

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCING THE SOUTHERN NEVADA READINESS CENTER ACT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative JIM GIBBONS and Representative SHELLEY BERKLEY, to introduce the Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act.

The purpose of the Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act is to convey 35–50 acres of land from the McCarran Airport Cooperative Management Area Boundary to the Nevada National Guard for the purpose of building the Nevada National Guard Readiness Center. This Readiness Center will serve Henderson and southwest Las Vegas, and will allow the Nevada National Guard to have better access to the facilities and equipment they need for training.

The National Guard is our Nation's first line of defense in an ever-changing world. As the Guard's role expands, it is important that they are given the facilities and equipment they need to protect both Nevada and America at large. This Readiness Center will help Nevada's National Guard to achieve this goal, and I look forward to working with Congress to pass this bill into law.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE 5 NAVAL AVENGER TORPEDO BOMBERS OF FLIGHT 19

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 500, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the disappearance of five Avenger warplanes and one of the rescue aircraft sent to retrieve the lost pilots. The six planes flying out of the Naval Air Station of Banan River on December 5, 1945 contained a total of 27 men. These brave men have never been recovered. Their planes and all of their equipment have never been found, either.

As an interesting point, the disappearance of the planes happened somewhere off the eastern coast of Florida. The strange disappearance of these aircraft was the first incident in the lore of what became the story of the Bermuda Triangle. To date, the incident which we are acknowledging today is still the most cited example of strange occurrences in the Bermuda Triangle.

Mr. Speaker, we should remember the bravery of these 27 men by acknowledging the anniversary of their disappearance. It is a tragedy that for so many years, the cause of the

disappearance has remained unknown, leaving the families of the fallen pilots without answers.

For over 225 years, the freedom of America has been maintained by the fighting men and women of our Nation's Armed Forces. These courageous soldiers, sailors and marines put their lives on the line every day to preserve the safety and security of our Nation. In honoring the 27 men lost on December 5, 1945, we also honor the hundreds of thousands of men and women of America's Armed Forces whose heroic actions go unheralded every day.

In passing this resolution, we also honor the families of the fallen pilots, whose sacrifices on behalf of our country will never be forgotten.

I strongly support H. Res. 500, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on November 16, I missed the vote H. Con. Res. 268, expressing the sense of the Congress regarding oversight of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (#594). I intended to vote "aye."

CONGRATULATING DR. ULYSSES S. CURRY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Ulysses S. Curry of Fresno, as the honored recipient of the Community Health Champion Award from West Fresno Health Care Coalition.

Dr. Curry has dedicated over 30 years of continuous medical service to Fresno and continues to devote his time to the community. Ever a generous doctor, Ulysses has donated much of his time to assist in the progression of the medical community in the Central Valley.

Upon graduation from Central High School in Omaha, Nebraska, Dr. Curry immediately attended the University of Kansas in 1939. Ulysses went on to Howard University to pursue his Master's Degree, followed by Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee from which he attained his medical degree. He did his internship at Saint Agnes Hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina immediately following medical school.

It was a residency program that originally brought Dr. Curry to California. After completing his residency in pediatrics at Fresno

County General Hospital in Fresno, Dr. Curry moved to Denver, Colorado to finish his residency in internal medicine at Denver Veterans Administrative Hospital. Dr. Ulysses Curry permanently returned to Fresno and opened his General/Family Practice at which he continues to practice medicine.

Dr. Curry is affiliated with many hospitals in the Central Valley, such as Fresno Community Hospital, Clovis Community Hospital and Sierra Community. Ulysses also has memberships with many professional medical associations. He is an active member of Fresno-Madera Medical Society, John Hale Medical Forum, California Medical Association as well as a lifetime membership to the California Academy of Family Physicians and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

It is obvious from his extensive career that Dr. Ulysses S. Curry is worthy of such recognition from the West Fresno Health Care Coalition. It is with great pleasure that I stand today and congratulate Dr. Curry for all of his achievements.

HONORING RICHARD H. SHAPIRO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard H. Shapiro, Executive Director of the Congressional Management Foundation, CMF. Since 1988, Rick has tirelessly provided important and needed services in support of the institution of Congress. As Executive Director, Rick has become a leading expert on improving operations in the U.S. Congress. He has utilized that expertise in support of individual Member offices, in the training of literally thousands of Congressional staff, in providing research and best-practices information to House Administration, Committee and Member offices, and in writing landmark books and studies on Congressional management.

Mr. Speaker, Rick's involvement with Congress began in 1978, when he was a staff investigator at the former U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. While investigating Department of Defense procurement practices, Rick came to understand the importance of Congressional oversight. Effective oversight requires effective management, and as Rick came to understand this relationship, he came to appreciate the importance of good management in Congress.

Following graduate school, Rick returned to Congress as the Staff Director of the former House Post Office and Civil Service Subcommittee on Investigations, and subsequently as Staff Director at the House Small Business Subcommittee on Regulation and Business Opportunities. In those positions, he managed congressional staff and workload, laying the groundwork for his move to the Congressional Management Foundation as Deputy Executive Director in 1988. One year later, he became its Executive Director.

• 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.

Rick is a management consultant with unparalleled expertise in how to provide management and leadership assistance in the unique environment of Congress. He conducts organizational assessments for individual offices, committee offices, leadership organizations and ultimately for Congress itself. He prepares and conducts surveys in support of change processes for congressional organizations; facilitates strategic planning sessions and develops written organization plans; facilitates group problem solving for House and Senate offices; and provides individual assessment and coaching to senior managers and Members of Congress. During his tenure at CMF, Rick has delivered dozens of training programs to address the needs of legislative and support staff. He has authored and supervised the production of several books and reports, including the biannual House and Senate Staff Salary Surveys, Frontline Management, a guide for state office staff, and Setting Course, A Congressional Management Guide, which most new members of Congress find an absolutely indispensable tool as they face the daunting task of setting up their offices after being elected. Most recently, Rick and CMF have gotten deeply involved in information technology related issues, such as website design and managing internet communication.

Mr. Speaker, CMF is not a large institution, nor is it a well-endowed one. It is, in fact, a small group of dedicated people whose sole goal is to help Congress become a more productive and effective institution through good management practices. There is a great deal of work to be done toward that end, and the staff at CMF, led by Rick, works very hard at reaching that goal. Under Rick's leadership, the range and quality of services CMF provides has grown significantly, and the institution of Congress has benefited greatly from this growth.

Mr. Speaker, for 16 years, Rick has worked tirelessly with staff on both sides of the aisle to improve the management of Congress. I believe that his contribution to the functioning of this body has been extraordinarily valuable, and my purpose in rising today is to express my appreciation for his years of good work.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to recognize one of the most important contributors to the effective management of Congress, Mr. Richard H. Shapiro.

CONGRATULATING POLICE CHIEF
JERRY DYER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Police Chief Jerry Dyer of Fresno, California for receiving the 2005 Excellence In Public Service Award. The Fresno Bee, The Fresno Business Council and the Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno, sponsor this prestigious award.

A dedicated advocate of justice, Jerry Dyer has devoted his entire professional career to safeguarding his community. The honor of receiving recognition for public service is long overdue and well deserved.

Mr. Dyer received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminology from California State University,

Fresno and his Master's Degree in Management from California Polytechnic University at Pomona. He is a graduate of the California Command College, where his peers chose him as the Most Inspirational Student.

Chief Dyer has served with the Fresno Police Department for 26 years. His hard work and dedication to public safety did not go unrecognized and on August 1, 2001 he was named Chief of Police. During his tenure as Police Chief, the Fresno community has experienced three consecutive years of a decrease in crime, which resulted in a 33-year-low in crime for the year 2004.

Traffic safety has also been made a top priority of the Fresno Police Department since the appointment of Mr. Dyer as the Chief of Police; guided by the wisdom of Chief Dyer, the Fresno Police Department has received national and state recognition for its traffic safety efforts, which include the prestigious California Highway Patrol Commissioner's Award. The department has also received many other honors, such as first place in the International Association of Chiefs of Police "Law Enforcement Chief's Challenge" and "Impaired Driving Enforcement Award," as well as three consecutive first place awards in the "California Law Enforcement Chiefs Challenge."

Chief Jerry Dyer has worked tirelessly to make the Fresno Police Department one of the state's outstanding law enforcement organizations. He has initiated rigorous processes to have the Department nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. In 2005 the Fresno Police Department was awarded accreditation status; less than 4 percent of law enforcement agencies in the United States have achieved this honor.

Chief Jerry Dyer personifies a hero in every aspect of the term. His sacrifices and belief in justice are admirable. The community of Fresno is honored to have a loyal, honest, and trustworthy leader of our police force and we applaud his dedication to providing a safe environment for our community.

CONGRATULATING THE CONCORD
HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING MIN-
UTEMEN ON THEIR SECOND IN
THREE YEARS CLASS B STATE
BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I usually am not one to experience *deja vu*, but today I find myself in a familiar situation.

Two years ago, I rose to congratulate the Concord Marching Minutemen on their 2003 Class B Indiana State School Music Association Championship.

Today, I rise again to congratulate them on winning their second ISSMA championship in the past three years. On October 22, 2005, these young men and women won the 2005 Class B state marching band championship, edging out nine other competitors.

This is the band's third championship, and in 2002 and 2004, they were state runner-up.

The "All Aboard," train-themed program included "Tempered Steel" by composer

Charles Young, and classic jazz hits "Take the 'A' Train" and "Happy Go Lucky Local" from Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn.

I'd like to congratulate drum majors Ashley Hardy, Jeremy Parker, and Laura Pauwels for leading their band to victory.

The 2005 Class B champs include: Flutes: Kelly Aaron, Kelsey Beabout, Kylie Bontrager, Jessica Cuzzocrea, Stephanie Czarniecki, Kari Dehart, Ashlee Field, Addie Hall, Anita Kaoma, Amanda King, Courtney Laughman, Jaymi Lechlitner, Krista Mevis, Erica Moskowitz, Colleen Nissley, Luke Overton, Caitlin Parker, Audrie Pressler, Rachel Pressler, Joseph Reed, Julie Richards, Elizabeth Robbins, Maria Rodriguez, Megan Rump, Allison Smart, Megan Vail, Brittany Victor, Kim Yoder; Piccolos: Cassie Rhude, Libby Watson; Clarinets: Audrey Acosta, Marisa Amos, Katy Bail, Dani Baugher, Maria Bernal, Lacey Conwell, Adilene Corona, Rachel Davis, Julie Elmore, Conor Gavin, Megan Gunn, Jenni Hillyer, Kylie Kern, Kayla Killian, Amber King, Tim Koscielny, Meredith Loucks, Catie Lynch, Nici Lynch, Holly Meyers, Jessica Miller, Krysta Miller, Molly Miller, Halie Murray, Jessica Partin, Brittany Price, Stephanie Quick, Jordan Reyes, Alison Roberts, Brooklyn Rogers, Nicole Smith, Tony Templeton, Chelsey VanAcker, Brooke Victor, Kayla Yoder, Sean Zimmerle; Bass Clarinets: Iris Bock, Craig Bone, Logan Bourdon, Mandy Himes, Jon Rhoades, Ana Rodriguez, Brian Zimmerman, Nathan Nelson; Alto Saxophone: Brent Boehner, Paige Conwell, Deb Elliott, Lizzie Fish, Ben Gooding, Lon Hambrice, Manuel Herrera-Inchima, Becca Hinson, Dustin Knight, Mike Koscielny, Alex Lung, Krystal McKenzie, Brandon Miller, Brandon Pollock, Matt Schmucker, Jared Schooley, Courtney Wallis, Chad Wegrecki; Tenor Saxophone: Tyler Bourdon, Andrew Fischer, Shane Collins, Keith Doyle, Rachelle Fox, Courtney Hemminger, Abigail Miller, Kayleigh Shurtz; Trumpets: Blake Baker, Donielle Bibby, Peter Bone, Mark Brown, David Campbell, Andrew Christophel, Benjamin Clark, Ryan Detwiler, Rayna Dimitroff, Colin Doherty, Jarod Eastham, Daniel Fischer, Tanner Free, Veronica Hill, Amanda Himes, Phil Jones, Bradley Kime, Matt Kinsman, Crystal Martinez, Kenny Mashala, Carl McAfoos, Jason Miller, DJ Mumaw, Kelly Schaffer, Laurie Schalliol, Jim Schoeffler, Steve Trout, Renee Wagner, Ryan Weaver; Flugelhorn: Thomas Davidhizar, Andrew Davis, Caine Espinoza, Mike Lakner, Julie McCarty, Andrew Smole; Mellophones: Kylie Eckmyre, Melanie Gingerich, Genni Housman, Stephen Kauffman, Kathy Lambright, Samantha Nagy; Trombones: Robyn Bortner, Mike Campbell, Sean Emmons, Chad Hoen, Matt Izak, Brandy Jackson, Steven Karanja, Jordan King, Kevin Lipp, Veronica Meade, Torey Miller, Jordan Parker, Brandon Schenk, Dustin Simmons, Tyler Stevens, Andrew Stout, Eric Wilsey, Teneen Zimmer; Baritones: Justin Alwine, Kris Baker, Chris Dean, Bryan Eichorst, Andy Ha, John Kauffman, Matt Lanouette, Robert Stout; Tubas: Travis Cox, Chris Crawford, Chris Holcomb, Suzanne Holcomb, Matthew Miller, Jeremy Rowe, Morgen Smith; Percussion: Cory Allison, Darlene Bennett, Matthew Bennett, Jen Bollero, Bryce Canen, Sarah-Jane Cikara, Amy Clark, Emma Cooper, Dylan Dufour, Giovanni Echeverria, Michael Johnson, April Mascola, Dustin McLain, Justin Miracle, Kelsey Prieshoff, Bryant Quist, Sarah Runswick, Allie Sawyer, Matt

Schnaars, Andrew Stevens, Kurt Tahara, Amber VanderReyden, Blake Varab, Mark Wyrick; Bass: Ben Jarvis; Sound Tech: Dawn Supper; Color Guard: Elise Arvidson, Marlene Arvidson, Tiffany Baker, Karen Berndt, Veronica Boggs, Heather Dean, Mikala Ellsworth, Ashley Elsasser, Laken Fordyce, DeAnna Jackson, Danielle Johnson, Leanne Johnson, Brittany Kauffman, Yolo Lopez-Perez, Alyssa Lung, Anne Lypka, Emily Mathieu, Jessica Meade, Alisa Peffley, Julie Reusser, Evanna Rodriguez, Brittany Rushing, Jessica Scott, Rachel Sirinek, Madeline Valle, Kristen Weaver, Megan Whitacre, Chellie Zou, Sara Zou.

The people behind the performers also deserve a note of congratulations. They include Director of Music Gay Burton, Assistant Band Directors Scott Spradling, Bryan Golden, April Oppenheim, and Steve Peterson, Dance & Color Guard instructor Colleen Molnar, Sound Technician Scott Preheim, and Percussion Specialist Derek Felix. Your hard work leading up to and throughout the season, planning the program, scheduling practices, and leading the band at competitions have been rewarded through their accomplishment. Shirley Dyer also deserves a note of thanks for helping make things run smoothly.

Mr. Speaker, as the parent of two teenagers myself, I would be remiss if I didn't also acknowledge the parents that help the band run efficiently. Your dedication to your children shows through on the field of competition in their award-winning performance.

Again, on behalf of very proud parents and the citizens of the Second Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the Concord Marching Minutemen on their Class B State championship.

CONGRATULATING HARRY
ARMSTRONG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clovis City Council member Harry Armstrong of Clovis, California for receiving the Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award. The Fresno Bee, The Fresno Business Council and The Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno sponsor this prestigious award.

Harry Armstrong was born in Merced, California. Upon graduation from Merced Union High School he joined the American Armed Forces and fought in the Korean War. He is married to Jeanine and has three children: Tom, an attorney; Jim a businessman; and, Megan, a teacher.

The basic characteristics to be considered as a candidate for the Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award are integrity, strength of character, exemplary ethical behavior, ability to build consensus, serving the public interest and vision for enhancing the community. Mr. Armstrong embodies every one of these characteristics and has set a standard by which all future public servants should use as a guide in their own service to the community.

Harry Armstrong is noted as standing firm against forces that would sweep aside the freedoms and ethics of our democratic form of

government. Never did he blink or stray from his standards and beliefs in the process of public involvement in honest government. He has shown his strength of character in steadily standing by his morals and values.

A member of the Clovis City Council since 1970, Harry is the longest serving council member in the State of California. He was elected Mayor of Clovis on four occasions. Mr. Armstrong's leadership is not limited, however, to the Clovis City Council. He has also served on numerous boards and committees, President of the League of California Cities, Chair of the Fresno County Transportation Authority and the Clovis Planning Commission.

Mr. Armstrong's ability to stand up for what is right and encourage others to do the same is what has given him the continued, never straying, support of the community. His history of involvement and knowledge has created an environment for others to listen and learn.

The leadership and commitment Mr. Armstrong has shown for the community has never wavered, nor his honor in service. He personifies a man of principle and integrity. I am honored to express the gratitude the community has for Harry Armstrong and stand to show our appreciation.

FREEDOM FOR RICARDO RAMOS
PEREIRA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Ricardo Ramos Pereira, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ramos Pereira is a member of the November 30 Democratic party and a member of the pro-democracy opposition in totalitarian Cuba. Unfortunately, those who believe that freedom, liberty, and the right to worship are the birthright of all men and women are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression.

According to an article for the Information Bridge Cuba Miami (IBCM), Mr. Ramos Pereira was arrested on January 25, 2002 for participating in a mass offered on behalf of all the political prisoners in Cuba. IBCM also reports that on February 28, 2002, Mr. Ramos Pereira was arrested for simply participating in a civic activity at the Catholic Church of the Passionists. More than 2 years later, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 5 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Ramos Pereira is currently languishing in the deprived conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his belief in freedom. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for their belief in democracy and freedom of religion.

Mr. Ramos Pereira is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be

remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba. President Bush addressed those brave men and women who spread the light of freedom in the darkest corners of the world when he said, in his second inaugural address, "Democratic reformers facing repression, prison, or exile can know: America sees you for who you are: the future leaders of your free country."

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners are systematically tortured in totalitarian gulags. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ricardo Ramos Pereira and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

A TRIBUTE TO SGT. 1ST CLASS
JAMES "JIM" S. OCHSNER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sgt. 1st Class James "Jim" S. Ochsner of Hope Mills, North Carolina, for serving his country valiantly with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, NC in Operation Enduring Freedom. On November 15, 2005, Sgt. 1st Class Ochsner sacrificed his life when an improvised explosive device was detonated while traveling near Lawara, Afghanistan. He was courageously serving his fourth tour of duty in Afghanistan, and our prayers and heartfelt thanks go to his family in this time of grief.

At an early age, Jim had a desire to serve in the military. His father was a Green Beret who served two tours of duty in Vietnam. Jim was proud of his father's service and commitment and strived to be just like him. In 1987, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as an artilleryman and served three years in Bamberg Germany with the 2nd Battalion 14th Field Artillery. Jim later served in the 82nd Airborne and completed a tour in South Korea before serving as a Special Forces Soldier. In 2004, he graduated from the Special Forces Operations and Intelligence Course and served as an intelligence specialist with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group.

Jim is a highly decorated soldier, receiving the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal for valor, the Army Commendation Medal for service, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. In addition, he received the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Driver and Mechanic Badges, and the Special Forces Tab.

Jim loved his family, and he is survived by his wife Ann, son Nicholas, and daughter Megan, who heard from him often during his deployments. He is also survived by his parents, Robert and Sandra, of Beach Park, Illinois, and his brother MSG Robert Ochsner II.

As a member of the U.S. Army, Jim dedicated his career to defending the values this nation holds dear. By risking his life to ensure the safety of others, John made the ultimate sacrifice. His valiant actions and steadfast service remind us of the gratitude we feel toward him and all the other servicemen and women who have lost their lives serving as guardians of this great country. John was indeed a man of courage and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, may the memory of Sgt. 1st Class James "Jim" Ochsner live on in our hearts, and may God's strength and peace be with his family.

CONGRATULATING MR. VERNON
CONRAD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Vernon Conrad of Reedley, California as the honored recipient of the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce "Agriculturist of the Year" award.

The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce awards an individual who exemplifies leadership and integrity in the Central Valley's agricultural business community every year at their awards luncheon. This year the organization could not have chosen an individual who is more deserving of this prestigious honor.

Mr. Conrad is a fourth generation Californian and his family has deep roots in east Valley agriculture; dating back to the late 1800s. He is a lifelong resident of Fresno County as a Reedley community member where he grows grapes and tree fruits. It is from this background that Vernon emerged as a respected agriculturist in the community. His leadership with the Fresno County Farm Bureau and Fresno County Board of Supervisors sets the bar high for those who follow in his foot steps.

Mr. Conrad served two terms as Fresno County Farm Bureau President and during his time with the Farm Bureau Mr. Conrad worked tirelessly to promote the Valley's agriculture agenda on a national level. He traveled to Washington, DC twice to testify before Congress on some of the Farm Bureau's major issues, such as concerns over water and acreage.

His concerted efforts on policy and advocacy eventually led Mr. Conrad down another path of activism as a Fresno County Supervisor. As a three term board member, Vernon, tackled various county dilemmas with renewed energy each time a new problem emerged. He focused on improving the efficiency of Fresno County operations, dealt with funding challenges and land use and zoning issues.

As if overcoming obstacles faced by the county and the farming community wasn't enough, Vernon also found time to serve on various committees and associations to work actively with agriculture groups. He was a board member of the Alta Irrigation District, Kings River Conservation District, Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Kings River Water Association. Through his work with these organizations, Mr. Conrad earned a seat representing California on the American Farm Bureau Federation's Natural Resources

and Water Committee, on which he served as chair for five years.

Vernon Conrad's extensive efforts as an advocate of agriculture and the community have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues. It is with great pleasure that I stand today and congratulate Mr. Conrad for all of his achievements, and thank him for his commitment to our Valley.

A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR KENNY
FOREMAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements and life of Pastor Kenny Foreman. I've had the privilege of knowing Pastor Foreman for many years, and can personally attest to his lasting legacy of achievement through selfless ministry. His is the epitome of a life dedicated to serving others.

Pastor Foreman has been in ministry for over 50 years and has served as pastor of the Cathedral of Faith in San Jose, California for 35 years. Originally from Crowley, Louisiana, he has built the Church from just a few members to 10,000, offering over 70 vital ministries to meet the needs of the community.

Born the youngest of three children to Hansel and Mabel Foreman in Crowley, Louisiana, he was on the road ministering full-time as an evangelist by age 17. Pastor Foreman married Shirley Lowry in 1957, who has been his partner in commitment to ministry. Later, they would be joined by their two sons, Ken and Kurt, who are also part of the Cathedral of Faith team.

In 1965 he came to San Jose as the Pastor of The Friendly Bible Church, and soon after produced a weekly half-hour television program entitled, "Kenny Foreman Presents Abundant Living," which was syndicated nationally. Today, Kenny Foreman is the only local minister and programmer who has remained on the air for 35 years. Throughout these years he has never received any income for his television ministry; all financial support received is funneled back into the operations of the ministry.

It soon became evident from the growth that the church would have to build. Thus, the Cathedral of Faith, a sanctuary that would seat nearly 3,000 people and its accompanying support structures, was conceived in Pastor Foreman's spirit. Eventually, the Grand Opening of the Cathedral of Faith was celebrated on March 15, 1981.

Pastor Foreman and Cathedral of Faith have an absolutely amazing record of community involvement. The work of the church has exploded into over 70 active Ministries including Reaching Out, a food assistance program which operates from a 16,000 foot distribution complex serving 50,000 families annually, and providing food for 200,000 people; California Youth Outreach, originally founded as Breakout Prison Outreach in 1982 in order to meet the needs of young men and women that had fallen prey to gangs and drugs, it also serves on the Mayor's gang task force; and Chaplaincy Ministry a program consisting of over 200 trained Chaplains who visit rest homes and convalescent hospitals each week.

Pastor Foreman's lifelong commitment to service has been honored by many organizations, and I am delighted to offer my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Pastor Kenny Foreman on his 40th Ministry Anniversary at the Cathedral of Faith in San Jose, California and to call Kenny Forman and Shirley friends.

HONORING CAPTAIN MICHAEL
NOBLE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take the opportunity to honor Captain Michael Noble. Born into a military family in Dallas, Texas in 1977, Mike Noble has experienced much in his short lifetime. His father, MG William Noble (USA, retired) and mother, Imogene, are no strangers to serving their country. William was a founding member of the 101st Airborne and served the division throughout World War II.

Mike graduated from St. Mark's High School in 1997, and then went on to the University of Texas. He entered the Army ROTC program and graduated with honors in 1998. Upon receiving his commission he went into Military Intelligence School and, subsequently, the Army Language Institute. After completing jump school, Mike followed in his father's footsteps and was assigned to the 902nd MI group of the 101st Airborne, a special honor.

Mike served with the NATO and U.N. peace-keeping forces in Kosovo. On September 11, 2001, Mike was working with NATO Command in Brussels. When he received news of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., he was immediately flown back to the United States, going to work at the Pentagon while it was actually still on fire. He would not leave the building for 17 days.

Most recently Mike was active in Afghanistan and involved with the liberation of Iraq. He was severely wounded on April 13, 2003 and medically retired from the military. I am proud to employ this two-time Purple Heart recipient as the military and veterans affairs liaison in my Irving office. His dedication to his country is commendable; Mike Noble is a true American hero and an inspiration to us all.

IN MEMORY OF MR. PAUL C.
WHITE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Paul C. White of Fresno, California. He is survived by his beloved wife of 38 years Sheila White, their six children: Paul II, Crystal, LaShelly, JePahl, Brandon, and Bryson, and his five grandchildren; Paul III, Asia, Kennedy, Darion, and Jaylin.

As a past Assistant Executive Director for the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Paul is remembered by all who knew him for his commendable service to the

community, his love for his family and his commitment to advance and strengthen the health care and social issues that impact impoverished people so often overlooked. Paul was unwilling to look the other way, and it is for his unrelenting efforts that we celebrate his life.

Mr. White learned from personal experience what certain sacrifices economically disadvantaged people are forced to make. He was born in Oklahoma City in 1947 as one of six children, raised by their mother in a house without running water or electricity. Paul's mother passed on when he was 11 and his grandparents raised all six children in Fresno.

Not to be overcome by tragedy, Paul graduated from Edison High School in 1962 as a star basketball player and school leader. He immediately began his college career at Fresno City College, where he received his Associate in Arts degree in 1968. Dedicated to being better equipped in life, Paul furthered his education at California State University, Fresno where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration and his Masters in Public Administration.

Paul always made sure everyone around him appreciated the many wonders life had to offer. In January of 1983, Paul had complete kidney failure. In 1986 his then 14-year-old daughter LaShelly had complete kidney failure as well. That same year, both Paul and LaShelly received a kidney transplant from the same donor. To think of the generosity of strangers during their time of loss, was very humbling to the family. Paul and his loved ones endured incredible health hardships, which allowed for his appreciation of life to grow and be passed on to the many lives he touched. Paul's family triumphed over dialysis as well as kidney transplants making their ties even stronger with each other.

Mr. White has served the Fresno community for over 30 years. His record of community service is quite long and includes membership in many different organizations. He was a member of the United Network for Organ Sharing, Minority Affairs Committee, California Donor Transplant Network, California Department of Health Services and Leadership Committee for the Black Infant Health Project. Paul was on the Board of Directors for West Fresno Health Care Coalition, Inc, the Marjaree Mason Center and the Boy Scouts of America.

His contributions have not gone unnoticed; some of his most notable awards include the Fresno Metro Ministry Award for "Living Out the Values of Justice in our Community," State of California Lieutenant Governor Cruz M. Bustamante, "Commendation," California State Senate and Assembly "Certificate of Recognition," California Transplant Donor Network "Excellence Award," and United Black Men of Fresno "President's Award" and "Certificate of Appreciation."

It goes without saying that Mr. Paul White was a positive influence in this community. His commitment to help those in need will forever live on in the lives of the people he so graciously touched.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO
SERGEANT DENNIS KOZIKOWSKI

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the Menominee County Sheriff's Department, Sergeant Dennis Kozikowski. This year, Sgt. Kozikowski retired as the Road Patrol Sergeant for the Menominee County Sheriff's Department. During his retirement, he plans to continue another passion of his—working to promote veteran rights. Sgt. Kozikowski's 30 years as a law enforcement officer and his leadership for veteran causes stands as a shining example to us all.

Born to John and Lillian Kozikowski in Menominee, Michigan, Sgt. Kozikowski graduated from Menominee High School in 1965. He immediately joined the Army and requested to serve in the Vietnam War. After completing his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, Sgt. Kozikowski spent time serving at posts in Alabama and California before receiving his orders to serve in Vietnam.

Sgt. Kozikowski's 15-month tour in Vietnam impacted him in a way that changed his life. Sgt. Kozikowski earned the Army Commendation Medal, two Air Medals with "V" Devices for Valor Under Fire, Air Medals with 19 Oak Leaf Clusters because of 2000 aerial combat hours, Medal of Good Conduct, and medals awarded by the Republic of Vietnam including the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with a Bronze Star, the Vietnam National Defense Ribbon and Vietnam Campaign Medal. Even as a decorated soldier, Sgt. Kozikowski recalls struggling to adjust upon his return. Although this transition served as a challenging time in his life, he credits this ability to eventually adjust back to civilian life as an experience that enabled him reach out to other veterans.

Sgt. Kozikowski found his calling in 1975 under the direction of colleague and mentor Sheriff Dean R. Burns. Sheriff Burns urged Dennis Kozikowski to consider law enforcement as a career based on his expert military training and courage under fire. Sgt. Kozikowski joined the Menominee County Sheriff's Department where he would spend the next 30 years in skilled positions such as the Marine Patrol, a Department Diver, Snow Patrol, and with Marine Safety. Sgt. Kozikowski received many letters of commendation for critical incidents he handled while a member of the Sheriff's Department.

When asked to talk about his brave deeds during his service with the Sheriff's Department, Sgt. Kozikowski humbly recalls a story of a Vietnam Veteran who had become frustrated with his inability to adjust to civilian life. The man went into a local bar and began shooting. Although the patrons inside were not injured, emergency response units concluded that force would be necessary to remove the armed man. Sgt. Kozikowski bravely entered the building, disarmed the man and took him into custody peacefully.

Sgt. Kozikowski said that he was successful in communicating with the frustrated veteran because he could relate to him. Sgt. Kozikowski not only used that common factor to help talk him out of the threatening incident, but after the fact he helped the veteran file a

disability claim to receive veterans benefits. Noting the challenges veterans face upon return from Vietnam, Sgt. Kozikowski understood that he had a knack for reaching out to veterans to help them understand that resources were available to assist their needs. From that one incident, Sgt. Kozikowski began a decade of advocacy on behalf of veterans on a variety of issues. As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1887 and a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 25 serving as the Legislative Chair, Sgt. Kozikowski works to promote veteran rights for better benefits.

