-submitted evidence in order to determine whether a claim should be considered presumptively valid.

Subsection (b) provides that in all cases a claimant shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that a claimed right-of-way was validly accepted under R.S. 2477.

Subsection I requires the authorized officer to determine presumptively valid a claim involving private or other non-federal lands if the claimant has both met the burden of proof specified in subsection (b) and has also demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence that when the lands passed from Federal ownership the prior construction and continuing use of the lands for highway purposes were so open and notorious that transfer of the lands was intended to be subject to their continued use for highway purposes.

Subsection (d) requires the authorized officer to determine presumptively valid a claim involving conservation or defense lands if the claimant has both met the burden of proof specified in subsection (b) and has also demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence that when the lands acquired that status the prior construction and continuing use of the lands for highway purposes were so open and notorious that management of the lands for conservation of defense purposes was intended to be subject to their continued use for highway purposes.

Subsection (e) requires the authorized officer to determine presumptively valid a claim involving tribal lands if the claimant has both met the burden of proof specified in subsection (b) and has also demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence that when the lands acquired that status the prior construction and continuing use of the lands for highway purposes were so open and notorious that it was intended that use of the lands for highway purposes would continue.

Subsection (f) provides that if no portion of a claim involves former Federal lands, conservation lands, defense lands, or tribal lands, the authorized officer is to determine the claim presumptively valid if the claimant has met the burden of proof specified in subsection (b).

Subsection (g) provides that if the authorized officer is unable to determine a claim to be presumptively valid, the officer will determine it invalid and that any rights purported to have been acquired under R.S. 2477 with respect to the claim have been relinquished and therefore no further administrative action on it is required. It also provides for notification of such a determination and specifies that such a notification constitutes final agency action subject to judicial review, and sets a 3-year statute of limitation for initiation of such review.

Subsection (h) specifies the procedures to be followed if the authorized officer determines a claim is presumptively valid, provides an opportunity for filing an objection to such a determination, and allows a claimant to provide supplemental evidence to respond to such an objection.

Subsection (i) provides for a public hearing if an objection is filed to a determination of presumptive validity, upon the request of either a claimant or an objector.

Subsection (j) provides for review of information submitted by an objector to a finding of presumptive validity and for issuance of a determination of validity or invalidity.

Subsection (k) specifies the information to be included in determinations of validity, specifies that such a determination is a final agency action subject to judicial review, and

establishes a statute of limitation for initiation of such review.

SECTION 6

Section 6 includes a variety of administrative provisions:

Subsection (a) prohibits charging a fee for filing of a claim by a State, County, or local government.

Subsection (b) sets priorities for reviewing and processing claims: 1) claims filed by a State, County, or local government; 2) claims filed by non-governmental parties and involving private or other non-federal lands, conservation lands, defense lands, or tribal lands; and 3) other claims.

Subsection (c) requires that to the extent practicable review of claims will be completed within a year after submission of evidence and requires periodic status reports on claims under review.

Subsection (d) provides—1) authorized officers reviewing claims are to seek and consider the views of affected States, counties, local governments, tribes, Federal agencies, and the public; 2) authorized officers reviewing claims are responsible for coordinating with appropriate Federal agencies; 3) authorizing officers reviewing claims involving lands in Alaska will also seek the views and consult with any affected Native Corporation.

Subsection (e) authorizes retention by the United States (with respect to claims involving conservation, defense, or tribal lands) or the owner of record (with respect to claims involving other lands) of exclusive possession or control of lands affected by claims held upon judicial review to be valid. The subsection specifies the United States or the owner of record shall seek to reach agreement with the claimant before exercising the authority to retain possession or control.

Subsection (f) requires filing of surveys of R.S. 2477 highway rights-of-way determined to be valid; provides that failure to file such a survey within 5 years after final administrative determination of validity shall be deemed to be a relinquishment of any rights purported to have been acquired under R.S. 2477 with respect to such right-of-way; and establishes a 3-year statute of limitations to challenge any such deeming of relinquishment.

Subsection (g) provides for consultation with relevant Federal agencies or tribes and requires concurrence of relevant Federal agencies before a determination of presumptive validity.

SECTION 7

Section 7 addresses the relationship between the bill and other law and prior determinations.

Subsection (a) provides that authorized officers are to apply Federal law and relevant State law to the extent that State law is consistent with Federal law.

Subsection (b) specifies that nothing in the bill will affect, change, alter, or modify Title V of FLPMA or Title IX of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Subsection (c) provides—1) except as provided in this subsection, nothing in the bill applies to or affects the status of any judicial or administrative determinations made prior to its enactment regarding any claim or assertion based on R.S. 2477; 2) any final determination regarding an R.S. 2477 claim or assertion made sooner than 4 years after the enactment of the bill must be filed with relevant offices of the Bureau of Land Management and recorded on appropriate local land records; 3) failure to file or record in accordance with paragraph (2) shall be deemed a relinquishment of any rights purported to have been acquired under R.S. 2477; 4) a deeming of relinquishment for failure to file or record is subject to judicial review; but 5)

any such judicial review must be initiated no later than 7 years after the date of enactment of the bill.

