

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALTICOR
INCORPORATED**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alticor Incorporated, on being honored with the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This is an honor bestowed to employers who have gone above and beyond in supporting their National Guard and Reserve employees.

Alticor's communication with its military employees when in action, covering pay differential during deployments and their Military Leave Program are just a few of the many ways the company has demonstrated support for the Guard and Reserves. Alticor has also donated numerous products which have been distributed to deployed units worldwide.

I commend Alticor's contribution to military families. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Alticor Incorporated, for being honored with the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

THANKS TO THOMAS DILENCE

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to Thomas DiLence, Chief Counsel DiLence, Chief Counsel and Policy Director of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Tom has been a dedicated and accomplished public servant throughout his 9 years on Capitol Hill—2 years in his current position, and 7 years before that on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Tom has had a truly impressive career of government service. Most recently, he managed the successful House passage of major legislation to reform our system of homeland security grants—the Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005—and the first-ever Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006. He also was actively involved in drafting and negotiating the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act last year, the bill that codified into law many of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

Perhaps most important, however, Tom worked to establish a permanent Homeland Security Committee in the House of Representatives. He joined the fledgling Select Committee on Homeland Security 2 years ago, and worked tirelessly to ensure the transition of the Select Committee to the now permanent Committee on Homeland Security in the 109th Congress. During his tour with the Select Committee, Tom's keen mind, legislative expertise, and dogged determination helped to firmly establish the Committee as a force on Capitol Hill, and contributed greatly to the establishment of the permanent Committee on Homeland Security. Tom was always the first to arrive and the last to leave. As the Select Committee's primary interface

with other Congressional committees and the House Leadership, and in the face of significant resistance, he helped craft the jurisdiction of the new Committee to ensure that it could provide meaningful authorization and guidance to, and oversight of, the critical new Department of Homeland Security. As the largest reorganization of the Congressional branch in over 50 years, and as the first creation of a permanent congressional committee in over 30 years, this is an accomplishment of major significance—with real and lasting impact on the future of this House and the citizens of this great Nation.

It is appropriate that Tom should end this phase of his Hill career on such a high note with the youngest committee in the House of Representatives, but I would be remiss if I did not note some of Tom's other major accomplishments over the years. As the Deputy Chief Counsel for Oversight and Investigations, and a principal national security policy advisor, for the oldest standing committee in the House, the Energy and Commerce Committee, Tom led numerous successful investigations and helped pass important consumer protection and homeland security legislation, including the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which created the Department of Homeland Security.

Tom was an invaluable and talented member of the Energy and Commerce Committee's oversight and investigations staff, and played a key role in landmark Congressional investigations. In 2000, Bridgestone/Firestone announced a voluntary recall of 14.4 million tires following an investigation by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), spurred on by reports and complaints of tread separation of certain tire models, mostly on Ford Explorers. Approximately 271 fatalities and more than 800 injuries were linked to tread separation and rollover incidents involving under-inflated Firestone tires and Ford vehicles. Tom's tireless work during this Congressional investigation, and the nationally-recognized hearings he organized on this topic, uncovered the extent to which Firestone and Ford knew of these safety problems and kept them hidden from the public and from Federal regulators. This investigation also highlighted serious deficiencies in NHTSA's ability to adequately detect and investigate safety-related defects in motor vehicles and related equipment.

The Ford-Firestone investigation led to swift Congressional legislative action to protect American motorists. The Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act became law in the Fall of 2000. The legislation required that auto and tire makers promptly report serious safety concerns with their products, and gave NHTSA new authority to require improvements in auto and tire safety, including the tire pressure monitoring systems that many new vehicles now have. Tom's work on this investigation that resulted in the TREAD Act undoubtedly improved public safety on our roads and highways.

Tom also played a lead part in the Committee's vital investigation of the Enron and Arthur Andersen corporate fraud and accounting scandal, including the controversy surrounding the accounting firm's shredding of relevant documents just as government investigations got underway. Through a comprehensive investigation and series of public hearings, the

Committee revealed a web of corporate fraud aided and abetted by auditors too willing to look the other way. The astonishing discoveries contributed to Andersen's indictment on federal felony charges, and led to Congressional passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act—the single most important piece of legislation affecting corporate governance, financial disclosure, and the practice of public accounting since the U.S. securities laws of the early 1930s. The Act helps to protect average investors and shareholders, and ensure the independence of auditors on which they rely.

