

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
LEGACY OF ROSA PARKS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 59th Anniversary of the day that the civil rights movement was ignited. On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, tired of following societal laws steeped in racism and degradation, became a reluctant hero of the civil rights movement when she refused to surrender her seat and her dignity to a white man on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

Rosa Parks, a soft spoken, private and hardworking seamstress, was immediately arrested and convicted of violating segregation laws. The incident drew an immediate and passionate response. With the support of the NAACP and civil rights leaders, including Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., African Americans in Montgomery boycotted the city buses and declared their refusal to ride the buses until the U.S. Supreme Court denounced the Jim Crow laws that continued to strangle the soul of America. Thirteen months later, the boycott ended when, in November 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

The humiliation experienced by Rosa Parks was reflective of a long line of human injustices directed upon African Americans by the white ruling class since the dawn of our nation. Rosa Parks' simple refusal was a monumental act of courage and dignity that cast centuries of injustice, ingrained in the foundation of American culture, into the clear light of day. She knowingly sacrificed her own safety, the safety of her family and her privacy for the greater good. Rosa Parks' historic refusal to give up her seat on a city bus set the civil rights movement on fire and the power of her simple gesture is as significant and relevant today as it was 50 years ago. She remained dedicated to the civil rights movement and humanitarian causes until her recent death at age 92.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and memory of Rosa Parks, whose singular life forever changed the world by raising the human race into the promise of justice for all. Her quiet refusal to surrender represented a million acts of resistance that came before her and set a path for those who would follow. Rosa Parks became an icon of human rights and her voice joined with a chorus of millions demanding freedom from oppression, echoing from the isle of a city bus to the hallowed halls of the United States Supreme Court. Rosa Parks' quiet act of defiance awoke America from its centuries old slumber of ignorance and oppression and her journey will continue to bring hope and inspiration to those still fighting to walk in the

light of human dignity and justice—in Montgomery, Alabama, across our country and around the world.

HONORING 8TH STREET
SANCTUARY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, during this season of charitable giving, I am proud to highlight the efforts of citizens in my district. In downtown Jacksonville, there is a haven for children living in poverty. The Sanctuary on 8th Street's mission is to encourage and empower children to become strong and independent by ministering to their physical, intellectual, social and spiritual needs.

Last month, the community rallied around this outreach in a remarkable way. When the mother of one of the youths tragically passed away, the community gathered funds to make funeral services possible. Due to their giving, the family was able to say their goodbyes to Latricia Ann Spencer on November 18th.

The Sanctuary on 8th Street received even more money than needed, from which they created the Spencer Fund. This emergency fund will provide funeral services for other families in need. This is an inspiring example of what individuals can achieve for their neighbors, and I commend everyone involved.

JOE CASAZZA: A FIRST-RATE
PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, almost exactly 38 years ago, as I was beginning my work as the Executive Assistant to newly elected Boston Mayor Kevin White, who was to take office on January 1. I watched as he went through a very careful and thoughtful process of selecting high officials for his new administration. One of the most important jobs in any municipal government is that of Public Works Commissioner—no city official in Boston has more of an impact on the quality of life of the people who live there. It is a difficult and demanding job, especially in a city like Boston that is one of the oldest in the country and has both the benefits and defects of great age.

There were several very highly qualified applicants for the position of Public Works Commissioner. I remember in particular an individual who had extremely high academic qualifications, and at the time I was myself impressed by the extent to which this individual would bring a full understanding of modern technology to the job. The Mayor was also im-

pressed with him, but he was even more impressed with a—then—young official from a nearby town, who had been Public Works Commissioner in that town. His name was Joseph Casazza. One of the things about Kevin White that made him a great leader was the seriousness with which he approached the appointment of high officials; I was struck also by his good judgment in deciding who would best fit, and in his understanding of the importance of putting together a balanced team where people would have different strengths, in some cases offsetting what might be weaknesses in others.

One result of this process was his selection of Joe Casazza, and it is a tribute to Kevin White's judgment that as Joe Casazza now retires, after 37 years in this very difficult job as Public Works Commissioner of Boston, he is widely recognized for the superb public service he has provided the people of the City.

Mr. Speaker, too often people denigrate those who have chosen to work in the public sector. Knowing Joe Casazza as I do, and having watched him over the years, I have no doubt that he could have been an extraordinarily successful private sector employee, earning far more over his lifetime than he did as the Public Works Commissioner. But his dedication to the well being of his fellow citizens was such that he stayed in the public sector for his entire working career and it is not at all surprising that his understandable decision to retire is greeted with deep regret by those of us who have benefited from his service.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add my words of praise to Joe Casazza—an extraordinary man who has had an extraordinary career in the public service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MID-
WAY MIDDLE SCHOOL SELECT
BOYS' CHOIR ON THEIR EXEM-
PLARY PERFORMANCE AT THE
WHITE HOUSE

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Midway Middle School Select Boys' Choir following their exemplary performance at the White House Monday, December 12, 2005. Out of the 150 choir groups from across the country who submitted recordings to First Lady Laura Bush's office for consideration, the Midway Middle School Select Boys' Choir was 1 of only 40 choirs to earn the right to perform at the White House this Christmas season.

Director Tammy Benton and the Midway Boys' Choir are in select company because of their excellence and achievement and I was proud to support their efforts to sing at the White House for Christmas. During this special time of celebration, it was my privilege to help bring some unique blessings from central

• 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.

Texas to Washington. It was also a special privilege to be able to give them a tour of our Nation's Capitol, many for the first time.

There is no doubt that their hard work and dedication to choir instilled in them by their director, Tammy Benton, will continue to pay dividends for the rest of their lives.

I sincerely congratulate them and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

HONORING HARRY BOTT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Harold Bott is a lifelong resident of the Bronx, the son of immigrant parents, who has worked to make his home borough a better place for all. He followed his father into the plumbing business, eventually establishing a successful contracting company. But he never forgot his community and his efforts to help were continual and tireless. He moved to Woodlawn in 1972 with his wife Loretta and their two children and he brought that same sense of community to his new neighborhood. He organized the annual 239th Street Block Party, which was a success every year. He worked with the Boys Club, organized and assisted with the June walk, the placement of flags on Katonah Avenue, the Christmas display, and also served as president of the Woodlawn Taxpayers Association. He also organized a 9/11 Memorial Tribute, the annual Veterans Day celebration, and free tennis lessons for children. He has given selflessly of himself and has served as a role model for how to improve a community. Tonight he is being honored for his contributions to the Woodlawn community and I stand with the residents of that neighborhood in thanking him for his many contributions.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF RITA D. LYNCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Rita D. Lynch, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, dedicated public servant, community activist, and dear friend to many, including myself.

Mrs. Lynch's passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for the people of Cleveland's west side neighborhood, whom she served with the highest level of commitment and integrity. For nearly 30 years, Mrs. Lynch volunteered her time and talents as a member of the board of the directors with Cudell Improvement, Inc., a non-profit neighborhood organization, working on projects and implementing programs focused on uplifting all aspects of the community. Her dedication to the organization and to her neighborhood is reflected throughout Ward 18 in the City of Cleveland.

Family, friends, faith and community were central to her life. Mrs. Lynch and her late husband, Robert, often worked together on

issues of neighborhood concern. Her grown children, John and Maryann, were instilled with the values of hard work, kindness and giving to others. Mrs. Lynch's service to others continues to illuminate the hope and promise of a better day for the people of this diverse Cleveland community.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Rita D. Lynch. Mrs. Lynch lived life with a generous heart and great energy for life. Her legacy of activism and spirit of volunteerism will be remembered always, forever reflecting along Detroit Avenue, Edgewater Road and Clifton Boulevard, and she will never be forgotten.

PEDIATRIC CANCER INROADS AT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, there is exciting news recently from the University of Florida, in Gainesville, Florida, in the fight against pediatric cancer. UF scientists believe that they have linked stem cells to a certain type of childhood bone cancer. This discovery could eventually be the key to treating osteosarcoma, the most common form of bone malignancy among children.

Osteosarcoma is a highly aggressive cancer that kills 40 percent of the children diagnosed, most of whom are between the ages of 10 and 20. Currently the only treatment is year-long doses of chemotherapy and radical surgery. Scientists contend that these stem cells, which have also been linked to cancers such as leukemia and more recently breast cancer, are the only cells that freely replicate and the ability to target these cells will allow doctors to develop new forms of therapy that are much less toxic and far less invasive than existing treatments. Good work and a hopeful prognosis, UF researchers.

CLEAVER EXPLAINS CIVIL RIGHTS—BASED OPPOSITION TO ALTO CONFIRMATION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most thoughtful Members to join us in recent years is the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) who as a former Mayor of Kansas City makes very significant contributions to the work of our Committee on Financial Services, which has jurisdiction over urban affairs.

The gentleman from Missouri is also a civil rights leader, and as a minister is very much in the tradition of those in that profession who have provided moral leadership in the long and continuing fight against racism and its effects. Recently, in the Kansas City, Missouri newspaper, *The Call*, in the issue for the week of December 9th–December 15th, our colleague laid out in a very persuasive and reasoned fashion the objections to the confirmation of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court that

arise from his record on civil rights. I believe that this very useful analysis makes a significant contribution to the national debate on this question and I ask that it be printed here.

[From *The Call*, Dec. 9–15, 2005]

ALITO: A THREAT TO CIVIL RIGHTS

(By Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, 5th Congressional District)

KANSAS CITY, MO.—In a almost every news story about President Bush's latest Supreme Court nominee, Samuel Alito, the subject of *Roe v. Wade*, the Court's 1973 decision guaranteeing women the right to choose to have abortions has been the focus. Unfortunately, minorities are not receiving "much information on Alito's awful" attitudes on issues of civil rights. In fact, a November 14 edition of *Newsweek*, which carried a seven page story on Alito, did not bother to discuss civil rights.

One case that sheds badly needed light on Alito's disgraceful civil rights record involved Beryl Bray; an African American house-keeping, manager at a Park Ridge, N.J. Marriott Hotel. Ms. Bray appealed to a trio of federal judges that she had been turned down on a promotion in the Marriott operation because she "was black. Two judges wrote that enough evidence had been presented to, justify a jury trial. You guessed it, Samuel A. Alito Jr. dissented.

He downplayed the whole matter by writing that the hotel had simply made "minor inconsistencies" in how they handled hirings; Alito went further in, saying that it would be unfair to allow "disgruntled employees to impose the cost of trial of employers who, although they have not acted with the intent to discriminate, may have treated their employees unfairly."

The two judges with a different view of the case felt so strongly about their evidence that they broke. With tradition and actually criticized Alito's written opinion. According to this fellow judges in *Bray v. Marriott Hotels*, Alito's position would have "eviscerated" legal protection under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The majority said that Alito's position would protect employers from suit even in situation where "the employer's belief that it had selected the "best" candidate "was the result of conscious racial bias."

In a 2001 racial discrimination case, Alito, cast the deciding vote and wrote the opinion in a 2-1 ruling that rejected claims by African American defendant who had been convicted of felony murder by an all-white jury from which black jurors had been impermissible struck because of their race.

The full Third Circuit reversed this ruling, and the majority specifically criticized Alito for having compared statistical evidence about the prosecution's exclusion of blacks from juries in capital cases to an explanation of why a disproportionate number of recent U.S. Presidents have been left-handed: Judge Dolores Sloviter, in *Riley v. Taylor* wrote that Alito overlooked the obvious fact that there is no provision in the Constitution that protects persons from discrimination based on whether they are right handed or left-handed. To compare the striking of jurors based their race is to minimize the history of discrimination against prospective, black jurors and black defendants.

My colleague, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, a former head of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and a distinguished constitutional scholar in her own right, told me that Alito, in her opinion is dangerous to civil rights.

Ms. Norton has studied Alito's, opinions and has led the Congressional Black Caucus in its opposition to the extremely conservative judge. Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-

Mass.) has stated through a spokeswoman that: ??? when it comes down to it, he's on the wrong side of civil rights." I strongly agree with the Senator. I reviewing the opinions of Alito, even with my law laity status, I have concluded beyond logical challenge, that this nominee has repeatedly made difficult for those claiming to have been victims of discrimination to prove it or to even get a trial.

Should Alito receive Senate confirmation, he will replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor who often cast the critical swing vote that protected civil rights. Alito's addition to the Court means that it will clearly move to the right. With affirmative action, Voting Rights Act reauthorization and other issues likely to be considered by the Supreme Court, it would behoove minorities and people of good will to seek additional information, should they desire such, and in the opinion of the 60's soul group Charles Wright and the Watts 103 Street Rhythm Band, "Express Yourself!"

IN HONOR OF DR. JULIAN M. EARLS, DIRECTOR, NASA GLENN RESEARCH CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Julian M. Earls, upon his retirement as Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Earls' service at NASA Glenn reflects 4 decades of leadership, accomplishment and discovery.

Dr. Earls' exemplary service and expertise within the ever-transforming frontier of space aeronautics began at NASA Glenn in 1965 and is a legacy that spiraled from a brilliant academic foundation. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Norfolk State University, a master's degree in radiation biology from the University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry, and a doctorate degree in radiation physics from the University of Michigan.

His exceptional standing at NASA Glenn was framed by integrity, vision, innovation and accomplishment. His incredible intellect was equally matched by his congenial nature and his ability to form vital bonds with staff members and with local, national and international leaders in the field of aeronautics. Dr. Earls' work included the development and direction of programs necessary to accomplish the missions of the Center. His work spanned the scope of research, technology, and systems development programs in aeronautical propulsion, space propulsion, space power, space communications, and micro-gravity sciences in combustion and fluid physics. Dr. Earls has written for 28 educational and technological journals and he wrote the first health physics guides for NASA Glenn.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Julian M. Earls, whose integrity, expertise, commitment and leadership has infused energy and possibility throughout all operations at NASA Glenn Research Center. His 40-year legacy of achievement and leadership will continue to exist as a foundation of learning and exploration, where the promise of dreams, discovery and

hope take flight. I wish Dr. Earls and his family an abundance of good health and happiness, today and always.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRANBURY LADY PIRATES' COACH LETA ANDREWS ON HER RECORD SETTING 1218TH VICTORY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion for public education and women's athletics, Leta Andrews of Granbury, Texas, head coach of the Granbury Lady Pirates' basketball team. Coach Andrews recently recorded her 1218th victory, making her the winningest girls' high school basketball coach in U.S. history. Since coaching her first game in 1962, Coach Andrews has come to personify the values of hard work, dedication, and responsibility that she has instilled in her players over the years.

Coach Andrews is now in a category of her own making because of her commitment to excellence and unique ability to motivate, mold, and mentor young lives. While we honor her coaching success on the basketball court, it is her positive example and lasting influence on the lives of her players off the court that will be remembered most. That remarkable achievement alone is enough to qualify her for anyone's hall of fame.

Coach Andrews's impact on women's athletics will continue for years to come. We can all rest assured that Coach Andrews's exemplary mark on history will serve as an inspiration for teachers and coaches of all sports everywhere.

At this time, it is my privilege to honor the extraordinary achievements of Coach Leta Andrews in her 44 years of coaching and I personally want to thank her for the shining example to us all and wish her well in future endeavors.

HONORING JERRY AND LILLIAN FRIEDMAN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Jerry and Lillian Friedman are celebrating their 50th anniversary, two wonderful people who have worked as much for their community as for themselves.

Jerry was a Brooklyn boy who saw the light and moved to the Bronx. There he met Lillian and in 1955 they married. They have two children, Evelyn and Stuart, a son-in-law, Mark, and two grandchildren, Sophie and Benjamin.

Lillian was a Girl Scout, and when their daughter was old enough to join the Scouts, Lillian became a Girl Scout Leader. Jerry was a Boy Scout in Brooklyn, and later a Scoutmaster as part of a 65-year relationship with the Scouts.

They were both involved in their communities. They organized tenant-help groups, leading to lower rents and improved upkeep of

the apartments. In Co-Op City in the Bronx they helped to form a building association with Jerry eventually becoming a member of the Board of Directors and First Vice President.

Both were also active in local Democratic politics.

Jerry and Lillian are the kind of people who make a community more of a community. I ask all who believe in love to join me in celebrating their 50 years together.

TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARK HASS

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and the people of Washington County, Oregon to thank State Representative Mark Hass for his service. His enthusiasm, dedication and success can be attributed to one simple thing: a love for Oregon. Representative Hass chose to turn his compassion into action; to make a real difference for Oregonians.

Mark Hass has served his constituents in Beaverton and the state of Oregon with great distinction for the last three legislative sessions. In 2001, Governor John Kitzhaber signed into law the Hass Scholarship bill which created incentives for businesses to set up scholarship funds for employees. Making college more affordable is a passion he and I share.

Mark Hass has fought for and secured more high quality early intervention and full day kindergarten in Oregon so our children start off with the tools they need to learn and succeed.

He served as House Whip and as vice-chair on the Revenue Committee where he mentored newly elected legislators and became a strong advocate for restructuring Oregon's tax system.

He returns now to private life and to his family, but we are all better off today because Mark Hass has come forward to serve the State that he loves.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF LUCILLE CRISAFI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mrs. Lucille Crisafi, devoted wife to her late husband, Ralph Crisafi, devoted aunt and great aunt, and dear friend to many. Let us celebrate her life as her friends and loved ones gather in tribute to her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Crisafi grew up in Cleveland's Clark-Fulton neighborhood and later moved to Parma. In 1927, she married Ralph Crisafi. Their shared values of work, faith, family and community were reflected throughout this Westside neighborhood. For many years, Mr. and Mrs. Crisafi owned and operated an appliance store, located on the corner of Clark and Fulton Roads. Although they never had children, they were devoted to their nieces, nephews and the children of the neighborhood, all

of whom affectionately referred to them as 'Aunt Lu' and 'Uncle Ralph.'