This year, Sgt. Kozikowski was forced to retire early due to a spinal injury that has made his challenging work in law enforcement nearly impossible. A testament to his dedication to public service, he will tell you that this day came far too soon as he is sure he could serve for another 30 years easily. However, Sgt. Kozikowski looks forward to spending additional time with his two sons, John and Joe, who have followed valiantly in their father's footsteps; John as a member of the 82nd Airborne during Desert Storm; and Joe as a Carney-Nadeau Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the Menominee County Rescue Squad. Sgt. Kozikowski also looks forward to spending time with his two granddaughters, Kaitlin and Hanna, as well as a new grandchild on the way!

Although Sgt. Kozikowski's career with the Menominee County Sheriff's Department has ended, he will continue to serve the public as a true advocate for veteran rights. In fact, he is currently lobbying Congress to support legislation to provide mandatory funding for veterans health care. He has also been encouraging the members of veterans' organizations to write letters to Congress urging their support.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, as a former Michigan State Police Trooper myself, I have had the pleasure of knowing Sgt. Kozikowski over the years. As a resident of Menominee County, I have always trusted his dedicated service to the people of our community. I am also comforted to know that such a powerful advocate is working to strengthen veteran's legislation for our men and women of past and present wars.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Sergeant Dennis Kozikowski for his 30 years of service to the people of the State of Michigan and in wishing him well in his retirement endeavors. His commitment to community and to justice has been a model of public service. Dennis will be missed by the members of the Menominee County Sheriff's Department and the people he so competently and bravely served.

CONGRATULATING DR. NOEL
SMITH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Noel Smith of Fresno, California as the honored recipient of the Community Health Champion Award from West Fresno Health Care Coalition.

Dr. Noel Smith has been an outstanding contributor in the Fresno community for the

past 50 years and found a place in the hearts of all who know him.

Noel was born in La Brea, Trinidad in the West Indies. He attended Howard University in Washington, DC, where he received both his Bachelor's and Medical Degree. He was a Magna Cum Laude graduate and a member of the Honor Society.

His professional desire to reside in the State of California and his ambition to train in a public hospital led him to Fresno in 1951 where he interned at Fresno's University Medical Center.

After Dr. Noel Smith completed his internship, he completed his residency at the University Medical Center in Obstetrics-gynecology. Although he joined the private sector in 1958, Noel never stopped giving back to his community. He has been an active member on various committees such as the Supervisors Minority Adoption Committee, Model Cities Board Committee and Mayors Bi-Racial Committee.

Dr. Noel Smith has received many honors for his extraordinary public service to the community of Fresno. The 1990 Health Award from the NAACP Fresno Board, Portraits of Success Award from KSEE channel 24, the United Black Men Apple Award and the Education from the Black Men United are just a few of the honors he has received.

Dr. Smith understands the power of education; for this reason he and his wife have made considerable educational contributions to the community. They founded the Children-A-Go-Go at Carver Middle School in Fresno, "Young Men and Young Women of Tomorrow" at Bethune Elementary School of Fresno and made various presentations at local High Schools on "Developmental Education."

We could go on and on about the remarkable contributions that Dr. Noel Smith has made to his grateful community. He is loved by family and friends, appreciated by his patients and admired by his colleagues. It is with great pleasure that I stand today and congratulate Dr. Noel Smith for all of his achievements.

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today authorizing the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of Springfield Technical Community College. Over 30 years ago, in 1974, my predecessor, Congressman Edward Boland, and Senator EDWARD KENNEDY were successful in creating the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. This legislation set in motion three decades of cooperation between the National Park Service, which manages the Armory Museum, and Springfield Technical Community College. The Park Service and the college are neighbors that together occupy the National Historic Site.

Let me tell you a little bit about this site. The Springfield Armory was the first national ar-

mory in the United States. In fact, the armory was founded in 1777, when the site was selected as the location for laboratory specializing in the development, production and storage of guns and powder during the American Revolution.

Following the American Revolutionary War, in 1794, Congress officially established the Springfield Armory. George Washington visited the site, which was also the site of Shay's Rebellion. Physically, the Armory abuts Springfield's historic State Street, the city's main east-west thoroughfare, which was Ben Franklin's famed mail route. For much of the 19th century, the Springfield Armory developed, manufactured and supplied most of the small arms used by the United States armed services. The Springfield Armory National Historic Site has a rich heritage that is an integral part of our nation's history.

In 1968, the Armory was deactivated as a military installation and in 1974, Congress established the National Historic Site. The National Park Service has operated the Armory Museum on these grounds, and it houses the most outstanding and historically significant arms collection in the country.

The future and fate of both the Armory Museum and Springfield Technical Community College are inextricably linked. Many of the historic buildings on the site are actually located on the college's property, not on National Park Service land, although a visitor to the campus would not be able to tell where NPS property ends and college property begins. This land outside the portion of the site administered by NPS is known as the "Preservation Control Area." These college-owned buildings are subject to strict architectural and preservation rules. Many of these historic buildings owned by the college must be preserved and maintained pursuant to standards defined by the Secretary of the Interior. But these historic buildings are in a state of great disrepair and the college cannot easily move to maintain and preserve them absent the full participation of the Park Service. Not only does this deterioration of the facilities hurt the college, but also undermines the attractiveness of the National Park Service area, including the Armory Museum.

My legislation seeks to recognize and update the partnership that has existed over these many years between the Park Service and the college by authorizing the Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth. It allows for the National Park Service to provide financial assistance to the College for the purpose of maintaining, preserving, renovating and rehabilitating the many historic structures within the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. The Park Service frequently enters into such cooperative agreements where the object of the agreement is of direct benefit to the Park Service and its mission, or for other public purposes. If these great historic buildings on the site can be renovated with the assistance of the Park Service, it will bring forward a more vibrant and attractive Historic Site and Museum. The Park Service and the college will be able to partner on many joint educational ventures that utilize these revitalized historic facilities.

The Springfield Armory National Historic Site is a treasure to the city of Springfield, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to the Nation. The site is in desperate need of renovation, and enactment of this legislation is

the first step towards ensuring the preservation of a site, which has played so vital a role in America's history.

INTRODUCING WE THE PEOPLE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the We the People Act. The We the People Act forbids Federal courts, including the Supreme Court, from adjudicating cases concerning State laws and policies relating to religious liberties or "privacy," including cases involving sexual practices, sexual orientation or reproduction. The We the People Act also protects the traditional definition of marriage from judicial activism by ensuring the Supreme Court cannot abuse the equal protection clause to redefine marriage. In order to hold Federal judges accountable for abusing their powers, the act also provides that a judge who violates the act's limitations on judicial power shall either be impeached by Congress or removed by the President, according to rules established by the Congress.

The United States Constitution gives Congress the authority to establish and limit the jurisdiction of the lower Federal courts and limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The Founders intended Congress to use this authority to correct abuses of power by the federal judiciary.

Some may claim that an activist judiciary that strikes down State laws at will expands individual liberty. Proponents of this claim overlook the fact that the best guarantor of true liberty is decentralized political institutions, while the greatest threat to liberty is concentrated power. This is why the Constitution carefully limits the power of the Federal Government over the States.

In recent years, we have seen numerous abuses of power by Federal courts. Federal judges regularly strike down State and local laws on subjects such as religious liberty, sexual orientation, family relations, education, and abortion. This government by Federal judiciary causes a virtual nullification of the Tenth Amendment's limitations on Federal power. Furthermore, when Federal judges impose their preferred policies on State and local governments, instead of respecting the policies adopted by those elected by, and thus accountable to, the people, republican government is threatened. Article IV, section 40 of the United States Constitution guarantees each State a republican form of government. Thus, Congress must act when the executive or judicial branch threatens the republican governments of the individual States. Therefore, Congress has a responsibility to stop Federal judges from running roughshod over State and local laws. The Founders would certainly have supported congressional action to reign in Federal judges who tell citizens where they can and can't place manger scenes at Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, even some supporters of liberalized abortion laws have admitted that the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, which overturned the abortion laws of all 50 States, is flawed. The Supreme Court's Establishment Clause jurisdiction has also drawn criticism

from across the political spectrum. Perhaps more importantly, attempts to resolve, by judicial fiat, important issues like abortion and the expression of religious belief in the public square increase social strife and conflict. The only way to resolve controversial social issues like abortion and school prayer is to restore respect for the right of State and local governments to adopt policies that reflect the beliefs of the citizens of those jurisdictions. I would remind my colleagues and the Federal judiciary that, under our Constitutional system, there is no reason why the people of New York and the people of Texas should have the same policies regarding issues such as marriage and school prayer.

Unless Congress acts, a State's authority to define and regulate marriage may be the next victim of activist judges. After all, such a decision would simply take the Supreme Court's decision in the Lawrence case, which overturned all State sodomy laws, to its logical conclusion. Congress must launch a preemptive strike against any further Federal usurpation of the States' authority to regulate marriage by removing issues concerning the definition of marriage from the jurisdiction of Federal courts.

Although marriage is licensed and otherwise regulated by the States, government did not create the institution of marriage. Government regulation of marriage is based on State recognition of the practices and customs formulated by private individuals interacting in civil institutions, such as churches and synagogues. Having Federal officials, whether judges, bureaucrats, or congressmen, impose a new definition of marriage on the people is an act of social engineering profoundly hostile to liberty.

It is long past time that Congress exercises its authority to protect the republican government of the States from out-of-control Federal judges. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the We the People Act.

CONGRATULATING DR. EDWARD R. MOSLEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Edward R. Mosley of Fresno, as the honored recipient of the Community Health Champion Award from West Fresno Health Care Coalition.

The life of Dr. Edward Mosley has been extraordinary in every aspect. He has broken barriers, opened doors and won the hearts of all who know him.

Dr. Mosley was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1924. He grew up in a time where his skin color was the determining factor for his career goals. However, Edward continued on in his quest to reform the outlook of many African Americans in the Nation. He is truly a revolutionary in this regard and has not slowed down since.

Education has been a primary focus of Dr. Mosley since the age of 4 when he begged his grandmother to teach him how to read. He began school at age 6 and immediately excelled in all subjects. He became the "talk of the town" because of his intelligence. His

school quickly adapted to their new star student by providing him with an advanced education. Edward graduated from high school at the age of 17 and was forced to take a year off before attending college. However, never deterred, he resumed his academic career and attended the University of Illinois. Ever the steadfast student, he worked to put himself through college and graduated to attend Mehary Medical School. He completed his medical internship at Harlem Hospital in New York and his residency at Tuskegee Veterans Hospital in Alabama. Dr. Mosley also spent two years in the United States Army where he was in charge of a prisoner of war camp in Korea.

It was the desire to live in California that initially brought Edward to Fresno. He established a medical office in the private sector and eventually collaborated with other doctors in the community to create the Westview Convalescent Hospital in Fresno. In recognition of Edward's accomplishments, he was the first African American elected official in Fresno when he was elected to serve on the State Community College Board of Trustees. Edward also served on many other boards in the community in efforts to advance the San Joaquin Valley.

Dr. Mosley has an impressive resumé that details his extensive professional career; however, it has been his outstanding devotion to community service and contributions to the medical community of Fresno for which he is being honored now. He has received many honors and recognitions, including being a Delegate to the Presidential Electoral College appointed by Governor Reagan in 1972, and being named honorary Mayor of Fresno for Contributions to the Community.

It is a tremendous honor to stand today and publicly recognize Dr. Edward Mosley for all of his contributions to the community. It is a privilege to extend congratulations to Dr. Mosley on behalf of the 20th District of California.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2528,
MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill which contains critical funding for Oregon veterans and their health programs. In addition, this bill contains funding for the BRAC process and military construction and housing that are important for Department of Defense efficiency and quality of life. I am disappointed that this conference report cut funds from the BRAC 1990 Account which is used to clean up unexploded ordnance and other contamination on closed military bases from a House-passed \$378 million to \$255 million. I will continue to work with Congress to ensure the military cleans up after itself and returns sites to productive use.

STATEMENT ON THE LOSS OF
LANCE CORPORAL NICKOLAS D.
SCHIAVONI

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the death of LCpl Nicholas D. Schiavoni—a brave Marine who served with dignity and honor in Iraq. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

On Tuesday, November 15, Lance Corporal Schiavoni was killed by a suicide bomber near Karmah, Iraq, while conducting combat operations with his unit. He served with the 2nd Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Lance Corporal Schiavoni, age 26, was raised in Haverhill, Massachusetts; his mother, Stephany Kern, resides in Westerly, Rhode Island. This was Lance Corporal Schiavoni's second tour of duty in Iraq. He joined the Marines after meeting his wife, Gina Howe Schiavoni, who now lives with their two children, Marissa, 5, and Alex, 3, in North Carolina.

Lance Corporal Schiavoni's service as a Marine demonstrates his commitment to our nation's freedom. He was awarded a Purple Heart during his first tour of duty and died supporting a fellow member of his unit in an investigation of a suspicious vehicle. The humility, dedication and courage that helped him to flourish in the service are also visible in his life at home—those who knew him well highlight the deep reverence he held for his wife and family.

His loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When their nation called them to duty to preserve freedom, liberty and the security of their neighbors, they answered without hesitation. We remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, but also as patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. May we keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they struggle to endure this difficult period and mourn the heroes America has lost.

We will continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving throughout the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE H. E.
DOUGLAS, SR. MEMORIAL NEW
SHOES FOR LITTLE FEET FOUNDATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Douglas and New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation. The New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation collects and distributes new shoes to needy children within the community of The Colony, Texas.

The H. E. Douglas, Sr. Memorial New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation was founded

by Dale Douglas and his wife. The idea for the foundation stemmed from the experience of Douglas' father, H. E. Douglas, Sr., who was a poor fieldworker who did not own a new pair of shoes until he was sixteen years old.

Nine years ago, Dale and his wife decided to turn their annual Christmas party into a catalyst for community service by asking their guests to bring a new pair of shoes to give to needy children within the community. The effort continued to grow with each subsequent year and has challenged an entire community.

The New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation works with area schools to collect the correct shoe sizes of needy students so that they can be matched with the right pair of shoes. The foundation has also partnered with The Colony Police Department to increase its outreach. Last year, the organization collected and distributed 377 new pairs of shoes to area schoolchildren.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize the H. E. Douglas, Sr. Memorial New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation. It is the dedication that is personified by this organization that makes us certain that the future is bright for our nation and for our communities.

THE FRED F. HOLMES AWARD

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Fred F. Holmes award was established by the Veterans' Council of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, to recognize individuals who have had a positive effect on the lives of local veterans. On November 11, 2005, Veterans Day, it was my great pleasure to attend a ceremony honoring this year's recipient of the Holmes award, Mr. Joseph K. "Joey Irish" Clougherty.

Mr. Clougherty was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1948. His family settled in South Boston, where he graduated from high school in 1966.

Mr. Clougherty enlisted in the United States Army in May 1967, and arrived in Vietnam later that November. Mr. Clougherty spent a year in Vietnam as part of the 5th Light Equipment Maintenance Company Long Binh and Headquarters Co. 185th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Battalion. After extending his stay in Vietnam for a total of twenty months, Mr. Clougherty returned to make his home in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Clougherty spent ten years of service in the City of Boston Department of Public Works and Fire Department before eventually settling down in North Attleboro. Since 1995, Joe has served as the North Attleboro Assistant Veterans Agent, solving problems for the entire veteran community and their families.

Those who know Joe know he is a man of great compassion and loyalty, with an endless capacity for assisting those in need. This dedication is exemplified by the tremendous counseling and supportive services he has provided to the over 2,200 veterans of North Attleboro over the past decade.

The citizens of North Attleboro, and especially its veterans, are fortunate to have a person like Joe Clougherty in their midst. I know all my colleagues will join me in offering Mr. Clougherty our deep gratitude and heartfelt

congratulations as this year's recipient of the Fred F. Holmes award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PASTOR ADRIAN ROGERS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Lord knew what he was doing when he sent us Adrian Rogers. And we're so very thankful for that gift.

Dr. Rogers lived a life of service. He lived a life of grace. And we cannot help but be inspired by his accomplishments. For 32 years he preached a message of love, hope, and salvation. His inspirational leadership was on display each Sunday as anyone of the 30,000 Bellevue Baptist Church members can tell you.

Dr. Rogers not only reached out into his community, he reached out across America and this world to spread God's message. His years at Bellevue spreading the Word to millions through his Love Worth Finding ministry and his leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention will be remembered in the lives he changed and the example he set.

He was a great, great shepherd and a humble servant.

Regardless of the titles and leadership positions, we all know that Pastor Rogers was most proud to be a loving husband, father, and grandfather. On this day our prayers are with his family whom he loved so much. We thank the Rogers family for sharing him with us for all these years.

We will miss Pastor Rogers but we are grateful for his life. I rise today to mark the passing and recognize the service of a beloved Tennessean.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3058

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support the Conference Committee Report on the Transportation, Treasury, HUD, Judiciary Appropriations Act 2006, which provides essential funding for important infrastructure projects in Oregon and the rest of the nation. The bill provides \$18 million to complete the Interstate MAX light rail project, which has been an incredible success in North Portland. Additionally, \$15 million for a commuter rail project between Wilsonville and Beaverton will provide further transportation alternatives in the region and anchor important development projects in each of these suburban cities.

I was heartened to see the \$1.3 billion set aside for Amtrak. I am concerned, however, that the bill separates Amtrak's operations funding from its capital funding, essentially allowing the Department of Transportation to serve as a steward for Amtrak's capital money, handing out grants for approved projects. I am wary of this being yet another attempt by the administration to dismantle America's passenger rail system.

I am relieved to see that the Conference Committee did not eliminate funding for valuable for HUD programs such as Community Development Block Grants and the HOPE VI program. I am concerned, however, that many of these programs continue to be underfunded. The many individuals and families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will increase demand for these valuable programs.

Despite these faults, the bill will fund important infrastructure improvements, create jobs, and make our communities safer, healthier and more economically secure.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4241, the Reconciliation Spending Cuts. This bill attempts to reduce the Republican-created budget deficit on the backs of those who can least afford it. H.R. 4241 does not reflect the values of Rhode Islanders and it takes from the poor to give tax cuts to the rich. As early as tomorrow, the same people who are voting to cut Medicaid, student loans, and food stamps will offer \$57 billion in additional tax cuts for the richest Americans.

While Republicans claim this bill is necessary to offset the costs incurred by Hurricane Katrina, their actions do not match their words. Months before Hurricane Katrina struck, Republicans in the House voted for a budget that cut \$15 billion more than the bill we are voting on today. The programs the Republicans are attempting to cut, like Medicaid and food stamps, are the very programs that benefit those who have been affected by the hurricanes. Not a single dollar cut in H.R. 4241 will actually go towards offsetting hurricane costs and reducing the deficit. Instead, today's cuts will fund the upcoming tax cut, but in typical Republican fashion, the spending cuts won't even cover the entire cost of the tax cuts they have planned.

While I am disappointed that we are voting on this bill at all, I am especially upset by a few specific provisions. First, this budget reconciliation will have a devastating impact on millions of low-income seniors, children, and people with disabilities across the country. This bill proposes billions in cuts to Medicaid, and Rhode Island alone will lose more than \$66 million. Ultimately, these cuts are paid for by raising prices for those on Medicaid. Imposing cost sharing requirements on people who simply can't afford them will not save money. Instead, these cuts will result in patients waiting longer to seek care, longer lines in our emergency rooms, and greater burdens on doctors and hospitals, who will struggle to provide for this population. In the end, we will all pay for this mistake in some form. The Medicaid program provides access to health services for more than 51 million Americans—most of whom are among the most vulnerable members of our society. Now is the time to strengthen America's safety net, not weaken it with arbitrary and harmful cuts.

I am also appalled by the message this bill sends to the millions of American students

who rely on financial aid and federal student loan programs to gain access to higher education. By cutting spending on student loan programs by more than \$10 billion, we are renegeing on a commitment to these young Americans. At a time when college costs are rising faster than inflation, the bill proposes the largest cut in the history of the student loan programs.

Food stamps are an important layer of protection to ensure the very poor are able to feed themselves and their families, the most basic necessity. However, today's bill will reduce food stamp assistance by approximately \$800 million over five years, and more than 200,000 people will lose their eligibility.

I am pleased to see that Republicans have removed the provision permitting drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. However, this was not a response to the public's overwhelming opposition to ruining this pristine wilderness area. Rather, it is a cynical ploy to gain a few votes from Members who would not otherwise vote for this bill.

I have outlined only a few of the many reasons every Member should oppose this legislation. So many of its other cuts would have negative impacts on our communities, such as reduced child support enforcement, which means more than \$50 million in lower payments for Rhode Island's single parents.

If Republicans want a balanced budget, which this bill does not even begin to provide, they should learn from the past and reinstate what works: PAYGO budget rules and responsible tax and spending policies. Together, America can do better. We should be working together to address true priorities, like access to health care and soaring energy prices. I urge my colleagues to reject this travesty and instead focus on meaningful deficit reduction based on fairness and shared sacrifice.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COLONY,
TX, FOR HOSTING THE WALL
THAT HEALS EXHIBIT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Colony, TX, for hosting the moving exhibit The Wall That Heals, honoring the 58,349 fallen soldiers of the Vietnam War who paid the ultimate price in service to our country. The exhibition features a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

"Bringing The Wall Home" to communities throughout our country allows the souls enshrined on the memorial to exist, once more, among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings. The traveling exhibit, known as The Wall That Heals, allows the many thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of "facing The Wall" to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

The Wall That Heals also features a Traveling Museum and Information Center providing a comprehensive educational component to enrich and complete visitors' experiences. The museum chronicles the Vietnam War era and the unique healing power of the

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, while the information center serves as a venue for people to learn about friends and loved ones lost in the war.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize The Colony for hosting The Wall That Heals. I am proud to represent a city dedicated to promoting education about the impact of the Vietnam War.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN LEE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note with sadness the passing of John Lee of Attleboro, MA. Mr. Lee died on October 22 at the age of 85.

John Lee was an academic and athletic star at Attleboro High School and later at Providence College. After serving his country in World War II as a captain in the Army Air Corps, he returned home to establish a successful, 53-year law practice. A towering pillar of his community, John Lee served as Attleboro city solicitor, legal counsel to the towns of Plainville and West Bridgewater and the Norton, Foxboro and Seekonk School Departments. He also served as a member of the Attleboro School Committee.

As Plainville Selectwoman Andrea Soucy recently said, Mr. Lee was not only a brilliant lawyer, but also a person of the highest character. "He had tremendous integrity. He had the highest of ethics. He was very, very special," Ms. Soucy said.

In addition to his beloved wife Muriel, Mr. Lee is survived by 7 of his children and 16 grandchildren. Mr. Lee could always be seen at his grandchildren's games and activities.

John Lee represented the very best of citizenship, honor and integrity. I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in sending our condolences to Muriel, the entire Lee family and all of those who knew and loved him.

HONORING THE 278TH REGIMENTAL
COMBAT TEAM OF THE
TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, few words sound as good as "welcome home."

This is especially true for our men and women in uniform returning from the Middle East where they've been battling terrorism.

In Tennessee we're celebrating the return of our State's 278th Regimental Combat Team. We couldn't be prouder of them, and we want them to know how grateful we are.

Their service and dedication should inspire us all. They placed others above themselves. They fought not to conquer but to free. They fought to put right a terrible evil in this world. They fought so that others might know hope and freedom.

And they fought so that future generations of Americans would not have to live with the terror that we know all too well.

Their deeds placed them among the elite few in American history—in world history.

As Tennesseans, we know the separation has been rough and the days have seemed longer with them so far from us.

Their return has answered our prayers and we're so glad to have them back where they belong.

We are proud of the brave and noble thing they have done for us, and for our country. And we can't thank them enough. We will never forget those 10 among them who aren't returning, those 10 who made the ultimate sacrifice. They will live on in the freedom they've helped preserve. Their families and friends are in our thoughts and prayers.

From a grateful, grateful Nation we salute them, and we salute their families.

God Bless America and our 278th.

NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR
PROTECTION CAMPAIGN

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank certain organizations and individuals for their outstanding work on the important, but often overlooked, issue of pollinators. As you know, pollinators are vital to food and medicine production, and their irreplaceable ecosystem services and declining populations merit attention and protection.

I am happy to say that significant progress is being made. On October 21, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, NAPPCC, signed a joint memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The agreement proposes protecting pollinators on the nearly 100 million acres of habitat over which the Fish and Wildlife Service has jurisdiction. These lands, combined with another 200 million acres protected by the U.S. Forest Service, attest to the growing momentum behind this issue.

The successes of these organizations are impressive and encouraging, as is the dedication of certain individuals. On October 20, four such individuals were awarded the First Annual NAPPCC Pollinator Advocate Award.

Don Pedro Cahun Uh, of Mexico, was recognized for his outstanding efforts to preserve not only traditional Mayan culture, but also the declining populations of the Yucatan Peninsula's native stingless bees.

Dale Bosworth, chief of the USDA Forest Service, pioneered pollinator awareness among U.S. Government agencies and paved the way for the protection of native plants and their pollinators on almost 200 million acres of land.

Bruce Knight, chief of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, exhibited exemplary leadership in the creation of a highly successful pollinator habitat program.

Ron Krystynak, of the Canadian Embassy, was recognized for taking a lead role in North American pollinator conservation, and for his holistic approach to sustainable agriculture and ecology.

These individuals represent a variety of perspectives and a singularly effective leadership on this issue. Their achievements will carry us closer to the goal of sustainable ecosystems and communities.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AVID**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tremendous and extremely valuable asset to public education in the United States.

I am referring to the Advancement Via Individual Determination or AVID program that began in my hometown of San Diego 25 years ago.

Since then, it has helped hundreds of thousands of underachieving students across the United States learn the study habits and the skills needed for college. It has also helped thousands of students excel in the core subjects of reading, math, and the sciences.

Mary Catherine Swanson, a school teacher at San Diego's Clairemont High, created AVID in 1980 because she wanted to find a way to help students with mediocre academic records.

What has happened since then is nothing short of amazing.

AVID has grown from one classroom to 2,200 middle and high schools in 36 states.

The program emphasizes individual achievement while teaching new study habits. In addition, AVID encourages goal setting and works to lift self-expectations and self-esteem in students.

Nearly 260,000 students have benefited tremendously from these ground-breaking teaching methods.

Amazingly, over 95 percent of those who complete the AVID program attend college and nearly all of these students return for their sophomore year.

It is difficult to choose from the thousands of success stories produced by AVID. I am inspired each time I hear one of these stories.

Please allow me to share just a few of these stories with you today.

Some of you may remember Joanna Hayes for winning Gold in the women's 100-meter hurdles during the 2004 Summer Olympics in Greece.

Joanna's teachers remember her for her drive and determination to achieve in her classes.

Earlier in high school, however, Joanna faced a problem. She was a promising student athlete and knew she could likely land an athletic scholarship at a number of schools around the nation.

Unfortunately, her grades were low and she did not possess the academic credentials to attend her dream school, UCLA.

Joanna's high school guidance counselor told her about the AVID program and how it had helped a number of students greatly improve their grades.

She signed up and her grades began to improve dramatically.

She attended UCLA and became a world-class athlete attributing a great deal of her success to AVID.

I was also moved by the story of Truong-Son Vinh who arrived in the United States when he was 9 years old.

He fled Saigon just before it fell into the hands of the North Vietnamese in 1975. Tragically, his father was killed during the war.

Truong-Son Vinh's family ended up in San Diego where he found the AVID program.

With the help of AVID, he maintained an "A" average and excelled in math and the sciences throughout high school.

He applied the skills and study habits he learned through AVID and earned degrees in mechanical engineering and applied math from the University of California at San Diego and a master's degree from Cal. Tech.

This was just the beginning for Truong-Son Vinh.

After college, he went to work for NASA and contributed to the Space Shuttle program during the 1980s.

He later returned to school and earned a Ph.D and an MBA.

Mr. Speaker, it is stories like Joanna Hayes and Truong-Son Vinh's that have inspired me to introduce a resolution recognizing AVID and honoring the program on its 25th anniversary.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this resolution with my friend and colleague from Delaware, Congressman CASTLE.

Because of AVID, thousands of students have had the opportunity to achieve in our public schools and have had the opportunity to go on to college.

Again, this program has far exceeded anyone's expectations.

I thank Mary Catherine Swanson for having a vision and working hard to implement this vision beginning with one classroom at Clairemont High.

In addition, please allow me to thank the administrators of the AVID program for their hard work promoting the program on a national level.

Also, the work the teachers and tutors do in the AVID program is nothing short of amazing. Because of their dedication, AVID has turned the lives around of thousands of our young people.

Finally, I would just like to take a moment to recognize the students who had the courage to take on the rigorous academic track required by AVID and who had the desire to one day go to college.

I introduce this resolution today to honor AVID and all it has accomplished.

If we are to eliminate the achievement gap in the United States, I believe we need to build upon the programs that have already decreased the size of the gap successfully.

AVID is clearly one of these programs.

We will also need to turn to AVID and other proven programs already showing success in assisting our kids make gains in the areas that our nation is lagging far behind. I refer specifically to math and the sciences.

If we are to be competitive in the world economy, we need programs such as AVID to help our children excel in math, the sciences, and other key programs.

IN HONOR AND TRIBUTE OF JOAN
DIDION**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Joan Didion, established author, wife and mother. Her current novel, *The Year of Magical Thinking*, traces

her journey through one year after her husband's sudden death and her daughter's grave illness.

Joan Didion was born in Sacramento, California and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. Didion is the author of five novels and eight books of non-fiction. Her distinguished works and publications were collected into *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* released in 1968 and *The White Album* in 1979. These books established Didion's name as an author and observer of American politics and culture with deepening personal reflections mixed with analysis.

Didion married John Gregory Dunne, also an established writer, in 1964 and together they had a daughter, Quintana. The family lived in California until moving to New York City in 1988. In 2003, their family was shocked to learn that Quintana had a fatal illness. Months after learning their daughter's bad news, John suddenly died.

They had just returned home from visiting their daughter in the hospital. Joan later learned her husband died of a massive coronary attack. Unable to bear with the grief that settled in, Joan began writing what turned into her latest book, *The Year of Magical Thinking*. This book chronicles her feelings and memories after John's death and the sickness of her daughter. Sadly, even after a brief recovery, Quintana died months after Joan finished the book.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Joan Didion on her accomplishments as a writer and her courage as a grieving wife and mother. Her unwavering strength during difficult times should be an inspiration to all of us.

HAPPY 101ST BIRTHDAY TO
MAGGIE KATIE BROWN KIDD**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to fulfill an annual obligation to wish a happy birthday to Ms. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd. This year, it is my distinct pleasure to wish Ms. Kidd a happy 101st birthday. Although her birth date is December 8th, she will be celebrating with her family on November 25, 2005.

Ms. Kidd has led a long life of devoted service, always lending a helping hand to any of her relatives or neighbors. She carries on the tradition of her beloved husband "Doc" who earned that nickname precisely for such a reputation. So in addition to celebrating her birthday, we are celebrating another year of her contributions to our community. To mark this occasion and her contributions I am awarding her a "Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, Maggie's children, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren in wishing her a happy 101st birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF EVE NEWMAN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Eve Newman for her contributions and dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I first met Mrs. Newman when I was a teenager working alongside her daughter, Lee, as a volunteer for the Republican National Committee. Her impressive, professional nature inspired the young volunteers she was overseeing at the time. Mrs. Newman and her husband, the late Eugene L. Newman, were longtime residents of Fairfax County and unselfishly served their community over the years. Mrs. Newman and her daughter now reside in Strasburg, Virginia, where she remains active in her community.