SECTION 8

Section 8 specifies that no Federal officer, agency, or court shall take any action to affirm the validity of any assertion of a property interest in a right-of-way under R.S. 2477 except with regard to a claim filed under the bill.

SECTION 9

Section 9 authorizes appropriations to implement the bill.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT HAWK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in honor and recognition of Robert Hawk—Vietnam War Veteran, public servant and protector of the citizens of Cleveland and beyond. Mr. Hawk's dedication and integrity throughout his career as a Special Agent with the Federal Government reflects a continuum of law enforcement excellence.

Mr. Hawk grew up in Western Pennsylvania and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA. After graduation, Mr. Hawk served in the infantry with the U.S. Army's Cavalry Division in the capacity of Team Leader in charge of a Reconnaissance Team.

In 1978, following his exemplary service to our country, Mr. Hawk began his service with the FBI as a Special Agent. His assignments included working out of the FBI's Cleveland and Detroit offices. For the next decade, Mr. Hawk garnered extensive experience on high-level assignments, including working in undercover capacities on narcotics and white-collar crime cases. Since 1989, Mr. Hawk has continued to serve with diligence and integrity as the Media Coordinator in the Cleveland FBI Office. Aside from media-related duties, Mr. Hawk is a Firearms Instructor, Defensive Tactics Instructor, and assists the Cleveland Organized Crime Squad on numerous cases.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Mr. Robert Hawk, friend, mentor and leader within the FBI organization. His significant work continues to strengthen the vital bonds between law enforcement and the greater community, and also serves to strengthen the fabric of safety for every citizen of Cleveland and well beyond.

INTRODUCTION OF OAK PARK MEDICAL CENTER PROPERTY ACQUISITION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill today that will resolve a conflict between the Department of Commerce and a property owner along the perimeter of the Department of Commerce campus in Boulder, Colorado.

In 2004, the Department of Commerce determined that a security fence needed to be

constructed around the Boulder campus that houses labs for both the National Institute for Standards and Technology, NIST, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA. In preparation for the fence the current access road would need to be rerouted. This road is also the only access to the Oak Park Medical Center, that abuts the Department of Commerce property. NIST granted an easement to the medical center to allow access to the facility through the Boulder Campus. Current plans to open a new entrance to the campus will result in the closing of access to the medical center.

Significant discussions have occurred between the Oak Park Medical Center property owner and the Department of Commerce, principally through NIST. However, no compromise has been reached to provide alternative access to the medical center. The Department of Commerce contacted the Oak Park Medical Center property owner identifying an alternative access road which is unacceptable to both the owner and the tenants of the building. The property owner has expressed interest in selling the property to the Department of Commerce.

Unlike most government property, the Boulder Campus was purchased by the Department of Commerce, rather than the U.S. General Services Administration. As a result, my bill authorizes the Department of Commerce to purchase the land.

I have contacted the Department of Commerce urging the agency to administratively buy the property, however feel this legislation is helpful if an administrative solution is not worked out. I believe this is an equitable compromise, as the property owner is willing to sell the land, and NIST would have access to utilize the building. At the same time, plans for construction of the security fence will not need to be altered to provide access to the medical center.

I have included a letter from the property owner expressing his support for this bill as well as the purchase of his property by the Department of Commerce. I consider this a friendly condemnation and urge a speedy passage of the bill by the House of Representatives.

BOULDER, CO,

July 19, 2005.

Re Proposed Legislative Bill for the Purchase of 385 South Broadway, Boulder, Colorado.

Congressman MARK UDALL,
Mr. DOUG YOUNG,
*Turnpike Drive,
Westminster, CO.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN UDALL AND MR. YOUNG: I am in support of the legislation that would authorize and direct the federal government to purchase my property at 385 South Broadway, Boulder, Colorado, referred to in the proposed Bill as the "Oak Park Medical Center."

Please understand that my preference would be to retain ownership and for NIST to honor its existing easement granting access to and from the Oak Park Medical Center. However, if that agreement is to be unilaterally rescinded by NIST, then I feel that this legislation to purchase my property is the appropriate course of action. Thank you.

Sincerely,

BRUCE TENENBAUM.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PRESERVATION OF FEDERALISM IN BANKING ACT"

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today that continues the long fight to maintain state consumer protections for customers of national banks. In January 2004, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), the primary regulator of national banks, introduced regulations to preempt the application of state laws and the authority of state officials over their regulated entities. Since that time, other banking regulators have joined this race to the bottom. My legislation will provide much-needed clarification in this area.

Last year, USA Today, the nation's newspaper, condemned the OCC's preemption rules in an editorial, claiming that they threaten "strong consumer protection laws that have been the responsibility of states for more than a century." The newspaper said the OCC rules will make "millions of consumers vulnerable" to illegal loan practices. The OCC's Chief Counsel irreverently characterized these concerns as "baloney."