Mrs. Crisafi remained in her home 25 years after her husband passed away. Her life-long spirit of activism and volunteerism with St. Rocco's Catholic Church continues to uplift all aspects of the parish. She has been an active member of the Holy Family Sodality of St. Rocco's for 72 years and served as the Financial Secretary for nearly 20 years.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mrs. Lucille "Aunt Lu" Crisafi, as we join her in celebration of her 100th birthday on December 13. At 100 years young, Mrs. Crisafi's sharp intellect, quick wit, kind smile and spirit of love and generosity for others shine brighter than ever and continues to illuminate the hearts of friends and family along Clark Avenue, throughout St. Rocco's parish, in Parma, Ohio and far beyond. I wish Mrs. Crisafi a joyous birthday and many blessings of peace, health and happiness today and always. Cent' Anni, Aunt Lu.

TRINITY CATHOLIC
CONGRATULATIONS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate Trinity Catholic High School of Ocala, Florida on its first-ever football state championship.

On Saturday, December 3, the Celtics completed an undefeated season by defeating Pahokee High School 37 to 30 in front of 4,327 fans at Florida International University to clinch the Class 2B state title.

Coach Kerwin Bell and his Celtics became the first team to bring a state championship in football to Marion County since 1979 in only the fourth year of the program's existence. The Celtics' season slogan, "It's our time," embodied the determination that they showed in pursuing their goal. Despite a furious comeback by Pahokee to tie the game in the 4th quarter, the team pulled together and prevailed in a game that came down to the final whistle. The hard work of this group of young men has served as an inspiration to Ocala and Marion County and I congratulate them by saying, "It is your time."

IN RECOGNITION OF TATIANA
HORUNOWYCZ VONDERSAAR AND
RUSSIAN HERITAGE

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Tatiana Horunowycz Vondersaar and Russian Heritage on the occasion of the 10th Annual Russian Heritage New Years Celebration, January 15, 2006. Mrs. Vondersaar's contributions to the Russian community have touched countless lives. It is a pleasure to pay tribute to this illustrious community leader and, of course, to all Americans of Russian heritage who have offered so much to our great Nation.

There is no doubt that America has become great because the American people are great. Coming from all parts of the globe and from humble beginnings, the average American is a priceless gift to our society and world. Without the common citizen, America would not have assumed the uncommon role she enjoys among the nations of the earth. Among these citizens are the proud and humble people of Russian heritage who are precious gems in the American mosaic.

I can think of no better example of this unique heritage than Tatiana Horunowycz Vondersaar, who has tirelessly promoted Russian heritage among the citizens of the great State of Florida. Mrs. Vondersaar is a former president and board member of the Russian Heritage located in St. Petersburg, FL. The Russian Heritage was established to preserve and promote Russian heritage, culture and educational programs among family, friends and neighbors.

Volunteering her time and talents to better the lives of others, Mrs. Vondersaar has been active on numerous committees and boards. She represented the St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society, SPIFFs, promoting Russian heritage and culture. Mrs. Vondersaar has worked with the Police Athletic League and educated students about the influence of Russian customs and traditions. She has lectured at St. Petersburg College and volunteered her time at the Salvador Dali Museum. Mrs. Vondersaar has served as a translator for Russian immigrants for the public defender's office, assisted the elderly, and participated as an active and leading member at St. Andrew's Russian Orthodox Church. She also has served as treasurer of the Association of Russian Cadets, and board member of the Russian American Club.

Mrs. Vondersaar and her husband Lee, a courageous veteran of World War II, are the proud parents of 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

I want to commend Russian Heritage and its President Bill Parsons for their leadership in raising awareness of the rich contributions of Russian Americans to the United States. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all Americans of Russian descent and particularly Tatiana Horunowycz Vondersaar, whose spirit and dedication serve as a model of commitment to us all.

TRIBUTE TO 113TH ENGINEER BATTALION OF THE INDIANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to the 113th Engineer Battalion of the Indiana Army National Guard, and welcome them home after 1 year of serving our country heroically in Iraq.

Upon arrival, the 113th was nicknamed the "Ironman Battalion" because of their links to northwest Indiana's steel industry. And throughout the past year, these Iron men and women have shown a dedication to their mission, and a commitment to their country that truly is as strong as steel.

Today Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that soldiers of the 113th are coming home—coming home to be with their family and friends; coming home to be with their wives, husbands, sons, daughters, mothers and fathers.

Based in Mosul, Iraq since last year, the soldiers of the 113th made heroic missions a part of their daily routine. They located and detonated improvised explosive devices, reinforced police stations and conducted combat patrols.

The service of these men and women has not been without sacrifice. Over 40 Purple Hearts have been awarded to the 113th battalion, each serving as a reminder of the dangers our soldiers face every day.

I welcome these soldiers home. I thank them for their service and sacrifice to our Nation, and I pledge that our support for them is equal to the sacrifice they have shown our country.

Mr. Speaker, the following men and women of the 113th have bravely served their Nation in Iraq, and I am honored to submit their names for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Rodolfo Alfaro Jr., Jose Luis Andujar, Erendira B. Ayala, Robert Kenneth Banaszak, Lechia Tiara Banks, Timothy Patrick Bishop, Jerry Joe Blackford, Ernest Lee Boyles, Steven Ravey Brumfield, Travis Allen Byrd, Andre Steven Carr, Jason Allen Carrera, Luis Valentin Castro, Johnathan Michael Clabbers, Joseph Earl Collins Jr., Jonathon C Creviston, Michael Brian Daake, Keenon Carlton Davis, Walter Joseph Dinga Sr., Dennis Shawn Eastman, David Michael Eckhard, Tyler Jacob Egli, Saleem Amin Elamin, Wesley Etchison, David James Evans, David Paul Evans, Steven Edward Francher, Anthony Lee Fleming, John Paul Furman III, Jennifer Arlene Graves, Justin K Greentree, Michael Crispin Guajardo, Karl Eugene Hausenfleck, Shalonda Moniece Henderson, Andre Terrell Hillard, Paris H. Holeyfield, Richard Jakubowicz, Steven John Jesuit, Bradford Shawn Jones, William Michael Rich Kalina, Douglas Paul Kinger Jr., Gary Bernard Kinney Jr., Joshua Daniel Koch, Thomas Kopanda, Thomas Edward Kren, Mark Lathrop, John Lindsey, William Charles Mackey, Anthony Romon Madry, Garrett Emon Marshall, Leo Sharpe Marshall, Scott Arnold Marshall, Nicole Dionne McCant, Gregory Quinn McHenry, Terry Dionne McQuay, Lester Dwayne McSwain, and James Allen Miller.

Keith Allen Miller, William Moses Milligan, Joshua Arvino Miranda, Johnny Melvin Mitchell, Rodney Dean Mitchell, Leticia Marie Montez, Lawrence Edward Nemcek II, Steven Charles Patterson, Melvin Pennington Jr., Jorge Antonio Perez, Ricky Lee Phillips, John Edward Pitt, Peter Alan Pizarek, Thomas Michael Prosser, Mark Steven Reimer, Tommy Wade Roeske, Felicia Ronay, Briggs Obrian Rumph Jr., Alvaro Eneas Saenz, Berris Fitzroy Samuels Jr., Paul Randolph Scott Jr., Richard Dean Shatto, William Michael Sideris, Loretta Silvers, Larry Smith, Leroy Smith Jr., Jeffrey Scott Springer, Henry Louis Stone, Dawn Theresa Swantko, Michael William Thomas, Samantha Nicole Thomas, Johnny A. Trinidad, Michael Ralph Via, Dontreal Walters, Paul Nathaniel Wilderness, Demond Ellis Wilkins, Chery Lynn Williams, David Allen Young, Michael Zinman, Alexander James Baker, Charles Edward Beavers, Sean Peter Begley, Samuel James Benford, Christopher Ryan Boger, Ryan G. Bowerson, Steven Anthony Bramer Jr., Adam Joseph Branson, Johnathan Leon Bright, Aaron A. Brown, Charles Paul Bruce, Michael Joseph

Brunsmann, Joshua Scott Buikema, and Max Allen Colestock.

Angel Luis Colon, Lasean Antowine Colter, Michael George Coughlin, Corrie Alexander Covelli, David James Croyle, Anthrice Arnez Culp, David Donald Davis, Earl Ernest Deal Jr., Tony Chang Dicharia, Tywan Tremain Dickerson, Ryan Patrick Eder, Matthew Bernard Flaherty, Matthew Alan Gabrano, Joseph Maxwell Gibbs, Mitchel Glover Jr., Michael Aloysius Goin, James Frederick Grauvogel, Elijah David Alvis Gray, Michael Guz, Donald James Adams, Rex E. Agness, Jason Ray Amstutz, Ian Thorne Armstrong, Christopher Brian Aviles, Thomas Shawn Baker, David Matthew Barker, Michael Bauman, Kevin Lee Bell, Tracy Red Bell, Justin Lee Bladecki, Ronnie L. Bond, Shaun Alan Casto, Byron Scott Chambers, Charles Scott Clabbers, Juba Akilaerveal Cochran, Robert Allen Craft, Gary Allen Cravens, Adam Lee Davis, Craig Mathew Dryden, Spencer Lee England, Brian Dean Farlie, Joshua Aaron Filson, Shaun Fitzpatrick, Timothy Alan Fort, Steven Franklin Foss, Daniel Trent Gakle, Brian Keith Gardner, Randy Jay Gauck, Joe Gomez, John Geoffrey Grafton, Christoff Mathew Haglund, William Lee Hayes, Michael DeWayne Heffner, David Scott Hitz, and Matthew John Hooper.

William Austin Jarret, David Pascal Johnson Jr., Dean Arthur Jones, Stefen Michael Kaur, Joseph Ralph Kolosci Jr., Andrew Kovats, Jason Michael Landfald, Ricky Lawson, Jared Douglas Leinart, Kyle Lewis Leonard, Israel Lopez, Michael Paul Ludwig, Aaron James Malerich, Jonathan Joseph Martin, Mark Andrew Masters, Kenneth Edward Maynor, Carey Allen McCrary, Jerome Edward Miller, Dale Allen Muzik Jr., James Byron Newland, Charles Carlon Odle Jr., James Kenneth Papay, James Robert Parker, David Lee Peer, David Scott Pegg, Gregory Allen Perra, Harold Thomas Petri Jr., Paul David Price, Franklin Allen Reed Jr., Jason Keith Reed, Brian Michael Richmond, Robert Rollins, Daniel Gabriel Ronay, Aaron John Rosenfeld, Brian Michael Sardeson, Andrew Kevin Scalf, Harold Allan Schrimsher, Damon Alan Schroeder, Blaine Daniel Schultz, David Sendejas Jr., Thomas Alan Sergeant, Sean Patrick Smiertelny, Carl James Smith, Gayle Thomas Smith, Brett Robert Sobiski, Donald Jeffery Spoor, David Michael Stone, Derek William Surowiec, James Raymond Swanson, Timothy Michael Vacklavik, Omar Velez, Rodney Allen Wells, Scott Allen Williams, and Cameron Mitcheal Wright.

Marlin Lee Lloyd Wunder, Anthony Derrell Alston, Brandon R. Antkowiak, Ryan William Ayres, Derek Michael Barragan, James Basinger Jr., Kevin Joseph Bell, Matthew James Bisig, Gary Robert Blake, Jason Paul Blunt, Jacob Ronald James Boyd, Kevin Briskey, Kirk Joseph Brownson, Chandler Clint Cahoon, Tomas Ignacio Canchola, James Edward Cash, Patrick Gerard Cleary, Delbert Lee Clem, Rodrice Lenall Cole, Edward T Cooney, Jason Michael Cribari, Jose Luis Cuadra, Clyde Leonard Daniel, Brian Douglas Delcourt, Rene Delgadillo, Billy Joe Dixon, Matthew Jason Farner, Richard Flores, Richard Paul Freeman, Mark Allen Gerber, Jason Alexander Hefner, Michael Alexander Hermann, Patrick Jermaine Hernandez, Christofer D. Hoyum, Jamie Darrell Jarboe, Michael Jonson, Chester Lee Jones Jr., Michael Ryan Jones, Richard Joseph Kerr Jr., Daniel Gerard Kirby, John Harold Koch, Stephen Kometz, David John Kozinski, Rodney Allen Kreft, Melvin Oswaldo Lira, William Lito Loubriel II, John Quincy Lubbe, Rick Allen Marino Jr., Brian Michael McCartney, Ivan Lamont McIntosh, William Everett McKee III, Matthew Lawrence Mitchell, Jason Moody, Michael Raymond Murray, Spiro David Olympidis, Kenny Wayne Parks, and David James Phillips.

Jon Robert Pitts, Thomas Duane Rankin, Douglas Alan Ricca, Wesley Aaron Robertson, Samuel Victor Rogowski, William John Schissler II, Ryan Scott, Deon Scott, Anthony Joseph Schultz, Robin Laurence Siems, Andrew Wayne Sigler, Christopher Alan Smith, Bartholomew Smith, Adam James Stewart, Jerry L. Sumner Jr., Zoltan Louis Szabo, Marion Otis Thatcher, Jose Anthony Trujillo, Frank Hobert Turner III, Theodore Widin Uzelac Jr., John M. Villegas, Jerod Lee Wagner, Jerome Nathaniel Watts, Kenneth Paul Wells III, Dane Emerson Wheeler, Patrick Williamson, Lamar Benjamin Wilson, Walter Johnson Wright Jr., James Ewel Yaconi, Benjamin Thomas Zimmermann, Yvette Bell, Melissa T. Elliot, James Austin Gazaway, Steven Randall Hines, Kevin E. Kuwik, Paul Timothy South, Reynaldo Benjamin Urrea, James Nelson Marker, Charles Richard Socks, Somsack Thanthima, Keith Mark Hall, Matthew John Hamater, Ruben Haro Jr., Demetrius Demonte Henderson, Jaime Demetrio Hoch, Matthew Scott Hopkins, Allen David Hughes, Charles Edward Hunter III, Muain Issa, Alvino Luis Jaime, Robert Anthony Jaso, Derrell Donte Jenkins, William Robert Johnson II, Kerry Kinney, and James Foster Knight.

Nicholas John Kowalczyk, David Marshall Kuzmar, Luis Arand Landecho, Dean Lane, Vincent Isaac Lenart, Kevin Lee Littlejohn, Jason Elliot Loebbaka, Angel Miguel Lozano, Darnell Porter Malone, Thomas Martinez, Brandon Thomas McCormick, Robert William Metcalf, William Arnett Mills Jr., Sean Minard, David Ernest Moake Jr., Donald Marvin Mull, Stephen Michael Otten Jr., Brian Scott Panzik, Gershom Richard Parr III, Bruce Wayne Pierce II, Gregory Allen Potter, Carlos Reyes, Jody Van Roberts, James Michael Robinson, Aaron Shane Santonelli, Julian Anthony Scott, Ashley Cole Sharp, Richard Smart, Terry Alan Specyal, Mark Thomas Tegtman, Jeremy Thomas, Jose Angel Tovalin, Enrique H. Uribe Jr., Aaron Michael Vance, Joseph Edgard Vedette, Michael Edgard Vician, Cornelius Horace Weathers, Aaron Michael Webb, Travis Lane Wheatley, Daniel Kareen Wiley, Larry V. Williams Jr., Danile James Wills Sr., Bryan Thomas Zabrecky, Leonard Leroy Cottom, Paul Raymond Gordon, Steve Elias Haddad, Benjamin Matthew Joy, Michael Alan Kieszowski, Thomas Willard Lamb, Jeremy Aaron Morton, Charles Andrew Pendleton, Peter Ruvalcaba, Alan Gene Scott, John Spann Everett, Derek Randall Sutton, and Alan Earle Thomas Jr.

on-one interviews with Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton. His career in TV journalism began in the early 1970s at WEWS TV-5, when he became northeast Ohio's first TV consumer advocate as "Action Reporter."

For nearly thirty years, Mr. Taylor has led the news team every weekday at Fox 8 News. His tenure as Chief News Anchor reflects twenty-five years of talent, grace and professional integrity. His kind and humble nature consistently belied his sharp intellect and keen ability to extract reason, truth and a balanced perspective from news ranging from heartfelt human interest stories to complex national issues. Mr. Taylor was awarded three Emmys and was selected by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences as a member of the prestigious Silver Circle. He is only the second news anchorperson ever honored with the Cleveland Association of Broadcaster's "Excellence in Broadcasting" award.

Mr. Taylor's unwavering dedication to his profession parallels his steadfast commitment to giving back to the community. Among his numerous volunteer efforts, Mr. Taylor's thirteen-year involvement with the annual Tim Taylor Golf Tournament to Benefit the Epilepsy Foundation has raised awareness and millions of dollars to assist families and individuals who suffer the devastating effects of epilepsy.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude of my friend, Tim Taylor, whose unwavering integrity and talent has permanently raised the bar on broadcast excellence in Northeast Ohio and whose genuine concern for others has uplifted our entire community. I wish Mr. Taylor, his wife Cathy, children and grandchildren much health and happiness today and throughout all days to come.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. VON ROCH

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, Robert L. Von Roch was born on May 10, 1942 in New York, New York. The son of a German immigrant father who passed away in late 1946, Robert, along with his brothers and sisters, was later placed in a Long Island orphanage around 1951. The children grew up in that orphanage where Robert lived until he graduated from high school and entered Allegheny College in Pennsylvania and enrolled in the Air Force ROTC.