Over her lifetime, Mrs. Newman has held several distinguished positions and has received countless awards for her service. Mrs. Newman served as the general registrar for Fairfax County for eight years, was president of the Voter Registrars Association of Virginia, president of the Republican Women's Club and Board member of the State Board of Republican Women. With each organization, she dedicated herself fully to each cause and came up with innovative ideas to improve the organization. While serving on the State Board of Republican Women, she organized a scrap booking contest that was an instant success for a number of years. While serving as the registrar for Fairfax County, she created a tabulation system utilizing age brackets as an election prediction tool.

Her love and dedication to the Republican Party is matched by her love for the arts. She studied at the Art Institute in Philadelphia, and has she served on the Board of Directors of the Wayside Theatre located in the Shenandoah Valley. Mrs. Newman was not a board member that simply warmed a seat; she served as an active participant who contributed immensely to the theatre. Her assistance was merited in 2002 when she was awarded the theatre's highest honor, the Leo M. Bernstein Award. Mrs. Newman is also an accomplished artist; her most notable artistic contribution can be seen on each official document of the Virginia Federation of Republican Women, as she is the designer of the official seal.

On Saturday, November 20th, many from around the Commonwealth will gather with Eve at a luncheon in her honor. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I call upon my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishments and applauding her for all that she has done.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the founding

of the Economic Opportunity Commission of San Luis Obispo County (EOC), which will be celebrated on December 9th. I would like to congratulate the board members, staff and volunteers of the EOC for all they have accomplished and wish them well as they continue to serve the residents of San Luis Obispo and nine other counties in California.

The EOC is a private, nonprofit public benefit community action agency (CAA) that was designated by the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors as the CAA for the County in December 1965. The EOC strives to address and alleviate poverty in San Luis Obispo County, in part through community-based programs designed to help individuals and families develop the skills needed to enhance their stability and economic independence. In addition, the EOC also uses strong community partnerships with churches, county government, and other service providers to assist the local community.

I appreciate the assistance the EOC provides to the residents of San Luis Obispo County. Its Board of Commissioners, employees, and volunteers are to be commended for their efforts, which have helped thousands of people over the past 40 years. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the EOC as they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

REGARDING WASHINGTON STATE
PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR
BRUCE PALMQUIST

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to 2005 Washington State Professor of the Year—Mr. Bruce Palmquist.

The U.S. Professors of the Year awards, sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, recognize college and university professors for their excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

For over a decade, Mr. Palmquist has taught science to students at Central Washington University using innovative teaching strategies to actively engage his students in learning. He has taught his students to embrace the University's motto "by teaching, we learn." This teaching approach has motivated students to achieve a higher standard.

Mr. Palmquist recognizes the importance of access to higher education. He worked to establish a teacher education program at a community college one hundred miles from Central Washington University, so that students could more easily access higher education. Mr. Palmquist's dedication to the program and students is apparent as he travels over 200 miles per week to advise enrolled and potential students, promote the program, and help students with course work.

In a society where teachers do not always receive the appreciation they deserve, I am pleased to honor and commend Mr. Palmquist for his dedication to students in Central Washington. Mr. Palmquist is a teacher who is willing to work hard for his students, and expects his students to work hard for him in return.

To Mr. Palmquist and the professors across America that are educating tomorrow's leaders, thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 597, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

AZERBAIJAN ELECTIONS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share a few thoughts with my colleagues on recent the elections in Azerbaijan.

While the recent November 6th parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan failed to meet U.S. and international standards for a free and fair process, there were some notable improvements over the previous elections.

According to the State Department, the Government of Azerbaijan: allowed large numbers of candidates to register; provided candidates with greater access to the media; allowed exit polls and extensive monitoring by domestic and foreign observers; improved voter lists; and took other actions contributing to a more orderly and transparent vote.

However, there were widespread reports of major irregularities and fraud—including concerning vote tabulation, as well as intimidation of voters and observers—that may have disenfranchised voters in many districts.

In response, Azerbaijani leader Aliyev has, thus far, reportedly: ordered the Justice Minister to fully investigate the election results; dismissed two governors and other officials for election fraud; annulled the outcome of the elections in a fourth voting district; and is probing the results from 20 of the country's voting constituencies for possible violations.

Just this week, it was reported that Aliyev dismissed Vagif Ragimov, the governor of Zagatala, a region in western Azerbaijan near the border with Georgia, for alleged interference in ballot counting. Two days earlier, after a three-hour discussion, the Central Election Commission (CEC) reportedly canceled results in the #110 Zagatala constituency in response to reported violations in a majority of the polling stations.

Ragimov was reportedly the third governor to be dismissed for attempted vote tampering.

These are positive steps but further corrective actions must be taken. For example, investigations should not be limited exclusively to election day problems but must address reports of post-election crackdowns and suppression of dissent.

I therefore urge Mr. Aliyev to continue to work closely with the United States, the rest of the international community, and all segments of Azerbaijani society to undertake the necessary reforms to provide for a future in which free, fair and transparent elections are regularly held in a fully democratic Azerbaijan.

A REPORT PREPARED BY EUGENE
B. KOGAN

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues a report prepared by Eugene B. Kogan on the role of Congress in the implementation of U.S. foreign policy. Mr. Kogan is the John Kenneth Galbraith Fellow at the Americans for Democratic Action (ADA). The report is entitled *The War Congress: Shouldering the Responsibilities of A U.S. Global Role*.

Mr. Kogan's report is particularly timely in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, and the U.S. intervention in Iraq. The report focuses on the role of Congress in these two seminal events and its abdication of effective oversight over the Bush administration's foreign policy decisions.

Mr. Kogan states in the report: "The lack of congressional oversight over the Bush Administration's foreign policy can compromise the ability of the United States to build a more secure world. Accountability is eroded in wartime, and the war on terrorism is not any different, except that it will shape America's world role for the next half a century or more. In this critical period of U.S. history, it is important for Congress to exercise its Constitutional responsibility by holding the Executive Branch accountable for its foreign policy decisions."

Congress plays a vital role in the formulation of our Nation's foreign policy. I commend Mr. Kogan's report to my colleagues as they consider the future congressional role in the war on terrorism and U.S. intervention in Iraq.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this bill does not deserve to pass and I certainly will not vote for it.

That's not because I think all is well with the budget—far from it. Even before the hurricane winds and waves arrived and the levees broke, the Federal budget was already on a dangerous course marked by tidal waves of red ink and towering piles of debt. Since 2001, the budget surplus that President Clinton and a Republican Congress bequeathed President Bush had been erased and our country was now in debt to the tune of \$8 trillion, or \$25,000 for every American man, woman and child.

And then, as they brought death and destruction, Katrina and Rita delivered another blow to the Federal budget—and sounded a wake-up call about the fiscal and economic risks we have been running. I had hoped that the result might be recognition by both the Bush Administration and Congress that now we need to face hard reality and not continue with budget policies based on defying the laws of fiscal gravity. It's about time. But this bill—which would implement part of an overall Re-

publican budget—goes in exactly the wrong direction.

As it comes to the floor, the bill would cut more than \$50 billion over 5 years from a wide variety of programs—not because they are no longer needed and not because they are wasteful, but because the Republican leadership has decided the Americans served by these programs must sacrifice in order to help offset the cost of over \$106 billion in tax cuts. And, after imposing these penalties on millions of Americans, the overall plan—service cuts for many Americans, tax cuts for relatively few—will not result in a balanced budget, but even bigger deficits and more delay in correcting our fiscal course.

In short, the Republican prescription for our budget problems is a toxic compound of misguided priorities and fiscal irresponsibility—in other words, more of the same mistakes as before, except worse.

And it's not like there aren't better ways to approach our budgetary problems.

For example, there is H.R. 3966, the Stimulating Leadership In Cutting Expenditures (or "SLICE") Act, a bill I introduced last month that is cosponsored by Members on both sides of the aisle and endorsed by the American Conservative Union, Americans for Tax Reform, Citizens Against Government Waste, Freedom Works, the Small Business Enterprise Council, and the National Taxpayers Union.

Its purpose is to promote Presidential leadership and Congressional accountability on proposals to reduce other spending in order to offset the costs of responding to the recent natural disasters.

Toward that end, it would authorize the President to identify specific items of Federal spending that he thinks should be cut and would require Congress to vote on each of those items. It would apply not only to regular appropriations, but also to the transportation bill that was passed and signed into law earlier this year. In each case, if the president proposes a cut, Congress would have to vote on it—we could not ignore the proposal, as can be done under current law—and if a majority approved the cut, it would take effect.

As our budget situation has grown worse, there has been a lot of talk about "earmarks," meaning funding allocations initially proposed by Members of Congress rather than by the Administration. Some people are opposed to all earmarks—but I am not one of them. I think Members of Congress know the needs of their communities, and that Congress as a whole can and should exercise its judgment on how tax dollars are to be spent. So, I have sought earmarks for various items that have benefited Colorado and I will continue to do so. But I know—everyone knows—that some earmarks might not be approved if they were considered separately, because they would be seen as unnecessary, inappropriate, or excessive.

Dealing with that problem requires leadership and accountability. The SLICE bill would promote both, and by requiring us to focus on individual spending items it would make it possible to weigh the relative costs and benefits of each. But the Republican leadership has rejected that approach. Instead, they are insisting on bringing up this omnibus bill without allowing the House to even consider any amendments—except ones they decide they must make in order to pass it with only votes by Republican Members.

That is the wrong approach, and the bill is the wrong result—for the whole country, and particularly for Colorado and the West.

The bill is especially bad for Colorado because of some parts of it—developed by the Resources Committee—will directly affect our State. For example, there is the part that deals with oil shale.

Oil shale has great potential as an energy source, so it's an important part of our energy policy. And it's important to the taxpayers, who own most of it. They have an interest in what return they will get for this resource. But it's particularly important for Colorado, because our State has some of the most important deposits of oil shale, and Coloradans—particularly those on the Western Slope—will be directly affected by its development.

A new report from the Rand Corporation spells out the great benefits that can come from developing oil shale. But it also makes clear it's important for the development to happen in the right way. The report says oil shale development will have significant effects, not just on the land but also on air quality and on both the quality and quantity of our very limited water supplies. And it says what Coloradans know already—large-scale oil shale development will bring significant population growth and is likely to put stress on the ability of local communities to provide needed services.

In short, the report reminds us how much Colorado and our neighbors had at stake when Congress debated the oil shale provisions of the new Energy Policy Act that's been on the books for just over 2 months now. And while there are lots of things in that law I don't like, I think the parts dealing with oil shale are appropriate and deserve a chance to work before we rush to change them. But this legislation would tear up that part of the new law and replace it with provisions that not only would be bad public policy but would be a direct threat to Colorado.

That's why in the Resources Committee I offered an amendment that would have revised the oil shale sections in several important ways. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership of the committee opposed any changes to those sections, and my amendment was defeated.

What is the significance of that? Well, to begin with, current law says the Interior department has to consult with the Governor of Colorado and other relevant States, as well as with local governments and other interested parties, before going ahead with large-scale oil shale leasing. The bill repeals that requirement for consultation. My amendment would have retained it.

Similarly, current law permits an orderly, measured program for oil shale development. But this bill would mandate a massive development program on a crash basis. It says Interior must lease a minimum of 35% of the oil shale lands in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming within just a one-year period. It's not clear if this means 35% of the three-state total or 35% of the oil-shale lands in each state. Either way, it's a requirement for a fast and massive commercial leasing program:

The Interior Department says there are about 16,000 square miles of oil shale lands in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming combined. That's more than 10 million acres, and about 72% of that is federal land. So, even if the intent is to require leasing 35% of the three-

state total, not 35% in each state, that's more than 2.5 million acres—all in one year!

Mandating leases for that much land, that fast, risks putting a big part of Northwestern Colorado on the fast track to becoming a national sacrifice zone. It's like a trip in a time machine—back to the mistaken crash-development policy of the Carter Administration. That was a mistake then and it would be a mistake now. That's why my amendment would have deleted that requirement, allowing current law to stand.

Also, current law requires the Interior Department to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) on oil shale, with a tight deadline for completion. That's the right thing to do. Work has started on that EIS, and Coloradans look forward to reading it. But reading something before evaluating it must be too old-fashioned for the Republican leadership, because the bill says that the EIS is "deemed" to be good enough—meaning that it cannot be questioned or challenged—and no further environmental analysis will be done for a full 10 years—no matter what problems the State of Colorado or anyone else may have with the EIS.

That's like giving an "A" grade before a student even turns in the homework—it may be good for the student's "self-esteem," but it doesn't ensure careful work. And careful work on oil shale is essential because the stakes are so high for Colorado's land, water, and communities. That's why my amendment would have deleted that and allowed current law to stand.

Finally, current law tells the Interior Department to set oil-shale royalty rates that will do two things—encourage development of oil shale and also ensure a fair return to the taxpayers. But the bill would repeal this, replacing it with specific rates to be charged for the first 10 years of commercial oil shale production, and requiring that after that the rates must be adjusted according to a formula tied to certain oil prices. This is a blatant example of micro-management, with nothing to show it is fair to the taxpayers. My amendment would have deleted that that attempt at long-term political price-fixing, and replaced it with the language of the current law.

The Congressional Budget Office's report on these oil shale provisions estimates that they will not do much to raise revenue or otherwise help balance the budget. So, there is no budgetary reason to include them in this bill, while from the standpoint of what is best for Colorado and its communities there is every reason to change them in the way that my amendment would have done—and I cannot support them unless such changes are made.

And that is also the case with the parts of the bill dealing with the Mining Law of 1872.

As Westerners know all too well, that law—dating from the administration of President Ulysses S. Grant—still governs the mining of gold, silver, and other "hardrock" minerals on federal lands. It still allows private companies to get a patent—an ownership deed—to public lands containing valuable minerals for a mere \$2.50 to \$5.00 per acre, the same prices that were set in 1872, without paying the taxpayers a fee like that paid for the Federal oil, gas, or other minerals developed under more modern law. Since 1872, more than \$245 billion worth of minerals have been extracted from public lands at these bargain-basement prices, and nearly as much land as in the entire state of

Connecticut has been sold to the mining industry for less than \$5 an acre.

Because the mining industry doesn't need patents—they can and do mine on unpatented claims and because there are so many problems associated with patenting, annually since 1994 Congress has renewed a moratorium on the patenting of mining claims. But this bill would repeal that moratorium. And while the bill would raise the price of patents, it would not require payments that reflect the value of the minerals involved. So, according to the Congressional Budget Office, this provision would raise only about \$158 million over the next five years. This is not real reform—it is a continued subsidy for the "hardrock" mining industry. But other provisions in this part of the bill are worse.

For example, the bill would allow claim holders to patent land without proving there is a valuable mineral deposit as long as they already have a permit to mine or have reported to the SEC that there is a "probable" mineral reserve there. This means that claim holders can purchase public land without having to prove that they can or will construct a viable mine. And it allows the sale of "mineral development lands"—meaning any land with a valuable mineral deposit as well as lands that were once mineralized and were previously mined—for the purpose of "sustainable economic development." According to John Leshy, who served as Solicitor of the Interior and who is an expert on the mining law, the result will be to "put in the hands of corporations the keys to privatize millions of acres of federal land"—setting the stage for a massive fire sale of Federal lands for bargain-basement prices.

And in Colorado, a state with a long and rich mining history, the results could be dramatic. As the Denver Post has noted, "Coloradans could unexpectedly see suburban sprawl on mountainsides they thought were protected open spaces . . . It's an invitation to condo developers, mini-mansion home builders and other speculators to snatch up federal lands that otherwise would never leave public ownership. . . . Just in Colorado, old mining patents encompass 123,000 acres. Most existing claims are next to or surrounded by national forests, parks or other public lands. Many also are near former mining towns that have become pricey resorts such as Aspen, Telluride, Breckenridge and Crested Butte. Twenty-three of Colorado's 24 ski areas are on national forests and so are vulnerable under the proposal."

In short, as the Denver Post's editors rightly observe, these provisions "really aren't about mining; they're about real estate speculation," which is why they have called on us to "erase them from the budget reconciliation bill."

But of course, since no amendments are permitted, we can't erase that part, or any other part of the legislation. The only choice before us is to vote yes or no on the entire bill.

And, as I said, the bill is just one part of a larger budget plan—one that insists on pushing ahead on the same course that has led to the serious fiscal problems that now confront us—setting the stage for more top-heavy tax cuts while we are putting the costs of war and everything else the government does on the national credit card. This cannot go on forever. Sooner or later, something has to give.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is an urgent need to rethink and revise our budget policies, includ-

ing both taxes and spending. But this bill reflects a refusal to do that rethinking. And for me the only viable choice is to vote no—no on the oil shale provisions, no on the mining provisions, and no on all the rest of this very unnecessary, very unbalanced, very short-sighted, and very unwise legislation.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, as the House of Representatives considers passage of the Deficit Reduction Act, I rise in overall support of H.R. 4241. As the process moves forward, I urge my colleagues in this chamber and in the conference to consider some additions and changes.

The actual estimated average cost to a community retail pharmacy to dispense prescription drugs (\$9.25) is greater than the minimum multi-source dispensing fee established by H.R. 4241 (\$8.00). Because H.R. 4241 does not establish a dispensing fee for single source medications, commonly known as brand-name drugs, I urge my colleagues to consider an increase in dispensing fees for both single source and multisource medications that adequately compensates community retail pharmacies for their cost to dispense prescription drugs within the Medicaid program. In addition, I urge my colleagues to encourage the states to conduct mandatory comprehensive studies to determine actual distribution expenses incurred by community retail pharmacies participating in the Medicaid program so that fair and equitable distribution reimbursement rates can be established.

We should also do all we can to provide incentives to increase the distribution of generic therapeutic equivalent drugs when they are available. While our bill provides higher dispensing fees for generics based on Retail Average Manufacturers Price (RAMP) plus cost, I still do not feel that there is enough incentive in our model to encourage effective use of generics. I encourage continued work in conference to increase the utilization of generics, which in itself has significant savings potential.

H.R. 4241 establishes a new benchmark formula for establishing reimbursement rates for community retail pharmacies participating in the Medicaid program. The benchmark formula, known as RAMP, can often be significantly out of date because it is updated on a quarterly basis and it often is not determined and posted for another quarter. Because pharmaceutical prices are updated on a daily basis, the RAMP has the potential to be as much as six months out of date. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to consider modifying requirements related to RAMP from a quarterly recalculation basis to a monthly basis so that community retail pharmacies do not have to absorb significant financial losses due to fluctuations in real cost.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT SPADA

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and constituent Albert Spada for his distinguished professional career and impressive record of community service. Al retired earlier this year as Ulster County Clerk, a position he has held since 1967. I would like to recognize and thank him for his outstanding leadership in Ulster County both as an elected official and an active and dedicated member of the community.

Al was elected to the office of Ulster County Clerk at the age of 34, the youngest county clerk in New York at the time. Prior to his election, Al served as Deputy Clerk for Ulster County and legislative aide to New York State Assemblyman Kenneth Wilson and New York State Senator E. Ogden Bush. Prior to that, Al served in the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict as a Staff Sergeant. After serving as chief of the Air Force supply depot in Japan, he received an honorable discharge from military service.

For more than 35 years, Al served the people of Ulster County with distinction and honor. His responsiveness and accessibility to county residents defined his tenure in office. Al established himself as the preeminent advocate for Ulster County residents on matters pertaining to the functions of his office and other county government business. Over the nearly 4 decades that he was in office, Al's personal efforts have positively affected the lives of countless Ulster County residents. All of these attributes contributed to Al being the longest serving County Clerk in Ulster County since George Clinton held the position in the late 18th century.

Al has received numerous honors over the years including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York State Association of County Clerks and the Man of the Year Award from the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Al has been a member of the New York Association of County Clerks since 1966 and has served on the boards of Benedictine and Kingston Hospitals, the New York State Advisory Board of Public Works and the Kingston Housing Authority, where he currently sits as chairman. He has served on the Heritage Advisory Committee, the New York State Sports Authority and the Ulster County United Way. Most notably perhaps, Al has been a lifetime member of the Glasco Volunteer Fire Department.

In addition to the many accomplishments and accolades that Al has received over the years, he is widely regarded as a friend to many people throughout the community. His loyalty and generosity, as well as his extraordinary sense of humor, have endeared him to countless Ulster County residents and while his presence in the county building will be greatly missed, we will all take comfort in knowing that he will remain an active member of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate my friend Albert Spada and his family on the occasion of his retirement after so many years of dedicated service to the residents of Ulster County. I offer him my warmest personal wishes for a healthy and happy retirement along

with my deep appreciation for his friendship and his longstanding commitment to public service.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BERKSHIRE JUVENILE COURT

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and honor the Berkshire Division of the Juvenile Court Department of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on this, National Adoption Day, for their dedication to the hundreds of children in foster care in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, and for their promotion of adoption, which allows over 30 children per year to enter into loving and nurturing families.

Today, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, sixteen adoptions will be performed in honor of National Adoption Day and in recognition of November as Adoption Awareness Month throughout the United States.

I want to thank the Berkshire Juvenile Court, under the guidance of the Honorable First Justice Paul E. Perachi, for their dedication and commitment to the children and families of Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF BALTIMORE FIRE CAPTAIN KENNETH HYDE, SR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the outstanding efforts of one heroic individual who has greatly impacted the safety of the Baltimore community. He stands by 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in case of emergency. Whether he's disturbed from his slumber or called away from a family dinner, Baltimore Fire Captain and Riviera Beach Fire Chief Kenneth Hyde, Sr. readily awaits his next call to action.

Mr. Hyde holds two very demanding positions as he is the Baltimore City Fire Captain and the head of the Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company. That means he rarely enjoys a day of rest. However, he never complains, and neither do his crews. He has participated in the rescue of passengers of the water taxi, Lady D which overturned last year in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. He has assisted with the recent Hurricane Katrina cleanup, as well as countless other disasters.

While he primarily focuses on local mishaps, his interest lies in terrorism preparedness. He develops strategies for possible attacks, and devotes many of his weekends to either attending or conducting training sessions.

Mr. Hyde comes from a long line of firemen; his father, both grandfathers, brother, and now son, are all firemen. In addition, his wife is a dispatcher for the Baltimore City Fire Department, and his sister is in charge of the cadet program for the Riviera Beach Fire Department. It's obvious the Hyde family is dedicated to the safety of the citizens of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you rise with me today to applaud the incredible efforts of Mr. Kenneth Hyde in his unselfish commitment to protecting the people of the United States.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much wrong with this legislation that I do not know where to begin.

This "deficit reduction act" is a tool for the majority party to justify their tax cuts that are poorly timed and do not benefit the American citizens who need help the most. It is irresponsible to cut funding for vital programs in order to make up for lost revenues due to tax cuts that benefit the wealthy. If we do not fix this deficit, we are forcing future generations to pay for Congress's fiscal irresponsibility. There are no useful deficit reduction measures in this bill.

This budget reconciliation bill cuts essential government programs that serve the most vulnerable members of our society. Society and government are judged by how we take care of those in need and we must do better. All totaled, the bill cuts spending by \$53.9 billion dollars which includes cuts to Medicaid, Food Stamps, student loans, and child support.

The cuts to the Medicaid program total \$11.9 billion or 22 percent of all of the cuts in this legislation. These cuts will result in premium increases for all participants and a reduction in benefits that will cause millions of children to lose some preventative and treatment services. At a time when health concerns are at the forefront of many people's minds, we should not be making cuts to Medicaid that will make it harder for people to afford the care they need.

The cuts to the Food Stamp Program total \$844 million dollars. These cuts would be the result of new limitations on who is qualified to receive food stamps. Under this legislation, some families receiving other types of federal assistance would be ineligible to receive food stamps. It is outrageous that we are cutting this and other programs that have been proven to help those who are the most in need.

The reductions in funding to child support programs total \$4.9 billion or 9 percent of all of the cuts in this legislation. This is just plain wrong. States rely on this funding to aid their efforts in establishing and enforcing child support orders; orders that are necessary if families and children are ever going to receive the support owed to them.

According to the Census Bureau for the most recent year that data is available (2001), only 45 percent of custodial parents have received the full amount of child support owed to them. There are an estimated 13.4 million parents with custody of 21.5 million children under age 21 whose other parent lives elsewhere. About 5-in-6 of those 13.4 million parents are mothers.

Twenty-five percent of single mothers with children in the United States are below the poverty level. We must do all that we can to

help mothers and their children receive the child support that is owed to them. Cutting funding to States for child support enforcement is obviously moving in the wrong direction.

As Members of Congress we cannot continue to allow ill-timed and badly targeted tax cuts for the wealthy while at the same time cutting government programs that help people improve the quality of their lives and their wellbeing.

If we continue along this path we will be shortchanging our children, our grandchildren and their children to come. They will inherit a government and a country that turned its back on the people who needed them most and they will be forced to pick up the pieces.

We cannot let this happen. I am committed to serving the people of the Second District of Maryland and I will not support legislation such as this that will negatively impact my constituents or the United States as a whole.

This legislation is just plain wrong and I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION AT DODONA MANOR

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to participate in Veterans Day observances held at the George C. Marshall International Center at Dodona Manor in Leesburg, Virginia.

The commemoration was organized by U.S. Army retired Colonel Gerhard L. Jacobson and featured U.S. Army retired Lieutenant General Frank A. Camm as the keynote speaker. I would like to share for our colleagues the stirring remarks by General Camm.

VETERANS DAY SPEECH

NOVEMBER 11, 2005

Thank you, Jake . . . Mr. Price, fellow veterans and American citizens . . . as a descendant of the Rector family on nearby Goose Creek, I am proud to join you here at Dodona Manor, the home of one of our greatest veterans, General George Marshall, in paying tribute to the service of America's veterans.

This is the day we remember our debt to those who've worn the uniform of the United States. This is the day we thank and honor ALL who have served honorably in the military—in wartime or peacetime. We honor them for their patriotism, their love of country, and their willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. And we thank them for their service, expressing our appreciation of their contributions to national security, and recognizing that all who served have sacrificed and done their duty. Today, all veterans can be certain that the Nation they served and the people they defended are grateful.

It is appropriate, indeed, to observe Veterans Day here at Dodona Manor, the home of General Marshall, who was born just 125 miles from here on New Year's Eve 125 years ago. . . Having lived next door to General Marshall in Washington in 1938, having seen him speak at West Point, and having served in the Army's War Plans Division that he had headed 20 years before, I've been inspired by numerous accounts of this man whom President Roosevelt considered to be the Pershing of World War II and whom Presi-

dent Truman said was the greatest military man the Nation ever produced.

General Marshall's 50 years of public service epitomize the selfless service so distinctive of our veterans. . . After serving General Pershing in and after World War I, General Marshall commanded troops in China, revamped officer training at Fort Benning, became Army Chief of Staff and exemplified selfless service in his gracious acceptance of President Roosevelt's keeping him in Washington during World War II instead of acceding to his desire to command troops in Europe. . . He gave selfless service again when heading toward well-deserved retirement in 1945. . . He had just entered Dodona Manor when a telephone call came from President Truman asking him to forego his first vacation in years and devote many months as a special presidential envoy to China. . . He extended his selfless service again and again when he became Truman's Secretary of State from 1947 to 49 creating the Marshall Plan. . . and when he shortly thereafter accepted President Truman's request to take over the American Red Cross. . . After the Korean War began in 1950, President Truman interrupted General Marshall's vacation at a Michigan fishing camp to call him back to further selfless service in Washington as Secretary of Defense. . . Meanwhile, Senator Joe McCarthy was castigating George Marshall for treason, calling him a man (quote) "guilty of an immense conspiracy" and making (quote) "common cause with Stalin"—General Marshall refused to respond, saying, (quote) "If I have to explain at this point that I am not a traitor to the United States, I hardly think it's worth it." . . Shortly after retiring again to Dodona Manor in 1951, he agreed to chair the American Battle Monuments Commission. And in 1953, upon becoming the first professional soldier to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, he typically credited it to others, telling reporters it was a tribute (quote) "to the American people." . . . Indeed, all of us veterans are proud to count General Marshall as one of us!

Our veterans have borne the cost of America's wars and stood watch over America's peace. Among the 42 million veterans of American wars, over 600 thousand died in battle and over 2 million were wounded. Today some 20 million living Americans wear the proud title of veteran. They include a few dozen survivors of World War I, over 3 million of World War II, 3 million of the Korean War, 8 million of the Vietnam War, and 2 million of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fortunate to have a number of veterans with us here today, I want to acknowledge them. . . so I ask all veterans present to please stand for us to recognize you? . . . (APPLAUSE). . . Thank you. . . Like Henry the Fifth in Shakespeare, we vets have a special bond with those with whom we've served. . . Trapped and outnumbered by the French army, Henry spoke to his men before the battle. His address is a classic in military legend: "For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother" . . . And laying into slackers who'd avoided serving, he declared, "and gentlemen in England now abed . . . shall think themselves accursed they were not here." . .

Today, our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen serve in 120 countries throughout the world during our ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. And the legacy of our veterans continues to inspire each of them to answer the call of duty. As we join in thanking our veterans for their service, let's applaud them not only for their past service, but the example they set for our current and future military. . . After the Korean War, our veterans returned home to a country indifferent to their service. . . After Vietnam,

our military faced scorn from some circles. . . Indifference and scorn have no place in our heroes' homecoming. . . Instead, let's show our gratitude by welcoming all of our heroes when they return to the cities and towns they have so bravely defended.

Now with the Global War on Terrorism, we cannot take our past peace and prosperity for granted. Our veterans know that freedom isn't free and that eternal vigilance is the price we must pay for our liberty. We must resolve to keep faith with our veterans as this nation fights and wins the Global War on Terrorism.

We must resolve to thank and support all our veterans for their outstanding and selfless service to our nation and to thank them not only today, Veterans Day, but every day. Remember our veterans and the price they paid physically, financially, and emotionally to keep this nation safe. . . And remember our troops, America's future veterans, sons and daughters, who have selflessly made the decision to defend our count and all it stands for.

Additionally, let's remember that veterans' families and military families have also paid the price for freedom. Though we may not be able to adequately thank our veterans, our soldiers, and their families, . . . we must always support them.

With your support, our soldiers, America's future veterans, will continue to honor their sacred duty of protecting our nation, our fellow citizens, and the freedoms we hold so dear.

Remember the Biblical questions: "Whom shall I send? and Who will go for us?" . . . And whoever answers with the Biblical reply of "Here am I. Send me" . . . will return a veteran. Let us honor that veteran and resolve on this Veterans Day to remember that he or she goes for us and deserves our support and respect.

TRIBUTE TO CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER AWARDEES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today on behalf of one of my district's premier human service organizations, the Child Advocacy Center of Genesee County. On Thursday, November 10, the Center will hold its inaugural Awards Dinner, where they will acknowledge several individuals who have shown tremendous courage, kindness, and selflessness through acts of goodwill toward our young people.

Polly Sheppard will have the distinction of being awarded the first Volunteer of the Year Award.

The honor of the Mental Health Therapist of the Year Award will be presented to Penny Lantz.

The cooperation between the CAC and the Michigan Department of Human Services will be shown, as Linda Crouch and Director Denise Chambers will receive DHS Worker of the Year awards.