Over the last year, we have worked together as a broad bipartisan coalition who sees state consumer protection as a bread and butter issue, rather than "baloney."

This legislation is merely the latest step to ensure that our states have the power to protect consumers.

And to stop the OCC from eroding strong safeguards that have been used by the states for more than a century to enforce consumer protection laws.

The preemption rules were a misguided, unprecedented, unchecked expansion of its authority, especially since the states, rather than the OCC, currently have the tools and resources to effectively enforce consumer protection and other important laws. This agency has repeatedly demonstrated that it is far more concerned with currying favor among the banks it regulates instead of fulfilling its regulatory responsibilities under the law.

Last year, I passed an amendment to the Financial Services Committees Budget Views expressing concern regarding the budgetary effects of the OCC's preemption rules. The budget views put the Financial Services Committee on record that the OCC's preemption rules represent an unprecedented expansion of authority, one that was instituted without Congressional authorization. Subsequently, I introduced legislation to reverse the preemption rules, and then, toward the end of last Congress, Mr. FRANK and I introduced a version of what we are again introducing today.

Our bill ensures that national banks will be bound by state consumer protection laws, including predatory mortgage lending statutes. It also prohibits banks from benefiting from part of a state law while refusing to comply with a consumer-friendly portion of the same law. For example, a bank in Ohio is currently using the state law mechanism for foreclosing properties, but failing to abide by another provision in the statute, which limits fees for consumers. This legislation also allows state attorneys

general to enforce laws and bring suit against banks when appropriate. As a former City Council member, I believe that the accountability of local officials is crucial. Few consumers can sort through the alphabet soup of regulators and figure out whom to contact if they have a problem with their bank. But almost every consumer knows that their attorney general is there to protect them, so we must ensure that they retain authority over banks.

I am pleased to have been joined on this legislation by Representatives FRANK, LEE and MCCARTHY as original cosponsors and I urge all of my colleagues to support this effort.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: MUCH ACCOMPLISHED, BUT MORE PROGRESS NEEDED

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. When the ADA was signed on July 26, 1990, it promised "equality of opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, inclusion and independence" for people with disabilities. This landmark legislation—one of the most important civil rights bills of our generation—is designed to allow the disabled to be full and productive members of our society. The goal of the ADA is that no one should be isolated or denied the opportunity that is the American dream.

The motivating idea behind the ADA is the recognition that persons with disabilities deserve to enjoy true equality and independence, to be part of our Nation not isolated within it. The ADA says it is wrong that individuals cannot join their friends at a movie theater or restaurant or sports stadium simply because they are in a wheelchair. It is wrong that disabled individuals are not hired because employers refuse to make workplace accommodations. It is wrong that, because individuals must deal with a disability, they must also deal with the lack of accessibility to public buildings, transportation and services. That kind of discrimination goes against the fundamental principles of our Nation. It is those types of obstacles that the ADA has sought to eradicate. By integrating people with disabilities into the workforce and community, we have all benefited.

While there were many individuals who were instrumental in winning the passage of the ADA, I want to acknowledge and thank two leaders in the disability rights movement: Justin Dart and Marca Bristo. Justin Dart was an inspiration for all of us who care not just about disability rights but about human rights. Marca Bristo, a constituent and friend, continues to lead the effort to expand opportunities and respect for persons with disabilities. I have had the personal privilege of knowing and learning from them and, like so many others, have been profoundly influenced by them.

Justin Dart was born in Chicago in 1930, contracted polio in 1948 and spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair. Although he died in 2002, his legacy lives on both through the thousands of advocates he has inspired and

through the work of Yoshiko Dart and the rest of his family. He was known for his grassroots activism, touring the Nation, rallying people to support disability rights. In 1981, Mr. Dart was appointed by President Reagan to be the vice-chair of the National Council on Disability. He and others on the Council drafted a national policy that called for national civil rights legislation to end the centuries-old discrimination against people with disabilities—what would eventually become the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In 1988, he was appointed to lead the Congressional Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of Americans with Disabilities. Mr. Dart toured the Nation, touting the ADA as "the civil rights act of the future." In 1990, Justin Dart received the first pen used by former President Bush at the signing ceremony for the Americans with Disabilities Act. For the remainder of his life, Justin Dart continued to work passionately to see that disabled persons were given the rights they deserve and to win "Justice for All."

Marca Bristo is a nationally and internationally acclaimed leader in the disability rights movement. In 1977, Ms. Bristo suffered a spinal injury in a car accident. Her new condition forced her to see life in a new way, and she has since been a passionate and tenacious advocate for disability rights. In 1980, she founded Access Living in Chicago, one of the Nation's first centers for independent living. Ms. Bristo served as the Presidentially-appointed chairwoman of the National Council on Disability from 1994 to 2002 and while heavily involved in the drafting of the ADA, has not been afraid to point out the need for improvements in it. As chairwoman of the NCD, she released a report on the ADA 5 years ago which focused specifically on implementation problems and has persistently argued that rights must be enforced in order to be real. Marca Bristo continues to work hard for disability rights and to improve the lives of people in Chicago and around the Nation.