When Robert finished college he entered the United States Air Force on September 30, 1964 as a 2nd lieutenant. He later became a captain and served in the Air Force until he was honorably discharged as a veteran on September 29th, 1968.

Following his service in the Air Force Mr. Von Roch went on to graduate school to pursue a law degree at Villanova. While studying at Villanova Mr. Von Roch was recruited to work on security at U.S. embassies around the world. Mr. Von Roch was hired to provide security at different embassies as well as heading security during construction and reconstruction at various embassies. He served in Russia, Finland, Jordan and Kuwait, among other countries.

IN HONOR OF TIM TAYLOR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Tim Taylor, award-winning television journalist, devoted family man, community volunteer and friend and mentor to many, including me, upon the occasion of his retirement that follows more than forty years of excellence in broadcast journalism in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Taylor worked for ten years in radio. For seven of those years, he worked as the News Director at WHK Radio, where he covered stories ranging from everyday events to pivotal moments in history, including the Hough Riots, the Kent State shootings and live coverage of the splashdown of the aborted Apollo 13 mission. Mr. Taylor also conducted in-depth, one-

Robert Von Roch's final assignment was in Africa where he became ill and was transported to Vienna for treatment. He was later sent home to recuperate fully, but unfortunately Robert never recovered. Mr. Von Roch passed away September 3, 2005. His family misses him greatly.

HONORING MRS. HELEN CAIRO
MCCARTHY OF ST. LOUIS DE
MONTFORT SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Helen Cairo McCarthy as she retires from an exceptional career in education.

Mrs. Cairo-McCarthy has devoted twenty-six years to the Catholic education of students in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Just over twenty-one years of her profession were spent as a teacher at St. Louis de Montfort School in Oak Lawn, Illinois.

St. Louis de Montfort School is located in the heart of Oak Lawn Illinois. Since its foundation in 1963 the small, progressive Catholic school has been committed to excellence in education and Catholic values. A dedicated faculty and staff work diligently to serve students in the offered classes, preschool through eighth grade.

Since 1984 Mrs. Cairo-McCarthy has touched countless lives with her gentle, caring manner at St. Louis de Montfort. She has taught students spanning from grades fourth through eighth, has served as a Eucharistic Minister, has been a Minister of Care for the Homebound, has been a facilitator of the Rainbows for All God's Children program. Mrs. Cairo-McCarthy has truly been a tremendous role model for the children as well as the faculty, family and friends of St. Louis de Montfort School.

It is my honor to recognize Mrs. Helen Cairo-McCarthy of St. Louis de Montfort School for her many achievements both within and outside of the classroom, fostering the growth of a community as well as helping solidify a foundation for our future. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending many wonderful wishes for Mrs. Cairo-McCarthy as she enters into retirement. While she may not be in the classroom each day, I am sure she will continue to influence many lives throughout her new endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD P. HOWE

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard P. Howe for his 40 years of public service to the City of Lowell. Richard P. Howe is a community leader, political activist, and dear friend.

The story of the city of Lowell is a cycle of rise and decline, a constant struggle to revive

and then maintain the local economy and to always improve the quality of life of its residents. During the past decade, Lowell has been in the ascent. The fully occupied Cross Point office towers, a rejuvenated downtown symbolized by the Bon Marche building, a newly constructed ballpark and arena, and 10 new schools are the symbols of Lowell's resurgence. Many people contributed to the success of these projects. There is one person, however, whose leadership was critical to each of these projects and that is City Councilor Richard P. Howe.

First elected in 1965, Howe's electoral accomplishments alone would identify him as having great impact on the revitalization of the city of Lowell. Tonight marks the end of a 40-year career on the Lowell City council. He has been mayor 4 times (8 years) and a city councilor for longer than anyone else in the city's history.

During the first half of his career, Howe's campaign slogan was "Keep a strong voice in city government." On that note, he never let his constituents down. While his critics—not coincidentally the targets of his pointed questions and critical comments—called him an obstructionist, the voters saw it differently, re-electing him repeatedly by comfortable margins. The time of Howe's fiercest political battles was also the time of his greatest electoral success, topping the ticket on four occasions.

Finishing first once again in the 1987 elections, Howe was unanimously elected mayor in January 1988. In a January 9, 1988 Sun article entitled "Richard Howe: From political outcast to elder statesman" Terry Williams called the veteran councilor's election as mayor "perhaps the most remarkable turn-about in recent Lowell history." Williams, however, ended with a question:

But will Howe, who made a career as a critic, be "comfortable" in his new role? And more importantly, will he be as effective as a leader as he was a dissident? The answer is critical to Lowell's future.

Events of the past 17 years have answered that question in the affirmative.

The first test of Howe's leadership abilities came within days, when the new mayor attended a hearing in the United States District Court in Boston. Judge Robert Keeton was about to place the city's schools under Federal control in response to a suit brought by the parents of minority students who alleged segregation and unequal treatment in Lowell's schools. Acceding to Howe's plea that, having just taken office, he needed some time to address the problem, the judge delayed the takeover. After numerous meetings, a city team led by Howe negotiated a settlement of the suit that prevented the Federal takeover. As a result of this desegregation settlement the city was able to secure funding for 10 new schools, making the physical plant of its school system the envy of every community in the State.

The city council ratified Howe's leadership by again electing him mayor in 1990, the first time in Lowell's history that a mayor served consecutive terms.

School desegregation was not the only problem that made this period a turbulent one. The influx of 30,000 Southeast Asian immigrants strained the city's resources to the breaking point. During this period, Howe made

frequent trips to Washington where he persuaded Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY to secure additional funds for the city to ease the strain. More importantly, Howe's principled and practical approach to Lowell's newest immigrants set the example for the rest of the city. The relatively smooth and rapid integration of an enormous population of new comers into Lowell's fabric is a remarkable and under appreciated story.

Economic difficulty returned, however. Banks were seized by the FDIC, foreclosures abounded, and Wang filed for bankruptcy. City government faced a \$14 million deficit. The city council of 1992-93 seemed powerless—or unwilling—to respond. That all changed with the election of November 1993 when the voters elected 6 new city councilors. They, in turn, elected Richard Howe mayor.

Mayor Howe played a major role in putting together the city council votes necessary to construct the Paul E. Tsongas Arena and Edward LeLacheur Field. No one played a greater role in securing an arena for Lowell than Paul Tsongas. But Tsongas, whose first vote on the Lowell City Council in January 1970 was to elect Richard Howe mayor, realized that unless you get a majority vote of the city council, no project would succeed. He also realized that Richard Howe, through the strength of his personality and the wisdom of his experience, had an unsurpassed ability to put those votes together.

While votes on the arena and baseball park are better known, Howe's leadership proved critical to the success of two other and equally important projects during this term. The city and the region were shocked when the Wang Towers were sold at auction for only \$525,000. Renaming the complex Cross Point, the new owners needed the city's help—in the form of a \$4 million letter of credit—to land Nynex as its anchor tenant. Viewed in light of Cross Point's subsequent sale in 1998 for \$110 million, the vote on the letter of credit could be viewed as a "no brainer." Nothing could be farther from the truth, however, because the vote to extend the letter of credit faced substantial opposition and succeeded only because of Howe's decisive leadership on the floor of the city council.

This scenario was replayed with the Bon Marche renovations. That building, long the anchor of downtown, had stood vacant and decaying for years until two local residents proposed its redevelopment. The finances would not work without city government providing a major tenant. In spite of strong opposition by some members of the school committee, Howe persuaded a majority of that board to lease two floors of the building for the school department headquarters, and convinced the city council to pay a portion of the rent. Bon Marche was a success, winning an award for historic preservation; it has resumed its former prominence in downtown Lowell.

In Lowell, during the past 40 years, Richard P. Howe has been a strong and independent voice in city government. Cross Point, the Bon Marche building, the Tsongas Arena, LeLacheur Field, and 10 new schools are monuments to his leadership.

CONGRATULATING THE Y.O. RANCH ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, people leave footprints on the land, but as most private property owners in Texas know, land leaves bigger footprints on people. The brave families that ventured to Texas when Texas was just bare land left an imprint on the land and in the souls of all who live in or around the legacies they leave behind. This is perfectly embodied in the Historic Y.O. Ranch in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. Five generations of the Schreiner family folks have left their indelible prints on the Y.O.

I want to congratulate the Hill Country for taking care of this legend and the Schreiner family for continuing the legacy of the Y.O. Ranch as they join together in their 125th Anniversary Celebration on December 31, 2005.

This legendary ranch sprang from a young man's dream and his family's determination to keep the dream alive. In 1852, 14-year-old Charles A. Schreiner arrived in Texas with his family—18 days later his father died and for the next 2 years Charles helped his family get by. When he turned 16, he enlisted in the Texas Rangers. When he "retired" from the Rangers 2½ years later, Charles took up ranching.

Charles, who was known as Captain Schreiner, began buying up Hill Country property and cattle. During this period, more than 300,000 head of Texas Longhorns bearing his brand trailed up to Dodge City laying the foundation of the Captain's empire. Part of this empire included the present day Y.O. Ranch, which the Captain purchased in 1880.

During his life, the Captain continued to gather land, launch successful enterprises and contribute to his community. In 1917, when he was 79 years old, the Captain divided his holdings, which included 566,000 acres of land, equally among his eight children. Walter R. Schreiner, the Captain's youngest son, was the owner of 69,000 acres located about 40 miles northwest of Kerrville now called the Y.O. Ranch. In 1922, Walter married Myrtle Barton a decision that not only gave the Y.O. a woman's touch, but another leader.

In 1933, Walter died, leaving the Y.O. to his wife, Myrtle and his young son, Charlie III. When Walter died at the height of the Great Depression, Myrtle knew nothing about running the ranch, but circumstances forced her to learn quickly and to learn well. She stepped up to the vast challenge of keeping the legacy alive.

Myrtle relied on her brother-in-laws, Gus and Louie Schreiner. By sticking to cattle, sheep and goats, Myrtle kept the ranch afloat and then some. Not bound by convention, in 1943, Myrtle leased the ranch to Petty Geophysical Engineering, not for oil and gas exploration, but for hunting. She pioneered a practice that has been adopted as an income generator on almost every ranch in Texas and has been a vital part of the Y.O.'s economic picture ever since.

Charlie III grew up on the ranch and learned ranching from the ground up, preparing to take on his share of the responsibility. In the after-

math of the drought of the 50s, Charlie III began his relentless pursuit of Longhorns. He had strong feelings for the animals and the role they'd played in developing the West and the Y.O. but the drought drove home the importance of having a hardy, resilient breed of cattle for tough times in tough country. Charlie III not only built the largest quality Longhorn herd in the world, but recruited other cattlemen to the cause and eventually helped found the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association and is widely credited with single handedly saving the longhorn breed from extinction.

Charlie III also undertook another notable conservation project providing a home to exotic wildlife a business that other ranchers later entered. The first animals released were blackbuck antelope and Aoudad sheep, which proved that higher fences were necessary. Today, the Y.O. is home to more than 60 exotic species, many of which are available for hunting.

Charlie III didn't introduce exotics with the intention of establishing a hunting program, but as the animals thrived and reproduced the numbers had to be managed. Plus, hunting is another source of revenue and is a vital part of the ranch's newest undertaking the people business. Other wildlife includes white-tailed deer, wild hogs, wild turkey, axis deer, eland antelope, sika deer and fallow deer.

Charlie III and his sons, Charlie IV, Walter, Gus and Louis, over the years, diversified into photography safaris, Y.O. Adventure Camp for children, corporate retreats and the Y.O. Ranch Steakhouse in Dallas's West End. But perhaps the biggest foray into this area came in 1986, when the Schreiner family set aside 11,000 acres to be sold as home sites for people who weren't born on the Y.O., but wanted to get to the Hill Country as soon as possible. The Schreiner family has worked hard to make it easy to for people to call the ranch home. Inside the high fence that surrounds Y.O. Ranchlands, buyers can choose from tracts ranging from 50 acres to 125 acres, all of which showcase the Hill Country's rugged beauty.

The ranch, then and now, survived strictly on the skills, creativity and determination of the owners. Fighting off Indians, outlaws, Wars, The Depression, Droughts, Estate Taxes, Divorces and Mother Nature, generations of Schreiners—and now landowners who've "joined the family"—continue to care for the beautiful Hill Country of Texas and preserve Texas's proud ranching heritage.

I wish Charlie IV and the rest of the Y.O. Schreiner family (all 17 of them) the best of luck in the future and am proud to congratulate the Y.O. Ranch on its 125th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on December 13, 2005, I was absent for several votes for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted: vote No. 623, Korean American Day, "yes"; vote No. 624, Presidential \$1 Coin Act, "no"; vote No. 625, Small Public Housing Authority Act, "yes."

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DINGELL'S SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service of a fellow Michigan congressman: the Honorable JOHN DINGELL, who marks today his fiftieth year as a member of this distinguished House of Representatives. The length of his labors is astounding; his constant concern for his constituents is exemplary; and his integrity is simply beyond reproach.

Having been elected to fill the seat and the shoes of his father (who passed away while still in office), Mr. DINGELL has blazed his own path over the past five decades. Impacting virtually every major piece of legislation to be signed into law during the last half century, Mr. DINGELL is one of a handful of lawmakers whose effectiveness does not rely solely on his party being in the majority.

Impressive in both stature and the tenacity with which he pursues his positions, Mr. DINGELL has lent his life to public service. The good citizens of his district and his colleagues here on the Hill are all the better for his tenure; may it long continue.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD A. "ED" PENICHE

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Edward A. "Ed" Peniche, of Houston, Texas. He has made an immeasurable contribution to America through two outstanding careers—first with the U.S. Army as an airborne soldier, and following his military retirement—achieving advanced degrees that enabled him to embark on a second career as a college professor. This career has been the fulfillment of Ed's childhood dreams for a better life.

Ed was born on June 25, 1925 in Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico. He was the oldest of eight children. His parents were not highly educated, but they instilled in their son the value of an education. To that end, he immigrated to the United States on December 7, 1942 on a student visa to pursue education that was what was not available to him in Mexico.

Ed arrived in Paducah, Kentucky with four dollars in his pocket and stayed with an aunt and uncle while attending high school. During this time, World War II was being fought, and on September 27, 1943, Ed entered active duty with the U.S. Army. He was trained as an airborne infantryman, and served with valor in combat from shortly after D-Day to VE-Day (Victory in Europe.)

Ed is very proud of his airborne training, which instilled in him a "can do" attitude despite all adversities. He served proudly and heroically with the 101st Airborne Division during the Battle of the Bulge, which started on

December 16, 1944. This was the greatest battle in the European Theater of World War II. Victory came with ferocious fighting at a cost of thousands of American casualties, but it provided a opening for General Patton's Third Army to march into the heart of Germany, which ultimately led to the unconditional surrender of the Nazi regime on May 8, 1945.

Ed was in Bastogne for eight days to hold the town despite repeated German ground assaults, continuous artillery and rocket bombardment, sub-zero temperatures, and bad weather conditions that prevented Allied air power from supporting the surrounded Americans. Despite these conditions, the 101st Airborne Division courageously held their ground and General McAuliffe famously replied "Nuts!" to the German Commanding General's offer to accept surrender or face immediate annihilation.

Ed was wounded in combat action on January 3, 1945 at Longchamps, Belgium, for which he received the Purple Heart Medal. He was assigned to a 57 mm anti-tank gun that was credited with knocking out three German tanks, and supported the destruction of seven other enemy tanks before an exploding German shell destroyed Ed's gun. Despite his own wounds, Ed voluntarily exposed himself to enemy fire to report the situation and guide medical aid men to the casualties in his unit. For his heroism on that day, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device indicating his personal valor in the engagement. Ed was also awarded a second Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in ground combat against enemy forces in the European Theater of Operations.

After the war, Ed served a brief stint in the Mexican Army and was co-founder of their Parachute School. He returned to the U.S. in 1952, and re-enlisted in the U.S. Army. Ed became a U.S. citizen on February 25, 1953, and on October 6 married Lois Dean "Deanie" Baggett of Paducah, KY. They had three sons, John, Carlos and Frank, six grandchildren to complete Ed and Deanie's family circle.

Ed completed his undergraduate degree by taking night courses while he served on active duty. He was awarded an AA degree in Liberal Arts from George Washington University in 1966, and a BGS degree in Political Science and History from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1969. An extended tour of duty in Vietnam lasted from January, 1959 to July, 1962. He was awarded the Joint Services Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Good Conduct Medals prior to his retirement from active duty as a U.S. Army Sergeant First Class in 1970.

Retirement allowed Ed to pursue graduate work full time at Murray State University in Kentucky. He was awarded a MA degree in Spanish-American Literature in 1971. Additional graduate work was done at the University of Virginia and the University of Texas.

Ed was a college professor at Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, Virginia for 22 years, and was awarded the title of "Professor Emeritus" on May 14, 1996. He was also a professor at Kingwood College, Texas until he retired from active teaching at the age of 74. He keeps busy by speaking at veterans' events and attending memorial commemorations honoring his fallen comrades at the Battle of the Bulge in Longchamps, Belgium.

Edward A. Peniche is the embodiment of the "American Dream." He achieved his ambi-

tions through hard work and self-motivation, and the tireless support of his wife Deanie. Ed has said on more than one occasion "I am most proud that I lived the American dream. This is the greatest country on earth!"

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to honor Ed Peniche's many lifetime achievements, and wish him and his beloved Deanie much happiness and good health in the years to come.