The CAC will recognize its friends in law enforcement, as Detective Matt Bade of the Burton Police Department, and Detective Diana Mills of the Mt. Morris Police Department will be honored as Police Officers of the Year. John Greene and Marcie Mabry will be honored as Prosecutors of the Year.

The Sponsor of the Year Award will be presented to the Ruth Mott Foundation.

Additionally, Dr. Edwin Gullekson will be honored as the CAC 2005 Physician of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud these wonderful men and women for all they have done for others. Through their actions, they ensure that our children are able to enjoy healthy, productive, and safe lives, and I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in recognizing their heroic efforts.

HONORING CUB SCOUT PACK 88 OF
THE BSA'S DES PLAINES VALLEY
COUNCIL AND THEIR 60
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cub Scout Pack 88 of the Boy Scouts of America's Des Plaines Valley Council on their 60th anniversary.

In 1930, the Boy Scouts of America created a new opportunity called Cub Scouting for boys younger than Boy Scout age. A year-round, home-centered program used by chartered organizations, Cub Scouting emphasizes involvement between boys and their parents, adult leaders, and friends. In the multidimensional plan of the Boy Scouts of America, Cub Scouting is where it all begins.

For the past 60 years, Cub Scout Pack 88 has been a cornerstone of service in the Des Plaines Valley communities. They have combined fun with educational activities and life-long values. Parents and sons of Pack 88 spend quality time together going places, doing projects, talking, and reading. Pack 88 also provides a healthy, safe environment in which boys learn important values and develop self-confidence.

For these reasons, it is my honor to recognize Cub Scout Pack 88 on their 60th anniversary. I look forward to many more years of their continued service to our community and our youth.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the majority should be absolutely ashamed of the bill before us today. It is simply unconscionable that the majority is not only moving forward with reconciliation but that they are increasing cuts all under the guise of paying for Hurricane Katrina relief. Under their rules, they won't even allow amendments to this monstrosity—shutting down any meaningful opportunity of offering even slight improvements to this bill. The fact of the matter is that the irresponsible tax cuts for the wealthy have run our country's fiscal order into the red with over \$8 trillion in debt. Even before Hurricane Katrina, the budget resolution called for \$35 billion in cuts to programs for the poor to partially offset the \$106 billion in tax cuts in the same budget resolution. The math simply doesn't add up.

It is interesting that the majority continues to use terms like personal responsibility when justifying the draconian cuts to services, cruel penalties and cost sharing for the poor that will essentially block access to care while failing to exercise the same responsibility in their own fiscal disorder. The general fund of the Government of the United States is paid for with borrowed money, over \$1 billion a day. To make ends meet while continuing to pass tax cuts, we borrow heavily from China, Japan and other foreign nations, knowing full well our children and grandchildren will one day be saddled with our debt. In the meantime, they pretend we can shore up our economy with a few simple reforms that will have devastating consequences for the most vulnerable children, seniors and other impoverished people, which won't really affect the trillions of dollars of debt created by the majority's fiscal irresponsibility.

What is irresponsible are the billions of dollars in cuts the majority is making to the Medicaid program. We already have 45 million uninsured Americans. Without Medicaid and SCHIP, the percentage of uninsured Americans, including children, would be a lot higher. As we all know, health care coverage isn't meaningful unless it is accessible and comprehensive. The proposals included in this bill will undoubtedly prove to be a barrier to care as it permits States to significantly increase the amounts Medicaid beneficiaries payout of pocket for premiums and copayments for healthcare services, again, all in the name of personal responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, but what about the low-income mother trying to care for her family by stretching her budget to cover housing, electricity, clothing and now increased cost-sharing and copayments for medical care? Why are we setting her up for failure when she has to make choices between her medical care and her children and her utility bills, all important to the wellbeing of her and her family? How have we fulfilled our professional responsibility if we put her in the position of making these impossible choices? I can assure you, these mothers are as familiar with personal responsibility and strapped budgets as any Member of Congress in this room.

Part of the problem that I have with these proposals are that the "reforms" are budget driven in that the solutions offered are far less important than the anticipated savings associated with them. I urge this committee to scrap these massive changes to Medicaid. While there are certainly ways to modernize, improve, and reform this program, it must be done with the compassion and thoughtful consideration it deserves.

A sensible improvement to this bill would be to permit early treatment under Medicaid to those with HIV. Under current Medicaid rules, most HIV positive people must meet both an income standard and be disabled—by AIDS—before they can receive access to Medicaid provided care and treatment that could have prevented them from becoming ill so quickly. This policy runs counter to current Federal HIV treatment guidelines which call for early access to medical care and treatment including the use of combination antiretroviral therapy. Medical costs for those with advanced AIDS are significantly higher than costs for caring for HIV positive people, and this is a burden on the States' Medicaid budgets.

I offered an amendment in the Energy and Commerce Committee markup for Medicaid

reform to give States the OPTION of amending their Medicaid eligibility requirements to include uninsured, pre-disabled low-income people living with HIV. ETHA, which has been introduced by Leader PELOSI in prior Congresses and Senator SMITH and Senator CLINTON in the Senate, is modeled after the successful Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, BCCA, that allows States to provide early access to Medicaid to women with cancer. Forty nine States have implemented the BCCA, designed to preserve health and prevent unnecessary and high-cost medical interventions. As with the BCCA, ETHA includes an enhanced Federal match rate of 65 percent to 83 percent to encourage States to participate in offering the services.

Although my amendment failed in committee, Senators CLINTON and SMITH successfully offered a demonstration version of the Early Treatment for HIV Act on the Senate floor. I tried to offer that amendment on the House floor but the Republican leadership would not permit any amendments. It is my fervent hope that this provision survives conference.

Outside of the jurisdiction of the Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I serve, are even more cruel cuts to working families and vulnerable populations. Billions in cuts to student aid programs, child support enforcement, foster care and SSI disability payments. They cut food stamps, eliminated nutritional school lunch and breakfast programs for hundreds of thousands of families and children—the list goes on.

Mr. Speaker, you should be ashamed to allow our Congress to even consider such proposals, let alone vote on them, while continuing to promote tax cuts for the wealthy. I vote "no" on this monstrosity and urge my colleagues to do the same.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Budget Reconciliation Bill, H.R. 4241, reported on a partisan basis by the House Committee on the Budget.

My colleagues have already highlighted many of the harsh cuts that would be made in this bill. These include, but are not limited to, cuts in Medicaid spending of nearly \$12 billion, cuts in the student loan program of more than \$14 billion, \$840 million in cuts in the food stamp programs, \$4.9 billion in cuts to the State child support enforcement programs, \$577 million in cuts to the foster care program and \$470 million in cuts to the Federal housing rehab program.

Let's be very clear on this point. These cuts will do nothing to reduce our growing deficit and, despite what many Republicans have tried to claim, they will not offset the costs we will rightly incur to recover from the catastrophic devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In fact, while cutting almost \$50 billion in much needed social programs for the most needy, the bill "reconciles" another \$70 billion

in tax cuts for the absolute least needy—adding another \$16–20 billion to the Federal deficit. So I ask, what sense does this heartless bill make?

While I am glad the manager's amendment tries to soften the blow to the vulnerable by making sure that children who currently receive school lunches will not be cut off, as well as by making other small vote garnering changes to the Medicaid and food stamp programs, these are small pluses that do very little to outweigh the many minuses of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, to achieve this deficit increase, the budget reconciliation bill before us today would cut precisely those programs that help the poor, the sick, the weak, and the young so that the wealthiest among us can receive additional tax cuts.

Let me review for a moment what the tax cuts already enacted have done to our Nation.

According to the Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center, as a result of the tax cuts implemented by the administration and by the Republican leadership in Congress to date, households with incomes exceeding \$1 million can expect to receive tax cuts this year that will average \$103,000.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, after adjusting for inflation, the after-tax income of the 1 percent of tax filers with the highest incomes rose by nearly \$49,000 in 2003 while the lowest 75 percent of tax filers saw their incomes decrease in 2002.

Not surprisingly, as income disparity has grown, the poverty rate in this Nation has increased from 11.7 percent in 2001 to 12.7 percent in 2004, and there are now more than 37 million Americans living in poverty in this Nation, including 13 million children.

Further, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, last year there were more than 38 million individuals living in households that at some point during the year were food "insecure," meaning that they were unable to afford to buy enough food to feed themselves.

On September 16, President Bush traveled to New Orleans to announce a bold and ambitious plan to rebuild the gulf coast region following the hurricanes. During his speech, the President acknowledged that poverty and indifference had left so many of our fellow Americans vulnerable to the hurricanes in the gulf region.

Unfortunately, the budget reconciliation bill before us illustrates in the starkest possible terms that as the storm and its revelations about our society begin to fade from the front pages to the back pages, the Republican leadership of this House has chosen to repudiate the President's commitment to address poverty.

Rather than embrace the President's call for action, the Republican leaders of this House have put forward a bill that will continue policies of neglect and indifference in service to what they see as the greater good: continued tax cuts for the wealthiest in this Nation.

The budget reconciliation act before us presents a stark choice for all Members of the House of Representatives—between supporting tax cuts for the wealthiest among us or opposing reductions in our already thin social safety net.

I urge my colleagues to make the moral choice today. Budgets reflect the moral compass of a nation. This budget reconciliation package is devoid of humanity and compas-

sion and would take our Nation far off course of helping its neediest citizens. I urge my colleagues to stand with the children, the elderly, and the vulnerable of our Nation by voting against this reconciliation act.

If its passage occurs, I implore the conferees to be compassionate and fair and to restore and maintain the social safety net for our neediest citizens.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to and concern about the devastating cuts to essential services passed in this House today as part of the budget reconciliation package.

The cuts this body adopted today will have disastrous impacts on the western New York communities I represent. The unnecessary cuts to health, education and children's programs will be particularly hard felt in and among the working families of Erie and Chautauqua Counties.

The ranks of the uninsured continue to swell in this country, and more and more Americans are concerned that someday they may find themselves without health insurance and unable to afford needed care. In fact, over 45 million Americans are currently without health insurance. Medicaid represents this government's promise to provide health care to Americans who can least afford it. Over 4 million New Yorkers are enrolled in this quite literally life-saving program, including 1.8 million children. I voted against the bill today because it will cut Medicaid spending by more than \$11 billion. That's an \$11 billion cut from caring for children suffering from leukemia, from pregnant mothers struggling to survive and from mentally disabled men and women trying to make a place for themselves in our communities; we should not make our budget cuts on their backs. Instead, we should be increasing health care access to more Americans, not fewer. If Medicaid is expanding, it's because fewer Americans can afford health insurance, let's not deny them the only access to care available to them.

I am also concerned that this legislation cuts over \$14 billion from successful Federal student loan programs—the largest cuts ever to student aid. This is the wrong cut at the wrong time, because college costs continue to skyrocket with no end in sight. In fact tuition at 4-year public colleges has increased 46 percent since 2001. Children from working families in Erie and Chautauqua Counties, and over 470,000 students across the State, depend on these loans to afford college and they depend on college as the key to economic opportunity. These cuts will needlessly deny that opportunity to young people in western New York who want to go to Medaille, Canisius, the University of Buffalo, my alma mater, Buffalo State, and others.

The reconciliation package is also an abdication of our responsibility to children. The bill cuts child support enforcement by almost \$5 billion, abandoning single parents and rolling back the progress our society has made in

this field. Children are not responsible for divorce or for parents abandoning their families. Let's not turn back the clock and make them carry that responsibility. The bill cuts \$577 million from foster care programs. And perhaps most troubling, it cuts \$796 million from food stamps, which represent our promise that amid this country's great wealth, no American child, whether in the cold winters of Erie County or the sun baked mountains of Arizona, should starve.

What is perhaps most objectionable about this process is the doubletalk used to sell these cuts. While we have been told that these spending cuts are necessary to reduce the deficit, they do nothing of the sort. Instead, the \$50 billion in spending cuts are coupled with \$106 billion in tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. That means that all of these cuts, all of them, will be used to pay for irresponsible tax cuts that we can't afford and that do not put money back in the pockets of my hard-working constituents in Buffalo; not one dime will actually go to reduce the deficit.

In fact, this reconciliation process will increase, not decrease, the deficit. I agree that it is well past time for Congress to put our fiscal house in order, but to call this package a deficit reduction measure at best makes no sense, and at worst is patently dishonest. We need to do better by the American people and I pledge to do better for the people of Western New York. Frankly, they do not deserve this bad budget.

Mr. Speaker, I object to the cuts this House adopted today, and I object to the slight of hand used to sell them.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, most Americans watching their televisions looked on in horror at the extent of the poverty and desperation among the victims of Hurricane Katrina. President Bush and congressional Republicans apparently looked at these pictures with indifference and disdain.

I am forced to believe this because their budget bill—the so-called Deficit Reduction Act—aims to cut more than \$50 billion from nearly every poverty program this country offers for the sake of later passing approximately \$60 billion in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans.

Sadly, their recent actions fit neatly with their track record. Since the Republicans gained control of both the White House and Congress in 2001, 1.7 million more Americans live in poverty, average median income has declined \$1,700, and the minimum wage—which has not been increased since 1997—has its lowest purchasing power since 1990.

This budget continues the Republican trend of failing the American people in every possible way.

The Republican budget requires poor mothers with children under age 6 to double their weekly work hours from 20 to 40 in order to remain eligible for job training and vocational education. Yet, it fails to provide \$10.5 billion for childcare funding which the non-partisan

Congressional Budget Office estimated would be needed for mothers to afford to work the longer hours and maintain their benefits.

Disgracefully, their proposals don't stop there. The Republican budget leads to \$24 billion less in child support payments. It also cuts \$14.3 billion from Federal student aid programs so the average student borrowing for college will now pay an additional \$5,800. It cuts health care for disabled and impoverished people, aid for abused and neglected foster children, financial assistance to the aged and disabled poor and food subsidies.

However, they don't cut everything. In true Republican, let-them-eat-cake fashion, the Republican budget does have one program to help those in need. The bill provides two \$40 coupons to people so that they can buy converter boxes for their television sets, so they can watch digital television.

Together, America can do better than trading crisp, clean digital television for food, health care and education. I urge my colleagues to vote against this disgrace and not pay for tax cuts for millionaires on the backs of the poor.

HONORING ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, RALPH J. GALANTI, JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize Ralph J. Galanti, Jr., Erie Community College Director of Athletics who is retiring after 36 years of service to ECC.

Born and raised in the City of Lackawanna, over the last three and one-half decades Ralph "Chico" Galanti has completely transformed ECC's athletic program, putting ECC on the map in the college sports world.

As coach of the ECC hockey team, Galanti led the team to appearances at eight NJCAA national championships, winning five regional titles.

In his role as Athletic Director, Galanti was instrumental in brining football to ECC and had a hands on role in the development of ECC's Burt Flickinger Athletic Center, a facility awarded for its design, which not only serves the college but the entire community, hosting national athletic events.

Galanti's ongoing efforts increased enrollment at the school where he pushed students to balance athletics and academics.

For his accomplishments, Chico has been inducted into the Greater Buffalo Hall of Fame and the National Junior College Athletic Association Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame.

The Ralph and Grace Galanti Memorial Scholarship fund honor's Ralph's parents, and continues his legacy of commitment, by assisting the student athletes in our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I recognize Ralph Galanti, Jr., a man whose devotion to Erie Community College has shaped the lives of thousands of ECC students and left a positive mark on the entire Western New York community. On behalf of the residents of New York's 27th Congressional District I would like to wish Chico health and happiness in his retirement by using his signature farewell, "be happy."

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS A. WREN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas A. Wren and to recognize his service to our Nation.

Lt. Col. Wren graduated from George Mason University and received a commission in the Army Reserve through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He joined the 80th Division Army Reserve unit in 1984 and held positions in Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania. He was called to active duty four times since 2000, serving in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq. While not on active duty, Lt. Col. Wren worked as a project manager at Sytel working on projects at USAID, USDA, Army Research Laboratory as well as the State Department. His numerous decorations include two Bronze Stars.

His most recent assignment was assisting with the training of the Iraqi military. Tragically, Lt. Col. Wren was killed in an accident on November 5, 2005 in Tallil, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. This is a debt that can never be repaid. I know words are not much comfort for the family of Lt. Col. Wren, who are no doubt suffering in the wake of the loss of this intelligent and dedicated man. I hope they will take some solace in knowing that we will never forget Lt. Col. Wren's sacrifice or the sacrifices made by other patriots like him in defense of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to remember in our minds and in our hearts the bravery and sacrifice of Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, as well as that of all the men and women of the armed services who honorably protect the American people.

COERCED STERILIZATIONS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, the district court in the Czech town of Ostrava reached a very important decision. The court concluded that, in 2001 after the birth of her second child, a local Romani woman was sterilized without informed consent. In fact, since last year, the Czech Ombudsman has been examining dozens of similar cases. Although he has not yet issued any public findings, it is expected that the Ombudsman will confirm that many other Romani women experienced similar violations of their rights, as documented by several Czech human rights groups and the European Roma Rights Center.

Sadly, the issue of sterilizations without informed consent is not new in this region. As early as 1977, the dissident group Charter 77 reported on systematic efforts to target Romani women in Czechoslovakia for coerced

sterilization. While the vast majority of sterilizations in the Czech Republic and Slovakia since 1989 were performed with informed consent, the Ostrava case demonstrates that the practice of performing sterilizations without informed consent did not completely end with the fall of the communist regime.

That precedent-setting court decision sheds light on a number of legal points in one specific case. At the same time, there are many larger questions still at issue, including whether racism against Roma contributed to the abuse. Frankly, given the large percentage of Roma among the victims of sterilization without informed consent compared with the small percentage of the Czech population that Roma constitute, it is hard for me to believe that race did not play some role. There are, of course, other possible factors to consider: what role did a poor quality of medical care or training play in these cases of medical malpractice? Did a lack of respect for an individual's liberty—a hold-over mentality from the totalitarian period—also contribute to the abuse?

I welcome the Ostrava court's decision and commend the plaintiff in that case, Helena Ferencikova, for her courage in bringing it forward. I have also been heartened by the apparent seriousness of the Ombudsman's investigation into this difficult and sensitive matter.

Unfortunately, similar issues in neighboring Slovakia continue to be met with government denials and stonewalling.

In 2003, the Slovak Government concluded a year-long investigation into allegations that some Romani women were sterilized without informed consent, even after the fall of communism. That investigation was deeply flawed. At one point, for example, a spokesperson for the Minister for Human Rights threatened that anyone bringing forward allegations of sterilization without informed consent would go to jail, one way or another. This is not the way to foster confidence in an investigation or to encourage victims to speak out.

Significantly, the Czech investigation and the Slovak investigation both revolved around the same 1992 Czechoslovak law on sterilizations, put in place before the two countries split apart. Czech authorities have understood that law as requiring that sterilizations had to be requested by the person who was going to be sterilized, that there had to be evidence of consent by that person, and that consent had to be meaningfully informed. Being "informed" means, for example, that the expectant mother must be told why the procedure is necessary. If someone was given false information about the procedure, which was the case in many instances, then she was not meaningfully "informed."

When interpreting the same law, however, Slovak authorities maintained that consent did not have to be "informed." Accordingly, Slovak investigators examined numerous cases where there was no informed consent but still concluded there was no violation of the 1992 law because, according to their twisted logic, consent didn't have to be informed!

In reality, the Slovak Government seemed to organize its investigation into the sterilization cases in a way that was designed to cover up the magnitude of the problem. The Slovak Government's investigation revealed seven cases of Romani minors who were sterilized in violation of the then-existing Slovak law. In reality, the Slovak Government's

interpretation of the concept of "consent" could not be reconciled with modern health norms and had to be changed to explicitly require that consent is informed. (The new law went into effect at the beginning of this year.) In reality, numerous international officials have repeatedly expressed concern over the sterilization practices in the Slovak Republic and the inadequacy of the Slovak Government's response to them, including in the April 2005 report on the situation of Roma issued by the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner.

In light of all this, it is extremely frustrating to read that Slovak officials have, in recent months, made misleading statements about this important issue. Apparently one official has even declared that "illegal sterilizations of Romani women never happened in Slovakia."

Mr. Speaker, when the institutions of justice are perceived to follow one set of rules for the majority and another for minorities, this is a recipe for social unrest—as we know from our own painful history.

I understand that it is always a difficult exercise for any government to admit its own wrongdoing or the wrongdoings of the majority society—we know this, too. But Romani mistrust of government institutions will only deepen if the Slovak Government persists in denying the wrongs perpetrated against their community.

CONGRATULATING THE VENICE
HIGH SCHOOL LADIES'
VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Venice High School Lady Indians volleyball team, on their recent victory in the 2006 Class 5A state volleyball championship.

The team's 26–7 regular season record and championship victory certainly deserve applause; however, the manner in which they achieved their goal truly makes them champions.

Under the leadership of Coach Brian Wheatley, this band of sisters turned a potentially disappointing season into a modern-day Cinderella story. Runners-up in 2004, the team began the season with only two returning starters, offering little hope for anything more than a "rebuilding" season. However, a little hope and a lot of grit and determination was all this team needed.

They saw in each other the desire to succeed, the willingness to sacrifice and the wisdom to work as a team; with perseverance and commitment to each other, they refused to give up.

In the end, the season was a learning experience. And it was an experience in which the entire community shared. The Lady Indians deserve their championship, and they deserve our thanks for a season of inspiration.

The members of the 2005 Venice High School Varsity volleyball team are: Leah Bodi, Marla Cooke, Dana Dumas, Natalie Gaudreau, Ashley Graf, Nickie Halbert, Julie Howlett, Casie Richards, Casey Taylor, Michaela Trimble, and Danielle Witte.

To this collection of Cinderellas, I offer my congratulations.

RECOGNITION OF TESSA VELLEK

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a very special young woman. Tessa Vellek, who hails from my hometown of Columbia, MO, is only eleven years old, but has already accomplished a lifetime of charitable work. Tessa has created a highly successful charitable organization operated by children, known as Euphoria, because, as she stated, "I wanted an organization where kids could decide how they wanted to help other people. I wanted the community to see that we aren't just followers, but a group of motivated youth seeking to make Columbia a better place." Among their many volunteering activities, Tessa and her friends have collected books for schools, shelters and hospitals, gathered food for the homeless and entertained seniors living in retirement communities.

Tessa was recently recognized for her efforts. Every year, Nestlé honors outstanding young women and men for philanthropic activities in their local community. Out of 158 applicants, Nestlé selects 24 young people for their Very Best in Youth award. This year, Nestlé picked Tessa as one of the nation's Very Best in Youth. I could not be prouder of this young woman. Not only has she dedicated significant amounts of her free time to helping out those who are less fortunate, Tessa has also amassed an impressive academic record, including earning straight A's, receiving prestigious academic achievements and winning an award in the National PTA Reflections Essay Contest. I have no doubt she will be highly successful in whatever career she pursues, although a budding passion for literature and creative writing could lead her to become a novelist. These volunteering experiences will surely provide Tessa excellent material to draw from in her writing.

After seeing the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Tessa organized a Ride/Walk fundraising event in Columbia to help those in the Gulf Coast affected by the hurricane. Nestlé generously agreed to match whatever funds were raised. Out of the \$210,000 raised nationwide, Tessa and her Ride/Walk event netted \$71,000. The combined \$420,000 has been donated to the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, which has been invaluable to aiding the plight of storm victims. I am always amazed at the generosity, benevolence and leadership of to day's youth. With people like Tessa and the other Nestlé youth recipients, I strongly believe the future of our nation is in good hands.

I hope my colleagues share in my admiration of Tessa's good works and encourage all Americans to follow this fine young woman's lead and get involved with charitable works in communities and neighborhoods across our great land.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS B.
UNDERWOOD

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Dennis B. Underwood, an esteemed Western water expert and chief executive officer and general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Mr. Underwood passed away November 2 at his home in Alta Loma, California.

In commemorating the life of Dennis Underwood, I would like to highlight some of the notable contributions of his career as a humble public servant of this great nation. With a career that spanned nearly four decades, Mr. Underwood took part in water resource development and management at both the state and federal levels. Perhaps his biggest contribution to California's water supply was during his role as the Metropolitan Water District's vice president of Colorado River resources, which he was instrumental in the development of a plan that would bring the state's water use in compliance within its legal apportionment of usage from the Colorado River. Additionally, Mr. Underwood played a central role in negotiating one of the nation's largest habitat conservation programs covering 27 species along approximately 450 miles of the lower Colorado River. During his brief tenure as CEO and general manager of the Metropolitan Water District, Mr. Underwood launched initiatives that sought to further enhance relationships with public agencies as well as seeking new partners to preserve California's water future.

Dennis Underwood's desire to serve his country expanded beyond public service as he honorably served in the military during the Vietnam War as a captain with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Underwood won the admiration of his colleagues through his respectful interaction and clear sense of leadership; qualities which he carried with him later in life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Dennis B. Underwood and recognizing the lasting contributions and accomplishments that highlighted his career in water resource development and management.

TRIBUTE FOR THE AMERICAN AND
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR
YAD VASHEM

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support and admiration for the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem, which will convene for their Annual Tribute Dinner on November 20th in New York. The American and International Societies for Yad Vashem are the development arms of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, Israel.

The American and International Societies for Yad Vashem provide a great service to the

United States and the entire world. Through Yad Vashem's collection of testimonies from Holocaust survivors and families to the database of victims' names, they work to restore the dignity of those who perished and suffered at the hands of the Nazis. Through continuous documentation, Yad Vashem honors the lives and accomplishments of Holocaust survivors. Additionally, they develop educational programs to ensure that future generations never forget the lessons of the Holocaust.

This past year, thanks to the help of development efforts by the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem, the museum celebrated the grand opening of the new Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem. This phenomenal museum uses technology and symbolism to convey the story of European Jewry during the Holocaust.

This year's Annual Tribute Dinner will honor two outstanding couples who have impacted the lives of countless individuals across generations, Mindy and Ira Mitzner of Houston, Texas, and Marilyn and Barry Rubenstein of Brookville, New York. Through their tireless efforts, these couples have made remembering the Holocaust a sacred legacy. Their lives reflect the understanding that our society must heal and remember in order to prevent this catastrophe from repeating itself.

I applaud the American and International Societies for Yad Vashem for their vital work in honoring the memory and legacy of Holocaust victims and survivors.

LEGISLATION TO ABOLISH
AVIATION BARRIERS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to have introduced the "Abolishing Aviation Barriers Act of 2005".

Currently there are two laws governing commercial aviation in the U.S. based on miles of flight restrictions. One governs the use of New York's LaGuardia Airport (LGA) and the other governs usage of Washington, D.C.'s Reagan National Airport (DCA). Restrictions exist at LaGuardia on the departure or arrival of non-stop flights to or from airports that are farther than 1,500 miles from LGA. Reagan National has a similar restriction for non-stop flights to or from airports 1,250 miles from DCA. These restrictions are commonly referred to as "perimeter rules."

The original purpose of these perimeter rules was to restrict LGA and DCA airports to business travelers flying to and from East Coast and Midwest cities and to promote traffic to other, newer airports by diverting long haul flights to Newark and Kennedy airports in the New York area and Dulles airport in the Washington, D.C. area. However, over the years, the federal government has made many changes and granted numerous exceptions to the perimeter rule at DCA because the air traveling public is eager for travel options.

Today, there are nonstop flights between Washington Reagan National and Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Salt Lake City

and Seattle. LGA's rule was enacted by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey with an exception already contained therein—for flights between Denver and LGA. It was justified on the basis of ground congestion, i.e. automobiles. The old road network that gave rise to this excuse has long since been replaced with the help of federal money.

In fact, a 1999 study by the Transportation Research Board stated that perimeter rules "no longer serve their original purpose and have produced too many adverse side effects, including barriers to competition . . . The rules arbitrarily prevent some airlines from extending their networks to these airports; they discourage competition among the airports in the region and among the airlines that use these airports; and they are subject to chronic attempts by special interest groups to obtain exemptions."

That same year, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) stated that the "practical effect" of the perimeter rule "has been to limit entry" of other carriers. The GAO found that airfares at LaGuardia and Washington National are approximately 50 percent higher on average than fares at similar airports unconstrained by the perimeter rule.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced this legislation to promote more consumer choice and lower airfares for not only my own constituents, but for all of our air travelers.

GULF OPPORTUNITY ZONE PUBLIC
FINANCE RELIEF ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following correspondence for the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2005.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY: I am writing concerning H.R. 4337, the "Gulf Opportunity Zone Public Finance Relief Act of 2005," which passed the House last night by unanimous consent.

Section 4 of the bill allows for the Federal guarantee of certain State bonds. I recognize the Committee on Financial Service's jurisdictional interest in Section 4 of the bill, and agree that by allowing the bill to be passed, the Committee on Financial Services does not relinquish any jurisdiction over H.R. 4337 or similar legislation. I would also support your request to be represented on a conference on H.R. 4337, if one should become necessary.

Finally, I will include this letter and your response in the Congressional Record under the portion for floor consideration of this measure.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2005.

Hon. WILLIAM THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I have received your letter concerning H.R. 4337, the "Gulf Opportunity Zone Public Finance Relief Act of 2005," which the House passed last night. The bill was also introduced yesterday and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

I appreciate your recognition that the Committee on Financial Services has a jurisdictional interest in section 4 of the bill. This section allows for the Federal guarantee of certain State bonds. However, I understand that the need to move this bill expeditiously did not permit consideration of the bill by this Committee. It is my understanding this procedure will not prejudice the Committee on Financial Services with respect to its prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I appreciate your support for a request for conferees from this Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference.

I hope that this exchange of correspondence will appear in the Congressional Record. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Your truly,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman.

IN HONOR OF HICKORY FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S DEDICATION TO SERVICE

HON. PATRICK T. MCHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their new building dedication on November 20, 2005, I commend Hickory First Assembly of God for their committed service to communities locally and globally for almost 50 years. The first small group of faithful believers set the standard for selfless service that church members today still honor and follow.

Pastor Brian Campbell, the devoted pastoral staff, and a team of church members have worked together to plan a new space with additional seating in the sanctuary and more room for fellowship in the foyer, offices and nurseries. The expansions are part of Hickory First Assembly's efforts to continue the mission of Acts 1:8, which says "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Locally, the church reaches out to those in need by organizing teams to serve in the community. Nationally, church teams ministered in the Gulf Coast region after Hurricane Katrina; And internationally members actively participate in foreign missions through financial giving and traveling with groups to different countries in need.

As Christians, we are called to do great things for God. Living in a free nation, we have the privilege to practice our faith and make a difference in the lives of others. Truly a gateway church, Hickory First Assembly demonstrates a positive influence on the community by consistently communicating and living out biblical values.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOROPTIMIST WOMEN OF GARLAND

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Soroptimist Women of Garland. Soroptimist International was founded in 1921 as an international organization of business and young professionals who work to improve the lives of fellow women and girls. In 1954, the Soroptimist Club of Garland was chartered with Mrs. Lillie Alma Bradfield serving as the first president.

Today the Soroptimist Women of Garland are dedicated to providing service opportunities to women focusing their service endeavors on the local community. They support community projects ranging from renovating domestic violence shelters and providing mammograms for low-income women, to sponsoring self-esteem workshops for teenage girls. In addition, the Soroptimist Women of Garland raise funds to support charities such as Meals on Wheels and scholarships for students from the Garland Independent School District.