Our Nation has come a long way in the 15 years since passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We have changed, we have become a more inclusive society, but we have not achieved our goal. The ADA has done much to break down barriers for the disabled, but we must recognize that we have far more to do to end discrimination. For 15 years now, it has been illegal for employers to discriminate against job applicants because of their disabilities. Yet, 2 of every 3 disabled persons are unemployed. It is illegal for state and local governments to deny disabled persons access to public services such as mass transit. Yet, funding constraints still leave persons with disabilities without accessible and convenient transportation options. Public and commercial buildings must be constructed and, where possible, modified to accommodate disabled persons. Yet, homes are still being built that lock people out instead of being built to be accessible and inconclusive. That is why I have introduced H.R. 1441, the Inclusive Home Design Act. Finally, too many people are still locked out of their communities because of the lack of home- and community-based services. We need to build upon the initial success of the ADA to solve these problems. Yet, today we are defending against Social Security privatization schemes that would slash disability benefits for 8 million people with disabilities and against Medicaid cuts that would jeopardize health and long-term care services.

The Americans with Disabilities Act has changed our society in these past 15 years. However, as with most civil rights issues, there is still so much more progress to be made. We must remember the vision of Justin Dart and listen to the message of Marca Bristo. While we take time to celebrate today's anniversary, we must never be content until the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act becomes reality so that every person is guaranteed "equality of opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, inclusion and independence."

A TRIBUTE TO DR. EDMOND F.
RITTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished academic surgeon, Edmond F. Ritter. It is an honor to represent Dr. Ritter in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader in American Medicine.

Dr. Ritter received his Medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, where he completed General Surgical Training. Dr. Ritter then underwent Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical Training at the University of California San Francisco. After completing his training, he was appointed to the faculty at Duke University Medical Center. He was later named, "The Duke Distinguished Physician," in recognition of his contributions to the institution and patient care.

Dr. Ritter is an influential member of the medical community. As a gifted surgeon with special expertise in reconstructive microsurgery, he is able to provide skilled, state-of-the-art care to patients with difficult problems. In particular, his results for patients with cancers of the head, breast, and neck are unsurpassed.

Dr. Ritter has had an integral role in the training and mentorship of over 30 young plastic and reconstructive surgeons. Many of these aspiring surgeons have accepted academic positions and have become leaders in their communities.

Currently, Dr. Ritter is an Associate Professor at the Medical College of Georgia. In addition to making multiple contributions to the surgical literature, he is leading an investigation of Tumor and Adult Stem cell interactions in order to advance our understanding of tumor biology.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent upon this body to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Edmond Ritter for sharing his talents and services to improve the medical, physical, and emotional well-being of those in need.

A TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL
ANTHONY W. LENGERICH,
UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rear Admiral Anthony W.

Lengerich, United States Navy, who is retiring after more than 34 years of faithful service to our Nation. A native of Redlands, California, Rear Admiral Lengerich received his commission in 1971 through a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship at the University of Colorado, and has since served with great distinction both as a Surface Warfare Officer and an Engineering Duty Officer.

Rear Admiral Lengerich's impressive career has included sea duty aboard USS *GURKE* (DD 783) and USS *BADGER* (FF 1071), and on the afloat staffs of Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet, Commander Destroyer Squadron Thirteen, Commander Carrier Group Two and Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Twelve. During these tours, he qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer and was designated as "Qualified for Command at Sea." He also served as Communications Operations Officer for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean on the staff of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe in London.

Following his selection as an Engineering Duty Officer in 1984, Rear Admiral Lengerich served as the Platform Integration Officer for the Joint Tactical Information Distribution System on the staff of the Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Command, Washington, DC. His next assignment included duties as Project Officer for the Command and Control Processor and Director of Force Systems Engineering within the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR). He later served as the Division Director for Afloat Mission Planning Systems within the Command and Control Program Office on the staff of the Program Executive Officer for Cruise Missile and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. An exceptional leader, he has commanded the Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center, Charleston, South Carolina, and "commissioned" the Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center, In-Service Engineering, East Coast Division, also in Charleston. He subsequently commanded the Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center, San Diego, California, with additional duty as Corporate Operations Officers and Corporate Information Office for SPAWAR.

In 1998, Rear Admiral Lengerich was nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate for the rank of Rear Admiral (lower half). His initial flag assignments included Director of Installations and Logistics for SPAWAR, and next, on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as Director of Industrial Capability, Maintenance Policy and Acquisition Logistics, and as Deputy Director of the Fleet Readiness Division. He was nominated and confirmed for the two-star rank of Rear Admiral in 2001.