Even before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Tom took a keen interest in homeland security issues. In 1999, he led an investigation into the lack of security controls on the possession and use of deadly biological agents such as anthrax by private and academic laboratories and research facilities all across the country. After the anthrax mail attacks of October 2001, Tom's knowledge of the issue led to his involvement as a key drafter of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002—which, among other things, imposed registration and security requirements on those obtaining and using deadly biological agents in legitimate research.

Shortly thereafter, Tom was called upon again to lead the effort to draft and enact President Bush's signature initiative to combat bioterrorism, the Project BioShield Act. This Act, which passed in 2004, aims to spur the development and availability of next generation countermeasures against biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological weapons. As the President noted at the bill's Rose Garden signing ceremony, "America is stronger and better as a result of the BioShield law."

No man stands alone, and Tom would be the first to acknowledge that his amazing success is the result of the teamwork of many people. Ask anyone on the Hill about Tom, however, and you will hear a unanimous opinion attesting to Tom's intellect, photographic memory, leadership, and ability to build strong teams and find consensus.

On behalf of the Committee, I want to thank Tom's wife of 12 years, Linda, and his three children, Madison (7), Maguire (5), and Donovan (2), for all the hours Tom spent away from them. Clearly, they are Tom's inspiration, and his success is their success. Finally, I want to thank Tom for his hard work, tireless service, and steadfast determination. We will miss Tom. He helped to build the Committee on Homeland Security. He now leaves it a stronger and better place than when he arrived. And his efforts have helped make America a more safe and secure place for us all.

IN MEMORY OF DAN JOSEPH
PICKARD**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Dr. Dan Joseph Pickard who passed away on Thursday the 20th of October. I was greatly saddened to hear the news that Dr. Pickard had passed, and I will be keeping his wife, Patty, and surviving family members in my prayers during this very difficult time for the Pickard family.

Dr. Pickard led an accomplished life and was a community leader in Dallas, Texas. At the age of 15, Dan became an Eagle Scout. He and I would often talk of our shared experiences in Scouting and care for the young boys who grow and prosper through the program. Upon earning his Doctor of Optometry degree from Indiana University, Dan and Patty moved to Dallas in 1981 to start their professional careers. Dan served as the President of the Dallas Society of Optometrists, and was a valued community leader whom I enjoyed working with on a variety of issues.

I knew Dr. Pickard best as the Optometrist for my family and me, who always had a kind word and the best interests of his patients at the forefront of his priorities. Additionally, Dr. Pickard served on the Board of Directors during my term as Chairman of the Board of the Dallas Northeast Chamber of Commerce. Throughout his 5 years affected by Multiple Systems Atrophy, Dan continued to lead a life of support for others, and now he has passed away with dignity and peace in his heart.

Dr. Pickard's compassionate professionalism, enthusiasm for life, and sincere friendship will be greatly missed, yet his legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of the many people touched by his life. My wife, Nete, and I mourn his passing, and we honor the memory of his vibrant and inspiring life. May God bless the Pickard family during this time of great loss.

HONORING THE SCHOOL OF
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, RECIPIENT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD FOR 2005

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, an exceptional education serves as the foundation for exceptional opportunities in life. When an institution of learning goes the extra mile to help its students reach their full potential, the institution deserves recognition for its achievement.

On November 10–11, 2005, the U.S. Department of Education will present the coveted No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Awards. Blue Ribbon Schools are those whose students achieve in the top 10 percent on State tests or schools where at least 40 percent of students from disadvantaged backgrounds sharply improve their performance on state tests.