The Soroptimist Women of Garland are truly helping make our community and our country a better place to live. As the Congressional representative for this outstanding service organization, it is my pleasure to honor them as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR JEANNE Z. CHASE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service of Erie County Legislator Jeanne Z. Chase, who has served the residents of the Erie County Legislature's 12th Legislative district, which currently includes the towns of Boston, Brant, Eden, Evans, Hamburg, and North Collins, since her initial appointment in 1997, and who will leave the Legislature at the conclusion of her current term at the end of this year.

Jeanne Chase has been, above all else, someone dedicated to the sound and effective representation of her constituents, all of whom are also residents of the 27th Congressional district. It is her commitment to her constituents and to her community at large that has always impressed me about Jeanne Chase, and it is why I am delighted to honor her service to Erie County today.

Jeanne Chase is a lifelong resident of the Town of Evans. A graduate of Immaculata Academy, and SUNY Fredonia, Jeanne worked in the private sector for many years before seeking appointment to the 12th district seat upon the resignation of then-Legislator Bert Villarini in 1997. Jeanne defeated a well-

known and well-funded challenger in her first election in 1997 and won re-election to her seat in three succeeding elections.

Jeanne Chase is a longtime member of the Legislature's Public Safety committee, and has always placed the safety of her constituents as a top priority. As Chair of the Legislature's Public Safety committee from 2002 to 2003, Erie County moved forward with the construction of the state-of-the-art Public Safety Campus, which, when completed, will become the communications center and focal point for all police, fire and emergency services in our region. A longtime supporter of crime victims' rights, Jeanne has supported initiatives that increase protection for crime victims throughout New York State, and worked to establish a Domestic Violence Satellite Office in the Southtowns. Jeanne has seen many public accomplishments but cites as her greatest accomplishments her family. Husband Rob and daughter Chelsea are proud of Jeanne's service to her constituents, and we are as well.

Jeanne Chase has chosen not to leave public service. She is applying her experience in the field of real estate to her service as Town Assessor in the Town of Evans. I am proud and grateful, Mr. Speaker, to call to the House's attention the dedicated public service of Erie County Legislator Jeanne Chase, and I am certain that the whole House would join me in offering to Jeanne and to her entire family wishes of good luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the Church of the Epiphany which will launch a year-long celebration of events and activities celebrating 100 years as a parish in Orange, New Jersey on Sunday, November 20, 2005.

The Church of the Epiphany represents the faith and fortitude of New Jersey's African-American Episcopalians living in the Oranges. It began as a Sunday school for "colored" children in November 1905. Miss Ruth Marsh of Grace Church, located on Main Street in Orange, founded the Sunday school program and taught its 7 students. Through the efforts of Grace church's sexton, Mr. Thomas Johnson, the Sunday school developed into the Epiphany Mission with a small congregation led by the rectors of Grace Church. By 1908, Lay Reader George Marshall Plaskett, an African American student in the General Theological Seminary held the services under the direction of the Grace Church Rector. Father Plaskett went on to lead Epiphany as its rector for 50 years after his ordination and entrance into the priesthood. Under his leadership, Epiphany thrived as an active and integral part of the community providing spiritual education and guidance, and community service.

In 1909 Epiphany's congregation purchased a lot on the corner of South Center and Pierson Streets in Orange and the first service in

the new building was held on January 29, 1911. In 1916 the Epiphany Mission sought financial independence from Grace Episcopal Church and in 1930 Epiphany was admitted to the Diocese after an ecclesiastical separation from Grace Church. While located on Pierson Street, the church served as the congregation's spiritual home under the leadership of five rectors; The Rev. John H. Edwards, The Rev. Leonard Harris, The Rev. James E. Williams, The Rev. A. Warren Bridgeman. Since 1987, the Reverend Canon Gervais A.M. Clarke, Ph.D. has served as Epiphany's sixth Rector at its present location on Main Street, Orange.

On December 14, 1986, following the dissolution of Grace Church by the Diocese of Newark, Epiphany moved to the old Grace Church building at 105 Main Street. In an effort to honor and retain Epiphany's history and create a new home that would provide a place for worship, fellowship, education and outreach, the congregation incorporated a marble altar, pipe organ, and other furnishings from Epiphany's original properties into the renovated church. With pride, Epiphany celebrated its first service on Main Street in January 1987.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that the Church of the Epiphany has every right to be proud of the lasting contributions that it has made to the residents of Orange. Overcoming obstacles caused by segregation and demographic change, and addressing the needs of its neighbors are the legacy of Epiphany's forefathers and mothers. I rise today to honor Epiphany, who for 100 years have steadfastly and faithfully created a community of worship and service in Orange.

RECOGNITION OF THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young women from Southern Illinois. The Central High School volleyball team from Breese, Illinois, won the 2005 Class A State championship on November 12, after going through the State finals without losing a single game. The Cougars finished the season with 33 wins and 9 losses.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Head Coach Jim Cook and assistant coach Kelly Potthast on a truly outstanding season. Most of all, I want to recognize the members of the 2005 State champion Breese Central Cougars volleyball team: Britni Holtmann, Melanie Gartside, Bethany Becker, Sarah Barth, Megan Winkler, Cassy Becker, Lindsay Holtmann, Amanda Backes, Lauren Endres, Kelsi Scheer, Kelsey Straeter, Lauren Budde, Cassandra Deiters, Brittany Schrage, Kassi Buehne.

These young women did an exceptional job of representing themselves, their school and their community, and I wish them best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING DAVID KRAMER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of David P. Kramer of Oakland, California.

Serving the working people of California for 34 years, David Kramer has been known throughout his career for his dedication to civil rights as well as his unwavering commitment to the labor movement. Today our community comes together to celebrate his career and achievements on the occasion of his retirement from SEIU Local 535 in Berkeley, California.

David Kramer was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1941. After graduating from Scott High School in North Braddock, Pennsylvania in 1959, he attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology, now known as Carnegie Mellon University. Following his studies there, he was hired by the Ford Motor Company, where he worked toward honing the skills he had acquired in school. However, in 1964 he quit his job and immersed himself in the burgeoning civil rights movement that was gaining strength throughout the United States.

As part of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), David was involved in countless picketing and protest efforts that were aimed at achieving integration and equal employment. He was part of a crew of 60 involved in testing and enforcing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 through the integration of public facilities and voter registration procedures in Monroe, West Monroe, New Rhodes, and Baton Rouge, among other places in Louisiana. When he returned to Detroit in the spring of 1965, he became the first community organizer to work for the West Central Organization, which rallied members of the African American and rural Appalachian communities, together with neighborhood churches, union halls, block clubs, and social organizations. This coalition organized around issues such as school and police community relations, tenant rights, and urban renewal.

In 1967, David enrolled in the University of Michigan Graduate School of Social Work, where he graduated with a Masters of Social Work degree in Community Organizing in 1968. As part of his studies, he served in the Wayne County Office of Equal Opportunity and Detroit People Against Racism (PAR), an organization of which he eventually served as the executive director. During this time he also became deeply involved in the anti-Vietnam War movement, participating in demonstrations across the country, including at the Democratic Convention in 1968.

In 1969 he worked as a "lumper" on the night shift in a warehouse in Detroit, where he began to get more involved with the labor movement as a member of Teamsters Local 299 and from which he still holds his honorable withdraw card. In 1971, David was appointed as a field representative of SEIU Local 535. His was first assigned to represent the Santa Clara County social workers and to organize county eligibility workers for Local 535, and was instrumental in securing representation rights for the workers. From 1971 to 1976, David worked with the Santa Clara County, Sacramento County, Stanislaus County,

Berkeley, St. Vincent's School, Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, Sunny Hills, and Alameda County chapters of SEIU, and was elected to the Executive Committee of the Central Labor Council of Alameda in 1975. In the following year, David underwent an intense and unforgettable experience in which a 49-day strike involving 5,000 members took place, the longest county-wide strike in California history. In October 1976, he became the Executive Director of SEIU Local 616, where he served until May of 1980. He ultimately resigned from 616 in order to pursue a career as a self-employed carpenter.

In 1982, David returned to the labor movement and joined the Alameda County Tri-Local agency shop campaign to serve as an organizer, and in 1983 he once again became an organizer for Local 535, albeit for only a short period of time. During this time, he aided in the largest union security election in the history of the labor movement to date, involving more than 80,000 State workers and four bargaining units, of which 3 were won.

When David permanently returned to Local 535, he succeeded in organizing the North Bay Regional Center. He also made negotiations for the first contract for the Clinica de la Raza, and served the San Francisco chapter of Local 535 for 2 years. In November 1988, he became the northern regional director of Local 535, where he supervised 14 field staffs in 535's Sacramento, Oakland, Santa Clara, and Fresno offices. David Kramer was eventually named Executive Director of Local 535 in the fall of 1996. Less than a year later in June of 1997, he was elected to serve on the SEIU's International Executive Board, a position he will continue to hold until February 2006.

David also serves our community on the Oakland Board of Port Commissioners, a post to which he was nominated by former Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris. He has been reappointed three times since, making his record fourth appointment a first in the history of the Port of Oakland, and making David the Port's longest serving commissioner.

Today David Kramer's family, friends and colleagues come together to celebrate the impact of his life and work not only on the innumerable lives, particularly the lives of working people, he has touched here in Alameda County, but the lasting effects his dedication and leadership have had and will continue to have on our community. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District of California, I salute and thank David Kramer for his invaluable contributions to the people of Alameda County, the 9th Congressional District, the State of California and our entire country.

HONORING EBBY HALLIDAY ACERS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional leadership and outstanding achievements of Ebby Halliday Acers, founder of Ebby Halliday Realtors. I would like to congratulate her on 60 years of extraordinary service to the North Texas community and to the real estate industry at large.

Ebby Halliday Realtors was recently honored as one of the "50 Best Companies to

Work For" in Texas, as named by Texas Monthly, the Texas Association of Business and the Society for Human Resource Management.

Founded in 1945, Ebby Halliday Realtors began as a single office operation that now consists of 28 branches and serves 12,000 square miles in North Texas. Today, Ebby Halliday Realtors is the 20th largest independent residential real estate company in the nation and the single largest in Texas. In 2004, their 1,500 sales associates and staff assisted more than 18,000 families in finding new homes.

Ebby Halliday has also remained an active and important member of our community. Her civic and professional endeavors have earned her the highest recognition and awards. I am proud to honor Ebby Halliday and her valuable contributions to the real estate industry and her community in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR MICHAEL MILLER

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Miller of West Covina, California. Mr. Miller was first elected to serve the citizens of West Covina in March of 2001 and is completing his service as Mayor to the city this December.

Mr. Miller has a long history of service to his community. Mr. Miller worked for the City of Garden Grove for 8 years and continued his service for the City of West Covina serving in the planning and development of the community. His distinguished service of 24 years in the City of West Covina's Office of Planning, Public and Environmental Services was followed by an elected position to West Covina City Council for 4 years marked by merit. Mr. Miller also owns a small consulting business which addresses environmental and municipal issues affecting cities, individuals and small businesses.

Mr. Miller's service extends beyond his duties as an elected official and city staff member. He serves as Director and Board Member of the California Waste Association; Director and Board Member of Southern California Waste Management Forum; and member of the Southern California Council for Environment and Economic Development. Mr. Miller is a member of the Lyons Club, serving as President from 1977-1978; member of the Citrus Valley Health Foundation 2100 Club, serving as President from 1999-2000; Director and Board Member of the West Covina Historical Society; House Supervisor for the Heritage House Restoration; Committee Member of the West Covina Chamber of Commerce Economic Development and Government Affairs; Committee Member of the YWCA Women of Achievement; and Committee Member of the West Covina Rose Parade Float.

For his many contributions, Mr. Miller has been named West Covina Citizen of the Year (1998), West Covina Volunteer of the Year, Recreational Services (1999) and CovinaWest Covina Coordinating Council Volunteer of the Year (1999).

In addition to his service to the community, Mr. Miller has been a devoted and loving husband to his wife Rosella of 37 years and father to his two children Melissa and Kevin. It is with pleasure that I recognize Mr. Michael Miller for his significant contributions and noteworthy dedication and service to his community.

TRIBUTE TO GAIL JOYCE BEAGLE

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues; it is a special honor that I pay tribute today to a great American and civil rights activist since the 1950's, Gail Joyce Beagle, who celebrates her 70th birthday on November 25th.

Gail, who I have known and counted as a friend for at least 46 years, had a long and distinguished career in appointive public service, but since her retirement, continues to work for the public good in a variety of capacities.

Born in Beaumont, Texas on November 25, 1935, she was reared at Nederland on land her maternal grandfather, Martin Block, had earlier farmed for many years. Upon graduation from high school, she entered Texas Woman's University at Denton where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1958. At TWU she held various positions, including Day Editor, on the campus newspaper, the Daily Lass-O. Her academic standing in journalism resulted in her selection for membership in the honorary fraternity for women in journalism called Theta Sigma Phi (now called Association of Women in Communications). (At the turn of the last century women were not allowed in the then all-male journalism societies so it was necessary to establish a separate journalism fraternity for women—with its beginnings at the University of Washington at Seattle.)

When Gail's journalism professors in 1957 told her she could not editorialize in the campus newspaper as to why TWU accepted young women as students from all over the world, but no black women were at the State institution of higher learning, she, in turn, posed this question in an editorial in the Methodist Student Movement's newsletter as to why there were no black women at TWU. During that time she was president of the Methodist college group for both TWU and North Texas State University.

As the result of this effort, the TWU president and a few of his advisory committee faculty members were not happy with her, but she weathered the storm, and continued her integration effort. While working in 1959 for my father, the late Henry B. Gonzalez, then a State senator, who represented San Antonio at Austin, she got a nice telegram from a TWU history professor, congratulating her and telling her that TWU was to accept its first black female students in the fall of 1959.

During the summer of 1957, she was a Texas Daily Newspaper Association intern on the San Antonio Light newspaper, but after college graduation, she did not immediately return to San Antonio, but landed her first job in Austin in late summer 1958. Earlier that

summer, working out of her parents' home, she had a brief stint as Jefferson County volunteer campaign manager for my father's unsuccessful bid to be Governor of Texas.

In the Fall of 1961, she returned to San Antonio as a permanent resident and campaigned in my father's bid to be the first Hispanic from Texas to be elected to Congress where he served in the House for 37 years, and for the most part of those years, Gail served him and the 20th Congressional District of Texas as the Chief of Staff and Press Secretary in Washington, returning home to San Antonio from time to time. Among many achievements for the people, as well as for my father, she was instrumental in his decision to be the first Member of Congress, south of the Mason Dixon line, to hire the first black congressional staff member. The staff member was the late Cora Faye Clayton, a graduate of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, who served for 30 years, first in Washington and then in San Antonio, with honor and distinction. Additional milestones for Gail included completion of a Master of Arts degree in Legislative Affairs (MALA) from George Washington University.

Earlier in Austin, Gail had served on the State Executive Committee of the Young Democrats of Texas and was involved in many civil rights demonstrations in 1959–61, including several at a University of Texas campus area movie house which would not sell tickets to blacks, even if they were students at UT. Further, the restaurants there would not serve blacks unless they had a UT student ID card. Gail says a State senator one time got out of his car, walked down the line observing the young demonstrators at the movie house, and then harassed them, as he walked away denouncing them, under his breath, as a "bunch of communists." When Gail came to Washington with my father in late 1961, she, as well as other women, was denied membership in several organizations, including the Texas Breakfast Club, a Washington discussion group. It took years for those barriers for women to come down!

Currently, Gail is president of the Henry B. Gonzalez Foundation for Inspiring Public Service which seeks to establish, at the downtown campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio, a center, named for my father, for Public Service, Integrity and Courage. She is also the Democratic chair for my precinct, and is active in many social, religious, and public service endeavors. For a few months she was the interim director of the Guadalupe Community Center that serves a poor neighborhood in my district.

Gail, your record of service and achievements could fill a book. I congratulate you and wish you a happy and healthy 70th birthday, with many more to come!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 17, 2005, I was unavoidably detained due to a death in my family and thus missed rollcall vote No. 600. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE CEDAR CREEK
ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Cedar Creek Rotary Club for their 19 years of service to Henderson County. Throughout its history, the Cedar Creek Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Cedar Creek Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships for local youth, exchange programs, and faculty and student luncheons. Their support in the community can be seen through their involvement in local organizations. They helped start the Genesis Center for abused women. In addition, they strongly support organizations, such as the Rainbow Room, Toys for Tots, local school programs and the YMCA.

Through these initiatives, the Cedar Creek Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY
LEGISLATOR TIMOTHY
WROBLEWSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a friend and fellow public official whose service has been exemplary and whose commitment to the residents and taxpayers of the towns of West Seneca and Cheektowaga, and the residents of the county of Erie at large, has been commendable. Today, I wish to honor the service of retiring Erie County Legislator Timothy Wroblewski.

Tim Wroblewski began his career as an elected official as a member of the West Seneca Town Board. During that service, Tim worked with local officials to make West Seneca's government among the most efficient and effective local governments in New York State—forging relationships across party lines and working cooperatively with civic, government and community leaders to make West Seneca government the envy of local governments statewide.

With an open-seat election for the ninth legislative district seat available in 2004, Tim

Wroblewski entered the race for the County Legislature and took office in January 2004. Since his election to the legislature, Tim served as a strong voice on behalf of Erie County's taxpayers. Tim's commitment to his constituency was admirable, and I have always valued his friendship, both on a personal as well as a professional level.

The residents of the towns of West Seneca and South Cheektowaga are better for the service provided to them by Tim Wroblewski, and I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of a responsible and effective public official.

TRIBUTE TO MS. JORDAN ROWAN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate an extraordinary employee of mine who is unfortunately leaving our office this Thursday, November 17, 2005. Ms. Jordan Rowan will be leaving our office to join her future husband, Mr. Coleman Fannin, in Dayton, OH, as well as to pursue other professional opportunities.

Jordan joined my office in fall 2003 as an intern and through her hard work, she advanced to legislative assistant. Among her many areas, she handled environmental issues for me. We share a great love for the environment and for its preservation. Therefore, she has been an indispensable asset to me as the Congress has debated many critical environmental bills this year.

Over the 2 years that she has worked for me, she also has gained the necessary skill of deciphering my cryptic questions with even vaguer clues. Any time I needed her to find an obscure factoid, I could readily rely upon her.

She has a big empathetic heart that, many times, has helped to ground myself and others in my office when a larger perspective was greatly needed. In fact, when most other brides choose to register for wedding gifts to supplement their new lives, she wanted to help others by registering with Heifer International, an organization that provides livestock to families in developing countries. Like Heifer International, she believes in giving but giving with the purpose of empowering others to better themselves economically and socially.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ms. Jordan Rowan as she moves on to the next important stage of her life. While exemplifying professionalism and integrity, Jordan has not only brightened my office but also has assisted me legislatively on many important issues. I am proud to have had her work in my office and wish her never-ending success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE MIKE
METZLER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Mike Metzler of Alton, Ill. De-

tective Metzler, a 10-year veteran of the Alton Police Department, was recently awarded the Pastor Paul-Gerhard Braune Award for his work on the department's Crisis Intervention Team, CIT. This State-level award is from the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Illinois.

CIT officers, like Detective Metzler, respond to situations concerning people in a crisis. Detective Metzler has used his training at a CIT office to prevent individuals from committing suicide and has also helped to bring calm to other dangerous situations.

Aside from his work as a CIT officer, he also serves as the Alton public school police-school liaison. As well, he travels to other States to train officers about crisis intervention.

I am pleased to thank Detective Metzler for his outstanding work. I congratulate him on his award.

HONORING SUEY GEE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of World War II veteran Suey W. Gee of Oakland, CA. This weekend Mr. Gee celebrates his 79th birthday, his 80th birthday according to the Chinese lunar calendar. On this special occasion his friends and family will gather to honor him for the immeasurable contributions he has made not only to their lives, but also to our country.

Suey W. Gee was born in Canton, China on November 19, 1926. As a youth, he emigrated to the United States with his father to find work and help support his family back in China. In March 1945, at the age of 19, he enlisted into the U.S. Army to aid his newly adopted country during World War II. He served in the 128th infantry and trained as an anti-aircraft gunner. His unit was ultimately deployed to Hiroshima, Nakasaki and Okinawa following the atomic bombings that destroyed those cities, where he served as part of the occupation army and helped to facilitate the disarmament of Japan.

Mr. Gee was honorably discharged from military service on November 22, 1946. Though Mr. Gee was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, due to the metal shortage during the war era, in addition to the fact that he moved around frequently in search of work, he did not receive his medals at that time.

In 1948, Mr. Gee traveled back to China where he married Sue King Gee, and they subsequently returned to the U.S. together. Mr. Gee became a proud citizen of the United States of America on September 18, 1957, and Mrs. Gee became a citizen soon after.

Like many immigrant families who come to America, Mr. and Mrs. Gee faced many obstacles, overcoming poverty, hardship and discrimination as they persevered toward achieving their dreams. They worked in the food service, cannery and sewing industry for over 55 years, remaining steadfastly committed to providing greater opportunities for their children than what they had themselves. Married

for over 58 years, Mr. and Mrs. Gee have three daughters and one son, all of whom are currently living or working in the city of Oakland as active and productive members of our community.

Mr. Gee is retired now and spends his time keeping up with local and national politics. At almost 80 years old, he still votes regularly and remains civically engaged in the country that he served in the U.S. Army more than 60 years ago.

On this very special occasion, Mr. Gee's friends and family will come together not only to celebrate his birthday, but to present him with his hard-earned and well-deserved military service medals over six decades after his honorable discharge. On behalf of California's Ninth Congressional District, I would like to take this opportunity to salute and thank Mr. Suey W. Gee for his brave service to our country, and for his invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING MR. BENJAMIN S.
WONG

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Benjamin S. Wong of West Covina, California. Mr. Wong was first elected to serve the citizens of West Covina in April 1992 and served as mayor from 1997–1998. He is currently the mayor pro tempore and is completing his service to the city as an elected official this December.

Ms. Wong has a long history of service to the community with membership to various organizations and boards. He is a member of the West Covina Lyons (1981–1994); Board of Directors and former President of the Chamber of Commerce; the Queen of the Valley Foundation; the Queen of the Valley Men's Club; the Intercommunity Medical Center Men's Club, member of the 2100 Club; and First Federal Savings and Loan of San Gabriel Valley Board of Directors, 1991–present.

Mr. Wong's service to the residents of West Covina includes a broad spectrum of boards and municipal organizations, all of which address issues of commerce, urban development and revitalization. This service includes the Redevelopment Agency Relocation Appeals Board; Citizens Committee on Public Services and Facilities; Police Commander Interview Board; San Gabriel Valley Commerce and Cities Consortium Board Member, 1992–present; vice president from 1993–1994; and Foothill Transit Executive Board Member, 1994–present.

In addition to his service to the community, Mr. Wong is a devoted and loving husband to his wife Deborah of 26 years and father to his three children: Courtney, Justin and Adam. It is with pleasure that I recognize Mr. Benjamin S. Wong for his significant contributions and noteworthy dedication and service to his community.

FINALIST FOR THE 2005 NURSING
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Charles Reed, RN, BSN, CNRN, Patient Care Coordinator for the University Health System in San Antonio. Every year, thousands of nurses across the country are nominated for the 2005 Nursing Excellence Awards. The RNs are nominated by their colleagues, peers, and managers and selected by a panel of nurse leaders. The Nursing Excellence Awards exemplify the best that professional nursing has to offer. They bring initiative, ingenuity, and inspiration to their workplaces and communities, setting the standards for accomplishment in communities, setting the standards for accomplishment in nursing. In addition, the Nursing Excellence Awards recognize extraordinary nurses who represent the countless other dedicated nurses who play a crucial role in the nation's health care system. Mr. Reed's outstanding performance earned him a finalist position in this year's competition.

Mr. Reed rose through the ranks from student nurse to patient care coordinator in the health system and now has duties ranging from meeting staffing needs and coaching, counseling, and mentoring nurses to managing patient care. He ensures clinical practice is kept to the highest standard, frequently by working one-one with nurses, and he often meets with families of ICU patients, once staying over an additional 4 hours to be sure a family's concerns were addressed.

I commend Mr. Reed for all the hard work and dedication he gives to his patients at University Health System and I wish him the best of luck next year.

HONORING THE WHITE ROCK
ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the White Rock Rotary Club for their 45 years of service to the community. Throughout its history, the White Rock Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The White Rock Rotary Club has raised money to support charities and programs, such as Journey of Hope. The White Rock

Rotary Club has also been very involved in a local community project building a picnic pavilion in conjunction with two other local rotary clubs in honor of Rotary International's 100th Anniversary. In addition, they support community endeavors such as tutoring programs and nursing home visits for senior without family members.

Through these initiatives, the White Rock Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY
LEGISLATOR ELISE M.
CUSACK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 4 years of elective service by retiring Erie County Legislator Elise M. Cusack.

Legislator Cusack was elected in 2001, replacing a man who was then the Legislature's longest-serving member, William A. Pauly. Legislator Cusack's district includes the towns of Amherst and Tonawanda, but includes a small portion of the town of Cheektowaga, which is located within the 27th Congressional District.

Elise Cusack has been an energetic representative of her constituents, maintaining a full service district office and garnering a reputation for effective constituent service. Although Legislator Cusack and I sit on different sides of the political aisle, I have always respected her intellect and her demonstrated commitment to her constituents.

Beginning on January 1, 2006, Elise Cusack will be able to don her other governmental hat—that of a member of the Board of Trustees of the New York Power Authority—on a full time basis. As someone with a keen interest in the actions of that public authority, I look forward to many anticipated future opportunities to interact with Legislator Cusack in a professional capacity.

In closing, I appreciate this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to rise and honor the service of Legislator Elise Cusack and I want to offer to her, her husband and children my very best wishes of good luck and Godspeed in all of her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDAN DENIS
O'CONNOR ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as Congress prepares to recess today for the Thanksgiving holiday, I wish to take a moment to congratulate my friend Brendan O'Connor on the recent occasion of his 50th birthday, November 3, and to express my gratitude for his extraor-

dinary contributions to the greater Worcester, Massachusetts community. In a place rich with kind people and colorful characters, Brendan stands apart but certainly not alone. His quick wit, brilliant sense of humor and boundless compassion have endeared him to countless admirers both near and far. This was never more evident than at the spectacular 50th birthday celebration his wonderful wife Claire and devoted sons Rory and Eamon hosted for him at Worcester's historic Tuckerman Hall on Saturday, October 22, 2005. My wife Lisa and I were honored to attend that unforgettable evening with scores of Brendan's family and closest friends. The night was made truly special by the presence of Brendan's father, Sean, who traveled from the family's native Limerick City, Ireland; and all four of his siblings—his brothers, John, Kevin and Declan, and his sister, Carmel. And while Brendan's dear departed mother Joan (Horgan) O'Connor was not able to be there in person, her spirit was felt in the festive atmosphere that continued well into the night. All in all, the birthday party was an incredible tribute to Brendan but it does not reveal the full measure of the man.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to being a great human being, Brendan O'Connor is a also a very successful entrepreneur. As proprietors of the renowned O'Connor's Restaurant and Bar in Worcester, Brendan and Claire have graciously welcomed thousands upon thousands of hungry and thirsty patrons to their establishment. Every customer that comes through their doors is treated to excellent cuisine accompanied by the sterling service and warm hospitality the Irish have made famous. In fact, O'Connor's has grown to become much more than just a popular dining destination. It has become an institution deeply embedded in the fabric of the Worcester community. This is due in large part to Brendan's remarkable gift for making everyone he encounters feel special and at home.

However, it is important to note that Brendan does not reserve his gifts and talents for his patrons alone. He has generously given his time and energy to numerous civic and charitable causes. As a long-time board member and past-president of the Emerald Club of Worcester County, Brendan has raised enormous financial support for the clients of the Mercy Centre through the promotion of Irish cultural events. His tireless efforts on behalf of the Emerald Club and the Ancient Order of Hibernians earned him the well-deserved honor of having been previously selected as the Grand Marshal of Worcester's annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Brendan has also shared his talents with the Worcester area youth as a volunteer soccer coach for many years. His unbridled passion and skillful teaching of the sport have produced numerous championship teams at various competitive levels. More importantly, he has been a positive guiding force in the lives of an untold number of young people.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to simply say that Brendan O'Connor is among the most beloved figures in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts. His charm is exceeded only by his devotion to his family and fellow man. I look forward to celebrating many more happy occasions with he and his wife

Claire and congratulate him again on this important milestone in his life.

COMMENDING THE FEDERATION
OF FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (FFCMH) upon the occasion of their 17th Annual Conference. Their conference will be held this weekend in Washington, D.C., and will be hosted by I Famagu'on-ta, the chapter and delegation from Guam.

The Federation is a national family-run network of community-based organizations dedicated to improving mental health services for children through advocacy, training, family support, and engagement in the public policy process. I commend the Federation for their support, service and commitment to children with mental health needs and their families throughout the United States.

In January of 2002, Guam advocates for families reached out to the Federation for assistance as resources and support for children with mental needs and their families in our community were largely unavailable on island. The association with Guam was born of the efforts initiated by Mary-Therese Edgerle, who at that time was a concerned parent on Guam. Through her vision and dedication, a family organization for parents whose children experience serious emotional disturbances or S.E.D. was established in the territory.

Through its former executive director, Barbara Huff, the Federation lent extraordinary assistance and key backing to Guam advocates in the early efforts to organize on behalf of children with mental health needs. Barbara personally saw to it that the Federation grew to include membership and organization in Guam. As a result of the collaboration between Guam advocates and Federation leaders, Guam's families began to learn and understand their rights and the many possibilities and programs that could be developed to help their children affected by S.E.D.

Sandra Spencer, the current Federation executive director, has been equally supportive of Guam. Under her direction and guidance, Guam has been blessed with ongoing leadership training through Lisa Conlan, the technical assistance partnership and peer mentor. The various board, individualized evaluation plan, crises, and family partners train-the-trainer programs, as well as their technical support, have provided invaluable expertise and assistance to the families and most especially, the children of Guam. The Federation staff members have given of their time willingly and unselfishly, as have other Federation Chapters, to provide Guam with much needed support, resources and information. In particular, I would like to recognize Sue Smith from the Parent Support Network in Georgia for her steadfast dedication and assistance to the Guam Chapter.

With the benefit of a \$180,000 statewide Family Network Grant award in October 2002, the Guam Chapter successfully identified and

strengthened local families through early program development stages. This work has resulted in a \$9.5 million grant. The Child Mental Health Initiative Cooperative Agreement with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration was entitled Project I Famagu'on-ta or "Our Children," in support of children and youth on Guam affected by S.E.D. As a result of Federation training, Guam Identifies Families Terrific Strengths, Inc., or G.I.F.T.S. was awarded tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization in October 2005.

The development and passing of legislation in Guam has further helped to shape and create a nationally recognized system of care on Guam. This legislation has also helped form G.I.F.T.S. as a new Federation chapter. It is this territorial chapter that is hosting the registration of the Federation of Families National Conference this weekend. The establishment of G.I.F.T.S. marks the beginning stage of an association providing much needed services to children and families on Guam.