HONORING THE PERFECT FOOTBALL SEASON OF THE TROUSDALE COUNTY YELLOW JACKETS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the championship season of the Trousdale County Yellow Jackets. The Yellow Jackets brought their perfect season to an end by winning the 2005 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's Class 1A state championship.

Residents of Trousdale County, Tennessee, can be proud of their Yellow Jackets. Through determination and hard work, the team dominated their opponents with five shutouts and finished the season with a perfect 15-0 record.

In the state title game, the Yellow Jackets went on a rampage, scoring seven touchdowns and holding the Union City Golden Tornadoes to only two touchdowns.

Trousdale County High School has a long history of football supremacy. The Yellow Jackets have made the playoffs every year since 1988, and this year's championship win marks the sixth time since state playoffs began in 1969 that the team has won the title.

I commend the Yellow Jackets and their head coach, Clint Satterfield, for a fine season and an outstanding championship win. Kevin Creasy, Phillip Dean, Jackie Dillehay, Jason Dobbs, Jason East, Eric Eden, Adam Keeton, Steve McClain and Ronnie White serve as the team's assistant coaches. Toby Woodmore is Trousdale County High School's principal.

I congratulate all the talented members of the 2005 1A State Champion Yellow Jackets: Dustin Dillehay, Marco Wright, Jared White, Blake Satterfield, Nelson Harper, Samuel Dunn, Terrian Luster, Cal Welch, Creigh Hall, Michael Ring, Blake Merryman, Leroy Wooten, Josh Cunningham, John Scruggs, Justin Payne, Maurice Harris, Kendall Belcher, Kenneth Pedigo, Zach Porter, Derek Dunn, Tim Cunningham, Trondez Burnley, Shane Johns, Curt McGowan, Jeffrey Butcher, Terrance Calhoun, Krieg Story, Phillip White, Austin Dillion and Steven Angel.

A TRIBUTE TO BILL LEWIS

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Bill Lewis, a great American. Mr. Lewis passed away Saturday, No-

vember 26, 2005 at the age of 84. As an outstanding resident of Wilson County and as its first Director of Agriculture, I know that I speak for the masses when I say that he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Lewis was born in Fairmont, North Carolina and attended North Carolina State University where he graduated in 1942 with a degree in Agricultural Education. He served the United States of America from 1942 until 1945 as a member of the Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater. He was discharged as a Captain.

Mr. Speaker, after leaving the Army Air Corps, Mr. Lewis began work with the Agriculture Extension Service in 1948 as an Assistant County Agent working with Turkish tobacco at North Wilkesboro. Two years later he relocated to Wilson County.

Mr. Lewis served the people of North Carolina his entire life. He established Wilson County's Agriculture Extension program which continues to serve the County well. He served as President of the North Carolina Association of County Agricultural Agents (NCACAA) from 1968-1969 and was also Chairman of NCACAA in 1971. He was a member of the National Committee of Extension programs in 1971. Mr. Lewis also served as Agriculture Advisor to North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt where he was able to ensure North Carolina's agricultural success.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lewis was awarded for his great contributions to North Carolina agriculture when he was presented with the Distinguished Service Award from Wilson's Kiwanis Club in 1962. Mr. Lewis was also recognized in 1972 by Southern Tobacco Journal and served as Chairman of the extension programs committee of NACAA from 1973 until 1974. Under his Directorship, the Wilson County extension staff was recognized on two occasions by the Epsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity for team work and total performance.

Mr. Speaker, I value this opportunity to pay tribute to such an outstanding citizen. I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the outstanding contributions of Mr. Bill Lewis to the state of North Carolina and to this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST LIEUTENANT CHRISTOPHER JOHN BUSCAGLIA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 1LT Christopher John Buscaglia of the 110th Mountain Division of the United States Army. A native of Western New York, Lieutenant Buscaglia exemplifies the character and good will of our community.

Following his graduation from high school, Lieutenant Buscaglia stayed in Buffalo to attend Canisius College. There, he majored in history and excelled academically. Outside of the classroom, he played the French horn in the college band, was a talented photographer for the campus newspaper, and, for three consecutive summers, spent 2 weeks in Mexico City, running a day-camp for neighborhood kids.

Walking through the halls of Canisius, Lieutenant Buscaglia looked like any other student. But if you saw him running down Main Street

early in the morning before classes or spending his vacations in camouflage at Fort Drum, Lieutenant Buscaglia looked much different. In addition to all his academic and extra-curricular accomplishments, he spent his free time training to become an officer in the United States Army.

After graduation in 2004, Lieutenant Buscaglia was commissioned and, for the last 5 months, has served with distinction as an intelligence officer and platoon leader in Iraq. Because of his dedication to duty, Lieutenant Buscaglia has recovered information that prevented numerous insurgent attacks and saved American lives. Appropriately, he has received outstanding ratings from senior officers and the respect of his fellow soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, the debt we owe to our servicemen and women can never be fully repaid—they protect our shores, our families, and our democratic government. Lieutenant Buscaglia put his bright future on hold and volunteered to fight on our behalf. I thank him today for his dedication to the safety of all Americans and his willingness to serve our Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE LOS ANGELES GALAXY ON THEIR VICTORY IN THE 2005 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the players, coaches, staff, and owners of the Los Angeles Galaxy for winning the 2005 Major League Soccer (MLS) Cup Championship and to pay tribute to this historic feat.

On November 13, 2005 in Frisco, Texas, the Galaxy became the 10th MLS Champion by defeating the New England Revolution by a score of 1–0 in extra time. This is the Galaxy's second MLS championship and represents only the third time in league history that a team has won the "domestic double"—the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup and the MLS Cup Championship in the same year.

The team was challenged throughout the entire season both from sustaining several injuries and also player absences due to call-ups by the United States Men's National Team. The Galaxy's ability to overcome these adversities is a testament to the skill of the coaching staff and the talent of players who never once compromised team cohesiveness for individual glory.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the individual players for their role in developing this championship team. This year's superb squad was led by team captain Peter Vagenas and a terrific line up that included Chris Albright, Benjamin Benditson, Pablo Chinchilla, Mubarike Chisoni, Steve Cronin, Ednaldo da Conceicao, Landon Donovan, Todd Dunivant, Michael Enfield, Josh Gardner, Herculez Gomez, Guillermo Gonzalez, Alan Gordon, Ned Grabavoy, Kevin Hartman, Ugo Ihemelu, David Johnson, Cobi Jones, Quavas Kirk, Tyrone Marshall, Paulo Nagamura, Joseph Ngwenya, Michael Nsien, Troy Roberts, Marcelo Saragosa, Josh Saun-

ders, Michael Umana, and the 2005 MLS Cup's Most Valuable Player, midfielder Guillermo "Pando" Ramirez.

The coaching crew was also instrumental in cultivating this triumphant team. The fantastic staff was led by head coach Steve Sampson; assistant coaches Afshin Ghotbi, Billy McNicol, and Ignacio Hernandez; Head Athletic Trainer Ivan Pierra; Team Administrator Anthony Garcia; and Equipment Manager Raul Vargas.

Mr. Speaker, my hometown of Los Angeles has the best fans any team can ask for. They are more than just spectators, they are the 12th player on the field—building momentum and inspiring their team to fight on to victory. These devoted and spirited fans contributed to eight sold out home games and brought the average home game attendance to 24,000 people this season.

The Los Angeles Galaxy deserves as many accolades for their heroic work off the field as they do for their gallant efforts on the field. During the past several years, the Galaxy Foundation has hosted the Foundation's Feast, which provides Thanksgiving dinner for 200 needy children and families. The Foundation also hosts a special holiday shopping spree for children selected by several local Salvation Army chapters.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman TOM DAVIS, Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN, Congressman CHRIS CANNON, and Congressman DANNY DAVIS for their help in bringing H. Res. 574 to the floor today.

The Los Angeles Galaxy is a truly remarkable team whose high standards of excellence, professionalism, demonstrated courage, sacrifice, and teamwork should be commended. Their passion continues to captivate a growing and diverse fan base from all across Southern California.

Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, please join me and all soccer fans from across the country and the around world in congratulating the 2005 Major League Soccer Cup Champions Los Angeles Galaxy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. Last Thursday, I was unable to vote on tabling the motion on H. Res. 591, a resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House (rollcall No. 622), due to an unavoidable commitment in New Jersey. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 622.

CONGRATULATING THE HIGHLAND PARK SCOTS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE TEXAS CLASS 4A DIVISION I HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Scots of Highland Park High

School in Dallas, Texas for winning their first State Championship in almost half a century, defeating the Marshall High School Mavericks by the largest margin of victory in Texas High School eleven-man Football Championship history. I am proud to represent Highland Park as part of the 32nd District of Texas.

Head Coach Randy Allen and his team put on an impressive display at Tyler's Rose Stadium in front of over 14,000 fans plus several thousand more who couldn't get in due to a lack of seating. It was a fitting end to their first-ever undefeated, untied season of 15–0. Highland Park dominated the competition throughout the season on their way to their first State Championship appearance since 1957, with only one game in the entire season decided by 7 points or less.

This team and its fans have certainly waited a long time to reach this point. They have come extremely close to reaching the final game several times in recent years, but have always come up just a little shy. Twice in the past 10 years the Scots have seemingly been within arm's reach of the championship game, losing in the semifinals in both 1996 and 2003. After having come so close with such talented teams, they and their fans were very ready to return to glory.

Their avid fans came out in droves to support them in the championship game, even prompting the operators of the Rose Stadium to erect more seats at the last minute to accommodate up to 2,000 more fans. They also lobbied successfully to have the game broadcast live so that all of the Highland Park faithful who were unable to get tickets to the game could at least watch from afar as their beloved Scots brought home their first championship in 48 years.

The 2005 Scots, dubbed the "Band of Brothers," fielded quite a large and talented team. It consisted of 116 total players, including at least one national standout. Matthew Stafford, the Scots quarterback, broke the school's passing record on the team's road to victory by throwing for over 8,000 yards in his three seasons at the helm. Stafford, considered by some to be the top recruit in the country at his position, will attend the University of Georgia next year. Another notable performance was that of senior Jake Feldt, who scored an incredible five touchdowns in a valiant effort for his team during the championship game.

In closing, I would like to honor the Highland Park Scots Football Team, HP coach Randy Allen, and the Community of Highland Park for their spirit, dedication, and winning attitude in their best season in a historically competitive program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, due to a technical error my vote was not recorded for rollcall 618. I should have been recorded as voting "yes." Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD immediately following this vote. H.R. 4440, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, rollcall No. 618, "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, I was unavoidably detained due to the birth of my daughter, thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 623, 624, and 625. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF FREMONT, CALIFORNIA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Fremont, California's 50th anniversary. Fremont is the largest city in the 13th Congressional District. When Fremont incorporated in 1956, it had a population of approximately 22,000 residents. Today, Fremont residents number over 210,000, nearly 10 times the population of 50 years ago.

The Ohlone people and their ancestors had occupied Fremont for thousands of years when Spanish priests arrived from Mexico and founded Mission San Jose in 1797. After Mexico won independence from Spain in the early 1800s, an appointed administrator divided the mission lands into four large tracts known as Rancho del Agua Caliente, Rancho Arroyo de la Alameda, Rancho Portero de los Cerritos and Mission San Jose.

John C. Fremont arrived in the 1840s to map a trail through Mission Pass. California's admission to the United States and the Gold Rush stimulated further migration to the area, attracting people from all parts of the world. By 1853, the communities of Mission San Jose, Centerville, Niles, Irvington and Warm Springs had formed themselves into Washington Township. The City of Fremont officially came into existence on January 23, 1956, when citizens of these communities voted to incorporate their town to form a single city.

Fremont is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse cities in the United States. Over 137 languages are spoken; its residents come from all 50 states within the United States as well as 155 countries throughout the world.

The celebration of Fremont's 50th anniversary promises to be as unique as Fremont itself. Celebrate Fremont's mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Fremont Community, now and for generations to come by serving all segments of the community by promoting the vitality of nonprofit organizations, fostering volunteerism and serving as a vital resource that promotes and enhances community activities including but not limited to those civic, cultural, and educational activities that celebrate the past, present and future of Fremont.

I join the City of Fremont's civic leaders and its residents in celebrating Fremont's 50th anniversary. The motto for the celebration is "creating a legacy for tomorrow by cherishing our past and connecting with our present."

This celebration offers the city an historic opportunity to celebrate its past, while uniting its diverse community and historic districts around a shared vision for the future. Happy Birthday Fremont and best wishes for continued success as a model city.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS HOUSING FAIRNESS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation that allows veterans to use their guaranteed VA loans to purchase co-operative housing units. FHA and other government agencies already have programs to give loans for co-operative residential units, and most banks accept co-operative shares as collateral. The Department of Veterans Affairs should do the same. For many veterans who live in communities where co-operative housing is common or where the cost of houses and condominiums can be high, a co-operative residential unit is an affordable alternative.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WATERTOWN, TENNESSEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of Watertown, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body.

The community in Wilson County was originally known as Three Forks, but the town's Postmaster, Wilson L. Waters, changed the name to Watertown. Eventually, the town's name changed one final time to Watertown. The town was incorporated in 1905 as a result of a devastating fire in 1903. Today, Watertown's residents enjoy a quality of life that is second to none.

Throughout history, Watertown has been home to several thriving businesses. Williams Pin Mill put the community on the map, as it was the largest manufacturer of threaded insulator rods in the world. Another notable business is the Watertown Bed and Breakfast, the only structure that survived the numerous fires, including the great fire of 1903, that ripped through Watertown during its adolescent years.

The citizens of Watertown embrace their community, and that spirit has made it the flourishing town it is today. The Watertown Jazz Festival, a popular musical event held in July, draws crowds from hundreds of miles away. Another famous attribute is Watertown's Excursion Train. These passenger trains, operated by Tennessee Central Railway Museum, take riders on a scenic tour of Middle Tennessee.

I congratulate Watertown on this anniversary, and I hope the next 100 years are as prosperous and progressive as the first 100 years.

HONORING MR. J.W. ANDREWS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS BEING HONORED WITH "J.W. ANDREWS ROAD"

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. J.W. Andrews of Preswick, Alabama, on the occasion of his being honored by his community with the naming of the "J.W. Andrews Road" in Jackson, Alabama.

Mr. Andrews was born on August 30, 1919, and he has dedicated much of his life to the service of Clarke county. He married the former Ida B. Tiggs, and they had four children. He is the owner of Andrews Funeral Home in Jackson, Alabama; a business in which he remains active to this day.

In 1978, Mr. Andrews became president of the Clarke County Voter's League. In this position, he ensured African Americans were able to serve as deputy registrars with the Clarke County Board of Registrars.

In 1981, Mr. Andrews was recognized by then Alabama Governor Fob James who praised him for his support in the successful passage of a responsible education budget.

Mr. Andrews was also the first African American to serve on the Clarke County Board of Education, a capacity in which he served for two years.

In 1985, Mr. Andrews became the first of two African Americans to ever be elected to the Jackson City Council. He served on the city council for over 14 years in district one.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating J.W. Andrews for both the great success he has enjoyed in his life and his outstanding representation of the Clarke County, Alabama. I know his wife Ida, his children, many friends, and colleagues are also proud of him, and I wish Mr. Andrews and his entire family much health and success in the years ahead.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT OF CROATIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter this letter into the RECORD. The letter focuses on the importance of the U.S. State Department's support of Croatia's membership into NATO.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
CROATIAN AMERICANS (NFCA),
Washington, DC, Nov. 3, 2005.

Re Resolution on The Republic of Croatia and NATO Membership.

The Hon. ELTON GALLEGLY,
Chairman, Europe and Emerging Threats Subcommittee, International Relations Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the National Federation of Croatian Americans (NFCA), I want to commend and thank you for the courageous leadership you have shown by introducing H. Res. 529. The NFCA was pleased to contribute to the Resolution's

development, and we stand ready with our national community to assist you in generating support for its expeditious passage in the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. State Department may object to some of the language in this Resolution, since over time the State Department has ramped up its requirements related to Croatia's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This Department's requirement for support of Croatia's entry into NATO has actually morphed from 'complete cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, in the pursuit of the remaining indictee' to 'the capture and delivery of the remaining indictee to The Hague'. The State Department holds to this position in spite of the fact that the ICTY Chief Prosecutor claims that the remaining indictee is hiding in an Italian monastery protected by the Vatican. The ICTY Chief Prosecutor has further asserted that Croatia is now completely cooperating with the ICTY. Furthermore, the new government of Prime Minister Ivo Sanader has affirmed the Government of Croatia's commitment to cooperate fully and continue to take all necessary steps to locate and transfer the remaining indictee to the ICTY. After complying with 626 demands of the ICTY, the people of the free and democratic Republic of Croatia deserve better treatment from the United States and they have certainly earned our strong support expressed so well in this Resolution.

We agree with the view that stability in South Central Europe is of a very high priority, and that Croatia has become a valuable, constructive partner in this delicate region. Given the potential for future regional conflicts, NATO should want to take advantage of the greater contribution that Croatia would make toward peace and stability as a full member of NATO. As you know, Montenegro may wish to break from Serbia in the future, and Kosovo is considering its own independence. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina has yet to be reconstituted into a nation-state that can equitably govern its three ethnic constituencies. And, unfortunately, The Serbian Radical Party—using Republika Srpska as a foothold—openly promulgates activities oriented towards the creation of a Greater Serbia, which may also include current parts of Croatia. These potentially explosive situations require the stability that a NATO presence in Croatia will provide.