Rear Admiral Lengerich assumed his current duties as Vice Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command in August 2002, effectively meeting the spectrum of demanding challenges in the daily operation of a command comprising nearly 50,000 employees and a \$20 billion annual budget. His efforts have been instrumental in creating the foundation for an integrated organization with a single corporate focus that specifically aligned NAVSEA's mission in support of the Chief of Naval Operations, Secretary of the Navy, and Secretary of Defense initiatives. His visionary

leadership and practical day-to-day approach during a period of unprecedented institutional transformation, has substantially and materially guided the execution of extremely complex acquisition, fleet maintenance and modernization programs to fulfill the needs of the Fleet today and the Navy of tomorrow.

Rear Admiral Lengerich has been indispensable in bringing the leading edges of technical thinking and management skills together to meet myriad Navy needs. A champion of sound fiscal methods, Rear Admiral Lengerich chaired a command review of major acquisition programs to identify and address shortfalls, and provided recommendations to reduce testing and evaluation costs, which were incorporated in the Department's investment process. Organizationally, he has fostered the improved communications and enhanced teamwork needed to produce desired "bottom line" results within the command and across the Navy. His vision led to the merger of the NAVSEA Warfare Centers into a single business unit, enabling process commonality between the NAVSEA Warfare Centers and Divisions, and the designation of Product Area Directors to ensure each Warfare Center customer received the best and most efficient combination of talent, facilities, and cost. Notably, Rear Admiral Lengerich chaired the Systems Command Integration Board to address the range of issues vital to the delivery of effective war fighting systems, and, has also chaired the Functional Naval Capabilities—Total Ownership Cost Integrated Process Team for the past six years, and led efforts which have yielded over \$3 billion a year in ship, aircraft and ground vehicle maintenance cost avoidance.

Rear Admiral Lengerich has devoted significant energies to the command's civilian and military personnel. He has shaped the command's "roll out strategy" for transition to the National Security Personnel System and he developed the metrics to guide the command's Human Capital Strategy. Within the Navy's Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) Community he spearheaded efforts to pro-actively manage the community strategy in meeting Navy dynamic requirements. With the same focus on the future, he has been a personal mentor to nearly one-third of the entire Navy ED community and has worked with the Naval Postgraduate School to create a new accredited Master of Science in Systems Engineering curriculum and to create an advisory board on course curriculum critical to NAVSEA and SPAWAR.

For the past two months, Rear Admiral Lengerich has served superbly as NAVSEA's Acting Commander, answering the call of duty as he has done many times before. He is an individual of uncommon character and total professional whose presence will be sincerely missed but whose many contributions will certainly endure. I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to thank him for his honorable service in the United States Navy, to commend him for a job "well done," and to wish him "fair winds and following seas" as he closes his distinguished military career.

ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DIS-
ABILITIES

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which we observe this week. This landmark piece of legislation continues to make a daily difference in the lives of the American people—not only in the lives of those with disabilities, but in all of our lives.

The Americans with Disabilities Act laid the groundwork to direct our nation toward equal opportunity for all. Today, the National Council on Disability, working with their federal partners, keeps up the hard work of striving to meet this vital goal. I am proud to have one of my Florida constituents serving as an appointee to the United States Access Board, which helps ensure accessibility in the design of Federal facilities. I applaud her commitment and dedication.

As Florida Secretary of State, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to apply the mission of the ADA to the cause of election reform. In Florida, we worked to remove the obstacles that were preventing individuals with disabilities from participating fully in the political process. With this legislation, Florida became the first state in the Nation to enact a law to secure the voting rights of individuals with disabilities.

We have fought hard to live up to the promise of our founding and to honor the dignity of every individual, and to extend the rights, privileges and opportunities of that promise to all our citizens. The Americans with Disabilities Act was part of a long line of landmark achievements that have expanded freedom and opportunity in the United States. Let us continue working toward the goals of this law—to remove the obstacles that prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying the full rights that too many Americans take for granted.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE ARMSTRONG

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, Lance Armstrong won an unprecedented seventh Tour de France race over the weekend. His life, both on and off the race track, is a great example of hard work and perseverance. Albert Carey Caswell, a U.S. Capitol Tour Guide, who is also a prolific poet, wrote the following poem in tribute to Lance Armstrong and his accomplishments. I believe that reading this poem will provide encouragement and inspiration to my colleagues as we consider Mr. Armstrong's great accomplishments.

A REAL FINE TOUR DE FORCE OF LIFE
WITH HEART AND SOUL, BODY AND MIND . . .
AND LEGS AND ARMSTRONG

This force, this presence . . . which guides us
along life's path and roads . . .
Directing us from deep down within . . . this
burning force, which lasts in life we
follow as we go.

As emanating, from so very deep within our
very souls, this voice . . . of this our
chosen goal, of this our life's Tour De
Force of Life as shows!

While, riding along life's roads,
As there upon our paths as rode, embarking
on this journey we call life . . . as ever
onward we go . . .

To win the race of life, we all must follow a
code of courage and sacrifice . . . until,
approaching our final nights, upon this
our earth as rode.

For in the game of life, there is but one
thing which makes us bright . . . of
which makes us all contenders.

Just one difference between winning and los-
ing . . . for it's "The Heart" from
which all great things are so rendered!