I commend and congratulate the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health for their unselfish devotion, commitment and support provided to those affected by S.E.D. I further express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude for their outstanding work in making a difference in the lives of the families and children of Guam and in other communities throughout the nation. Through the efforts of the Federation our nation has the ability to foster healthy emotional development for our children in need. I wish the Federation a successful and productive conference. *Dankulo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase* and thank you.

HONORING THE ROWLETT ROTARY
CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Rowlett Rotary Club for their 20 years of service to the community. Throughout its history, the Rowlett Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Rowlett Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships for local youth. They have been involved in local community projects, such as a community sleeping bag collection to provide over 100 sleeping bags for the homeless. They also work with neighborhood organizations like Jonathan's Place, a home for children who are victims of drug and alcohol abuse. In addition, they support charities such as Equest, New Beginning's Center, and Rowlett Needy Children's Fund.

Through these initiatives, the Rowlett Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY
LEGISLATOR STEVEN P.
McCARVILLE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the service of a public official with more than fourteen years of continuous service as an elected official. I rise to honor the distinguished service of my friend, Erie County Legislator Steve McCarville.

Steve McCarville is a lifelong resident of the town of Orchard Park, and began his public service as a member of the Orchard Park Village Board in 1991. Serving as Village Trustee from 1991 to 1997, Steve was part of a village team, including then-fellow trustee and current New York State Supreme Court Justice John Curran, that oversaw a transformation in the village of Orchard Park into what we see today—a vibrant, bustling village environment in one of Erie County's most successful suburban towns.

In 1997, Steve won election to the Orchard Park Town Board, a position he held until his appointment to a vacant 13th District seat in the Erie County Legislature. In 2001, Steve was appointed to serve the balance of a two year term and was later elected in his own right to represent the 13th district, which encompasses the towns of Aurora, Colden, Collins, Concord, and Orchard Park.

In the Legislature, Steve's work has been marked by a strong deliver of constituent services. In addition, he has secured funding for vital county road repairs in his district, opened the first Satellite Office in the town of Boston, and has worked to revitalize the Emery Park Inn.

Steve McCarville and I have an interesting past, in that he was my first opponent for a seat in the New York State Assembly in 1998. Although it was a tough and hardfought contest, it speaks well of Steve's character and integrity that we were able to resume our friendship at the end of that contest. Politics is politics, Mr. Speaker, but I am pleased to know that in the area of serving the public and the people who elected us to our respective offices, Steve McCarville and I were able to work cooperatively and effectively. We checked our politics at the door, and the public was better served for it.

Steve has at all times, expressed a sincere and steadfast intention to effectively represent the residents and taxpayers of Erie County in general and of his district in particular. He has served well, Mr. Speaker, and I am honored and privileged to call the House's attention to that service here today, and am grateful to have this opportunity to honor him.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
DECCAN WEST VENKAT MANIAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Suresh and Jey Maniam of Arlington, Virginia, on the birth of their new baby boy. Deccan West Venkat Maniam was born on November 4, 2005 at 8:02 AM, weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Deccan has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing.

HONORING THE MESQUITE
ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Mesquite Rotary Club for their 46 years of service to the community. Throughout its history, the Mesquite Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Mesquite Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships for local youth and worked with Rotary International to help eradicate polio. They have assisted the Mission East Dallas Charity Clinic as well as donating to a program that distributes wheelchairs all over the world. In addition, they have been very involved in local community projects, such as the Centennial Project, Annual Bike Ride and improving a new playground and making it accessible for children with special needs.

Through these initiatives, the Mesquite Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING LACKAWANNA
COUNCILMAN RICARDO
ESTRADA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor retiring Lackawanna City Councilman Ricardo Estrada, who will on December 31, 2005, complete 8 years of service as a member of the Lackawanna City Council.

Ricky Estrada is a leader of significance in the city of Lackawanna and in his beloved first ward that he has served so well. Consistently re-elected by his constituents, Ricky Estrada has been a strong voice for an economically challenged community, and it is his leadership that will allow for the resurgence of Lackawanna's first ward in the years to come.

It would be hard for me, Mr. Speaker, to imagine a group of elected leaders who support our vision for the reform of the transportation infrastructure of Buffalo and Lackawanna's waterfront areas than the elected leaders of the city of Lackawanna. Leaders like Ricky Estrada have long recognized the need to offer greater public access to our region's waterfront, and his support and that of his colleagues has been outstanding and meaningful, and effective for the people he represents.

While my friend Councilman Estrada will be succeeded on the Lackawanna City Council by an effective community leader, it is unquestioned that his retirement will be a loss for the city council in general and for the city as a whole. It is my fervent hope that Ricky Estrada will remain an active member of our community, so that we may continue to work together toward the betterment of our region.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to honor Councilman Estrada, and his faithful service to the residents and taxpayers of the city of Lackawanna.

WITNESS FOR JUSTICE: UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD "Witness for Justice #223" entitled The Sons and Daughters . . . published on July 18, 2005, by the United Church of Christ of Cleveland, Ohio. The article eloquently written by Bernice Powell Jackson, the Executive Minister of this Church on 700 Prospect Avenue in Cleveland, addresses an issue that should be in the hearts and on the lips of every minister, rabbi and imam when he or she stands before a congregation.

The subject of The Sons and Daughters article was the difficulty the U.S. Army was having recruiting enough men and women to meet recruiting goals. At the time Minister Jackson wrote this article the Army was experiencing sufficient difficulty that they were raising the promise of higher sign-up bonuses, dropping standards and, as could be found, as she put it, circling "vulnerable young men and women like hawks flying over little chicks."

Minister Jackson did not question the patriotism of the young people failing to sign up with recruiters. She speculated the young people had gotten wiser. Perhaps she thought these men and women were looking at certain realities about the pre-emptive war they would fight if they enlisted. At the time of this article these young people had experienced 2 years "of watching a war which has so far resulted in nearly 1800 deaths and ten times that many injuries." Perhaps they were thinking how much life they had before them at the age of 18, 19, 20 or 21. Maybe they knew someone who had been burned beyond recognition or had lost both of his or her legs and faced a life time of disability at the age of 21.

Or, Minister Jackson thought, perhaps these young people had begun to detect the varying rationales and purposes stated by the Bush administration for why the United States was fighting in Iraq. The purpose of the War, according to the President, was to save our country from "imminent danger" from weapons of mass destruction that might come in the form of a "mushroom cloud." But 2 years on, there were no weapons of mass destruction and no imminent danger; so different reasons for the war were being substituted for the war in Iraq. We were fighting in Iraq to stop the terrorists. However, many were saying the American presence in Iraq was creating terrorists.

Of course, Minister Jackson speculated that these young people might not want to sign up for a war when the statements of the Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, could not be relied upon for any certainty about when they would come home. Secretary Rumsfeld's statements about how long the United States would be in Iraq changed almost daily. Secretary Rumsfeld could not articulate a coherent plan for the war and neither could the President of the United States.

Young people, Minister Jackson speculated, might be frightened by the tactics used by recruiters to pressure young, vulnerable youths whose personnel information, including their names, social security numbers, race, ethnic background and telephone numbers the Defense Department received because one of the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act was being shared by the Defense Department with a sharing with a private contractor who sold goods and products to young men about the age of those being recruited.

The tactics of the Pentagon are enabled by the No Child Left Behind Act as currently written. Minister Jackson pointed out that parents have to opt out of the program to get the military to leave their child off the potential recruitment list. Some in Congress have tried to change this law so that the parents would have to opt in so their child would be on the recruitment list. Those attempts failed because they were voted down by the Republican hawks in Congress. Minister Jackson noted in a column by Bob Herbert of the New York Times the statement: "There are always plenty of hawks in America. But the hawks want their wars fought with other people's children."

Minister Jackson wrote "our young people are in danger." She advised all of us to write our President, Secretaries of Defense and Education, our Congressperson and Senators and let them know about these recruiters and these lists.

This statement by Minister Jackson goes to the heart of what is wrong with this war. The

entire burden is shared by a tiny percentage of citizens of this country. Not one tax cut has been repealed and absent a draft only those who are poor, underemployed or with no hope of a job or college are enlisting. The people of this country do not see the flag draped coffins at Dover Air Force Base. They do not see the young soldiers who have lost their sight and their limbs or who are in comas from head wounds or burned beyond recognition. They do not give up a job to sit by the bedside of a son who does not recognize them or at the bedside of a daughter who has lost her legs at the age of 24. They do not attend the funerals of a 20 year old or an 18 year old who is dead just out of high school.

For most people in this country there is no war. There were complaints of how veterans were treated when they returned from Vietnam. Think of how veterans returning from Iraq must feel when they realize no one in their country felt any impact of a war in which they lost so much.

HONORING EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this week is American Education Week and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor all the men and women across the country who serve as Education Support Professional, ESP, in our Nation's public schools. Education Support Professionals are essential school employees who interact daily with students, staff and parents.

Public School drivers are essential school employees who interact with students, teachers, parents and the community every day. Bus drivers are the first and final link in the daily chain of events for every student in a school district.

Standards of performance for bus drivers in a given day will include but not be limited to: checking all safety and communications equipment on the bus at the beginning and end of each day, protect children from unsanitary conditions, returning lost and found student personal property, manage emergency situations, handle and stabilize student behavior which may put them and other students or staff at risk.

Take a moment to appreciate and recognize this fine group of Americans who are dedicated, loyal and committed to our future and the educational enhancement of all public school students.

PLACEMENT OF STATUE OF ROSA PARKS IN NATIONAL STATUARY HALL

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of Rosa Lee Parks, whose refusal to give up

her bus seat to a white man sparked the modern civil rights movement. She was 92 at the time of her death.

In tribute to Mrs. Parks, I would like to submit the following excerpt from the Washington Post Article, "Bus Ride Shook a Nation's Conscience," written by Patricia Sullivan on Tuesday, October 25, 2005.

"Rosa was a true giant of the civil rights movement," said U.S. Representative JOHN CONYERS Jr. (D-Mich.), in whose office Parks worked for more than 20 years. "There are very few people who can say their actions and conduct changed the face of the nation, and Rosa Parks is one of those individuals."

Parks said that she didn't fully realize what she was starting when she decided not to move on that December 1, 1955, evening in Montgomery, AL. It was a simple refusal, but her arrest and the resulting protests began the complex cultural struggle to legally guarantee equal rights to Americans of all races.

Within days, her arrest sparked a 380-day bus boycott, which led to a U.S. Supreme Court decision that desegregated her city's public transportation. Her arrest also triggered mass demonstrations, made the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. famous, and transformed schools, workplaces and housing.

Here was "an individual expression of a timeless longing for human dignity and freedom," King said in his book "Stride Toward Freedom."

"She was planted there by her personal sense of dignity and self-respect. She was anchored to that seat by the accumulated indignities of days gone and the boundless aspirations of generations yet unborn."

She was the perfect test-case plaintiff, a fact that activists realized only after she had been arrested. Hardworking, polite and morally upright, Parks had long seethed over the everyday indignities of segregation, from the mortal societal endorsement of lynching and imprisonment.

She was an activist already, secretary of the local chapter of the NAACP. A member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church all her life, Parks admired the self-help philosophy of Booker T. Washington—to a point. But even as a child, she thought accommodating segregation was the wrong philosophy. She knew that in the previous year, two other women had been arrested for the same offense, but neither was deemed right to handle the role that was sure to become one of the most controversial of the century.

But it was as if Parks was born to the role. Rosa McCauley was born February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, AL, the home of Booker T. Washington's renowned Tuskegee Institute, which drew many African American intelligentsia. She was the daughter of a carpenter and a teacher, was small for her age, had poor health and suffered chronic tonsillitis. Still a child when her parents separated, she moved with her mother to Pine Level, AL., and grew up in an extended family that included her maternal grandparents.

Her mother taught Parks at home until she was 11, when she was enrolled in the Industrial School for Girls in Montgomery, where her aunt lived. Segregation was enforced, often violently. As an adult, she recalled watching her grandfather guard the front door with a shotgun as the Ku Klux Klan paraded down their road. Her younger brother, Sylvester, a

decorated war hero in World War II, returned to a South that regarded uniformed veterans of color as "uppity" and demonstrated its disdain with beatings.

She married barber Raymond Parks in 1932 at her mother's house. They shared a passion for civil rights; her husband was an early defender of the Scottsboro Boys, a group of young African Americans whom rights advocates asserted were falsely accused of raping two white women.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in commending Mrs. Rosa Lee Parks for her outstanding and historical contributions to the State of Alabama, the State of Michigan, the Civil Rights Movement, and national politics.

HONORING THE GARLAND ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, IL, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Garland Rotary Club for their 78 years of service to Dallas County. Throughout its history, the Garland Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Garland Rotary Club has been a strong supporter of the Garland Independent School District, GISD. Their annual Christmas and the Spring Casino Parties benefit underprivileged children and support student scholarships. This year, they have provided over \$3,000 for GISD college scholarships. The Garland Rotary Club also supports local charities such as the New Beginnings Center, Achievement Center of Texas, and the Garland Habitat for Humanity.

Through these initiatives, the Garland Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the U.S. House of Representatives.

LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE AN ADEQUATE STOCKPILE OF ANTI-AVIAN FLU DRUGS

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to ensure that the United States has a sufficient supply of drugs to combat avian flu in the event of a pandemic. My

bill authorizes the importation of generic medicines when the U.S. patent holder cannot make enough medicine to meet domestic public health needs, and removes a trade policy barrier to such imports.

The prospect of an avian flu pandemic has gripped health officials around the world. Part of the response would involve treating victims with drugs to lessen the spread of the flu virus. The World Health Organization has urged all nations to stockpile reserves of antiviral flu drugs, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America has recommended that the United States stockpile enough drugs to treat 25 to 40 percent of the population.

The drug believed to be most effective against the flu is Tamiflu. The exclusive right in the United States to manufacture Tamiflu is owned by Roche, a pharmaceutical manufacturer based in Switzerland.

As Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee on November 8, Roche has insufficient manufacturing capacity in the U.S. to meet the stockpile needs. At its maximum production, Roche could only produce 13 million treatment courses by the end of this year, far short of the 75 million we need to treat 25 percent of the population.

If Roche does not voluntarily license other companies to produce Tamiflu, the U.S. government has the authority to issue compulsory licenses to gain access to other sources of production of the drug. India, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, South Korea and Argentina are among the countries considering plans to manufacture versions of Tamiflu to prepare for a possible flu pandemic.

However, Americans facing a pandemic today could not get anti-flu drugs from those countries, because in 2003 the U.S. Trade Representative agreed to make the U.S. ineligible to import drugs produced abroad under compulsory licenses.

World Trade Organization rules allow for countries with "insufficient" manufacturing capacity in the pharmaceutical sector to import pharmaceutical products produced under a compulsory license in other countries in order to meet public health needs. This authority is contained in paragraph 6 of the 2001 "Doha Declaration" on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and public health. The August 30, 2003, decision of the WTO TRIPS Council spelled out implementation of this authority.

At the urging of U.S. negotiators, the August 30 decision created an "opt out" list, whereby countries could voluntarily agree not to use the import authority. The U.S. is on the "opt out" list. Therefore, we find ourselves in a situation where the United States government voluntarily restricted its access to critical drugs to fight a pandemic. That makes no sense.

The solution is simple. We can "opt in" to the system. That is what my bill does. It directs the U.S. Trade Representative to notify the WTO that the U.S. declares itself an "opt in" country and thus eligible to import drugs made under compulsory licenses in order to meet public health needs. It also affirms that the President has the authority to import such drugs in such cases, as long as the drugs are approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Americans should have the comfort of knowing that if the public needs a particular

drug to stop an avian flu pandemic, the U.S. government will have access to all available production sources for the drug. My bill would make sure that our government can do what it takes to combat an avian flu pandemic or other health emergency.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHAIRMAN
DAVE HOBSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Chairman DAVE HOBSON (R-OH) for his bold, principled stance to eliminate federal funding for the bunker buster bomb. It was a major victory for the United States and the world.

This achievement means the United States will send the message of responsibility to other nations who are considering building nuclear weapons. The United States can continue to advocate for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, whereby the United States and other nuclear powers pledged to disarm in return for other nations not seeking nuclear weapons. Because nuclear bunker-busters would be seen as tactical nuclear weapons, the development of these weapons would make it more difficult to encourage Russia to dispose of its arsenal of over 4,000 tactical nuclear weapons. Chairman HOBSON has given the United States more clout to pressure Russia to eliminate its tactical nuclear weapons.

Again, I commend Chairman HOBSON for his defense of our Nation.

[From the Columbus Dispatch, November 13, 2005

HOBSON WILL KEEP BUSTING NUCLEAR
WEAPON

(By Jonathan Riskind)

The battle of the bunker buster, round two, goes to Rep. David L. Hobson.

But the Springfield Republican isn't so sure the Bush administration, especially Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and others in the defense community, has given up on building a nuclear-tipped missile able to penetrate underground bunkers.

This is a saga last visited in this space a year ago. Then, too, Hobson, as chairman of the House Appropriation Committee's energy and water subcommittee, successfully fought the administration's push to build a specialized tactical nuclear weapon.

Pursuing new nuclear weapons when the United States is pushing nonproliferation around the world is wrong headed and dangerous, Hobson believes. And he's been told by scientists and candid members of the military that a nuclear bunker buster is likely to kill many innocent people and inflict such harm on the environment that no president would "OK" its use.

So Hobson refused to include \$4 million Rumsfeld wanted in the 2006 energy bill for bunker-buster research.

Hobson's counterpart in the Senate is Pete Domenici of New Mexico, who chairs the Senate Appropriation Committee's energy subcommittee. Domenici favors going ahead with the research, but he told the Albuquerque Tribune that the administration has abandoned its plans for a nuclear bunker buster. He said that, however, after Hobson won the fight; the final 2006 House-Senate agreement on a \$30.5 billion energy and water bill being sent to the White House reflects Hobson's views.

So while it's "over in my bill for this year," Hobson said, his attention is focused on whether the Defense Department will try to include bunker-buster money in the still-pending 2006 defense-spending bill.

"I have to watch in the defense bill to try and make sure they don't go around me," said Hobson, who is a senior member of the defense-spending subcommittee.

This is one example of how public policy is enmeshed in the fabric of the annual spending bills. Hobson's measure, for instance, tackles the post-Katrina issue of improving the efficiency with which the Army Corps of Engineers spends the money Congress doles out to it, though part of the solution is making sure lawmakers don't tie the corps' hands with a plethora of pet projects. One tack seen in the energy and water spending bills is to limit the ability of the corps to take money intended for one project and spend it on another, only to later come back and request yet more money for the first project. Hobson also hopes the bill will force the corps to do more long-term planning and to do a better job moving projects along.

He cites a dam on the Ohio River between Illinois and Kentucky that was authorized by Congress in 1988 at an estimated cost of \$775 million over about eight years. Completion is now scheduled for 2015, at a revised estimated cost of \$1.4 billion.

"We're trying to bring some business management to the way the corps conducts business," Hobson said.

But the most far-reaching policy platform in Hobson's bill amounts to a nuclear non-proliferation stand that bucks the notoriously stubborn Rumsfeld.

"We had a meeting and he made his views known and I made my views known," Hobson said. "He said there will be another day. I don't think they've given up."

But Hobson vowed to defuse the bunker-buster proposals for as long as he's a committee chairman. He has three more years to head the energy subcommittee before chairman term limits set in, and intends to run for re-election to a ninth term next year and serve all three of those years.

"They aren't changing my mind," Hobson said. "It is bad foreign policy to build a new type of nuclear weapon at the same time you are telling everyone else in the world, don't you do it."

INTELLIGENCE FAILURE AND
MANIPULATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I and my Democratic colleagues on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence publicly discussed a critical item of unfinished business for this House—specifically, the need for the committee to undertake a detailed examination of the Iraq weapons of mass destruction (WMD) intelligence failure.

We need to undertake this inquiry because this is not the last time that we will need intelligence that's based on good methods, critical thinking—in fact, skeptical thinking that really looks at the uncertainties in the intelligence.

We have to learn to get this right. There will be other times when we need it.

Now, the President has said that those who are raising questions about the war in Iraq and how we got there are trying to rewrite history. Actually, that's not true. History is not being

rewritten. History cannot be written because no one has allowed the facts to be assembled.

That is what we are talking about here. We have tried, but we have been blocked repeatedly in our attempts to do so.

This matter is of critical importance. And it is, of course, ironic that at a time when we are fighting a war in the name of democracy and the freedoms, including freedom of speech and freedom of inquiry, that here we are stymied in our freedom of inquiry.

And it is freedom of inquiry not for political points or our personal curiosity. It is so that we can, for the future, have an intelligence system that is based on critical thinking, skeptical thinking and good methods. That is the point.

Let me just say that the line that we hear is, "There is not much that needs to be investigated, there is not much need for oversight, because you knew all this all along. And furthermore, it is unpatriotic."

It is unimportant, and yet if you ask for it, you are unpatriotic. I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, you can't have it both ways.

I wish I could say that the refusal to investigate the Iraq intelligence failure is an isolated case. It is not.

For over 2 years, I've pressed this House to investigate how it was that the name and cover status of a serving CIA Clandestine Services officer made its way from the CIA to the White House political office and thence to the press.

Eight separate times in eight separate votes, the leadership of this Congress shut down any effort to get the information about the release of the identity of an intelligence employee. Conducting oversight of this matter is something that is central to our responsibility to look after the wellbeing and effectiveness of those people that we ask to take risks for us around the world.

Yet in eight separate votes, it was shut down.

Mr. Speaker, it's time—indeed well past time—for this Congress to do its job and conduct oversight of these and other intelligence matters. We cannot protect our Nation from future threats if we do not learn the full lessons of conflicts past, and this is especially critical in the realm of intelligence. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in this effort.

HONORING THE GARLAND
LAKESIDE ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Garland Lakeside Rotary Club for their 30 years of service to Dallas County. Throughout its history, the Garland Lakeside Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Garland Lakeside Rotary Club is in the process of raising funds and building a medical clinic called the Friendship House. In the past they have supported local charities, including the Salvation Army and the YMCA. Each year they work with Garland Independent School District to provide underprivileged children with Christmas gifts.

Through these initiatives, the Garland Lakeside Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, some of the cuts proposed in this "Deficit Reduction Act" include Medicaid, student loans, child support enforcement, child foster care, supplemental security income, farm conservation, and many more.

Republicans have offered over \$50 billion in cuts to much needed programs for America's families. The pretext of these program cuts is to bring down the deficit, but all they do is offset the cost of a \$56.6 billion tax cut package that will come to the floor of the House soon. Do not be misled into believing that the budget cuts being contemplated are to cover the cost of rebuilding the Gulf Coast states. They are being used to offset the raid that is taking place on the Treasury.

The Republicans are employing a two-pronged strategy for this fiscal charade. Today they want us to vote on \$50 billion in spending cuts and later they will ask us to vote on a \$50 billion tax cut for the wealthiest top one-tenth of one percent of Americans. It is their hope that the American people will not see the connection between the two actions. Show the people that you are cutting spending on one hand; then cut taxes for your supporters with the other. That is their game. I am appalled the Republicans will cut programs for children, the hungry, the sick and the vulnerable for tax cuts to the healthiest and wealthiest Americans.

Since 2001, the Republicans have done an excellent job of spinning their tax cut packages. They said we could have it all: Medicare prescription drug coverage, the War on Terrorism, huge tax cuts, and still produce budget surpluses as far as the eye can see. It is a great pitch, but there is only one hitch to their argument: it did not happen that way. Now Republicans are doing all they can to dodge the responsibility for the fiscal situation in which the country now finds itself. In fact, the President and my Republican colleagues take pride that last year's budget deficit was \$320 billion, the third largest deficit in history. They

take it as a record of accomplishment that the deficit was not higher. Now that is spin. Last year's deficit may be lower than the \$412 billion deficit reached in fiscal year 2004, but that hardly entitles the Republicans to bragging rights over their fiscal stewardship. Under their leadership, a Republican president and Republican Congress have produced a string of record setting budget deficits.

By bringing this bill to the floor, the folk on the other side of the aisle have the temerity to say that the program cuts being recommended will offset the cost of added spending for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. That argument is not even close to the truth. That is budgeteering by Merlin the Magician. I hope the American people will be able to look behind the curtain of their arguments and see them for what they are: simply a means to hide from their record of fiscal irresponsibility.

The President and the Republican majority are adept. Record deficits? Not the fault of the party in power. Blame 9/11, or blame the economy, or blame Katrina, or blame Saddam Hussein and Iraq, or blame the terrorists, or blame whatever. Just do not blame the Republicans or the Republican tax cuts for the horrible financial situation our country is in. That is the gist of the Republican message we hear today.

For a President and a party that is artful in avoiding blame for the country's fiscal state, for the failure to execute a successful war strategy in Iraq, the failure to respond rapidly during Hurricane Katrina, the failure to catch Osama bin Laden, the failure to find weapons of mass destruction, the failure to provide affordable energy, the failure to hire competent people to handle crises, the failure to prepare for a possible bird flu pandemic, for all the failures that have occurred on the watch of this President and this Republican Congress, can there be little reason why they want to avoid the "blame game?"

We can do better. There is no reason why we freely spend to rebuild Baghdad but struggle to rebuild Biloxi. When it comes to taking care of our own, where is the parity? Why are we applying a tougher standard on our own than we are in Afghanistan and Iraq? The budget cuts that will be triggered under this bill violates the principle of parity, it puts the welfare of others ahead of our own American people. This budget is symbolic of the spending priorities of this administration: It puts America and Americans last. That is a shame and that is why this bill does not deserve our support. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in voting down this unfortunate bill.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST
ATTACKS IN JORDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mrs. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 456, a resolution to vehemently condemn the terrorist attacks that occurred in Amman, Jordan.

On November 9, 2005, hundreds of innocent Jordanians gathered to celebrate a wedding ceremony—one of the greatest tributes to

life, family and humanity, for virtually every culture in the world. Yet what was supposed to be a joyous celebration was brutally cut short when followers of the terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi carried out four simultaneous terrorist attacks. These unbridled and hateful acts killed 59 people, including the mother and father of the bride and the father of the groom.

Mr. Speaker, the line between good and evil could not be clearer.

The line between those who cherish life versus those who seek to destroy it could not be clearer.

The line between those with compassion in their hearts versus those with hatred could not be clearer.

The attacks in Jordan, just like those before it in Indonesia, Egypt, Spain and the United States, demonstrate that terrorism does not discriminate by race, ethnicity or region. Instead, terrorists indiscriminately target those seeking to live a peaceful, loving and free life.

All across Jordan, innocent and freedom-loving Jordanians fully understand this. Thousands of Jordanians have taken to the streets in protest of Zarqawi, "the coward." In the wake of these attacks, King Abdullah has announced a "National Agenda," which seeks to instill a more free and democratic political process and society.

We must hunt the terrorists down and kill them. There is no other way to respond to those so committed to the destruction of life. We must also stand with the Jordanian people and the Jordanian Government. And, this resolution does just that—making it clear that Congress and the American people are behind them during this difficult period.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST MARK THOMPSON

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight one of my extraordinary constituents who is currently serving in Iraq. Specialist Mark Thompson from Tompkinsville, Kentucky recently wrote to me to express his thoughts on the situation in Iraq and I was truly moved by his articulate letter. I would like to share his letter with the House and I urge all of my colleagues to read Mark's letter and poem. I could not be anymore proud of Specialist Thompson and his service to our country.

OCTOBER 17, 2005.

Congressman ED WHITFIELD,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WHITFIELD: I hope this letter finds you well. Politics seems heated as usual in the States and many new challenges are facing you and our country's other leaders. However, I am sure you are taking it all as it comes and continuing to try and find the most appropriate direction as issues arise.

I am currently serving in the Army at Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq. A huge change from my position as hospital administrator in Tompkinsville as you can imagine. But it has been a good experience to actually be here in this very troubled part of the World and be a part of this, first hand.

We are in the "Sunni Triangle" as this area has been described with a name. Ramadi

and Fallujah are within 10 to 15 miles of our base with us roughly in the middle. Both are noted hotbeds for insurgent activity as is this entire area of Northwest Iraq. We are experiencing much of the same that you see on TV back home.

I am sure one of those huge issues you are grappling with is what to support in regards to Operation Iraqi Freedom. I ask you to consider we are still making progress and this is a worthy cause at this point. We do far more good on a daily basis than is ever portrayed back home. Just Saturday (Day of the Voting) our troops helped a very sick 4 month old child get medical care in Baghdad. Also, we are actively training Iraqi troops to ultimately replace us and takeover complete operations of Camp Habbaniyah. Yes, there is much to be discouraged by on a regular basis but the momentum and atmosphere as a whole continues moving forward. The worst thing we can do is leave too soon and risk losing it all to civil war. At the same time we must let the Iraqi Army continue to take over responsibility for areas as soon as possible and the new government as well.

I see it like welfare. If we take on the responsibility for people too long they can literally fail to progress and be hampered by growing too dependent. We see that very real, negative potential as we work with soldiers and civilians.

The hard part is how much and when to pull back our support. I know that is something you are being challenged to help determine. Please, listen to sound military leaders as you sort that out. Please do not allow it to be a "public opinion" or "politically correct" decision. We stand to lose so much more from a bad decision. The Iraqi people stand to lose the most.

Finally, the vast majority of the people here are very worthy of what we are trying to help them achieve. It is the few that continue to make it so hard. I have attached a simple poem that I was inspired to write not long after coming here. I still believe that our primary intentions should be this simple and straight forward.

My best wishes to you as always.

Sincerely,

SPC. MARK THOMPSON.

THAT IS WHY WE CAME

As we crossed the Iraqi Border,
our lives never to be the same.
That's when it all seemed clearer,
why we left our families and came.

The harsh land layout before us,
with things we have yet to see.
But kids waving on roadsides,
unlocked hope inside for me.

Not much do they have and own,
but gestures that tell their soul,
Too young yet to know true hate,
faith, hope and love are still in control.

Who knows where freedom will take them,
and will elders allow it to last?
Can they hold onto it with passion,
and never repeat the past?

It is the children we came for,
their love should govern this land.
Who knows where their dreams can take us,
if not poisoned with History's Brand.

I pray tonight for a new World,
where all kids are safe from harm.
That these children can play like mine,
in a neighborhood, friendly and warm.

They are the reason we came,
their hope from faith we must let soar.
With love let's finish the task,
and for them leave open the door.

HONORING BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the first adult liver transplant program serving Tarrant County and Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. In 1985, Baylor University Medical Center recruited Dr. Goran B. Klintmalm, a highly skilled surgeon to begin the new adult liver transplant program and to enhance each facility's medical and surgical capabilities.

Baylor University Medical Center has transplanted more than 4,500 organs in patients around the world. The program has been replicated at Baylor All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, allowing Baylor Health Care Systems to expand their services to Tarrant County.

I would like to honor Baylor University Medical Center, along with the doctors, nurses and hospital administration that make extraordinary organ transplants possible. Their dedication to the medical profession and their commitment to saving lives is to be commended.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO KENNETH
"BLUE" BALCOMB—A FIERCE
DEFENDER OF WATER RIGHTS IN
COLORADO

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the Balcomb family of Glenwood Springs, Colorado who recently experienced a tragic loss with the death of Kenneth "Blue" Balcomb. He passed away on November 17th.