I am taking the liberty of providing a copy of this letter to your Subcommittee's Ranking Member, Representative Robert Wexler, and to the Co-Chairs of the Croatian Caucus, Representatives George Radanovich and Peter Visclosky, who we believe will be helpful on this matter. If I may provide anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or our NFCA Government Relations Director, Mr. Joseph Foley. Thank you again for your important continued support for Croatia's NATO membership.

Sincerely,

EDWARD A. ANDRUS,
President.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, CORRECTION: I intended to vote against the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement and attempted to do so. Upon inquiring with the clerk why my

vote was recorded as a "yes" instead of a "no", the clerk checked the electronic record and discovered that I had pressed the "no" button several times on the preceding vote. At no time did I intend to cast a "yes" vote on the agreement. To date, I have voted against every trade agreement that has come up while I have been in Congress, including the agreement with Bahrain.

TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD— RETURNING FREEDOM FIGHTERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, a National Guard unit is coming back home to Texas. On Saturday, December 17, 2005, the 1st Battalion 133rd Field Artillery will be welcomed back home to the Beaumont Armory, in Beaumont, Texas after bravely serving the past year in Iraq. In August 2004 the Texas Army National Guard deployed the 56th Brigade Combat Team of the 36th Infantry Division, to go to Iraq. They trained for four months in Ft. Hood, and got to Iraq in December of 2004.

The 133rd Field Artillery has a long-standing history. This was the same famous Texas Army National Guard Division that landed on the beaches of Anzio, Italy during WWII, liberated Rome and freed hostages in Dachau, Germany.

They continued this long-standing tradition in Iraq where they conducted offensive operations, deny and destroy operations, combat logistic patrols and civil military affairs operations. They built schools, hospitals, and won the hearts of the Iraqis they met along the way.

In January, I had the privilege of going to Iraq to witness the first elections. I met with our military and saw firsthand their accomplishments in their fight for Iraqi freedom.

Mr. Speaker, freedom has a price. Our troops are paying that sacrificial price for the Iraqi people and world freedom. Unfortunately, the 133rd lost 6 members during their fight for freedom and I would like to extend my prayers and our condolences to their family and friends. They were making a difference in the world when they gave their life. Their bravery, dedication and patriotism will never be forgotten.

President John Kennedy once said, "The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission." We have chosen the right path, the hard path, the freedom path. We will persevere with the freedom loving people of Iraq until the journey down this path is successfully completed.

The 133rd operated in the Sunni Triangle, Tikrit, Tillal, on the Jordanian Border and in Baghdad and it is my pleasure to welcome them back to Beaumont, Texas today. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the members of the 133rd and all the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. They have honored us with their commitment to Texas and the Nation, and the citizens of America and Iraq owe them a debt of gratitude. They are America's best. They are the sons and daughters of liberty, they are freedom fighters. They make us proud.

I join the citizens of Texas's 2nd Congressional District in paying the utmost respect to the 1st Battalion 133rd Field Artillery. Through their service, Iraq is a free democracy, and America remains the land of the free and the home of the brave. That's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT TUCKER, THE SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT MANAGER OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, WHO IS RETIRING AFTER 13 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Scott Tucker, District Manager of the San Francisco District of the U.S. Postal Service. Mr. Tucker has served the San Francisco/Bay Area with distinction for thirteen years. On January 1, 2006, Mr. Tucker will retire from his post as District Manager.

Under Mr. Tucker's supervision, the San Francisco postal district has been recognized continually as having one of the best on-time mail services of any metropolitan area in the nation. When one considers that Mr. Tucker oversees a workforce of 10,400 employees who are responsible for delivery of nearly 10 million pieces of mail daily, to 3 million customers in San Francisco, the Peninsula and throughout Northwest California from Sunnyvale to the Oregon border—the success of his district has been no simple feat.

Mr. Speaker, Scott Tucker began his postal career in 1968 as a letter carrier in Hanford, California. During his career with the Postal Service, he has held a succession of managerial positions in postal operations, ascending to his current post in 1992. Throughout his career, Scott Tucker has been recognized by a multitude of community organizations for his outstanding service.

As lead executive for the San Francisco postal district, Mr. Tucker worked aggressively to heighten awareness of the multicultural groups within the District. Establishing diversity leadership advisory councils including a Women's Council, African American Council, Asian American/Pacific Islander Council and Hispanic Council, Scott Tucker was named the recipient of a diversity leadership achievement award presented by the Bay Area Federal Executive Board, for these efforts.

However, Mr. Speaker, Scott Tucker's accolades do not end here. Additionally, he was recognized by the Federal Asian Pacific American Council for promoting Diversity/Equal Employment Opportunity in the workforce. He also earned the Excellence in Public Service Award from the Chinese American Voters Education Committee for his community service.

Mr. Tucker's fine work reached overseas to military service personnel stationed abroad earning him honors by the Joint Military Postal Activity-Pacific. The California National Guard also recognized Mr. Tucker for his support of our troops in Iraq, some of whom are postal employees with reserve status that were called to duty.

Mr. Speaker, under Mr. Tucker's leadership, the San Francisco District received the "Order

of Yellow Jersey" for nine consecutive quarters, a prestigious award that recognizes a Postal district for excellence in customer satisfaction and commitment to professionalism.

Last but not least, in the culmination of his dedication in service to the people of the San Francisco Postal District, Mr. Tucker was the recipient of the Postmaster General Award, one of the top awards given to postal executives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in this great opportunity to recognize one of our finest public servants, Mr. Scott Tucker. Please join me in wishing Scott Tucker a happy and fulfilling retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALCOA HIGH SCHOOL'S TORNADO FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on December 2nd of this year, the Alcoa High School Tornado football team finished its season as the 2005 Class 2A Tennessee state champions after defeating Goodpasture High School of Nashville, 55-13, at this year's championship game in Murfreesboro, TN. This is Alcoa's second straight state championship and the seventh state title in Alcoa High School's history.

This victory capped off an outstanding season for Head Coach John Reid's Tornados as they amassed a record of 14-1. They did so behind the leadership of only nine seniors and a dominant offensive attack led by outstanding play of Quarterback Joei Fiegler, Brandon Warren, recipient of the Mr. Football award as the state's finest player, and Dustin Lindsay, also a finalist for the Mr. Football award and a future University of Tennessee Volunteer.

The Tornado offense lit up scoreboards this season as they scored 40 or more points a remarkable ten times this season, had an amazing five game stretch in which they scored 68, 52, 55, 69 and 91 points respectively and became the first team in Tennessee High School football history to average more than 50 points a game throughout the playoffs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Head Coach John Reid and the Alcoa High School Tornado football team for their outstanding victory. I also include the following news article printed in the Maryville Daily Times. The team's leadership, strength, and determination should be recognized by all, and their sportsmanship and dedication are at a level that should be followed by every high school team in this Country.

[From the Maryville Daily Times: Dec. 3, 2005]

SHIVERDECKER, HICKS NAMED MVPs

(By Kelly Franklin)

Shooting fish in a barrel would be similar to the job faced by TSSAA officials in choosing Most Valuable Players after Alcoa's state championship victory over Goodpasture on Friday night.

For the record, the offensive hardware was won by Chris Shiverdecker and Bart Hicks took the defensive trophy. Both were well deserved.

Shiverdecker finished with three touchdowns including a back-breaking, 86-yard kickoff return, and ran for 126 yards on 13 carries.

Hicks led the stiff Alcoa defense with nine tackles, including five solo stops. Using a new 5-2 formation with Hicks roaming from sideline to sideline, the defenders didn't allow Goodpasture to crack the end zone until Alcoa was already up 34-0 late in the third period.

But there was no shortage of other candidates.

As Claude Rains said in the classic movie Casablanca, "Round up the usual suspects."

Start with Dustin Lindsey, just as the Tornados did. Perhaps feeling snubbed by missing out on the Mr. Football award, the future Volunteer scored Alcoa's first two touchdowns and added another on a 47-yard catch-and-run to give his team a 34-0 halftime lead.

He also added 55 rushing yards, contained the Goodpasture run game from his defensive end-linebacker position, and added a fumble recovery for extra measure.

Then consider how often a quarterback is going to tie a state championship record for touchdown tosses and not be chosen.

Joei Fiegler tied that mark in one quarter, as he went 4 for 4 in period two.

That's four completions, four scores. He finished with nine completions on 11 attempts for 140 yards. Only a pass interference call against Goodpasture early in the fourth quarter prevented the mark from being his alone. As in many Alcoa games this year, the left-hander basically shut down his passing attack at the half once the lead was firmly established.

Fiegler, whose current short-list of colleges includes Louisville, North Carolina State and Southern Miss, also punted for a 41-yard average. His first boomer was mis-handled by Goodpasture, recovered by Logan Love (speaking of unsung heroes) and converted into the first Alcoa score of the night.

Throw in Kyrus Lanxter, with two touchdown receptions, and Brian Sommer, who picked off his 12th interception of the season to set up Lanxter's first score.

Alcoa head coach John Reid even offered up a dark-horse entry for MVP status, the offensive line.

"What about the O-line?" asked Reid when queried about the heroes.

"Everyone said they (Goodpasture) were too big and we couldn't move them out, but our line was just tremendous and without them Chris doesn't get those yards," said the third-year skipper.

Shiverdecker and Hicks, both juniors, send a strong signal to future Alcoa opponents that the graduation of Lindsey, Fiegler, Love, Martin White, Brandon Warren and others doesn't mean there's going to be a drop-off.

"They'll be back here next year," said Lindsey. "This is not just us, this is a dynasty."

"We expected the seniors to get those awards," said Shiverdecker, "but it's all just one team working together anyway."

A team, made up of unselfish and talented individuals. And sporting one more championship trophy now.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GRANBY, COLORADO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the town of Granby, Colorado.

Granby is a small town with a population of 1,525 located on the Fraser River with breathtaking views of the Continental Divide and Rocky Mountain National Park. Despite its size, Granby holds an important place within Colorado's history. It was first settled in 1904 and incorporated the next year. The town was established along the railroad line being built by Denver, Northwestern & Pacific and was a connection with the state route to Grand Lake.

The Granby site was chosen because of the dry ground and good view of the surrounding mountains. The town was named in appreciation of the services of Denver attorney, Granby Hillyer, who worked to layout the town site.

By the 1920's the town was a thriving commercial and service center for local farmers and ranchers. It was during this time that Granby became known for its lettuce which became a major crop for Granby. In fact, at the peak of the market, the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York City proudly advertised Granby Head Lettuce on its menus.

Today Granby boasts some of the finest recreational opportunities that Colorado is so well-known for, including hiking, rafting, hunting, gold medal river water for fishing, horseback riding, and dog sledding. To name a few.

Granby is also known for its local charm and hospitality, as well as its preservation of its western rural roots—I have developed an affinity with this town and appreciate the friendliness and communal spirit of its residents. This community has welcomed me to their town in a manner that greatly reflects the essence of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in commemorating the historic 100th anniversary of Granby, Colorado. I believe that by honoring Granby and all the other historic small towns of this vast nation, we keep the great tradition of the American spirit alive for future generations. We must not forget about the many places that molded our country into what it is today. Centennial celebrations are few and far between, and Granby is deserving of our recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 487, Supporting the goals and ideals of Korean American Day (rollcall 623); on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1027, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of each of the Nation's past President and their spouses, respectively, to improve circulation of the \$1

coin, to create a new bulletin coin (rollcall 624); on motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3422, the Small Public Housing Authority Act (rollcall 625). Had I been present, I would have vote "yea" on all 3 measures.

HONORING LUCY POPSON

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Lucy Popson, an outstanding teacher in our community. Mrs. Popson is the proud recipient of the Arizona Teacher of the Year Award for 2005.

The Teacher of the Year Award honors teachers that are not only exemplary in the classroom, but teachers that are involved in the community as well. Nominated teachers are identified as leaders by parents, students, and co-workers. They gain the admiration of everyone they work with, and their efforts on behalf of education are notable.

Lucy Popson exceeds these criteria. She is dedicated to her students and to her community, teaching at Walter Douglass Elementary school for 23 years, and third-grade for the past 11 years.

Mrs. Popson always makes sure her students are learning and she strives to make every student understand the material. She is a teacher that understands the different needs of students, teaching material in multiple styles to ensure that no student is left out in the learning process. Mrs. Popson strives to make her lessons fun and interesting. She is proud of her students and has a superior ability to help all her students achieve.

When Mrs. Popson was asked about her feelings upon receipt of the award, she stated, "This is a team effort . . . Teaching is not one person. It's a bunch of people working together." She brought this statement to life when she dedicated her award to all those who help her in the Plowing Wells School District.

Teaching is a talent that few possess and even fewer choose to pursue as a career. All teachers in our community need to be recognized for their enormous efforts to enrich the lives of children. It is teachers such as Lucy Popson who deserve awards for their daily achievement of helping students.

I honor Lucy Popson for her generosity, kindness, and compassion and thank her for committing herself to the profession of teaching.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, DC, yesterday, and part of today. As a result I missed several votes. Had I been able to vote I would have voted in support of H. Res. 487, S. 1047, H. Res. 594, for the motion to recommit H.R. 3199, and against final passage of H.R. 3199. I would have voted against H.R. 3010.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL'S RED REBEL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on December 3 of this year, the Maryville High School Red Rebel football team finished its season with an undefeated record of 15-0 as it became the 2005 Class 4A State champions. The Red Rebels defeated Melrose High School of Memphis, 23-10 at this year's championship game in Murfreesboro, TN. This victory gave Maryville its second straight State championship, its fifth championship in the past 6 years and its ninth Football State Championship overall.

At the beginning of the 2005 season, Maryville Coach George Quarles stated that it was his goal for each senior class to win a State championship. This particular senior class has not only achieved this goal set by Coach Quarles but they exceeded it. This group of seniors will leave Maryville High School having won three State Championships, completed each of its regular seasons undefeated and achieved an outstanding record of 58 wins to only 1 defeat. The Red Rebels became the first team in 10 years to finish consecutive seasons with an unblemished record.

I am proud of the Maryville Red Rebel football program as it has become a perennial powerhouse under Coach Quarles. Year in and year out, Coach Quarles has produced winners on and off the football field.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Head Coach George Quarles and the Maryville High School Red Rebel football team for their glorious victory. I also include the following news article printed in the Knoxville News Sentinel. The team's leadership, strength, and determination should be recognized by all, and their sportsmanship and dedication are at a level that should be followed by every high school team in this country.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, Dec. 11, 2005]

MARYVILLE, ALCOA HONORED FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

(By Brad Gaskins)

MARYVILLE.—John Reid and George Quarles know good high school football programs when they see 'em. Reid of Alcoa and Quarles of Maryville both won second consecutive state championships last weekend.

Their programs shared the stage in celebration Saturday morning at the amphitheater downtown, on what was proclaimed "Maryville Rebels and Alcoa Tornadoes Day" by the mayors of the respective cities.

The respect between the Blount County programs is more than mere chivalry.

"You think of Alcoa-Maryville, you think of enemies, or rivals," Quarles said. "And it certainly wasn't like that today. Both schools have a healthy amount of respect for one another."

"In their case," Reid said of Maryville, "good coaching is going on. We discuss things back and forth. Both staffs are dedicated to being good football teams."

Both proved how good last weekend in Murfreesboro. Maryville beat Memphis Melrose 23-10 in the Class 4A title game. In 2A, Alcoa beat Goodpasture 55-13.

Maryville mayor Joe Swann had a "unique" situation on his hands.

"A lot of people celebrate a state championship," Swann said. "These kids get a chance to celebrate together."

"They've both accomplished something that's really remarkable. It'll make for a lot of good conversations over the years between these boys as the grow up in this community."

It's that community, Alcoa senior running back and University of Tennessee commitment Dustin Lindsey said, that made all this possible.

"It's not only coaches and players, it's people in general," he said. "We've got a wonderful community that's backing us up, and people that love each other."

The community wasn't cheering the night of Nov. 29, 2003. Both teams were eliminated from the playoffs in semifinal losses.

Since then, neither team has lost to a team outside Blount County. Maryville went undefeated and handed Alcoa its only two losses. Combined record: 58-2.

"I think that says about all you need to say about it," Quarles said. "There's good football in Blount County."

"In this size of a county," Reid said, "to be carrying around four state championship balls is unbelievable."

Three years ago, Reid became Alcoa's coach, wondering if the Tornadoes would ever win a game. They've lost just six.

"How lucky can you get?" Reid asked aloud. "And that's part of it."

"It seems so incredible that 365 days have gone by this fast," Reid said of last year's celebration. "It's a tremendous amount of work to get here, and I think that's one of the things that gets overlooked at times."

Alcoa was expected to win it all this year. Maryville was not, but still won its fifth title in 6 years. What was most fulfilling?

"The fact that a lot of people didn't give us much chance," Quarles said. "We lost so many players from last year's team, but these kids refused to listen to other people."

"They wanted to make sure that they gave themselves every opportunity to hopefully win a state championship."

Thirty minutes after the ceremony, Quarles was fielding his last question from reporters. He waved at a passing jogger where the crowd had stood, and offered one last pep talk to players of both teams:

"If you've watched the movie 'Friday Night Lights,' you see people who live in the past, where the greatest thing that ever happened to them was a state championship," he said. "I don't want this to be the best thing that ever happens to these kids. I want them to take what they've learned in football and be successful in life."

"Be a good dad, a good husband, a leader in the community—all those things. Don't let this be the high water mark. A lot of people live in the past. That's a mistake."

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT E. FISCHELL

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Dr. Robert E. Fischell, a mechanical engineer, biomedical engineer, inventor, physicist, researcher and teacher. Robert Fischell is one of the brightest, most accomplished people I have ever met.