The 30th Congressional District of the State of Texas is home to several such schools. On this momentous occasion, I would like to extend warm congratulations to the School of Science and Engineering on being named a 2005 Blue Ribbon School. This institution has enabled its students to reach a standard of achievement that is exceptional. I honor the dedication of administrators, teachers and students required to capture this award and send best wishes in future endeavors.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE
ON H.R. 3057, FOREIGN OPERATIONS,
EXPORT FINANCING,
AND RELATED PROGRAMS AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Democratic motion to instruct conferees to accept the Senate's funding level for our global HIV/AIDS appropriations.

I want to thank my colleague, the ranking member, Ms. LOWEY for offering this motion, and I want to thank the chairman, Mr. KOLBE for accepting it. Both of them have worked in a bipartisan spirit to increase funding for our global AIDS programs above what the President requested, and they should be commended for their leadership.

Earlier this month I sent a letter to Mr. KOLBE and Ms. LOWEY, along with 55 other Members of Congress, asking that they take this very action today and approve the Senate's funding level of \$2.97 billion for global HIV/AIDS in the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill—\$500 million of which would go towards the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

By adopting the Senate's higher level of funding, we are again asserting United States leadership in fighting this devastating disease.

But let us be clear, much more still needs to be done.

The United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, estimates that approximately 39.4 million people worldwide are currently living with HIV/AIDS, including about 2.2 million children under the age of 15. Since the first cases were identified in 1981, over 20 million people worldwide have died from AIDS.

While the United States is poised to provide about \$3.6 billion to combat the disease this year, UNAIDS estimates that more than \$15 billion is necessary to fight the disease this year alone. Next year that number is closer to \$20 billion.

We know that the United States cannot fight this disease on its own. But we have a moral duty to at least contribute our fair share of funding to prevent the rapid spread of this disease and save the lives of millions of people around the world.

Although we may argue about money, we must not forget about those who are most vulnerable to this disease, the women and children throughout the developing world whose basic rights are frequently trampled upon.

I'm proud to say that over the last 2 weeks, Congress has taken an important step forward in trying to protect the rights of children who are affected by HIV/AIDS by passing my bill, H.R. 1409, the Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005.

I hope that the President will sign this legislation quickly and ensure a robust U.S. Government response to the needs of these children.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS.
ROSA PARKS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the courageous contributions and civil services of Mrs. Rosa Parks, who peacefully left the world on Monday, October 24, 2005 in Detroit, Michigan, at the age of 92.

As I look back at the struggles of African Americans, I am astounded by the fire that Mrs. Parks ignited:

On December 1, 1955, Mrs. Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus.

On December 5, 1955, she led a boycott by all colored people on the Montgomery buses, which lasted for 381 days.

On November 13, 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court declared Alabama's State and local laws requiring segregation on buses unconstitutional. Other events continued that challenged the U.S. Constitution: The desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, the desegregation of Woolworth's lunch counter at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College, and the desegregation of the University of Mississippi.

Nine years later, the U.S. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion, or national origin which provides the Federal Government with the powers to enforce desegregation.

Mrs. Rosa Parks was instrumental in changing the social and political climate of the United States of America. Her action has inspired Americans of all races and backgrounds to stand up for our basic human rights. She has taught us the power of determination and perseverance. Mrs. Parks was an activist who did not seek public attention. After the civil rights movement, Mrs. Parks continued to give back to the community. In 1987, she and her late husband, Raymond Parks, founded the Institute for Self-Development, which prepares young African-Americans for leadership positions in the workplace and the community. A subdivision of the Institute, called Pathways of Freedom, allows groups of teens to follow the Underground Railroad and visit the historical sites of the Civil Rights Movement. Her act of defiance against a powerful system showed each of us the importance of everything we do and the impact that our own acts of courage can have. Mrs. Parks lived a long and full life. She has left us physically, but will remain spiritually as she will be remembered for generations to come. Following, is a CNN report of Mrs. Rosa Park's life.

CIVIL RIGHTS ICON ROSA PARKS DIES AT 92—LONG KNOWN AS THE "MOTHER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT"

Rosa Parks, whose act of civil disobedience in 1955 inspired the modern civil rights movement, died Monday in Detroit, Michigan. She was 92.

Parks' moment in history began in December 1955 when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama.

Her arrest triggered a 381-day boycott of the bus system by blacks that was organized by a 26-year-old Baptist minister, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.