Recently, I had the opportunity to get to know Ken. He was a brilliant, devoted and talented person. Because of his genius, water on the Western Slope of Colorado will be protected for generations. Mr. Balcomb died Thursday and will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

Ken Balcomb was General Counsel for the Colorado River Water Conservation District from the early 1960s until 1981 when the District hired in-house counsel. Under Mr. Balcomb's advice and leadership, the River District successfully fought back aggressive water filings by Front Range cities and irrigation districts thirsting for West Slope water. It also fought federal intrusion into Colorado's state-run water rights system, ensuring that the federal government adjudicate its water rights like everyone else through Colorado's water courts. On this point, Mr. Balcomb represented the River District on three occasions before the U.S. Supreme Court, leaving victorious each time.

I grew to know Ken over the last year and he never hesitated to offer his experience, knowledge and assistance to myself and others.

Ken was certainly an inspiration to me and to everyone who had the opportunity to meet

him, and I am grateful for the short amount of time I was able to spend with him. I know my life and the lives of those he knew and loved were enriched by his presence, and he will surely be missed.

I agree with the Colorado River Water Conservation District—Western Colorado lost a true friend and leader with the passing of Kenneth Balcomb.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND DR.
ROLAND H. CROWDER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Reverend Dr. Roland H. Crowder, upon the joyous celebration of his 40th Anniversary as Pastor of Second Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

Reverend Crowder was born in Cleveland in 1926, into meager beginnings, yet the promise of faith and family would raise his life into the light of leadership, accomplishment and service to others. Just an infant, Reverend Crowder was adopted by Emma and Reverend Edward Griggs. Tragedy struck shortly thereafter when his young mother died and his father became very ill after suffering a stroke. Young Roland was up for adoption again, yet his neighbors across the street, Mr. and Mrs. Will Crowder, opened their hearts and home to him and became his new parents. The family moved to Birmingham, where Reverend Crowder's parents taught him lifelong values that centered on integrity, hard work, family, faith and service to others.

In 1950, following his honorable service in the United States Navy, Reverend Crowder heeded the call to the ministry. After his father passed away, he and his mother returned to Cleveland in 1965, where he began his ministry at the Second Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. Fortified with an undergraduate degree, graduate degree from Malone College and a doctoral degree in theology from the Ashland Theological Seminary, and most significantly, equipped with valuable life experience, Reverend Crowder set the foundation for his life long journey of restoring faith and hope within the hearts of people here in Cleveland and around the world. Reverend Crowder and his late wife, Doris G. Crowder, were married for forty-five years. Together they raised five children: Roland Jr., Lydia, Rosalind, Hiram and the late Phillip. Today, Reverend Crowder and his wife, Sister Ida B. Cook Crowder, continue to serve in faithful ministry and community outreach to the congregation of Second Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Reverend Doctor Roland Hayes Crowder, whose compassionate leadership and guidance has been reflected throughout the Second Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio, for forty years. His commitment, kindness and caring for people in need of emotional and spiritual restoration continues to lift the spirits of countless individuals, and will forever bring faith, hope and light throughout our entire community and far beyond.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALLAS COUNTY COUNCIL OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Dallas County Council of Republican Women's Clubs. Fifty years ago, 17 Republican Women's groups joined to form an alliance, based on the guiding principle of the National Federation of Republican Women, "to foster and encourage loyalty to the Republican Party and the ideals for which it stands."

For the past fifty years, the Dallas County Council of Republican Women have worked together to support Republican Women's groups in the area as they promote the principles of the Grand Old Party and help elect Republican leaders from the Courthouse to the White House. The Dallas County Council of Republican Women continue to serve Republican Women's Clubs through meetings, a council newsletter, and training seminars.

Today, I would like to honor the Dallas County Council of Republican Women and their leaders, including: Pat Jordan (1955), Eleanor Owens (1956), Tilla Lindsey (1956), Mary Jester (1957), Dorothy Cameron (1959), Bobbie Biggett (1960), Glenna McCord (1960, 1961, 1962), Babs Johnson (1963, 1964), Linda Holloway (1965), Ann Good (1965), Alice Hale (1966), Jonita Hilton, (1967), Ann Nicholson (1968, 1969), Peeps Moffett (1970), Jan Bryant (1970), Iris Snell (1971, 1972), Dottie Beckham (1972, 1973, 1974), Barbara Staff (1975), Ruth Potter (1976, 1977), Ginny Bauman (1978), Shirley Dickinson (1979, 1980), Jean Rheudasil (1981, 1982), Marianna Ziegler (1983, 1984), Jan Patterson (1985, 1986), Edith Schuler (1987), Lynne Tweedell (1989), Alma Box (1991, 1992), Betty Duke (1993, 1994), Sandy Melton Stephens (1995, 1996), Sue Hutchins (1997, 1998), Rosella Hutchinson (1999, 2000), Taffy Goldsmith (2001, 2002), Valerie E. Ertz (2003, 2004), Deborah Brown (2005). These strong Republican women embody the energy, vision and values of our party.

TEN YEARS AFTER DAYTON

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago this month a genocidal conflict was brought to an end in the Balkans. By initiating a "General Framework for Peace" at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995, Bosnia and Herzegovina emerged from almost four years of that conflict wondering whether it could survive as an independent unitary state and recover from the utter destruction not only of its towns and cities but of its own, multi-ethnic society.

Time dulls our recollection of what the carnage in Bosnia was really about, so I believe it important to recall the nature of this, the

most horrific phase of Yugoslavia's violent and bloody demise. Active on the Helsinki Commission which I co-chair today, I took part in many sobering hearings which documented the atrocities and discussed policy responses.

The Bosnian conflict was, in large part, characterized not by opposing military forces but by groups of thugs, armed and orchestrated by the Milosevic regime in Serbia, wreaking havoc on innocent civilians. Tens of thousands were raped or tortured in detention centers and camps established across the country. While figures may vary substantially, the death toll is commonly estimated at about 200,000, while two million people—half the country's population—were displaced. We can well remember the photos of emaciated detainees at Omarska, the live coverage of the shelling and siege of Sarajevo, and the recently released video footage of the execution of captured young men near Srebrenica.

While the decreasing advantages enjoyed by the Serb militants by late 1995 made a settlement possible, the Dayton Agreement did, in fact, help to bring this nightmare to an end. At the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that its compromises reflect a failure by the international community, including the United States, to intervene much earlier in the conflict in response to clear violations of international principles and what many, including myself, consider a genocide.

The international community repeatedly failed to take decisive action, including the credible threat of the use of force, to compel the brazen Serb militants to stop their aggression. Instead, time was spent deploying peacekeeping forces under United Nations auspices when there was no peace to keep. UNPROFOR's presence thwarted more effective responses, such as lifting the arms embargo which denied the sovereign country of Bosnia and Herzegovina its right, as a member of the United Nations, to defend itself. As town after town, including some declared to be "safe-havens" by the United Nations, fell to the forces of ethnic cleansing, the international community acquiesced to a reality, codified by Dayton, of a country divided into two political entities characterized by an ethnic bias unworthy of 21st century democracy. One entity is a Bosnian Federation forged by the United States in 194 between Bosnia's Muslims or Bosniaks, and Croats. The other entity, Republika Srpska, is dominated by Serbs and represents what the militants among them started the conflict to create.

The compromises accepted at Dayton, influenced by years of international inaction, also have made subsequent implementation difficult, and extremely expensive in terms of personnel, equipment and funds. Many persons indicted for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide evaded justice for years, some to wreak havoc later in Kosovo and elsewhere, and some like Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, remain at large. With the economy destroyed and both organized crime and official corruption rampant, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina became passive and dependent on the international community for their very survival.

Perhaps the greatest flaw in the Dayton Agreement was its heavy reliance on Slobodan Milosevic himself to follow its terms, which he did only under considerable pressure. Betting on the man most responsible for igniting the conflict meant undercutting the development of democratic forces in Serbia

which are necessary for the long-term stability of southeastern Europe. Many of us worked hard to correct this flaw in the immediate post-Dayton years, and continue to encourage democratic forces in Serbia to reckon fully with the Milosevic legacy.

Fortunately, along with the eventual ouster of Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia, we have seen more vigorous and positive action to move ahead in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the past five years. More of the displaced have returned to their original homes than was thought possible when Dayton was negotiated. It hasn't been easy for many who return as members of a minority population, but determination has helped them to prevail. More and more individuals indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, including Milosevic, have been transferred to The Hague, and, at a recent Helsinki Commission briefing, we learned that Bosnia's own War Crimes Chamber has been established and is ready to conduct sensitive trials in accordance with the rule of law. Srebrenica is being acknowledged as the crime that it was. Defense and police reform are underway, helping to pave the way for Bosnia's further Euro-Atlantic and European integration. The region around Brcko, so brutally contested during the conflict that not even Dayton could determine its status, now provides a model of multiethnic cooperation and economic recovery for the rest of the country. There are now discussions of constitutional reforms which, if adopted, will hopefully make the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina a sum of its citizens and not a balance of its ethnicities.

If the Dayton Agreement succeeded in anything, Mr. Speaker, it was because its detailed provisions and improved implementation have provided the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina with both the parameters of a state and enough time to bring their country back from the abyss. I have increasing confidence that they will succeed in moving from what was admittedly a "General Framework for Peace" to a solid basis for unity, freedom, prosperity and integration.

In the meantime, the international community has much it still needs to learn and develop. The conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina gave new purpose to NATO and enabled it to begin operating out of area. Fifty years after the Holocaust, those who commit war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide no longer operate with complete impunity. Still, the international community—whether the United States and its allies, regional bodies or the United Nations—remains slow in responding to human suffering, or in recognizing the implications massive human rights violations can have on international security. It too readily accepts the reality of innocent people being attacked, brutalized and killed. Look at the response during the assault on Srebrenica and then at the response to Darfur today; the similarities are strong.

I therefore hope, Mr. Speaker, that Dayton's tenth anniversary is commemorated in a way that includes not only encouragement for Bosnia and Herzegovina to move beyond the agreement's limiting provisions, but encouragement for all policymakers to learn from the lessons of inaction in the face of evil.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I speak today in opposition to H.R. 3010, the Labor-HHS-Education Conference Report. First and foremost, I am highly disturbed that the report has no earmarks for Member programs. Unfortunately, this conference report invests nearly \$1.5 billion less in critical education, health care and job assistance than last year. In fact, Republicans will spend more on tax cuts this week, \$70 billion, than they will on all education and labor programs over the entire coming year, \$68 billion. The conference report is only the most recent evidence that Republicans are out of touch with the priorities of the American people. Together, America can do better.

With a record 55 million children in public schools and state budgets stretched thin, No Child Left Behind funding is cut by \$784 million. Title I, which is the core of NCLB's efforts to improve reading and math skills, receives the smallest increase for Title I in 8 years—only \$100 million—which means 3.1 million low-income children will be left behind. Further, even as the cost of a 4-year public college education has increased \$3,095, 34 percent, since 2001, the maximum Pell Grant is frozen for the fourth straight year, and no new funding for all other student financial aid and support programs is provided. These cuts are unthinkable, and the American people do not deserve this treatment.

In addition to other horrible cuts, in an age where being tech-savvy is a necessity not a privilege, the digital divide just got bigger as the bill cuts the Education Technology Program by \$221 million or 45 percent. Republicans will actually cut the Federal share of special education costs from 18.6 percent in FY 2005 to 18.0 percent by providing the smallest increase for the Individuals with Disabilities Act in a decade. The bill provides \$4 billion less than Republicans promised for IDEA. It is hard to imagine, but with 7.4 million Americans out of work, Republicans cut the Community College Initiative's efforts to train workers for high skill, high paying jobs by \$125 million and rescind \$125 million from funds provided last year, denying this assistance to 100,000 Americans. Republicans also cut job search assistance through the Employment Service by \$89 million, 11 percent. To further add injury to insult, state Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service offices are cut by \$245 million, 7 percent, eliminating help for 1.9 million people. With consumers expected to pay 52 percent more for electricity this winter, Republicans still failed to increase funding for LIHEAP home heating assistance, which helps keep the heat on for low-income seniors and children.

Only about 10 percent of physicians in America practice in rural areas despite the fact that one-fourth of the U.S. population lives in these areas. There are significant shortages of

health care providers in urban, underserved areas, but training grants for healthcare professionals are cut \$206 million, 69 percent. Further, nearly 46 million Americans are without health insurance yet Republicans provide virtually no funding for new Community Health Centers beyond those approved last year. Republicans also eliminate the Healthy Communities Access Program, \$83 million, and state planning grants to improve health care coverage, \$11 million. Preventive Health Block Grants to state health departments help address critical public health problems. The bill provides less for responding to disease outbreaks, immunizing children, and improving care for people with chronic diseases, when it cuts these grants by \$31 million or 24 percent.

In addition, The International Labor Affairs Bureau will have a hard time protecting American workers from being undercut by child and slave labor abroad after being cut by \$20 million or 21.4 percent.

In closing let me note that I was disappointed that the bill did provide earmarks for Member projects. However, I was pleased to see that this action by the Republicans was the straw that broke the camel's back, and as a result, the Conference Report was voted down. I hope once conferees return to the drawing board; they get it right once and for all.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF
LAW

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, when our new Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales, pledged earlier this year that enforcement of our civil rights laws would be one of his priorities, we all wished him well in fulfilling that commitment.

When leaders here in Washington—Democrats and Republicans alike—have expressed support for extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, our hopes for a better and more just society have been encouraged.

When this Nation rose as one and bowed our heads in respect for the life of Ms. Rosa Parks, the "Mother of Civil Rights in America," we also were re-dedicating ourselves to the ideals of equality, opportunity and civility that are the foundation of American society.

I remind the House of these promising, non-partisan expressions of our Nation's shared values, Mr. Speaker, for a very important reason.

Last Sunday, the Washington Post published a news article that outlined some deeply disturbing assertions about the operation of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

The article entitled Civil Rights Focus Shift Roils Staff at Justice, written by Mr. Dan Eggen, reported that nearly 20 percent of the Civil Rights Division's non-political attorneys resigned or retired during fiscal year 2005.

We also learned that significant disagreements exist between career civil rights attorneys within the Department and administration appointees about the priority that should be given to the enforcement of our civil rights laws.

These policy disagreements—at the core of many resignations—have included the Department's decisions to approve redistricting plans in Mississippi and Texas, as well as the controversial decision to approve a new Georgia statute that would require voters to present government-issued photo identification cards at the polls.

In October, Judge Harold Murphy of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia granted an injunction last month to lawyers for Common Cause of Georgia, the ACLU, the NAACP and other groups who have challenged the Georgia photo identification statute under the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Judge Murphy ruled that the petitioners have shown a substantial likelihood that they will ultimately prevail in establishing that it “unduly burdens the right to vote” and “constitutes a poll tax.” Recently, a three-judge appellate panel, made up of one Democratic and two Republican appointees, confirmed this reasoning by upholding the lower court's injunction.

Why, we must ask, does the policy leadership of our Department of Justice not agree?

Consider, also, this revealing fact. The Department of Justice's own statistics confirm that prosecutions for the racial and gender discrimination crimes traditionally handled by the Civil Rights Division have declined by 40 percent over the past 5 years.

The Department has vigorously disputed both the significance of the policy disagreements within its Civil Rights Division and the exodus of so many career attorneys.

However, the facts indicate that Attorney General Gonzales faces some very real obstacles to his promise about renewed civil rights priority.

Mr. Speaker, we know from history that the legitimacy of any government rests upon the fairness of its laws and willingness to vigorously uphold the rule of law.

We cannot overlook patterns of systematic neglect within the agency entrusted to enforce our laws.

These failures threaten our most fundamental legal guarantees.

That is why we must not be hesitant to seek the answers to the hard questions, the questions that the people we represent are asking.

Why have civil rights cases declined so precipitously in recent years?

Why have career attorneys in the Civil Rights Division been reassigned to other duties?

Why are so many career lawyers leaving the Department of Justice?

What must Congress do to better support America's chief law enforcement officer in fulfilling his commitment to make enforcement of our civil rights laws a priority?

Mr. Speaker, let the discord within the Department of Justice serve as a bellwether to all Americans who believe in the principles of civil rights.

A renewed vigor and more certain direction are desperately needed in the enforcement of civil rights.

We must remain vigilant. We must move forward with a sense of urgency.

If America is to serve as the beacon of democracy for the rest of the world, it is the imperative that we enforce justice, equality and the rule of law within our own country.

HONORING PROFESSOR LAWRENCE
F. ROBERGE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Professor Lawrence F. Roberge for being awarded the 2005 U.S. Professor of the Year for the State of Connecticut by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, CASE.

Professor Roberge earned this award for his work as the associate professor and chair of the Science Department at Goodwin College located in East Hartford, CT in my district. As a dedicated educator for nearly 20 years, Professor Roberge has taught a variety of college science and technology courses. Professor Roberge's expertise and skills aided him in also designing and teaching online educational courses.

During his tenure as chair of the Science Department at Goodwin College, Professor Roberge developed multi-media and computer-based teaching tools to aid in the development and training of the Science Department teaching staff. In addition, Professor Roberge was responsible for designing the science curriculum and labs for the nursing program. Professor Roberge was an inspiration in the classroom while he taught courses in chemistry, anatomy and physiology, and microbiology.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching award four university and college professors as national winners and also recognize a State Professor of the Year in 40 States, the District of Columbia and Guam. These professors are recognized for their outstanding commitment to teaching undergraduate students and their influence on fellow colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Professor Lawrence F. Roberge for receiving this prestigious award. As a former educator, I am honored to recognize Professor Roberge for his exceptional commitment and service to teaching undergraduate students in the State of Connecticut.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the Republican budget bill.

Unfortunately, this bill is just another example of the disdain that this administration and this Congress has shown for the most vulnerable in our society. While the wealthy are lavished with tax cuts, critical social services are being reduced.

Under the guise of offsetting the costs of Katrina and deficit reduction, House Republicans are severely cutting important programs that millions of Americans rely on for edu-

cation, health care, and poverty alleviation. The \$50 billion in Republican cuts will have a devastating impact on families across America and in my home State of Massachusetts.

At the same time, Republicans are pushing a \$70 billion tax package that will overwhelmingly benefit the most wealthy Americans and actually increases the deficit by \$16 billion.

Now, I support the idea of shared sacrifice but the only sacrifice in this bill is by those that need our government's support the most: \$14.3 billion, cut from student loans; \$11.4 billion, cut from Medicaid; \$4.9 billion, cut from child support; \$844 million, cut from food stamps.

Republicans will cut student loan funding by \$14.3 billion. This represents the largest single cut in the history of the student aid program at a time when the cost of tuition has risen 28 percent at public colleges and 17 percent at private colleges in the last five years.

In my home State of Massachusetts there are 172,640 student loan borrowers. Under the Republican plan, the average student borrower in Massachusetts, with \$17,500 in loans will be forced to pay an additional \$5,800.

The Republican budget bill cuts of \$11.4 billion from Medicaid. This \$11.4 billion cut includes \$6.5 billion in cuts that are borne directly by Medicaid enrollees—who include low-income children and seniors, as well as individuals with disabilities.

Massachusetts ranks 12th in the country for Medicaid enrollment with over 1.2 million enrollees. The cuts would harm millions of low-income people across the U.S. and thousands in Massachusetts who rely on Medicaid for health coverage.

Child support enforcement will be cut by \$4.9 billion. The Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimates that this will result in reducing child support collections by \$24.1 billion over the next 10 years.

Experts agree that child support is a cost effective way of reducing poverty. In 2002, 1 million Americans were lifted out of poverty through child support payments. For every \$1 spent on child support enforcement programs, \$4.38 in child support is collected.

Massachusetts would lose \$88 million in Federal support over 5 years, rising to \$282 million over 10 years. The estimated loss in child support collections would be \$140 million over 5 years, rising to \$428 million over 10 years.

Nearly 250,000 Massachusetts children currently receive child support enforcement services. This will have a devastating effect on the Commonwealth's children who live in single-parent families.

Finally, this bill as originally drafted would cut food stamps by \$844 million and will result in over 200,000 people losing assistance.

Where are our priorities when we put tax cuts for the wealthy above the elderly, low income families, students, and children?

Vote “no” on the Republican budget bill.

GJERGJ KASTRIOTI
“SKENDERBEG”

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to place in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

this excellent speech by Congressman Joseph J. DioGardi on Gjergj Kastrioti "Skenderbeg."

GJERGJ KASTRIOTI "SKENDERBEG"

(By Joseph J. DioGardi)

From 1443, when he returned in triumph to the White Castle in Kruja to his deathbed at Lezha in 1468, Skenderbeg left an unforgettable legacy of great heroism in the defense of freedom. Gjergj Kastrioti lived and died for what he firmly believed were the sacred values of faith, virtue, honor, freedom, courage, and love of country. These universal values are clearly displayed in his correspondence and speeches, along with his deep philosophy of life and his incredible deeds. Who was Gjergj Kastrioti? Why is he an important historical figure? What can Albanians today learn from his life and deeds? Why is he not better known around the world?

Kastrioti was the son of an Albanian prince, Gjon Kastrioti, who ruled the Albanian lands in the Balkan Peninsula at the end of the 14th century and the beginning of the fifteenth century. Gjon had kept the invading Ottoman Turks at bay for more than twenty years when he was forced into a deceptive peace treaty in 1422 with Sultan Murad II to secure the rear of the Turkish army in Southeast Europe and spare the lives of his people from the wrath of the Ottoman Empire. To guarantee the arrangement, the Sultan took Gjon's youngest son, Gjergj, hostage to Adrianople, the European capital of the Ottoman Empire. Here, Gjergj was sent to the Ottoman military academy where he excelled in all ways and adopted the Moslem alias "Iskender Bey," or Lord Alexander after Alexander the Great. Skenderbeg's excellent academic and military record caught the eye of the Sultan, who gave him the rank of general even before reaching twenty years of age. Skenderbeg's military successes against the enemies of the Ottoman Empire became legendary, as were the decorations and gifts bestowed on him after each incredible triumph.

An important turning point in Skenderbeg's life came when, in 1443, he received the sad news from Kruja of his father's death. Gjon had defied and frustrated the Ottomans for more than fifty years and the Sultan grew suspicious of Skenderbeg's potential to take his father's place in trying to perpetuate a free Albania even after Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, and Serbia had been conquered. Skenderbeg sensed the danger to him and to his father's people and decided to seize the moment in November 1443, when he was sent on a military excursion to defeat the Hungarians led by another great freedom fighter (and thorn in the side of the Sultan), Janos Hunyadi. Rather than do the Sultan's dirty work at Nish (in Serbia today), he fooled his fellow Ottoman commanders and fled the battlefield to Kruja with three hundred of his loyal Albanian horsemen. Two weeks after triumphantly entering Albania at Dibra, he stormed the White Castle at Kruja on November 28, 1443 and deposed the Ottoman governor there. The next twenty-five years would see some of the greatest military feats against the ever powerful and growing Ottoman Empire. It was only after Skenderbeg's death in 1468 that the Ottomans were able to get a foothold in Albania. Without their great leader, the struggle against the Ottomans faltered, leading to a complete occupation of Albanian lands in 1488. This lasted 425 years until Ismail Qemali raised Skenderbeg's double-headed eagle banner at Vlora on November 28, 1912.

It is one thing for Albanians today to praise and honor Gjergj Kastrioti. But let's now take some time to hear about this saintly knight, his incredible military genius, and

our Albanian national hero from those who knew him well. Having now read a great deal about Skenderbeg, it became evident that a Roman Catholic priest from Shkodra, Marin Barletius, wrote the most comprehensive and vivid account of Skenderbeg's life and deeds. His twelve-volume work included Kastrioti's letters, speeches, and his philosophy of life, religion, and nation. Since Barletius was a contemporary of Skenderbeg, he had access to firsthand information from the battlefields, the archives in Rome, and many other personal firsthand accounts from witnesses of Kastrioti's phenomenal accomplishments, character, and charisma. The scholarly work of Barletius, originally written in Latin, was translated widely, including French and English, which allowed many to know about the legendary feats of Skenderbeg.

The nineteenth-century American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had been mesmerized reading about the incredible life and deeds of Gjergj Kastrioti. His epic poem "Scanderbeg" gave a vivid account of Kastrioti triumphant in Kruja on November 28, 1443:

... Anon from the castle walls
The crescent banner falls,
And the crowd beholds instead,
Like a portent in the sky,
Iskander's banner fly,
The Black Eagle with double head.
And shouts ascend on high
... "Long live Scanderbeg."

Skenderbeg's genius has been likened by many military experts to Alexander the Great. Major General James Wolfe, commander of the English army at the siege of Quebec, Canada, wrote to Lord Sydney that "Scanderbeg exceeds all the officers, ancient and modern, in the conduct of a defensive army. I met him in Turkish history but nowhere else."

Historian Edmond Gibbon in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* said: "In the list of heroes, John Hunyadi and Scanderbeg are commonly associated and entitled to our notice since their occupation of arms delayed the ruin of the Greek (Byzantine) Empire. . . . The Albanian prince may justly be praised as a firm and able champion of his national independence. The enthusiasm of chivalry and religion has ranked him with the names of Alexander the Great and Pyrrhus. . . ."

Even the Elizabethan poet Edmund Spenser held that Scanderbeg was "matchable to the greatest of the great" in his preface to an English translation of Barletius, which concluded by saying:

To one whom later age has brought to light,
Matchable to the greatest of the great:
Great both in name and great in power and
might,
And meriting a mere triumphant feat.
The scourge of Turks, and plague of infidels,
Thy acts, O' Scanderbeg, this volume tells.

Finally, among the many, many accounts of one Albanian hero, we turn to the notable nineteenth-century English literary figure Lord Byron who fell in love with everything he saw in Albania. Like Kastrioti, Byron had a deep love of freedom and national independence. In his poem "Child Harold's Pilgrimage," he wrote:

Land of Albania, where Islander rose,
Theme of the young, and beacon of the wise,
And he, his namesake, whose oft-baffled foes
Shrunk from his deeds of chivalrous emprise.
Land of Albania, let me bend my eyes
On thee, though rugged nurse of savage men!
Where is the foe that ever saw their back?

In short, Gjergj Kastrioti was an exceptional military genius, a man of great faith and courage, a philosopher and one who cher-

ished personal freedom and national independence. He was the subject of many books, poems, and even an opera by Vivaldi! His imposing figure, sword in hand, atop his majestic stallion, graces the capitals of Italy, Austria, and Hungary today. And, on the 600th anniversary of his birth, a Congressional Resolution introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, the most democratic forum in the world, recounts his many deeds and his importance as an historic figure not just for Albanians and the Balkans, but Western Europe, which he saved from Ottoman domination.

What Albanians can learn today from Skenderbeg's life and deeds is limitless. As a man of great faith, he placed himself at God's mercy on many occasions where he was facing overwhelming odds. On one such occasion, after defeating the Hungarian army at Varna in 1445, Sultan Murad sent a threatening letter to Skenderbeg, who now stood between the Ottoman Empire and a Europe in disarray. True to his nature as a great leader and man of God with a steadfast vision of freedom for his people and all of Europe, he boldly responded to the Sultan:

"Cease your angry threats and tell us not of the Hungarian (mis)fortune. Every man has his own resolution . . . and so will we with patience endure such fortune as it shall please God to appoint us. Meanwhile, for direction of our affairs, we will not request counsel of our enemies, nor peace from you, but victory by the help of God!"

Albanian leaders today, especially in Kosovo seeking complete independence from Serbia, would do well to emulate the resolute way in which Skenderbeg pursued his vision of freedom for his people. He made no room for compromise with his enemies and showed fierce determination to prevail even in the face of such a formidable adversary as the Ottoman Empire. He did this relying not only on his skill as a great national leader and military tactician, but on his belief in God's providence as well. We can all learn from Skenderbeg's great example in pursuing the Albanian national cause today.

Skenderbeg again showed his great faith in God and deep loyalty to friends after his great friend and patron Alphonse, King of Naples and Sicily, died in 1460. Italy was plunged into bloodshed and rebellion, and Ferdinand I, Alphonse's son and successor, came under attack from the French once again. Feeling a deep moral obligation to repay his steadfast friends and allies on the other side of the Adriatic, Skenderbeg himself led an elite cavalry of 2,000 men there in the summer of 1461 and soon turned the tide against the French and their Italian collaborators in the bloody battle of Apulia. In reading the accounts of Skenderbeg's exhortation to his soldiers before the battle of Apulia, one is reminded of George Washington exhorting his troops at Valley Forge:

"This now is our case, my good soldiers. . . . We are now across the sea far from our own homes and from our own country. . . . We are amongst strangers, altogether without hope of ever returning again to our own (home) . . . if we do not win a notable victory over our enemies. But have courage, my men: Let us consider that this is God's will . . . that we should maintain . . . the seat of the Church. And never doubt that He will send us even from heaven an easy and speedy victory. . . and then shall we return to our own country victors, joyous and triumphant."

One might ask, after hearing of the greatness of Skenderbeg, why he is not as well known today as before. I believe that the history of Gjergj Kastrioti is inextricably tied to that of the Albanian people. The Albanian nation was submerged under the Ottoman Empire for 425 years. When it emerged in

1912, it was unfairly divided so that only half of the seven million Albanians who live in the Balkans today live in the State of Albania, with the other half living on her borders in five other jurisdictions. The State of Yugoslavia was created after World War I on the backs of the Albanian people and on their land. Then Communism again submerged the Albanian people—this time throwing them into a political and economic “black hole,” stretching from Belgrade to Tirana, for almost fifty years after World War II. It is a wonder that the Albanian people kept their language, their history, and their hope alive throughout the last six hundred years of occupation and resistance. It is a wonder that, amid all the national stress and personal sacrifice, that Gjergj Kastrioti has not been forgotten altogether. But he has not been forgotten, and it is a tribute to his greatness and to the besa of the Albanian people that, against all odds, Albanians are standing free today, in Albania and Kosovo, and that the sons and daughters of Skenderbeg continue to adore him as their national hero and liberator, and are building even more memorials to his past and present glory and significance—even, with a U.S. Congressional Resolution (H. Res. 522), in the capital of the only superpower in the world today, Washington, DC.

AUTHOR'S POSTSCRIPT

The battle of Apulia in the southern part of the Italian Peninsula, near Naples, is of special significance to me and my family. In 1461, after Skenderbeg and his elite cavalry helped save the Kingdom of Naples from French domination, the future security of the Kingdom was assured when Gjergj Kastrioti decided to leave two thousand horsemen there, while he returned to Albania to continue to defend the Albanian people from Ottoman Turkish domination. As an inducement for Skenderbeg to agree to what must have been a difficult decision for him, the King of Naples awarded the Albanian soldiers an area about forty miles east of Naples, including a high mountaintop village called Greci. Greci had been formed by Greek farmers and merchants in 535 AD and had since declined after most Greeks abandoned the area that they had controlled in the first millennium. Albanians changed the name of the village to “Katundi,” which is the name used today by the Albanian residents, even though the Italians still call it Greci. My father, Joseph, Sr. immigrated to America from Katundi in 1929 at the age of fifteen. His family is descended from one of Skenderbeg's two thousand soldiers, and this is a great reminder that the seeds of Skenderbeg are still spreading across the oceans of the world today.

IN MEMORY OF ADMIRAL BARRY
K. ATKINS, U.S. NAVY (RET.)