Let me tell you a little bit about his career. After graduating cum laude from Duke University in 1951 with a degree in mechanical engineering, Bob earned a Masters degree in

physics from the University of Maryland, where he also holds an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

In 1959, he went to work for the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL), where he developed a number of inventions dealing with the control of satellites. His work at APL has led to numerous awards, including the IR-100 Award which is presented annually for the 100 most significant inventions. He has won this honor twice; once in 1970 for a rechargeable pacemaker, and again in 1973 for a drag-free satellite.

Dr. Fischell holds nearly 200 U.S. and international patents. His inventions—which include an implantable insulin pump, a rechargeable pacemaker, a flexible stent for placement in coronary arteries, and a micro-miniaturized computer that can be implanted to prevent epileptic seizures—have changed the practice of medicine and saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

On December 19, the University of Maryland at College Park is announcing the establishment of the Fischell Department of Bio-engineering and the Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Robert E. Fischell, an innovative American inventor who has made enormous contributions to medicine, space discovery and higher education.

COMMEMORATING THE JAVITS-WAGNER O'DAY PROGRAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commemorate the Javits-Wagner O'Day program (JWOD) on the service they provide to thousands of individuals.

The JWOD program is the single largest source of employment for individuals who are blind or have severe disabilities. This program employs more than 45,000 people. The JWOD program trains persons with disabilities to acquire job skills that will be resourceful in their everyday lives. With these skills and training, a participant in this program can receive wages and benefits thereby gaining a greater independence and quality of life.

In my district in Georgia, there is a JWOD program named Happy Hour that exemplifies the good work that this organization is built upon. Happy Hour employs 170 disabled individuals and gives them an opportunity to contribute to their communities. Executive Director Steve Smith and Community Relations Manager Bob Wilbanks lead an office of 90–100 hard working staffers along with many volunteers who are all dedicated to ensuring each person reaches a common goal.

Happy Hour has a working relationship with Robins Air Force Base. Through this relationship Happy Hour participants are able to help the government and save taxpayers money. A few of the projects that help Robins Air Force Base is Robin's Recycling, respiratory cleaning and repair, tool die numbering, and aircraft sorting. Though they may seem minor, without Happy Hour, workers who do these tasks at Robins AFB would have a much harder time operating.

CONGRATULATING WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise, today to honor an organization that has been a staple of empowerment for Washington, D.C. women who serve in the field of government relations.

This year is the 30th anniversary of Women in Government Relations. WGR is a non-partisan organization that educates and advances women in this field. WGR helps women be smarter, stronger, and more influential in the work they do.

Surprisingly, the field of government relations is fairly new to women. In fact, WGR was founded only about 30 years ago when women were struggling to network in a male-dominated field.

I honor WGR today because it provides educational and networking opportunities for its members and the community. These women serve our country by representing public interest groups; federal, state and local government; corporations; trade associations; and many others.

I am proud to say that I join many of my colleagues here in Congress as an honorary member of WGR. I rise to applaud WGR and encourage the organization to continue its important mission of advancing and empowering women.

Congratulations to WGR for its service to our nation for the past 30 years and for many more years to come.

HONORING DR. KATRINA POE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding family physician, Dr. Katrina Poe.

Dr. Katrina Poe, 35, is being recognized by Staff Care Incorporated, an insurance company that provides short-term coverage to physicians as "Country Doctor of the Year." This national honor is awarded to a "doctor who has dedicated his or her life career to serving rural communities. Dr. Poe, a family physician at the Greenwood Leflore Hospital's Kilmichael Clinic, also serves as chief of staff at the Kilmichael hospital.

Since fifth grade, Dr. Poe, a native of Kilmichael, Mississippi wanted to become a physician. She graduated from Kilmichael High School in 1988 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in biology from Mississippi State University in 1992. Dr. Poe attended medical school at the University Medical Center in Jackson, MS. Only two months after completing her residency training at UMC in June 2001, she began officially serving the people of Kilmichael where she spent several summers assisting Dr. L.C. Henison.

Dr. Poe, who was nominated by Nurse Linda Turner of the Kilmichael Clinic collected and submitted testimonials from patients to the

Staff Care nominating committee citing the physician's devotion to the town and its residents. She has an average patient caseload per week of 250, a successful practice of 5,000 patients and works an average of 80 hours per week. The nationally renowned "Country Doctor of the Year" award includes a signature plaque that features an illustration of a physician making his rounds by horse and buggy. In addition, Dr. Poe will be provided with a "fill-in" physician for one week at no charge.

Dr. Poe has received numerous awards and recognition which include being named Business and Professional Woman of the Year, Winona Times; Family Medicine Assistant Chief Resident, University of Mississippi Medical Center; CIBA-Geigy Community Service Award, University of Mississippi School of Medicine and; Cultural Diversity Academic Achievement Award.

Dr. Poe, a shining example of Kilmichael County's finest, has garnered the personal and professional respect of her community, patients and colleagues and is worthy of this auspicious award. I commend Dr. Poe, the "Country Doctor of the Year" and wish her continued success.

H.R. 4297, THE TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 4297, the FY05 tax reconciliation bill.

I do not oppose tax cuts, and in a more stable fiscal climate I could support reduced tax rates for capital gains and dividend income. What I do oppose is borrowing money to pay for tax cuts, and particularly for tax cuts that do not expire for another three years.

In 2001, I was one of only 28 House Democrats to vote for President's Bush's 2001 tax cuts that reduced marginal income tax rates. Since 2001, however, our country's fiscal condition has dramatically reversed course. In 2001, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicted that the 10-year budget surplus would be \$5.6 trillion. That projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion has deteriorated into a projected \$3.9 trillion deficit during the same period. In FY2005, the Federal Government ran a budget deficit of \$319 billion, the third largest deficit in our Nation's history.

Further, on February 17, 2004, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$7 trillion for the first time in our country's history. On October 21, 2005, the national debt of the United States exceeded \$8 trillion for the first time in our country's history. That is an increase of \$1 trillion in our national debt over the last 2 years. It took our country 193 years, from 1787 to 1980, to rack up \$1 trillion in debt, and just under two years, from 2004–2005, to match that level of borrowing.

An \$8 trillion national debt comes down to nearly \$27,000 per person in our country, and that is simply unacceptable. The first rule of holes is that when you're in a hole and you don't want to go deeper, stop digging. It is now past time that we stop digging our country deeper and deeper into debt, leaving our

children and grandchildren to pay a steep price for the deficits and debt we are adding to today.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4297 extends several tax relief measures, including reduced rates for capital gains and dividend income, that I support and would vote for in a balanced, revenue neutral measure. I support: the saver's credit; small business and brownfields expensing relief; the Work Opportunity Tax Credit; the research and experimentation credit; deductions for higher education and classroom expenses; the exclusion for active financing income; and 15-year depreciation rates for restaurant equipment and improvements to leased property. Unfortunately, the Joint Tax Committee estimates that H.R. 4297 will cost \$56.1 billion over the next five years, and the CBO estimates that extending the dividend and capital gains tax reductions alone would cost approximately \$160 billion from FY2008 to FY2015.

Further, unlike the Senate tax reconciliation bill, the House version of this legislation does not address what is arguably the most significant looming tax concern for middle-class American families, namely the growing number of Americans who are forced to pay the alternative minimum tax (AMT). While reduced rates for capital gains and dividend income will not expire for another three years, AMT relief is scheduled to expire in less than one month, at the end of this year.

If AMT relief is allowed to lapse, the number of taxpayers subject to the AMT will increase from 3 million in 2004 to 21 million in 2006. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that extending AMT relief and indexing it for inflation would reduce federal revenue by \$191 billion over the next five years. This is an immediate problem that Congress and the Administration need to work together to fix in a responsible, bipartisan way, before millions of Americans are hit with large, unexpected tax increases.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work with my colleagues in both parties to advance commonsense, bipartisan approaches to solving our country's fiscal problems. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to act as soon as possible, in a fiscally sound way, to prevent serious consequences for current and future generations.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION
RECONCILIATION ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, weeks after passing a spending bill that failed to reflect our national values, we are repeating our mistakes with today's tax cut bill.

We are once again "robbing Peter to pay Paul"—only this time we have picked the worst possible time to do so.

The holiday season is supposed to be a time for giving.

Only this year, it has become a time for giving primarily to the wealthiest 20% of American families.

Upper-income families will not lose much under last month's spending cuts bill.

But they will benefit greatly from today's tax cut package.

Conversely, lower- and middle-income families will suffer great losses under the spending cut bill . . .

. . . yet stand to gain very little from today's tax bill.

That's what I call "Scrooge-onomics."

We continue to dig ourselves deeper and deeper into debt.

The bill before us today comes with a price tag of \$56 billion, with no means to offset that cost.

And what do we get in return?

If you are not among the top tier of wealthiest Americans, not much.

Thirty-six percent of the cost of this bill goes towards extending reduced tax rates for capital gains and dividends.

That's \$20.6 billion dedicated to tax breaks that aren't even scheduled to expire until 2008.

That's \$20.6 billion that could be spent on education, worker training, affordable housing, or improving the quality of life for service members and their families.

It is fiscally irresponsible to spend \$56 billion we do not have on those who do not need it.

And it is unwise to further complicate an already complex tax code to do so.

That is why I am supporting the Democratic substitute to this bill.

This substitute still extends vital tax cuts but includes offsets to pay for the cost, taking the burden off American taxpayers.

It extends the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the deduction of higher-education expenses.

It extends the research and experimentation credit and the expensing of brownfield sites.

It protects millions of California's taxpayers by extending sorely needed alternative minimum tax relief.

And, importantly for my district of San Diego, California, it extends a critical provision allowing military personnel to elect to include combat pay as earned income.

This allowance will expand the pool of armed services personnel eligible to receive the earned income credit, and it will even increase this credit for some military families.

The brave men and women who sacrifice time with their own families to protect ours deserve no less.

Although this bill would be out of place at any time of year, it is unconscionable during the holiday season.

A nation as prosperous as ours should never ignore its weakest citizens for the sake of tax cuts for the wealthy.

I do not believe this bill reflects our priorities as a nation.

I know it does not reflect my own values.

Yet it does represent the true colors of the majority party.

In the spirit of giving, I hope you will join me in opposing a bill that regards only the wealthy as worthy of receiving.

IN SUPPORT OF H.J. RES. 73, TO
REDEPLOY U.S. FORCES FROM
IRAQ

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Joint Resolution introduced by Representative JOHN MURTHA. This Resolution should be brought to the floor because the time has come for a change in our Iraq policy.

I believe our military has done its job. They were sent to Iraq to depose a tyrant and free the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein's brutal regime. They accomplished what can be described as one of the most successful and well-executed military campaigns in history, defeating the Iraqi army in a matter of days and going on to hunt down and capture Saddam Hussein.

The issue before us is not "surrender" or "cut and run". Our troops have accomplished their mission. What they're now having to battle is an insurgency comprised largely of Iraqis who they were sent to liberate. According to our top military leadership, fewer than 7% of the insurgents in Iraq are foreign militants and the primary target of the insurgents are U.S. troops.

The violence is taking its toll on the Iraqi people, the vast majority of whom want a stable, secure Iraq free from foreign occupation. A recent poll taken in Iraq indicated that 80% of Iraqis want the American military to leave, and most chilling, 45% believe attacks against U.S. forces are justified. The daily toll inflicted on our military and our national purse (close to \$1 billion per day now), is simply unsustainable.

Congressman MURTHA has proposed a plan calling for the redeployment of U.S. troops consistent with the safety of U.S. forces, the creation of a quick-reaction force in the region and an "over-the-horizon" presence of Marines, and the pursuit of security and stability in Iraq through diplomacy.

Congressman MURTHA based his sober and professional judgment on the following:

The U.S. and coalition troops have accomplished all they can in Iraq and the American people have not been shown clear, measurable progress for the establishment of a stable and improving security in Iraq or of a stable and improving economy.

American troops have become the primary targets of attacks in Iraq, which is significantly impeding progress. Continued military action is not in the best interest of the United States, the Iraqi people, or the Persian Gulf region.

As Commander of Iraqi forces, General George Casey stated in a September 2005 hearing, "the perception of occupation in Iraq is a major driving force behind the insurgency."

The cost of the war to our country, and the burden on the troops to whom Congressman MURTHA has dedicated his life, is skyrocketing.

Congressman MURTHA knows of what he speaks. He is a 37-year veteran of the Marine Corps, a Colonel, the first Vietnam War veteran elected to this body and an unimpeachable, first-hand authority on the needs of our military.

Congressman MURTHA is one of the most decorated veterans in the Congress. No one

has taken care of our troops on a more consistent basis since coming to the Congress than JACK MURTHA. Previous Presidents know this, this President knows it, present and former members of Congress know it, and most importantly, our troops know it.

Congressman MURTHA has been standing side-by-side with our troops throughout the Iraq war, from his presence in Kuwait just days before the start of the war, to his ongoing weekly visits to wounded troops at Bethesda Naval Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, to his regular travel to the region to be with our troops. Each and every step of the way JACK MURTHA has made sure that our troops have what they need, that their families are cared for, and that our country honors their service as deeply as he does. In one case, when a mother told him that bureaucratic red tape would prevent her son, a young man severely wounded in service to his country from receiving a Purple Heart, JACK MURTHA said that if her son didn't get a Purple Heart, he would give him one of his. This is JACK MURTHA.

After great personal reflection on the war and its effects and constant consultation with the military leadership, Congressman MURTHA has done what members of this body are charged to do: He spoke truth to power. He announced it was "time for a change in direction" in Iraq. He did not call for an immediate withdrawal. He has not called for surrender and he has not called for retreat.

Whether Members agree with Congressman MURTHA's judgment on the individual details of his proposal, it's become clear that our current policy in Iraq is unsustainable. It's time to tell the Iraqis that the training wheels have to come off . . . it's time for the Iraqis to take charge of Iraq. Today the American people are ahead of us, with some 65% saying it's time for a change. It's time to begin the overdue debate on how and when we bring our troops home. Congressman MURTHA has set forth a pragmatic and clear proposal. I'm proud to support it.

METHAMPHETAMINE REMEDIATION RESEARCH ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for this legislation, of which I am a cosponsor. As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I have participated in several hearings and mark-ups on methamphetamine legislation.

One of the many unsafe effects of this drug is the environmental harm caused by producing it and disposing of the byproducts. Given that the products necessary to produce meth can be purchased at a drug store, and it can be produced in small quantities, many users make the drug in their basement, garage or kitchen, despite the health and safety risks.

Cooking meth indoors allows toxic fumes to escape into the house and be trapped in furniture and walls, causing additional health concerns for those producing it—and especially for the family and children who live in

these homes. The production of meth puts family members and children in harm's way, as there is a possibility of inhaling fumes, absorbing chemicals or accidentally ingesting the toxic materials used to manufacture this drug.

Depending on the process used, each pound of meth produced results in about six additional pounds of waste which will likely end up in our sewer systems, in streams or rivers, or on the ground. Given that some of the key ingredients can be acetone, hydrochloric acid, ether and ammonia, disposing of this byproduct improperly can lead to additional health risks and environmental damage.

I am pleased the House is taking up this legislation to address the negative environmental impacts of methamphetamines, and problems posed by clean-up and remediation by directing the EPA to develop assessment standards and remediation guidelines. H.R. 798 also directs studies to be conducted on the residual effects of methamphetamine production, and supports the development of methamphetamine detection testing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to join me in supporting this legislation.

NORTHERN COLORADO WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT FACILITIES CONVEYANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and commend my Colorado colleague, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, for its introduction.

The bill would direct the Interior Department to convey to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District wants the title to some of the water-distribution facilities that are part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado-Big Thompson project.

That project, authorized by Congress in 1937 to provide water for agricultural and other uses, consists of dams, dikes, reservoirs, powerplants, pumping plants, pipelines, tunnels, and substations spread over approximately 250 miles. The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the project's local government sponsor, operates and maintains all of the water conveyance facilities.

H.R. 3443 directs the Secretary of the Interior to transfer 58 miles of the Project's water conveyance facilities (the St. Vrain Supply Canal, Boulder Creek Supply Canal, and South Platte Supply Canal) to the District. The transfer will allow the District to more cost-effectively manage the facilities, reduce paperwork requirements, provide for local ownership and reduce the federal government's liability. The District, which has operated and maintained these water conveyance facilities since 1957, has repaid the appropriate capital costs associated with the facilities. Despite this repayment, the title of the facilities remains in the Bureau of Reclamation. This bill directs the transfer of this title with no conditions. It is modeled on the successful transfer (Public Law 106-376) of other single purpose water conveyance facilities associated with the Colorado Big-Thompson Project.

None of the affected facilities are used to generate electricity. However, payments by

electricity customers have been contributing to the repayment for the overall project, and the electricity customers still owe something under that repayment contract. To reflect that, the bill provides for transfer of funds from electricity-sale collections to complete repayment of the amount the electricity customers owe toward repayment of the facilities to be transferred.

The bill includes language to make clear that it will not lessen the existing responsibilities of the district or affect the rights of two ditch companies whose ditches have been part of the distribution system for water from the Colorado-Big Thompson project. And, to stimulate prompt implementation, the bill says that if the transfer isn't completed within a year Interior must send a written report to Congress explaining why it hadn't done so and to keep reporting annually until the transfer is complete.

I joined as a cosponsor of this legislation because I think it will be beneficial both for the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and for the federal government. I urge its approval.