For True Champions come in all shapes and
sizes . . . but, it's what's found within
their hearts as where lies their true
and golden splendor . . .

While, traveling through life's country sides,
As over her mountain tops we climb, as
along life's rivers which we wind . . . as
by her we glide . . .

In this our most valiant of quests, To Be The
Best . . . as before us so lies the answer
so . . . Of this great test, within our
hearts inside . . .

Do we get up when we fall down?
While, upon each new stage in this race
called life . . . do our hearts burn
bright in our souls as found?

For in this our greatest of quests, To Be The
Best . . . will we one day because of
these our precious gifts, perhaps be so
Heaven bound?

In Life . . . to go for the Gold!
To cheat death, to reach down inside of your-
self as your soul stretch . . . until,
none is left, oh, so very bold!

To be a true Champion, To be The Best, to
rewrite history and the records books
while upon our life's valiant quest . . .
as Lance so-Gold.

A True Great Champion . . . among just
mere men.

A winner, a man of courage . . . of passion
. . . of fury and heart . . . from the
start . . . to the middle . . . until, the
very end!

A man who knows but only one creed . . .
who knows no bounds . . . to push the
envelope as he is found . . . as his quest
for victory never so ends!

A Real Fine Tour De Force of Life . . . A
Real Tour De France . . . as is this
Tour De Lance!

A True Terminator, among his fellow ath-
letes as a most historic creator . . . as
ever onward he'll advance . . .

For there is no mountain too steep for him
to climb, no cure too sharp for him to
ride in time . . . with but one thing on
his mind, that Golden Chance!

With Heart and Soul . . . Body and Mind . . .
and Legs and Armstrong!

As this great American Hero, has shown to
this our world . . . why, with his char-
acter he so belongs . . .

For in Sir Lancelot, we see this Valiant
Knight of Courage's Quest . . . reach-
ing deep down into our souls, as with
his tests . . . his sweet life's song!

While, there looking into the very face of
death!

Pedaling uphill, how Lance achieved the ul-
timate victory . . . while "cheating
death" . . . in his most valiant of all
quests . . .

But not to lull, but to move ever forward
somehow . . . on so courageously now
. . . while, to this our world he's shown
his very best!

And, as Lance rides onward into history. . .
My child, I bid you to learn and see . . . and
glean from his life lessons, all about
what's within a heart you need!

What it takes to wind and to succeed, about
hope and faith, about character and
courage and dedication within great
hearts within you to succeed.

In traveling down the road of life,
For in Lance, we so see A Great Fine Tour
De Force of Life, to so carry with us in
our hearts about God and Faith and
Sacrifice!

A true celebration of the Heart and Soul of
Courage and Faith . . . and it's true
fine worth in Gold, this his A Fine
Tour De Force of Life!

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING THE CUBAN RE-
GIME'S MOST RECENT MEAS-
URES OF EXTREME REPRESSION
AGAINST MEMBERS OF CUBA'S
PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning the Cuban dictatorship's most recent measures of extreme repression against Cuba's pro-democracy movement.

Following Castro's condemnable, March 2003, crackdown against peaceful pro-democracy activists, the European Union correctly took measures against the Cuban regime. However, in January 2005, the European Union suspended these measures and resumed its policy of so-called "engagement" with the terrorist regime in Havana. This policy of appeasement includes inviting regime officials to diplomatic events and shamelessly disinviting Cuba's brave pro-democracy activists. Unfortunately, on July 14, 2005, the Government of France invited the dictatorship's Foreign Minister to the French Embassy in Havana for a Bastille Day celebration. And, the Government of France did not invite the heroic members of the democratic opposition to the same celebration.

To protest this cowardly policy, members of the pro-democracy opposition in Cuba sought, on July 22, to demonstrate in front of the French Embassy in a peaceful and orderly manner for the liberation of all Cuban political prisoners, and to denounce the current policy of the European Union.

In a viscous display of gangster-style repression, the Cuban regime mobilized its repugnant state security apparatus to try to intimidate and harass the peaceful demonstrators. Members of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society in Cuba, who were planning a peaceful demonstration in front of the French Embassy in Havana on the morning of Friday, July 22, were the victims of hate acts ("acts of repudiation"), their homes were ransacked, and at least 20 of them were arrested. Among those arrested were the leaders of the Cuban opposition Martha Beatriz Roque, Félix Bonne Carcassés and Rene Gómez Manzano. Mr. Gómez Manzano and other opposition members remain in prison as I speak.

This is one more example of the brutality of a dictatorship that does not allow freedom of

expression for Cubans, and instructs its thugs to assault the members of the peaceful opposition for the "crime" of seeking freedom, democracy and respect for human rights in Cuba. The world needs to respond in the strongest possible terms to this latest violation of the most elemental human rights in Cuba. This resolution condemns the latest violations of human rights by the Cuban regime, a regime of gangsters, by gangsters and for gangsters, led by a gangster in chief.

HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening not only to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, known as the ADA, but also to acknowledge my unwavering support of the ADA and of people with disabilities.

This Act has created positive changes, large and small, for disabled people everywhere. The access ramps we see leading into buildings are examples. Water fountains and sinks are more accessible. Services for the sight- and the hearing-impaired are more common. Employment discrimination is decreasing.

Another important development is that the Americans with Disabilities Act has mobilized the disabilities advocacy community. Since 1990, people with disabilities have grown into seasoned advocates. They have unified their voices and are being heard from the halls of Congress to the every city and town across America. Unity has added strength to their voice and confidence to their actions. And they are being heard, loud and clear. Every year, Congress has considered legislation affecting people with disabilities, whether it be concerning Social Security benefits, education, tax provisions, labor standards, or other issues. The Americans with Disabilities Act provided a comprehensive legislative starting point—but there is still so much more to be done.

Perhaps more than anything else, this legislation has given hope to disabled people here in Dallas and across this nation. The Americans with Disabilities Act affirmed that people with disabilities should have as many opportunities to succeed in life as any other citizen. Its message is one of equality. To the 14,589 disabled workers in Texas' 30th District, and others across the nation, the message is: "You belong."

HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 15th anniversary of landmark civil rights legislation for Americans with disabilities—the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This landmark law was passed with strong bipartisan support and signed into law by President George H.W. Bush. As we mark the 15th anniversary of this historic event, we celebrate the tremendous progress and new doors that have been opened to individuals with disabilities as a result of the ADA.

The purpose of the ADA was to provide clear and comprehensive national standards to eliminate discrimination against individuals with disabilities. As a result, individuals with disabilities are now able to live in their homes and have access to new careers. Accessible busses and trains and better paratransit systems have made it possible for more people with disabilities to get to work and school, enjoy restaurants and theaters and travel.

The ADA has improved society, not only for the 14 percent of Americans over the age of five who have at least one disability. Common-sense accommodations like curb cuts and close captioning have also benefited Americans without disabilities.

On this important anniversary, we must remember that while we have come a long way in eliminating barriers, critical work remains to ensure all Americans can live up to their full potential. Tragically, we still have stereotypes and misconceptions that affect people with disabilities. Sadly, we still have examples like the boy in Pennsylvania who was the target of discrimination by his T-ball coach. This is not an isolated incident, as I have learned of another boy in Kansas who was denied the right to play T-ball like any other 7-year-old because he had cerebral palsy. Fortunately, because of the ADA, that boy was eventually allowed to play T-ball.

Giving people with disabilities the right to participate fully in society is what this landmark legislation is all about.

As co-chair of the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus, I know that the ADA is a major achievement and much has been accomplished over the last 15 years. As we celebrate how far we've come, let us also recommit to creating a society in which no barrier stands in the way of fully participating in our society.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes on July 22, 2005. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 415, on agreeing to the Velázquez of New York amendment No.4 to H.R. 3070—the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 416, on passage of H.R. 3070—the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE ALPHONSO CHRISTIAN

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the United States Virgin Islands has lost one of its outstanding success stories as prominent lawyer and Judge Alphonso Christian passed away Saturday, July 23, 2005.

With the passing of this Native son we have lost a premiere trail blazer. This outstanding Virgin Islander, born in Frederiksted, St. Croix, made substantial contributions to the Territory and in particular to the island of St. Thomas, the place he sailed to as a young man to begin his career. St. Thomas became his home, and it is where he began a flourishing and illustrious career, raising his children to be another generation of a progressive Family that is especially renowned in St. Croix for its industriousness, hard work and diligence.

Christian, 88, died of heart failure at Roy L. Schneider Hospital on St. Thomas. A jurist, attorney, government administrator, teacher and community activist, Christian had arisen from humble beginnings on St. Croix. Christian was born on August 2, 1916 to Peter and Wilhelmina Christian in Frederiksted. His well disciplined upbringing and strong will to succeed during his child hood set the tone for his achievements to come.

He graduated as the Valedictorian of the Commercial Class at St. Patrick's and started as Clerk Typist at the Agricultural Station at Anna's Hope. He later came to St. Thomas where his speed and accuracy in this position paved the way for his becoming the Stenographer to Mr. Herbert Lockhart of the A.H. Lockhart & Co., a company that was the hub of all commercial activity on St. Thomas.

He worked his way from stenographer to reporter, and served as secretary of the Virgin Islands Municipal Council, and all the while studied law by correspondence from the well know LaSalle School. Impressed by his legal intellect, although he had never practiced law, Christian was allowed to take the bar exam without having attended law school. He passed at his first attempt with high marks and was admitted to the V.I. Bar in 1949.

Christian became involved with civic and political organizations while studying law by correspondence with the well-known LaSalle School.

His activity in politics began with his involvement in the first political party, the V.I. Progressive Guide. That position was the springboard to other positions such as Executive Secretary to the Municipal Council and the Legislative Assembly.