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Admiral Barry K. Atkins of Richmond, Virginia, who passed away on Tuesday, November 15, 2005. Admiral Atkins spent a lifetime in service to his country and should be honored today.

In 1932 Admiral Atkins graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and began his distinguished career as a Naval officer. During World War II, Admiral Atkins took over command of the USS *Melvin*, a Navy destroyer. Admiral Atkins and his men were stationed in

the Pacific and participated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. In one engagement, the Battle of Surigao Strait, the USS *Melvin* fired a torpedo that hit the Japanese battleship *Fuso*, splitting it in half and eventually sinking it. According to historical reports, the USS *Melvin* was the only destroyer to sink a battleship in World War II. For his heroism and leadership aboard the USS *Melvin*, Admiral Atkins was awarded the Navy Cross. In 1959, Admiral Atkins retired after 27 years of faithful service to the U.S. Navy.

Admiral Atkins' bravery during the Battle of Leyte Gulf helped change the course of our Nation's history and I am truly grateful for his leadership and unwavering courage aboard the USS *Melvin*. I hope that you will join me in honoring the life and service of Admiral Barry K. Atkins and offering our most sincere condolences to his family and friends.

IN HONOR OF KEITH SHAFFER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Keith Shaffer, an influential and much beloved member of the community in the Santa Cruz area. Mr. Shaffer lived a life of dedicated and generous service to his community. He is survived by his wife Elinor Shaffer; his two sons, William and Richard Shaffer; daughter-in-law Alana Shaffer; and his two grandsons.

Mr. Shaffer was born in the San Joaquin Valley town of Atwater, on October 15, 1915. After serving as a naval aviator during World War II, he eventually moved to the Santa Cruz area in 1950, where he took over his brother's floral business. While Mr. Shaffer was a successful businessman, he also found time to give back to the community, by serving on numerous school boards, the Dominican Hospital Advisory Board, the Rotary Club of Santa Cruz, the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce, and the California Automobile Association. Mr. Shaffer was a shining example of dedication and devotion to citizens of the community.

In 1937, Keith Shaffer married his childhood sweetheart Elinor George. Along with his wife Elinor, and his two sons, William and Richard, the other love of Mr. Shaffer's life was his orchids. Mr. Shaffer was well known within the floral community for his creation of several hybrid orchids, most notably his “Capitola Moonlight,” which was recognized by the Royal Horticulture Society with its highest honor, and perhaps his favorite, the “Elinor Shaffer.”

Mr. Speaker, the service of local members of the community are an asset to this Nation, and I am deeply grateful for the contributions of Mr. Shaffer. The passing of Mr. Shaffer is a painful loss for the community. It is clear that Keith Shaffer has made a lasting impact on the community, and I join the Santa Cruz area in honoring the memory of Mr. Shaffer.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW YORK
CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER GIFFORD MILLER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Gifford Miller, Speaker of the New York City Council. Speaker Miller led the Council through four contentious years, winning on issues that are important to New Yorkers. He has been an exceptional City Council Speaker who has truly made New York City a better place to live. As a colleague, an ally and a friend, he has been one of the best public servants around.

Speaker Miller began his political career in my office. He rose quickly from an entry level position in my Washington office to running my New York district office. From the beginning his talents were obvious. He was hardworking and dedicated, drafting legislation to fund the development of pocket parks in urban areas and other matters. Recognizing his abilities, I soon promoted him to run my district office.

As Chief of Staff in my New York office, he established himself as a knowledgeable, committed leader in the community. Most of all, Speaker Miller clearly loves New York City, and wants to make this the best possible place to live. Thus, when he ran for City Council in a special election, he had enormous credibility and was able to defeat a well-known opponent.

I will never forget that election. Called for the dead of winter, petitioning took place on chilly street corners in dreadful weather. I joined Miller and his volunteers in standing out in freezing temperatures. People were impressed by his energy, drive and cheerfulness, even in appalling conditions. They saw clearly that he was going to work hard for his constituents, and he always has.

Miller quickly established himself as a smart and aggressive legislator, who was able to stand up for his district. He passed laws to reduce noise, increase voter participation and protect the environment.

On January 9, 2002, Miller was unanimously elected by his colleagues to the post of City Council Speaker. For the last 4 years, Miller has led the New York City Council, overseeing the passage of all new laws and the city's \$47 billion budget. As part of the budget agreement for FY2005, Miller fought for and won \$50 million in tax cuts for more than 700,000 workers through the passage of New York City's first Earned Income Tax Credit.

Under his leadership, the Council has passed more legislation than any previous council, including bills to extend a living wage to 50,000 workers, protect children from lead paint poisoning, provide training and education to people moving from welfare to work, require every city hospital to offer emergency contraception to sexual assault victims, provide more school nurses to more city students and establish tax credits to encourage greater energy saving and cleaner air.

Throughout his term as Speaker, Miller was forced to battle the mayor and Governor to preserve New York's priorities. He was remarkably successful. Miller led the Council in overturning mayoral vetoes 21 times, more

times than any previous Council. These mayoral overrides enabled much-needed legislation to become law, including measures to provide rape victims with emergency contraception, expand access to birth control, provide training for people moving from welfare to work, prevent homeowners from being unreasonably fined and protect our air and water. As a result of his efforts in budget fights, hundreds of millions of dollars have been restored to the City budget for health care, child care, college scholarships, libraries, senior citizens and HIV/AIDS prevention. In 2002, Miller's Education First campaign helped prevent hundreds of millions in proposed cuts to New York City's public schools.

Gifford Miller is an extraordinarily talented and hard-working public servant. Although term limits are bringing an end to his Speakership, I am hopeful that he will remain active in public life. New York city needs him.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Speaker Gifford Miller, a remarkable public servant and community leader.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF CURTIS
MCCLAIN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Curtis McClain, a champion of the trade union movement and trailblazer for racial equality, who passed away November 6 after a long battle with cancer. Friends and colleagues will gather on December 3 to pay tribute to his lifetime of service to the working men and women of America.

Born of humble means in Akron, Ohio, World War II provided Curtis passage to a new life. After his discharge he relocated to San Francisco to find work. He found it in ILWU Warehouse Local 6 working at Schmidt Lithography. He said, "I went into the paper seasoning department where work was sweaty, hot and dusty. Although it was the last place I wanted to work, I needed the job so I stayed for 14 years."

Curtis became frustrated by post-war discrimination against African-Americans in the labor movement. Being passed over repeatedly for promotion due to race inspired Curtis to form a group of African-Americans in Local 6 called the Frontiersmen. Their encouragement and that of International and other local officers drew Curtis into leadership positions. In 1960, Curtis became in the first African-American to be elected Business Agent for Local 6.

By 1969, Curtis was an important labor leader in San Francisco and was elected Local President, followed 2 years later by a position on the International Executive Committee of the ILWU. In 1977, he broke another racial barrier when he was elected ILWU Secretary-Treasurer, the position he held until retirement in 1990.

Curtis served with ILWU International President Jimmy Herman. Together they fought for a democratic and diverse trade union and guided their membership through turbulent times.

Longtime Local 6 leader LeRoy King, who helped found the Trailblazers with Curtis, re-

members: "He was a natural leader. He helped lead the efforts to break the color line, not only in the ILWU, but in other unions and in the community. He was an outstanding negotiator and union officer. And he took care of business for the members."

Curtis was a tireless advocate of working people. He helped form the alliance between the Teamsters and the ILWU that created the Northern California Warehouse Council, whose influence stretched to the Oregon border. Curtis was also instrumental in the civil rights movement, opening up employment opportunities to people of color in San Francisco's auto and burgeoning hotel and tourism industries.

Curtis McClain also led in movements for social justice, peace, and disarmament. Mayor Jack Shelly appointed him to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and Mayor George Moscone appointed him to the San Francisco Fire Commission where he served for 12 years.

Curtis McClain reminded us what can be accomplished with determination and belief in the person working right beside you. His hard work for social justice and workers' rights broke barriers and deepened the ties of our wonderfully diverse community. Our thoughts are with his family and friends as they gather to remember him, and we thank them for sharing Curtis with us.

TRIBUTE TO LUTHER C. WALLACE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Luther C. Wallace of Marin County, California, a community leader who passed away from a brain tumor on November 10, 2005. Luther was a visionary whose approach to inclusivity and human rights taught us all a lesson.

Born in Bakersfield in 1941, Luther grew up in Oxnard where, at a young age, he learned the importance of empowerment from his family. As a preteen, he stuffed envelopes for the NAACP, church functions, and local politicians. In 1968, after serving in Viet Nam, he worked as a community organizer with the Ventura County Community Action Agency while using his GI bill allotment to complete a degree in Psychology from California State University, Northridge. He later earned a Masters in Public Administration just prior to his first brain surgery.

Luther went on to manage an energy conservation program for the State of California and service agencies in Ventura, Santa Cruz, Marin, and Santa Clara counties. Under his leadership, the Human Rights Resource Center, Inc. in San Rafael provided services—including training manuals, Cultural Awareness Training, and public policy recommendations—to every State as well as to 9 foreign countries.

Luther's influence, often centered in the African American community, was also widespread through his commitment and involvement in the California Rainbow Coalition (co-founder), The California Democratic Party Executive Board, the Marin Black/Jewish Dialogue (co-founder), the Marin City Project, the

Marin Council of Agencies, the Marin County Adult Criminal Justice Commission, the Center for Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement, the African American Coalition of Marin, and many other groups.

His special interests were people, music, reading, learning new things, all sports, and working with his family in his herb and vegetable garden. With a voice as smooth as silk, his love of music (his "unforgiving mistress") called to him no matter where he was. On international junkets with the UN and the Jewish Community Federation, the band somehow knew to invite him on stage to sing. Shortly before his death, Luther achieved his greatest dream with the publication of his book of short stories titled, "Our Color Our Kind: A Male Bedside Reader." At the time of his death, he was at work on an original screenplay and new short stories.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Mary Christine [Tina] (Mattice) Wallace; son James Matthew Wallace, Santa Cruz, CA; daughter Cassandra Jane Wallace-James, Thousand Oaks, CA; grandchildren Tanesha Cherie, Tony LaBarron, Jr., and Luther Demetrius, IV Wallace-James; his special "sister" Donella Dennis, Los Angeles, CA; and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Luther Wallace inspired so many with his passion for human rights and justice. His dedication and leadership enriched and informed the African American community and all of us in Marin County who will benefit from his legacy.

TRIBUTE TO TONY BENNETT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an Icon of American Culture and one of our country's finest citizens, Tony Bennett. Much has already been said and written about the life and work of Tony Bennett, but I am honored to have the opportunity to say a few words about my friend here.

Tony has been a part of the experience of being an American for the last six decades. His arrival as a force in our culture was announced nearly seventy years ago at the opening of the Triborough Bridge in New York City. At 10 years old, the son of an Italian immigrant and grocery store operator, Anthony Dominick Benedetto was invited to sing at a ceremony to open the bridge by another famous son of Italy, New York's iconic Mayor Fiorello La Guardia. At the time, our country was in the midst of a staggering Great Depression, President Roosevelt had begun the "New Deal," and that bridge was a concrete symbol that New York City, that America, and that Americans, would persevere. The Bridge stood as the accomplishment of our American ingenuity, our hard work, and our craftsmanship. Looking back, with those values in mind, it is altogether fitting that Tony Bennett was there.

The ingenuity of his voice and his style have transcended generations of American music fans. Tony once quipped that he was spoiled because he, "never had to sing songs [he] didn't like." But it is generations of Americans

who have been spoiled by a sound that, no matter where or when it is heard, is always fresh, always new, and uniquely American.

As Tony approaches his 80th birthday, he has sold more than 50 million records, he has won the praise of musicians across the spectrum, and been acknowledged by his industry for his lifetime of achievement. Yet, he continues to work, bringing enjoyment to thousands of fans each year, and winning new ones each day.

His accomplishments are not limited to just music. He is also an accomplished painter in his own right. He is a tireless advocate for Juvenile Diabetes research, and the American Cancer Society—each year he donates one of his paintings for the ACS holiday card. He has been a friend of Presidents and Heads of State, singing at the Inaugural festivities for President John F. Kennedy in 1961 and President Bill Clinton in 1993.

Tony has never been afraid to point out injustice and advocate for equality. He marched with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama, and was an activist throughout the Civil Rights Movement. Coretta Scott King, bestowing the Martin Luther King Center Award for Excellence upon Mr. Bennett in 2001, said, "Tony is not only one of America's premier performing artists, but he was a deeply-committed friend and supporter of my husband and the Civil Rights Movement, and he has continued to support the efforts of the King Center to fulfill Martin's dream."

The list of accomplishments for Tony is innumerable, he has embodied the American spirit and he has lived the American dream. I could not be more pleased that the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has chosen to honor Tony Bennett with its highest honors on December 4th, 2005. Tony is truly a credit to his Italian heritage, and to the contributions of millions of immigrant families who have made this country great.

His story is that of what is possible in America, what is great about America, and his life is the embodiment of what it means to be an American. In short, Tony Bennett is a national treasure, and it is with great pride that I speak today as his friend to say thank you for his contribution to our Democracy.

IMPORTANCE OF IMPACT AID

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Impact Aid Coalition, I rise today in strong support of the Impact Aid program.

Impact Aid provides important resources to replace lost tax dollars to school districts that include a military base, Indian land, or any type of Federal presence or activity to assist with the basic educational needs of its students. These funds improve the quality of life for our military personnel by ensuring their children receive a quality education wherever they are stationed.

Due to budget constraints, the Impact Aid program faces unique challenges. While most education programs contend with an increase in the cost per pupil each year, Impact Aid faces the additional challenge of an increasing

number of military dependents within the program—projected to dramatically increase over the next 10 years—causing the cost of fully funding Impact Aid to escalate sharply.

For example, as a result of the BRAC recommendations, over the next 4 to 5 years, the Department of Defense estimates that an additional 32,000 dependent children of military families will enter stateside public schools due to overseas base closures and realignments. Without additional funding, this tremendous increase will cause a significant change to the level of assistance to the current and future school districts serving our military children and to the services and resources the districts will be able to offer our children.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to pay attention to the critical situation our military children are facing and the further deterioration of their educational resources and services if we do not act soon. In a time of war, it is absolutely essential that we provide the necessary resources to ensure our military dependents' educational funding will be maintained.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM E. LIGHTFOOT

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I come to the house floor today to pay tribute to William E. Lightfoot, PFC, of Lexington, IL, as well as the 13 other Navy and Marine Corps airmen of Flight 19. On December 5, 1945, a five-plane squadron took off from Ft. Lauderdale Naval Air Station in Florida. This would be the last time anyone would see these brave men, as all five planes mysteriously vanished while flying over the Bermuda triangle. A Mariner rescue plane, comprised of 14 crew members, was sent to look for survivors but they also vanished without a trace. In all, 27 men died in this unexplainable tragedy.

To this day, no wreckage from any of the six planes has been found and no explanations have been realized. However, today, the House of Representatives approved H. Res. 500 to honor these men and recognize the 60th anniversary of the disappearance. Unfortunately, when this vote was called today, I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been able, I would have voted "yes." I was a proud co-sponsor of this resolution and strongly support honoring these brave men. My heartfelt sympathy and admiration go out to Private William E. Lightfoot and his surviving family members.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I missed a vote on November 17, 2005. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 500 (rollcall vote No. 597) recognizing

the 60th anniversary of the disappearance of the five naval Avenger torpedo bombers of Flight 19 and the naval Mariner rescue sent to search for Flight 19.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, due to technical problems, my vote in favor of H.J. Res. 72 on Thursday, November 17 (rollcall No. 599) was not recorded. I was, in fact, present for this vote and did vote in favor of the resolution.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the budget reconciliation process is wrong, and it must be stopped.

We must reject any cuts to critical federal safety net programs when so many Americans are experiencing hard times. They have been forced to turn to the government, as well as charities, for assistance with basic necessities.

Nine hundred thousand American families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are relying on the Food Stamps Program to avoid hunger. Voting for this budget resolution is voting to cut food stamps for these families—and for millions of others who would otherwise go hungry.

This budget resolution boosts mandatory cuts in crucial programs, including health care and student aid, by 44 percent.

Over ten million Latinos on Medicaid will be affected by these cuts. Medicaid provides health insurance to about 50 million people in America, including 41 percent of people in poverty. We need choices that can help the 34 percent of Latinos that are uninsured.

The budget reconciliation shows how misguided Republican priorities are. Instead of helping make health care affordable, they will force families to choose between staying healthy or keeping the lights on.

The budget will slash such programs as student loans and therefore hurt hundreds of thousands of American families. And yet the GOP budget also requires \$70 billion in new tax cuts, helping mainly the wealthiest Americans.

Under the proposed cut in student loans, the typical student borrower could be forced to pay an additional \$5,800 for his or her student loans compared to under current law.

These budget cuts do nothing to ease the national budget deficit.

While Republicans claim that they are serious about deficit reduction, their reconciliation plan actually increases the deficit by \$20 billion.

Let me repeat: the two GOP reconciliation bills together will result in a \$20 billion increase in the deficit! One cuts mandatory spending by \$50 billion and the other cuts taxes by \$70 billion.

Mr. Speaker, this proposal makes no sense and is immoral. We cannot balance the budget on the back of the poor.

People across the country responded with compassion and generosity to the suffering and devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the federal government must continue to play a role to reduce the suffering of our fellow Americans in the gulf region.

It is not compassionate to cut funding for critical programs that in many cases would hurt those very communities.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this budget resolution.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this horrible legislation. In all my years in Congress, this is easily one of the ugliest bills I have ever seen. I can't think of a more glaring example of pandering to the rich on the backs of the poor. It's no wonder the Republican leadership needed all the extra time to bring it to the floor.

The cuts in this legislation will result in the reduction, if not elimination, of services to those who need it most, and those who are able to fight for them least. I hope that those in the faith-based community are watching closely: this is the true face of "compassionate conservatism." This from the party which claims to have cornered the market on morality.

It is hard to identify what is most egregious about this bill—there is such a litany of problems here. Is it the cuts in food stamps that will leave hundreds of thousands hungry? Is it that Medicaid funding has been decimated, adding to the rolls of the millions without adequate health insurance? Is it the hits that student loan programs take, leaving our Nation's youth with still more financial burdens? Is it the insidious weakening of environmental provisions, inserted under cover of darkness? The list goes on and on.

And despite the rhetoric from the other side, this bill will do nothing to reduce the staggering deficits we've been seeing. That is because, under the Republican fiscal policies, deficits are built into the system. As a result of the tax cuts for the wealthy that the Republicans forced down this country's throat several years ago, there is simply not enough revenue coming into the treasury to eliminate the shortfall. Indeed, unless Republicans are planning to gut just about all discretionary spending, there is simply no way to plug the hole. It's basic arithmetic.

No, what's going on here is that my Republican friends have created a monster. Their tax cuts have starved our government of its resources, and have brought us from record surpluses to record deficits. But will budget reconciliation reduce the deficit and begin to fix the problem, as they claim? No. This bill actually increases the deficit. This bill is about making room for still more tax cuts. In fact, the bill allows for up to \$106 billion in new tax cuts during FY 06, not just the \$75 billion specified in the bill. \$50 billion in spending cuts, and \$106 billion fewer dollars in the treasury, leads to an increase in the deficit to \$56 billion!

And the \$106 billion in tax cuts will not benefit the families of the troops fighting in Iraq, nor those who suffered in the gulf coast. No, these cuts are targeted to benefit corporations and the wealthy.

Three hundred thousand low-income Americans will lose food stamp assistance; 17 million Americans, half of them children, will see increased costs in Medicaid; the average student will suffer an almost \$6,000 increase in his or her college costs because of \$14.3 billion in cuts to student loan programs. So we give tax cuts to those who don't even need them, and the back of our hand to those who need assistance. This is a disgraceful bill. It is socially unjust, and it will aggravate, not help cure, our Nation's fiscal crisis. In the strongest possible terms, I urge a no vote on this bill.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, tonight the House leadership is making a second attempt at passing its 2005 budget reconciliation bill. This is still the wrong bill at the wrong time for America, and I will oppose it.

We have heard a host of arguments from the majority in support of this bill, which will cut vital Federal programs by approximately \$50 billion over 5 years. Some have made the case that higher deficits hurt our Nation's economy. I agree, but although this bill is titled the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, it will do nothing to ease our deficit situation.

H.R. 4241 is part of a larger strategy by the House leadership resolution that calls for a total of \$106 billion in additional tax cuts. This strategy includes \$70 billion in reconciled tax cuts and \$36 billion in unreconciled tax cuts. The spending cuts in this bill are the initial step. The majority intends to follow tonight's vote with a tax cut bill. After the tax cuts are passed and in place, there will no funds available to pay for hurricane relief. In the end, the House leadership's charade will not reduce the deficit; it will make the deficit even larger than it is today.

In the weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated the land and the lives of so many on the gulf coast, many lawmakers said they had a newfound understanding of the extent and depth of poverty in America. They also said that the photographs from New Orleans, particularly those taken at the Superdome and the Convention Center, had demonstrated that government does have an important role in lifting Americans out of poverty. There seemed to be bipartisan support for authentic, meaningful approaches to addressing the plight of poor Americans. I would hope that this sentiment still remains. But if it does, it is not evident in the majority's reconciliation bill that is on the House floor tonight.

This bill reduces access to health care for the poor. It contains \$11.9 billion in cuts to Medicaid, including cuts of \$8.8 billion that are borne by low-income beneficiaries through higher cost-sharing and new premiums. It also gives the States the green light to eliminate periodic health care examinations and the treatment of conditions picked up by those ex-

aminations for many of America's neediest children. Maryland's Medicaid rolls cover 430,000 children and health services for 90,000 of them will be jeopardized by this provision. Approximately \$2.5 billion of the Medicaid cuts will affect elderly Americans, who will lose access to nursing home care through tougher restrictions on eligibility.

This bill reduces access to higher education. It contains \$14.3 billion in reductions to Federal student loan programs over 5 years, by increasing the interest rates and imposing a new 1 percent origination fee on all loans.

This bill will hurt many families who rely on child support payments. It reduces the Federal match for child support administrative costs from 66 percent to 50 percent, eliminating \$4.9 billion in help for the States to enforce child support orders. The majority, which claims to want to help our States, is shifting the cost of enforcement to them. It will not save money in the long run, and it will hurt struggling single parent families across America.

As a result of this bill, fewer children in foster care will be eligible for payments, and \$577 million will be cut from these funds. This bill will also limit food stamp eligibility to only those households who are receiving cash assistance through TANF, and requires that legal permanent residents live here for 7 years, rather than the current 5 years, before they can receive food stamps. The result will be \$844 million less in food stamp assistance to low-income families.

The legislation before us is also making it harder for some of the most disadvantaged Americans, those who receive Supplemental Security Income, SSI, to receive assistance. It imposes an extra level of review for certain disability determinations and for those who are found eligible after lengthy delays, this bill requires that retroactive payments are spread out over a longer period of time, for a total savings of \$732 million.

So in the name of paying for hurricane relief, we cut funding for the programs that would help the neediest Americans, including many of the gulf coast citizens who were affected by that disaster.

At this time of economic uncertainty for our country, the so-called Deficit Reduction Act places the burden on the shoulders of the American families least able to carry it. It is clear that this legislation will make painful cuts, and when combined with the tax legislation will increase deficit problems that we face, and so I must vote against it.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Conference Report on H.R. 3010, which provides Federal funding for health, education and worker programs.

On healthcare, the bill takes a huge step backward in efforts to maintain basic health

care services for the people in this country who are uninsured or underinsured. It eliminates the Healthy Communities Access Program, which helps health centers and public hospitals provide care for the uninsured. The bill cuts rural health care program funding almost in half, and it wipes out almost all of the Title VII health profession training programs that institutions like the CU Health Sciences Center need in order to provide critical training and education for medical students and residents who aim to practice in rural, low-income, and under-served areas.

And while the bill eliminates or cuts funding for several programs, it also fails to adequately fund others. The bill virtually provides no new funding for community health centers to cover rising health care costs at existing centers or to expand care for the uninsured even though the president called for a doubling of these centers. The National Institutes of Health, which works to find cures for many diseases, gets a paltry .5 percent increase in funding, the smallest percentage increase in 36 years which is not even enough to keep up with inflation in research costs. State and local health departments will be hobbled in protecting the public against infectious and other diseases because the bill cuts the Preventive Health Block Grant by 24 percent. Further, grants that help health departments improve their preparedness against bioterrorism and other public health emergencies are cut, and the Ryan White AIDS programs funding is frozen, even though the number of people living with HIV/AIDS has been rising by more than 6 percent each year.

Many of the education provisions are equally as troubling. The Republican majority has imposed a decline in funding for the Department of Education while requiring local school districts to implement federal mandates under the No Child Left Behind Act. Though I am pleased to see some of the programs such as vocational programs that were cut in the President's budget were restored in this bill, I am concerned by the low levels of funding for several education programs.

Our Nation has seen a decreased number of students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, disciplines, and in turn fewer Americans are seeking careers in STEM fields. The Math and Science Partnership provides grants to recruit STEM majors into teaching, and links current teachers with state agencies or universities to improve teaching skills. This program, coupled with its counterpart at the National Science Foundation, works to improve the quality of teaching in math and sciences that will excite students to study these disciplines. I am disappointed to see only \$184 million for this program. Unless we make a serious investment in these programs we will continue to see the decline in the number of STEM majors and those seeking these careers.

I am also concerned by the funding levels provided for Part B state grants under IDEA. Last Congress we passed an authorization for IDEA that sought to reach full funding of the program by 2011. This Conference Report provides the smallest increase in funding for IDEA in a decade and actually decreases the federal contribution from 18.6%, already far below the 40 percent full funding would provide, to \$18 percent. It is clear through these numbers that we are not doing enough to help states provide adequate education for disabled students.

This bill is another example of the Republican majority's misplaced priorities. In fact, Republicans will spend more on tax cuts this week, \$70 billion, than they will on all education and labor programs over the entire coming year, \$68 billion. The conference report is only the most recent evidence that Republicans are out of touch with the priorities of the American people. It cannot support it.

TRIBUTE TO KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Kalamazoo Public Schools' recently announced scholarship program: The Kalamazoo Promise. In a single word this program is tremendous. It is difficult to comprehend, but through the extreme generosity of an anonymous donor, or group of donors, every student enrolled in Kalamazoo Public Schools will now have the opportunity of receiving scholarship funding to attend one of Michigan's many superb public colleges.

The Kalamazoo Promise will cover 100 percent of tuition and mandatory fees for graduates who have been enrolled in KPS since kindergarten and whose parents live in the school district. A partial scholarship of between 65 and 95 percent will be given to students who enter after kindergarten and before 10th grade.

This is such terrific news for the folks of the Kalamazoo community. This remarkable scholarship program will promote a better educated work force, a friendly place to do business, and an unprecedented boom to business and economic development.

A college education is the dream of our youngsters, and this great program will turn dreams into reality for literally thousands of students. With the ever rising costs of higher education, the Kalamazoo Promise sets a new incentive for our students to work hard and earn good grades so that they can attend a college of their choice.

I would especially like to thank the donors whose generosity will not only bring the dream of a college education to the future of our students, but will also continue to make Kalamazoo a great place to live. I would like to also congratulate KPS Superintendent Janice Brown on this wonderful gift.

HONORING DR. W.A. HAYDEN SCHILLING, 2005 PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. W.A. Hayden Schilling, a professor from the College of Wooster, who was selected as a national winner of the U.S. Professors of the Year award. As a former educator, I know how important education is to the success of our future.

This is the only national award that recognizes college and university professors for ex-

cellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. I am pleased to say that Dr. Schilling was one of four national winners to receive this honor.

After receiving his bachelors degree in history from Southern Methodist University, Dr. Schilling earned both his masters and Ph.D. in history from Vanderbilt University. I should also point out that he is a Fulbright Scholar.

Dr. Schilling is a model educator who has spent his career dedicated to the success of our Nation's students. In fact, he was chosen over 300 other candidates for the Professor of the Year award. Wooster President R. Stanton Hales summed up Dr. Schilling's achievements when he said, "Besides being a superb lecturer and professor, Dr. Schilling gives generously of his personal time for students. There's no way you can try to calculate the hours that he does this. I have seen no one more passionate about student success in all my 27 years in higher education."

Helping the youth in the community excel has always been a passion of Dr. Schilling. He founded, directed and taught in the Wooster-Youngstown Early Intervention program which brings students together to improve their proficiency in math, science and language skills. His program has been a tremendous success, as many of the participants have successfully enrolled in college and it now serves as a model for several area colleges.

Lou Gerstner, former chairman of IBM said, "If we don't step up to the challenge of finding the best teachers, we'll undermine everything else we are trying to do to improve our schools. That's a conscious decision that would threaten our economic strength, political fabric, and stability as a nation. It's exactly that clear cut." Dr. Schilling is an example of the type of teachers that Mr. Gerstner speaks of and this award serves as a testament to Dr. Schilling's outstanding career in education.

I appreciate all that Dr. Schilling has done to improve the lives of students and extend my congratulations to him as a 2005 U.S. Professor of the Year.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES BRANYAN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of James Branyan, a pillar of the Camden, Arkansas community for nearly a half century. Mr. Branyan died on November 3, 2005 at the age of 72 in Camden.

James Branyan was born in Glendale, Arkansas on January 15, 1933. A 1950 Glendale High School graduate, Mr. Branyan played basketball for Henderson State University. Following graduation, he moved to Camden in 1956 to manage the Black and White Store. Throughout his impressive career, Mr. Branyan went on to own the Credit Shop, the Downtown Antique Mall, the Starr Fashion Shop, Banks Jewelry, A & H Ready to Wear, Stephens Department Store, Packard's Office Supply, Data Service Center Computer Service, KJWH Radio Station, Robertson Feed Store, Walker and Associates Advertising and Public Relations, and the Good Times Travel Agency.

Mr. Branyan had a deep love for the place he called home; he truly believed Camden was "paradise." Mr. Branyan's commitment went far beyond the business community; he was passionate about giving back through community service. Mr. Branyan served as President of the PTA, President of the Ouachita County Red Cross, Chairman of the United Fund Drive, Chairman of the Camden Water Commission, Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, and this is simply the tip of Mr. Branyan's exhaustive list of involvement which kept him involved in every aspect of the Camden community.

Perhaps Mr. Branyan will be most remembered for his decade of service to the Arkansas Highway Commission from 1973–1983, a prestigious commission which he chaired from 1981–1983.

In 1962, Mr. Branyan was named Camden's Young Man of the Year, an award bestowed upon young men for their dedication to community service, and today that award is named in his honor. In 1971, he was named Camden's Man of the Year and in 1991 Arkansas's Retail Merchant of the Year. Mr. Branyan was also an active member of Maul Road Church

of Christ, where he served as an elder, Bible school teacher and song leader.

Mr. Branyan was a tremendous businessman and led a life dedicated to the betterment of his "paradise." Camden has lost a true friend and economic ambassador. I am honored to have known him and counted him as a friend. Mr. Branyan will be deeply missed, but his spirit and legacy will live on for generations to come throughout the Camden community. My heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Shirley; their daughters, Chere' Chilton and Rhonda Stuart; and their grandchildren, Lance and James.