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET G. SIMPSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former professional colleague and dear personal friend Harriet G. Simpson. Mrs. Simpson is a dedicated educator and devoted community activist, who is being honored Sunday, December 18, 2005 by the Charleston, South Carolina community and her home church, Mt. Zion AME.

I came to know Mrs. Simpson when I took my first job out of college as a Social Studies teacher in the Charleston, South Carolina public school system. She was one of the leaders in that school system who recognized my leadership potential at an early stage in my development. She became a mentor and one of my most ardent supporters.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Simpson has dedicated herself to the betterment of her community, and has received numerous recognitions for her work. They include, Delta Woman of the Year by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Public Service Award from the Alpha Chi Pi Omega Sorority, and the Omega Service Award by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Also, Arabian Court No. 128 recognized Mrs. Simpson as Outstanding Female Community Worker, and she was a semi-finalist for the Certificate of Achievement as a Role Model from the National Council of Negro Women. She has also been recognized for her achievements by the South Carolina State Senate, and the Moja Arts Festival bestowed upon her an Award for Contribution to Education. Former Charleston Mayor Palmer Gilliard gave Mrs. Simpson the "Key to the City," and Channel 5 Television Station inducted her into its Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Simpson's dedication to her community has manifested itself through her love of education and her deep and abiding religious faith. She has been nominated for as Teacher of the Year at C.A. Brown High School, where I had the privilege of working with her for three years, and received the Human Relations

Award from the South Carolina Education Association. She was named Woman of the Year by her home Church Mt. Zion AME in 1987 and 1991. The Charleston Area Women's Missionary Society also chose Mrs. Simpson for their Outstanding Service Award.

Mrs. Simpson continues to make significant contributions to her community. She established the Harriet F. Simpson Scholarship Fund to help deserving students get a college education. She continues to support students while they are in college with financial help, letters of comfort, and small gifts, and helps them find jobs. She was a founding member of the Moja Arts Festival Committee, and has donated artifacts to the Avery Institute. Although she isn't a wealthy woman, Mrs. Simpson contributes generously to the National Heart Association, the American Cancer Society and to Alzheimer's research. And she continues a ministry of calling and writing the sick and shut-in from her church and those that have moved away from Charleston.

Mrs. Simpson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Allen University, and a Masters degree in Education and Guidance from South Carolina State University, and did post-graduate work at North Carolina Central University. Mrs. Simpson has been a devoted wife for 55 years, and is the proud mother of two children. Her family is blessed with two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She is a loving friend and caring sister, aunt and godmother.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Harriet G. Simpson for her lifetime of devotion to education and her community. She is a shining example of how one person can make a tremendous difference an entire community. I commend Mrs. Simpson for her significant contributions and thank her church family at Mt. Zion AME Church for recognizing her.

HONORING THE FLINT POWERS CATHOLIC H.S. CHARGERS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise today to congratulate the Chargers of Flint Powers Catholic High School, on winning the 2005–2006 Michigan High School Athletic Association Division IV football championship. The Chargers defeated the Grand Rapids Catholic Central Cougars 17–10 in the final game, held November 25 at Ford Field in Detroit.

It was certainly an exciting game that showcased some of the best talent the State of Michigan has to offer.

The Chargers are a true testament of what hard work, dedication, determination, and a passionate desire to win can accomplish. Under the guidance of Head Coach Jack Pratt, and Assistant Coaches John Zintsmaster, David Pratt, John Pratt, and Brian McInerney, the championship served as a wonderful finish to a remarkable year, highlighted by a tremendous record of 12–2.

The Chargers roster includes: seniors Josh Babcock, Tom Birchmeier, Eddy Brady, Nick Brown, Nick DeGroot, David Filipovich, Austin Flores, Billy Gonsler, Matt Gregson, Nate

Kopydlowski, Tre Leoni, Andy McCarthy, Jamie Metcalf, Joe Mounger, Dain Murphy, Alex Perry, Tony Poma, Stevie Sleva, Zach Smith, Justin Ward, Ryan Webber, Zeke Zanettaj juniors Matthew Callahan, Kyle Everhart, Chris Filipovich, Eric Fridline, Ricky Guerra, Lance Harchick, Spencer Hickoff, Laval Lucas-Perry, Bobby Macciomei, Michael McPherson, Joshua Michalik, James Milne, Matt Ockerman, Adam Pelc, Ryan Riker, Ryan Sitko, Andrew Skowronski, Thomas Strong, Brad Witt and sophomores Chris Beer, Steve Bonar, John Buck, Louie Chamberlain, John Crook, Andy Herman, Ernie Jones, Tim Kirtak, Andrew Kowalczyk, Brendan Laney, Ronnie Lark, Jeff Maksymowski, Josh Miller, Aaron Sitko, Kyle Steibel, Alex Summers, David Weishuhn, Tom Zintsmaster, and Mike Zureikat. These young men, led by senior captains Birchmeier, Filipovich, Leoni, Poma, and Ward, proved to be leaders in the classroom, the football field, and the community. They are all shining examples of the school's commitment to success in all aspects of life.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the accomplishments of the Powers Chargers, and share the joy of victory with the students, faculty, parents, alumni, and the entire Flint community. I am certain that when these fine young men look back upon their high school days, they shall deservedly count this state championship as one of their most cherished memories. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating them, and wishing them the very best in their future endeavors.

IN SEARCH OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, the United States must rededicate itself to creating the groundwork for a lasting peace between all the sons of Abraham. A just and lasting peace will be achieved by imbuing the region with the unswerving proof that democracy is the better path than armed conflict and insurgency.

To quote a great American, Abe Lincoln, "The ballot is stronger than the bullet." The Palestinian elections are a historic opportunity to bring more Palestinians into the folds of a democratic state; replacing guns with ballots. This election will, hopefully, give President Abbas the legitimacy to implement the necessary reforms for a democratic government: eliminating paramilitary groups, ending corruption and creating a government infrastructure that can provide economic and social services. Hamas is a popular organization in many parts of the West Bank and Gaza because it, not the state, provides a variety of social services.

President Abbas must work to create law and order but, just as important, he needs to foster economic and social development for the Palestinian people, but he cannot do this alone. The West Bank and Gaza Strip will remain economically stagnant and ripe for further violence unless there are serious international efforts to improve the deplorable living conditions of Palestinians. I urge the Administration and my colleagues in Congress to robustly fund programs that will create economic development for Palestinians, which I

believe is an essential step in creating peace in the region.

Finally, the Administration and Congress should be promoting programs that bring about reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. For example, programs like the Interfaith Encounter Association based in Jerusalem bring together Muslims, Jews and Christians to work on building peace and reconciliation. I urge the Administration to include robust funding in the FY 07 budget request for reconciliation programs and to work to build a strong, legitimate civil society in West Bank and Gaza so that Palestinians voices, not gunfire, can reverberate throughout the Middle East.

I voted for passage of H. Res. 575 not because it is the only solution, but because dismantling the Hamas terrorist organization is part of a solution for peace between two peoples who are truly brothers.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL ACT OF 2005

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored today to introduce, with my colleague, Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE, the Kalaupapa Memorial Act of 2005, legislation authorizing the establishment of a memorial at a suitable location or locations at Kalawao or Kalaupapa within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park located on the island of Molokai, in my home State of Hawaii, to honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula from 1866 to 1969.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park, encompassing most of the isolated and haunting Kalaupapa Peninsula and adjacent lands, was established 25 years ago on December 22, 1980. In advance of celebrating its 25th anniversary, our National Park Service is hosting day-long commemorative activities today at Kalaupapa, and it is entirely fitting that we offer this measure during this time of renewed commemoration.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park is a very special and beautiful park with a rich and tragic history. While the park is widely known for the isolation and settlement of Hansen's disease patients from 1866 until 1969, Native Hawaiians inhabited the Kalaupapa Peninsula for 900 years prior to being forcibly removed from their homelands between 1865 and 1895. Surrounded on three sides by ocean and the fourth by steep cliffs, Kalaupapa is spectacularly breathtaking and ecologically diverse, home to nearly 20 federally listed threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. When one visits Kalaupapa today, it is like stepping back in time.

Due to its steep cliffs and isolated geography, the Kalaupapa Peninsula was used by the Kingdom of Hawaii, and subsequently the Territory and State of Hawaii, as an isolation settlement for individuals considered to have Hansen's disease, widely known as leprosy, for nearly a century. By law, individuals were forcibly separated from their families and isolated at Kalaupapa to "protect the welfare of

society." These isolation laws, dating back to 1865, were not abolished until 1969.

Although the World Health Organization still documents over a million registered cases of Hansen's disease worldwide, today it is considered one of the least contagious of all communicable diseases due to established and successful drug treatments. In Hawaii, those needing medical treatment outside of Kalaupapa are able to go to the Hale Mohalu wing of Leahi Hospital in Honolulu.

However, that is now, and the history of Kalaupapa is otherwise. Between 1866 and 1896, the first 5,000 individuals were forcibly relocated to Kalaupapa, most of whom lived at Kalawao. The second wave of patients (approximately 3,000) occurred after 1896 until 1969, when most of the community lived on the Kalaupapa side of the peninsula. Most of these unfortunate fellow citizens died on the peninsula; while many of their final resting places are known and remembered, many are not.

It is right and appropriate that these many lives be remembered, both individually and collectively, within the boundaries of the world to which they were condemned for life, through maintenance of the park itself, the history of the settlement, and an appropriate memorial. Ka Ohana O Kaluapapa, a non-profit organization consisting of patient residents at Kalaupapa National Historical Park and their family members and friends, was established in August 2003 for just this purpose: to promote the value and dignity of the 8,000+ individuals (at least 90 percent of who were Native Hawaiian) who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula.

Since its establishment, Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa has sought to honor and perpetuate the memory of these 8,000+ individuals through the establishment of a memorial at a suitable location or locations at Kalawao or Kalaupapa within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park. I fully support its efforts, which have broad-based support from the Kalaupapa Advisory Council and the community.

The national and international significance of Kalaupapa is the rich and tragic history of the lives and memories of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula between 1866 and 1969. It is fitting and appropriate that our nation, through the National Park Service, ensure that they are never forgotten through the establishment of a memorial.

I therefore believe that the establishment of a memorial is consistent with the basis for the park's establishment. It is timely. And it will enhance the purpose of the park, which is to "preserve and interpret the Kalaupapa settlement for the education and inspiration of present and future generations."

I look forward to working with my House colleagues, particularly members of the House Resources Committee, the National Park Service, and the Hawaii congressional delegation, in passing this legislation.

TRAIL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE LANDS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and congratulate my Colorado colleague, Mr. TANCREDI, for his leadership in introducing it.

I joined as a cosponsor of this bill because I also want to improve the ability of the land-managing agencies to adequately enforce the rules that apply to uses of the federal lands.

That is why in the 108th Congress I introduced a related bill—the Responsible Off-road Vehicle Enforcement and Response Act, or "ROVER." That bill was narrow, dealing only with enforcement of the regulations for use of vehicles on National Forest lands and public lands managed by BLM. This bill goes much further. In addition to the forests and BLM lands, it also applies to lands managed by the National Park Service and the refuges managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. And it addresses the enforcement of all regulations, not just those related to use of vehicles.

Last year, Mr. TANCREDI and I worked with Chairman POMBO, Ranking Member RAHALL, and other Members of the Resources Committee, to develop the broader measure.

That bill passed the House, but the Senate did not complete action on it. So, Representative TANCREDI and I joined in reintroducing it as H.R. 975, the bill now before the House.

I urge its approval, because legislation for better and more consistent enforcement of regulations is needed. However, we need to recognize that it is only one part of a bigger picture.

Even more than new legislation, it seems to me, the land-managing agencies need more resources—more money and more people—if we want them to do a better job.

That was why I introduced a related bill—H.R. 599—which the Resources Committee has also reported. It would allow the agencies to use money from fines to help pay for some of the restoration work caused by violations of regulations, as well as for offsetting the administrative costs involved in enforcement of those regulations.

This is something that I think should be addressed in the future, and I will seek to work with other Members to do that. Today, however, we can take an important step forward by passing this bill, and I urge the House to approve it.

HONORING THE WORK OF EASTER SEALS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the extraordinary efforts of Easter Seals in Southern Nevada. Their numerous programs provide the kind of community-based relief for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Unfortunately, one of these most valuable programs is facing significant financial hardship. This particular program has provided after school activities for children with disabilities from the age of 6 to 18 for the past 15 years. Without the help of business leaders and private individuals in the community, these children and their families will lose this most important resource. As a whole, Easter Seals is Nevada's largest community-based organization serving over 2,000 persons with disabilities and their families each year. Their efforts on behalf of individuals with disabilities bring greater self-sufficiency and most importantly greater dignity. We must work to ensure that these resources continue to be available in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to bring to the attention of my colleagues the wonderful services that Easter Seals of Southern Nevada provides to the most vulnerable in our society. The needs of this single program highlight how we, as Members of Congress, must continue all of our efforts to strengthen the resources available to the neediest in our communities.

Easter Seals of Southern Nevada represents the ideal of a community-based care provider for disabled children. Without the generosity of all the individuals who make this dream a reality, these most valuable resources would fail to exist. I am confident that, during this holiday season, the businesses and individuals of Nevada will show their support for this important program and continue to demonstrate the generosity of my home community.

THE SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL ON-SITE STORAGE SECURITY ACT OF 2005

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, Nevada Senators HARRY REID and JOHN ENSIGN introduced federal legislation today to mandate that nuclear waste be stored on-site at nuclear power plant sites. I'm proud to join my colleague from Nevada, SHELLEY BERKLEY, in introducing legislation in the House to mandate that nuclear waste be stored on-site.

The West—whether it is Utah's Skull Valley or Nevada's Yucca Mountain—should not be the de facto dumping ground for nuclear waste. Storing nuclear waste on site is the safest, most reasonable and most effective way of allowing nuclear power plants to continue operating while we search for an appropriate long-term storage solution.

The Utah and Nevada delegations are united on this—JIM GIBBONS and JON PORTER from Nevada, and CHRIS CANNON and ROB BISHOP from my home state of Utah have joined in this fight on the House side and our senators, BOB BENNETT and ORRIN HATCH are cosponsors of the Senate bill.

Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, the federal government has so far only focused on the flawed Yucca Mountain proposal for a central repository for spent nuclear fuel rods. Given the wealth of concerns about incomplete scientific evidence and falsified documentation stemming from the Yucca proposal and the clear gaps in transportation security for waste sent to the West, on-site storage is a much better solution.

Dry cask storage—the method proposed by a private entity that wants to store waste on the Skull Valley site in Utah—is currently being used at 33 nuclear power plants around the country. As approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, dry cask containers can safely store waste for at least 100 years. We should not subject citizens to the dangers posed by transporting it through their communities when it can remain where it is.

The Spent Nuclear Fuel On-Site Storage Security Act of 2005 would require commercial nuclear utilities to transfer nuclear waste from spent nuclear fuel pools into dry storage casks. For spent fuel currently in pools, a contractor licensed to handle spent nuclear fuel would have up to 6 years, to allow sufficient time for cooling and construction, to transfer spent nuclear fuel from pools into dry casks. Any new spent nuclear fuel produced after enactment, also has no more than 6 years to cool, before being transferred into dry casks. Such continuous transfer would mean that the pools are never at capacity, leaving less waste exposed and making the site safer. This bill would also require the Department of Energy to take title of all spent nuclear fuel currently in on-site dry cask storage and would even compensate the utility companies for expenses associated with transferring and storing the waste.

This means that DOE will be responsible for possession, stewardship, maintenance, and monitoring of the spent nuclear fuel on-site, which is entirely appropriate. DOE was supposed to begin taking title to spent nuclear fuel in 1998, but because of the myriad of technical, scientific, legal and political problems surrounding the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, this has not happened. Taking title to spent nuclear fuel fulfills the federal government's obligation and commitment to retake control over nuclear materials. I thank my colleagues for their support of this legislation.

NATIONAL CAREGIVER MONTH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations and thank you to the many grandparents and other relatives in California and across the Nation who are providing loving homes to some of our most fragile citizens. Children who may have suffered from neglect or abuse through the death of a parent, military deployment, poverty or other causes can be raised in warm, stable homes through subsidized guardianship programs.

Dedicated relatives who step forward to offer such care—sometimes at considerable personal sacrifice—guarantee these children the safe and nurturing upbringing that will enable them to be tomorrow's leaders. Today there are more than 6 million children living in relative-headed households, and I am proud to honor their service during National Caregiver Month and throughout the rest of the year.

H. RES. 438 (ON UNFAIR AND DISCRIMINATORY RESOLUTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL IN THE UNITED NATIONS)

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very important bipartisan resolution calling on member states of the United Nations to stop unfairly criticizing Israel and to promote a more balanced approach to the challenges in the Middle East.

In June of this year, the House overwhelmingly adopted a resolution condemning anti-semitic statements made at U.N. meetings and by U.N. member states. It was proper and appropriate that we publicly and vocally condemn some of the outrageous statements made by U.N. officials and member states.

However, there also is a more subtle form of anti-semitism that has been taking place at the United Nations for far too long—the alarming rate at which the U.N. General Assembly has considered and adopted anti-Israel resolutions.

As noted in the text of Mr. Rothman's measure, 21 of the 71 resolutions adopted by roll-call votes during the 59th session of the General Assembly dealt with Israel, and in recent years, the General Assembly and Security Council have introduced and approved hundreds of measures and resolutions that unfairly criticize and condemn Israel.

At a time when the international community is confronted with crises such as the ongoing terror campaign being waged by Al Qaeda against democracies in every corner of the world, the tragic genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and the continued spread of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, the U.N. General Assembly has seen fit to devote nearly a third of its time to castigating the state of Israel.