He was named legal aide to the Municipal Council of St. Thomas and St. John and the Legislative Assembly in 1949 and Judge of the Police Court in 1951. For the three years he served as Judge of the police Court, he also served as Coroner Recorder of Deeds, Chairman of the Board of Elections, United States Commissioner and Chairman of the Fourth of July Celebrations.

In 1972, he was appointed Commissioner of Public Safety of the Virgin Islands and served in the position until 1975, when he practiced law full-time. In April 1978, he was named the first Senior Sitting Judge of the Territorial

Court of the Virgin Islands, now known as the Superior Court, and served until April 1993.

Judge Alphonso Christian has served the Territory as a businessman, teacher, Attorney, Commissioner, Jurist, community activist and philanthropist. Judge Christian started his own business by opening and teaching at his own Commercial School, which he began in his living room and later transferred to his law office.

He was also the Commissioner of Public Safety at the time when that Department also included the Fire Service and the Prison System. His extensive community involvement also included being a Charter Member of the Lions Club, Chairman of the Virgin Islands Carnival Committee for several years, serving on various community Boards, and using his legal experience and business acumen to help the Catholic Church in many areas. While serving in these many capacities, Christian also taught legal assistants at the University of the Virgin Islands.

A man of many talents and blessed with wisdom, knowledge and persistence, Alphonso Christian will be long remembered and praised for his work in all areas in which he served his beloved home, but I am certain that he counts among his greatest contributions, as do we, those which have been made and will continue to be made through his children and grandchildren.

Judge Alphonso and my father Judge Almeric Christian who preceded him in death by several years were respected colleagues and good friends. On behalf of my family, staff, and the Members of the 109th Congress of the United States of America, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Ruth Christian, their children, Rubina, Delano, Alicia, including my dear friends Attorney Alphonso, Jr., and Dr. Cora Christian, grandchildren, sister Ann Abramson, family and friends.

May God comfort and bless you during this time of loss and may you find peace and acceptance in knowing that Judge Christian left an admirable record of achievement and a stellar example for those of us to emulate when we want to reach for the stars and the world tells us we have nothing to stand on.

His faith, persistence and hard work overcame great obstacles, and now he rests in God's eternal peace.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
OF SUSTAINED IMMIGRATION
FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO THE
UNITED STATES

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, together with 29 of my colleagues, a concurrent resolution to formally recognize the 2006 centennial of sustained Filipino immigration to the United States, acknowledge the many achievements of our Filipino-American community, and reflect on the productive and enduring relationship between the United States and the Philippines over the past century.

The Filipino-American experience and the evolving yet always close relationship between the Philippines and the United States began in earnest in 1906, when fifteen Filipino contract laborers arrived in the then-Territory of Hawaii to work on the islands' sugar plantations. This marked the start of an emigration from the Philippines to the United States which, during the subsequent century, has numbered upwards of 60,000 a year, making Filipinos our second-largest immigrant group from the Asia-Pacific region.

The year 1906 was also when the first class of two hundred "pensionados" arrived from the Philippines to obtain a United States education with the intent of returning to the Philippines. Many, however, stayed to become American citizens, forming, with the "sakadas" who emigrated to my Hawaii, the foundation of today's Filipino-American community.

The story of America's Filipino-American community is little known and rarely told. Yet it is the quintessential immigrant story of early struggle, pain, sacrifice, and broken dreams, leading eventually to success in overcoming ethnic, social, economic, political, and legal barriers to win a well-deserved place in American society.

Today, 2.4 million Americans of Filipino ancestry live throughout our Nation, including the

two top states: California, where 1.1 million reside, and Hawaii, my home state, where some 275,000 live (140,000 in my Second Congressional District alone, making it home to the largest number of Filipino Americans of any congressional district).

Members of this community have made great contributions to America, and have achieved success and distinction in, among other things, labor, business, politics, media and the arts, medicine, and the armed forces. Filipino Americans have also served with distinction in the armed forces of the United States throughout the long U.S.-Philippines relationship, from World Wars I and II through the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and today in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.

Many Filipino Americans retained their mother country's proud cultural traditions, which continue to enrich the diverse tapestry of today's American experience. Many have also maintained close ties to family and friends in the Philippines, and therefore played an indispensable role in maintaining the strength and vitality of the U.S.-Philippines relationship.

That relationship has evolved over the past century from the 1898–1946 period of U.S. governance, during which the then-Commonwealth of the Philippines was represented in the U.S. Congress by thirteen resident commissioners, to the post-independence period beginning in 1946, when the Philippines took its place among the community of nations and became one of this country's most reliable allies in the international arena.

In 2006, our Filipino-American community will join all Americans in pausing to recognize a century of achievement in the United States through a series of nationwide celebrations and memorials marking the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines. This centennial will provide every American of whatever ethnic heritage an opportunity to not only celebrate a century of Filipino immigration to the United States, but to celebrate, appreciate, and honor the struggles and triumphs common to the immigrant experience, which, of course, is also the American experience.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this infor-

mation, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 7

Time to be announced
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine NASA passenger aircraft.

SD-562

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

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