These unbalanced and discriminatory anti-Israel resolutions have been adopted by overwhelming margins. Meanwhile, there has been a disturbing lack of condemnation of Palestinian terror attacks against Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to not only support this resolution, but also to carry its message to the ambassadors, foreign ministers and heads of state with whom they meet on a daily basis: The mistreatment of Israel at the hands of the United Nations has not gone unnoticed, and it is no longer acceptable.

Furthermore, this obsessive and inappropriate focus on Israel at the United Nations only serves to harm that institution's credibility and to undermine the U.N.'s ability to serve as an honest broker in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

INTRODUCING THE KENDALL
FREDERICK CITIZENSHIP AS-
SISTANCE ACT OF 2005

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Kendall Frederick Citizenship

Assistance Act of 2005, legislation honoring one of America's fallen heroes who was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. Army Reserve Specialist Kendall Frederick's life may have been spared had he not made a fateful trip to provide his fingerprints for his citizenship application.

This bill would lessen the burden non-citizens serving in the U.S. military encounter while attempting to navigate a naturalization process that is all too often fraught with inefficiency and indifference.

Amidst car bombs and insurgent attacks, Specialist Frederick of Randallstown, Maryland, had a dual struggle of fighting the enemy in Iraq and the requirements for U.S. citizenship. All the while, his mother endured both the stress of having a child in a combat zone and the frustration of trying to assist her son meet the bureaucratic demands of naturalization.

Eventually, only one obstacle remained in Specialist Frederick's path—providing the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services with his fingerprints.

Although the U.S. Military already had a copy, Specialist Frederick was required to travel through the battlefields of Iraq in order to provide a duplicate. Tragically, he did not survive this final journey and was awarded his citizenship posthumously.

Last month, Kendall Frederick achieved in death in a matter of minutes what he had so long fought to obtain in life, his U.S. citizenship. Tragically, he never enjoyed the privileges of U.S. citizenship—he would never cast a vote to determine those who govern, nor would he ever know the comfort of being fully embraced as an American by the very Nation he defended to his last breathe.

Fortunately, today we have an opportunity to honor the ultimate sacrifice of Specialist Frederick by doing what is right for the approximately 40,000 non-citizens who are serving on active duty in the U.S. military, including 3,200 brave men and women who are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In 2002, President Bush signed an executive order that provides immediate eligibility for naturalization to active-duty members of the U.S. military during a period of military hostility, bypassing the waiting period that otherwise would apply to them. This was an important step—but we owe our brave soldiers more.

In clear and plain terms, those who are prepared to sacrifice and die for this country deserve a more efficient, common sense naturalization process that bestows to them the admiration and benefits of American citizenship befitting their service. For these reasons, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and I have sponsored the Kendall Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act of 2005.

Our proposed legislation would require that the Secretary of Homeland Security use the fingerprints provided by soldiers at the time they enlist in the Armed Forces to satisfy the fingerprinting requirements associated with their applications for citizenship.

New soldiers would be notified in writing about how to obtain citizenship; and the Secretary of Homeland Security would be required to update the appropriate application, guidebook, and Web site maintained by the Department of Homeland Security within 30 days of a change to law or regulation regarding the naturalization process.

Moreover, our bill would establish the position of Citizenship Advocate at each military entry processing station to provide information on the naturalization process to members of the armed forces.

Finally, we would also require the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to study the implementation of this act, including an evaluation of how technology may be used to improve the efficiency of the naturalization process for members of the armed forces. The GAO would then report to Congress its findings and recommendations.

Our bill emphasizes common sense over bureaucratic thinking and clarity over confusion, to establish a naturalization process that is more soldier-friendly and efficient.

Given the life-or-death battles soldiers like Specialist Kendell Frederick routinely face on foreign soil; let us never forget they need not battle red tape here at home. Support our troops by supporting this legislation.

TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the Republican tax bill.

As we approach the end of the year, I wonder 'How will this year be remembered?' For the deepening quagmire in Iraq? Will we remember 2005 as a year of hardships? For Katrina, for Rita?

Certainly this has been a year of great economic difficulties for low and middle income families. The poorest residents of the gulf coast were most affected by the devastating hurricanes, and the poorest Americans have shouldered a disproportionate share of the burden in Iraq.

The Republican tax bill is just another example of the disdain the Majority in Congress has for its low and middle income citizens. Recently, this Congress cut Food Stamps, student loans, child support and Medicaid.

Now the Administration is rewarding the rich. In the proposed tax cuts, over 50% of the Capital Gains and Dividends Rate Cut will benefit people who make more than one million dollars. The 55% of American households that make less than \$40,000 will get a tax break of only \$7 while the households that make more than \$1 million will receive an average tax break of \$32,000.

I support responsible spending, and balancing the budget, but this tax cut and the budget cuts of last month accomplish neither of these goals. In fact, these bills will actually increase the deficit by \$16 billion. And at what benefit? So that some of our wealthiest citizens can save a few extra dollars?

President Bush has gone on the offensive. He is touting an improved economy by pointing to job statistics from this most recent quarter. But the economy is not improving where we need it to. Middle class Americans are worse off than they were 4 years ago. The average two-earner family needs to work more to pay for health care, housing, college, and transportation than they did in 2001.

Middle class families are forced to work more and save less. This means less time to

spend with family and less money to put away for retirement.

This is not how I want to remember 2005. I don't want to remember 2005 as a year that the government heaped unnecessary burdens upon American families. Stealing from the poor and middle class and giving to the rich, while increasing the deficit, is hardly responsible. I urge you to vote no on the Republican tax cuts.

ESTABLISHING A MEMORIAL WITHIN KALAUPAPA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill introduced by my colleague, Representative ED CASE. His bill to establish a memorial within Kalaupapa National Historical Park would serve to honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula from 1866–1969.

The sad history of Kalaupapa is well known within the State of Hawaii. Two tragedies occurred on the Kalaupapa Peninsula on the north shore of the island of Molokai. The first is the removal of indigenous people in 1865 and 1895. The removal of Hawaiians from where they had lived for 900 years cut the cultural ties and associations of generations of people from the 'aina (land).

The second tragedy is the forced isolation of sick people to this remote place from 1866 until 1969. The establishment of an isolation settlement, first at Kalawao and then at Kalaupapa, tore apart Hawaiian society as the Kingdom of Hawaii, and subsequently the territory of Hawaii, tried to control the feared disease of leprosy, now known as Hansen's disease. The impact of broken connections with the 'aina and of family members "lost" to Kalaupapa are still felt in Hawaii today.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park, established in 1980, contains the physical setting for these stories. Within its boundaries are the historic Hansen's disease settlements of Kalaupapa and Kalawao. The community of Kalaupapa, on the leeward side of Kalaupapa Peninsula, is still home for many surviving Hansen's disease patients, whose memories and experiences are cherished values. In Kalawao on the windward side of the peninsula are the churches of Siloama, established in 1866, and Saint Philomena, associated with the work of Father Damien (Joseph De Veuster), a great humanitarian who gave his life to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of those banished to the settlement.

Kalaupapa retains the memories and spirit of all those who lived there. Someday, the last Hansen's disease patient living in Kalaupapa will pass away. A memorial will be a permanent tribute to the brave souls who called Kalaupapa home. I support this legislation and hope my colleagues will also extend their support.

ROMANIA'S BAN ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month I introduced a resolution, H. Res. 578, expressing disappointment that the Government of Romania has instituted a virtual ban on intercountry adoptions that has very serious implications for the welfare and well-being of orphaned or abandoned children in Romania. As Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission), I am pleased to be joined as original cosponsors by the Commission's Ranking House Member, Representative CARDIN, fellow Commissioners Representative PITTS and PENCE as well as Chairman of the International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere Representative BURTON, and Representative NORTHUP, COSTELLO, JO ANN DAVIS, TIAHRT, BRADLEY and FRANK.

Mr. Speaker, the children of Romania, and all children, deserve to be raised in permanent families. Timely adoption of H. Res. 578 will put the Congress on record:

Supporting the desire of the Government of Romania to improve the standard of care and well-being of children in Romania;

Urging the Government of Romania to complete the processing of the intercountry adoption cases which were pending when Law 273/2004 was enacted;

Urging the Government of Romania to amend its child welfare and adoption laws to decrease barriers to adoption, both domestically and intercountry, including by allowing intercountry adoption by persons other than biological grandparents;

Urging the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to work collaboratively with the Government of Romania to achieve these ends; and

Requesting that the European Union and its member States not impede the Government of Romania's efforts to place orphaned or abandoned children in permanent homes in a manner that is consistent with Romania's obligations under the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

In 1989, the world watched in horror as images emerged from Romania of more than 100,000 underfed, neglected children living in hundreds of squalid and inhumane institutions throughout that country. Six weeks after the end of the dictatorial regime of Nicolae Ceausescu, I visited Romania and witnessed the misery and suffering of these institutionalized children. They were the smallest victims of Ceausescu's policies which undermined the family and fostered the belief that children were often better cared for in an institution than by their families.

Americans responded to this humanitarian nightmare with an outpouring of compassion. For years now, Americans have volunteered their labor and donated money and goods to help Romania improve conditions in these institutions. Many families in the United States also opened their hearts to Romania's children through adoption. Between 1990 and 2004, more than 8,000 children found permanent

families in the U.S.; thousands of others joined families in Western Europe.

The legacies of Ceausescu's rule continue to haunt Romania and, when coupled with widespread poverty, have led to the continued abandonment of Romania's children. According to a March 2005 report by UNICEF, "child abandonment in 2003 and 2004 [in Romania] was no different from that occurring 10, 20, or 30 years ago." UNICEF reports that more than 9,000 children a year are abandoned in Romania's maternity wards or pediatric hospitals. According to the European Union, 37,000 children remain in institutions; nearly 49,000 more live in nonpermanent settings in "foster care" or with extended families. An unknown number of children live on the streets.

During Romania's first decade of post-communist transition, the corruption which plagued Romania's economy and governance also seeped into the adoption system. There is no question that corruption needed to be rooted out. The U.S. Government and the U.S. Helsinki Commission have been steadfast in our support of Romania's efforts to combat corruption and to promote the rule of law and good governance.

I strongly disagree, however, with supporters of the current ban on intercountry adoption who allege that it was a necessary anti-corruption measure. There are many indications that corruption has been used as a hook to advance an ulterior agenda in opposition to intercountry adoption. In the context of Romania's desire to accede to the European Union, unsubstantiated allegations have been made about the fate of adopted children and the qualifications and motives of those who adopt internationally. Romanian policy makers chose to adopt this law against intercountry adoption in an effort to secure accession despite the fact, as stated in H. Res. 578, that there is no European Union law or regulation restricting intercountry adoptions to biological grandparents or requiring that restrictive laws be passed as a prerequisite for accession to the European Union.

The resolution notes that the Romanian Government declared a moratorium on international adoptions in 2001 but continued to accept new applications and allowed many such applications to be processed under an exception for extraordinary circumstances. Then, in June 2004, Law 273/2004 was adopted, taking effect on January 1, 2005, which banned intercountry adoption except in the exceedingly rare case of a child's biological grandparent living outside the country. At the time of enactment, approximately 1,500 adoption applications were registered with the Romanian Government; of these, 200 children had been matched with prospective parents from the United States and the remainder from Western Europe.

Intercountry adoption is, and always should be, anchored on the need to find homes for children, not to find children for would-be parents. Nonetheless, the individuals who applied to adopt Romanian children in the past few years committed their hearts to these children and we must recognize that the Romanian Government's mishandling of their applications has put them through a years-long emotional agony. H. Res. 578 calls on the Government to conclude the processing of these cases in a transparent and timely manner. Since introduction of the resolution, the Romanian press has reported that intercountry adoption would

be denied in all of the pending cases. If indeed this is accurate, then it is impossible to believe that the standard applied in each case was that of the best interest of the child.

Romania's new adoption law and another addressing child protection, Law 272/2004, create a hierarchy of placement for orphaned or abandoned children. By foreclosing the option of intercountry adoption, the laws codified the misguided proposition that a foster family, or even an institution, is preferable to an adoptive family outside the child's country of birth.

On November 29, the European Commission issued a press release stating that "according to the Romanian Office for Adoptions, there are 1,355 Romanian families registered to adopt one of the 393 children available for adoption. Thus there is little scope, if any, for international adoptions." The European Commission's press release fails to mention that more than 80,000 children in Romania are growing up without permanent families—in orphanages, foster care, maternity hospitals, or on the streets. That less than 400 have been declared available for adoption is a denunciation of the child welfare system. Barely 1,000 children have ever been domestically adopted in Romania in any given year and since enactment of the new laws in 2004, the rate of domestic adoption has fallen further. There is no doubt that if more children were to be made available for adoption, there would be a great need for intercountry adoption to provide them with permanent, loving homes. For thousands of children abandoned annually in Romania, intercountry adoption offered the hope of a life outside of foster care or an institution. That hope has now been taken away. This will fall hardest on the Roma children who are least likely to be adopted in-country due to pervasive societal prejudice.

The Romanian Government and the European Commission are attempting to use a Potemkin Village to hide a grim reality of suffering children and bureaucratic obstacles which prevent them from being declared legally available for adoption. In one case that has come to the Commission's attention, an adoptive family is waiting for biological parents to sign away their rights to a child they abandoned at birth and who has spent the first four years of her life with her prospective adoptive parents. She knows no other parents. Her biological parents have on four previous occasions relinquished their parental rights and yet, because of the new laws, the child has still not been declared available for adoption.

Other sources also belie a Potemkin approach. A November 5th article in the British journal *The Lancet* entitled "Romania's Abandoned Children are Still Suffering," quotes a charity worker saying, "of course something needs to be done to help the children here, but at the moment all the Romanian government is doing is signing forms sending children back to their parents . . . It doesn't seem to matter that the parents might be alcoholics or have no means to look after their kids as long as the numbers are cut." The article continues, "Romanian authorities have proudly claimed that last year only 1,483 children aged 0–2 years were in state institutions, compared with 7,483 in 1997. But those figures do not include hospitals, where staff admit they rely on donations from charities and individuals to keep helping such children. . . . The head of the Neonatology Department

at the University Hospital in Bucharest says abandoned children stay on average for 6–7 months [and] the situation is almost as bad as it was in Ceausescu's time." The article also quotes the head of the Neonatology Section at the Bucur Maternity Hospital, also in Bucharest, as saying "last year, we had more abandoned kids than ever because the law changed. And it changed for the worse for the people in the maternity wards because the law forbids us to send children under 2 years old to state orphanages."

At a Helsinki Commission hearing on September 14, Dr. Dana Johnson, Director of the International Adoption Clinic and Neonatology Division at the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, testified that Romania's concentration on the reunification of an abandoned child with his or her biological family is only superficially consistent with the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child or the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. According to Dr. Johnson, "in neither of those documents is the mention of time. . . . It doesn't tell you how long you should spend reunifying that child with the family. . . . Contemporary child development research has clearly shown that there is a known amount of deterioration that occurs in children who are in hospitals or institutional care and outside of family care during the first few years of life. . . . You can predict that every child who is in institutional care during that period of time will lose one month of physical growth, one month of motor development, one month of speech development for every three months they're in institutional care. You also can predict that from age four months through 24 months of age, they will lose one to two I.Q. points a month during that period of time. The other thing we know is that by placing them into a caring, competent family, that you can recover some of this function. . . . A child that is abandoned in Romania today at the end of next summer will have permanently lost 15 I.Q. points. That child two years from now will have permanently lost 30 I.Q. points, which means that half of those kids are going to be mentally retarded."

Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking for Romania's children. H. Res. 578 notes that Romania is a party to the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption which recognizes that "intercountry adoption may offer the advantage of a permanent family to a child for whom a suitable family cannot be found in his or her State of origin." State Department officials and non-governmental experts from the adoption and child welfare communities have testified that Romania's child welfare and adoption laws are inconsistent with Romania international commitments under this and other agreements.

The resolution further notes that UNICEF has issued an official statement in support of intercountry adoption which, in pertinent part, reads: "for children who cannot be raised by their own families, an appropriate alternative family environment should be sought in preference to institutional care, which should be used only as a last resort and as a temporary measure. Intercountry adoption is one of a range of care options which may be open to children, and for individual children who cannot be placed in a permanent family setting in their countries of origin, it may indeed be the best solution. In each case, the best interests

of the individual child must be the guiding principle in making a decision regarding adoption."

Finally, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the role of the European Union in this debacle, I ask who in the European Union will stand with Members of Congress to protect these defenseless children? All children deserve better than to spend their lives in group homes or warehoused in institutions where their physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual well-being is critically endangered. It is indeed tragic if the price of admission to the European Union is the sacrifice of thousands of Romania's orphaned or abandoned children.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution. For the sake of the innumerable children in need of permanent families, the voice of the United States Congress must be heard clearly in this transatlantic dialogue on intercountry adoption.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 16

10:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing regarding future naval force structure requirements.

SR-222

JANUARY 9

12 noon

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Samuel A. Alito, Jr., of New Jersey, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

SH-216

FEBRUARY 9

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold an oversight hearing to examine commercial aviation security, focusing on Transportation Security Administration's aviation passenger screening programs, Secure Flight and Registered Traveler, to discuss issues that have prevented these programs from being launched, and to determine their future.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To continue oversight hearings to examine commercial aviation security, focusing on physical screening of airline passengers, including issues pertaining to Transportation Security Administration's Federal passenger screener force, TSA procurement policy, air cargo screening, and the deployment of explosive detection technology.

SD-562

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.