

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### EXPUNGEMENT RESTORES MOST FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment at comments made earlier this month by Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich that he would veto a bill that would restore voting rights to felons.

Disenfranchisement is a problem plaguing society. Nationally, more than four million Americans are not allowed to vote as a result of laws that prohibit voting by felons or ex-felons. In 48 states, with the exception of Maine and Vermont, and the District of Columbia prisoners cannot vote. In 36 states, felons on probation or parole are disenfranchised and in 11 states, a felony conviction can result in a lifetime sanction long after the completion of a sentence. Unfortunately disenfranchisement is not a color-blind problem. This fundamental obstacle to participation in our democracy is aggravated by racial disparities within the criminal justice system, resulting in an estimated 13 percent of black men unable to vote. In 10 states with the highest Hispanic populations, including California, Latinos are as much as three times more likely to lose their right to vote from felony disenfranchisement than the population at large.

The denial of black and Latino ex-felons from membership and participation in our electorate is a glaring disgrace to a country that prides itself on its equitable criminal justice system. It is said that once prisoners have "paid their debt to society," they are free to re-enter it. But are they truly free? The answer is no if some of their fundamental rights aren't restored at the conclusion of their sentence. Not only are some ex-felons not allowed to vote, but employers hesitate to contract workers with criminal records and participation in certain housing and training programs is elusive to them as well. It is shameful and unfair to punish ex-felons even after they have served their sentence. We must avail to these citizens every opportunity to regain their dignity so they do not return to a life of crime. The unfortunate alternative is for society to continue to be victimized by ex-offenders who, having given up all hope of employment, resort to careers in crime.

It is my belief that expungement allows for a fresh start for reformed ex-prisoners. That is why I have reintroduced H.R. 662, the Second Chance for Ex-Offenders Act of 2005, which would permit the expungement of federal records for certain nonviolent criminal offenses. Gov. Ehrlich's comments that fully restoring voting rights to felons is inappropriate are in and of themselves egregious. If we continue to deny all ex-felons the right to vote and continue to punish them even after they have served their time, then what debt have they paid to society during their incarceration? What message are we sending not only to ex-

offenders but the world as we continue to tout ourselves as the leader of the free, Democratic world, if we do not allow some of our citizens the right to vote?

Currently, some states have reformed their laws to allow ex-offenders to become active participants in their government. Several states, such as Kentucky and Illinois, permit the expungement of the records of certain ex-offenders who have violated state laws. Voting rights advocates and legislators are pushing for such initiatives in Virginia. In the governor's great state of Maryland, dozens of House Democrats have co-sponsored legislation that would allow about 150,000 ex-felons to vote this year and the state Democratic Party has endorsed the proposal. To unilaterally turn a deaf ear to constituents, advocacy groups and fellow lawmakers is an offense to democracy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that Gov. Ehrlich comes to realize the type of damage his vow to forbid restoration of voting rights to ex-prisoners has done to disadvantaged communities in his state. It is his vow that I find inappropriate.

### TRIBUTE TO ALICE GRAY

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor my friend Alice Gray who died on February 10, 2006, at the age of 88. Surrounded by family and friends, she passed away peacefully in her Santa Rosa home. Known throughout Sonoma County for her leadership in the civil rights movement, Alice's strength, motherly warmth, and common sense were a hallmark of her style.

Originally from Longview, Texas, Alice moved to California during World War II to join her husband Gilbert who was working in the shipyards in Marin City. In 1950 the family moved to Santa Rosa where there were few other black people, and Alice and Gilbert soon became community activists.

In 1954 they co-founded the Sonoma Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and led pickets to integrate local businesses. Alice also helped establish the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club in Sonoma, the Marin Rod and Gun Club, and the Community Baptist Church which has been led by the Reverend James Coffee for 45 years.

In 1992 Alice and Gilbert launched the Gray Foundation, with an initial contribution of \$150,000, to provide funds to students with the desire to further their education and serve their community. The Grays declared, "The Gray Foundation is our effort to reverse unemployment, declining social values and violent self-fear. We seek to put our resources behind our words (put up or shut up) . . . As a people, we have to put our growing re-

sources to use in support of our heroes/heroines, our heritage, as well as persons and places of learning. We must listen and learn from each the traditions of self-help and self-reliance that once gave our people strength."

The Foundation's programs embody that philosophy, from its scholarships for high school graduates to In Partnership, a unique enrichment program at Brook Hill Elementary School which focuses on the development of tools that young children will need for school success. Its theme is "Students Taking an Active Role" (the children are known as "STARS") and includes the South Park Grandmothers' Club whose members, including Alice, went regularly to the school to be there for at-risk kids.

Alice's husband Gilbert passed away in 1997 after 62 years of marriage. She remained active, including a drive to Los Angeles with her grandson Curtis last fall to attend the 18th annual California NAACP Convention. Always a high-spirited driver (called "wheeling" by the family), she drove for 100 miles on the trip, her first time behind the wheel since her husband's death. At the Convention, she met with the new president, Bruce Gordon, and many old friends from all over the state such as Willie Brown and Mervyn Dymally. She and Curtis attended seminars, including one on same sex marriage. Both of them were overwhelmed at the concluding banquet where Curtis was given the honor of doing an invocation and all 450 attendees sang Happy Birthday to Alice.

Alice is survived by 7 great, great grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, 32 grandchildren, 5 siblings, numerous nieces and nephews, eight of her nine children—Ann Gray Byrd, William Gray, Dorothy Woodward, Ida Johnson, James Gray, Charles Gray, Aubrey Gray, Robert Gray—and many close friends and admirers.

Mr. Speaker, it was the Alice's and Gilbert's desire that "the Gray Foundation serve as an example to others so that they, too, will put up, because we cannot afford to shut-up and still survive." Alice Gray herself was a shining example of someone who "put up", inspiring so many with her actions and her heart. I will miss my friend but know that her message of hope and compassion will continue to spread throughout the community and beyond.

### TRIBUTE TO JOSEPHINE CATHRINE GAJDA

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding resident of the Third Congressional District of Illinois, Josephine Cathrine Gajda, upon her retirement. Over the years, Josephine has been a distinguished contributor to the community, as well as an exemplary mother. Her love of nature, reading,

• 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.

and visiting with her grandchildren embody genuine and honorable values.

After graduating from St. John of God Elementary School and Lourdes High School, Josephine's experience in child care, banking, and at Dominick's enabled her to serve the community and its residents. During this time, she also nurtured and raised five children (Cheryl, Stephen, David, Kristen, and Melissa) and is currently the grandmother of six grandchildren (Zack, Andrew, Dakota, Emily, Kristina, and Nicholas).

Josephine's patience, kindness, and ability proved to be invaluable in the workplace, but also at home. As an outstanding parent, she imparted these important values to her children and grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to stand with me today and take this opportunity to recognize Josephine Catherine Gajda for her many achievements, and wish her well in retirement. As Josephine truly sets an example to the Third District, we also thank her for her role in making our community a better place to live.

#### HONORING PRAVEEN CHAUDHARI

### HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize a good friend and leader in the advanced research community, the retiring director of the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Dr. Praveen Chaudhari.

I am deeply proud to represent BNL and its dedicated employees. I have thoroughly enjoyed my working relationship with Dr. Chaudhari, who is a world-class physicist running a world-class research facility. It is an honor and privilege for me to recognize his numerous accomplishments, steadfast dedication and hard work throughout a distinguished research career dedicated to the advancement of science.

Dr. Chaudhari entered the field of physics by earning a B.S. from the Indian Institute of Technology as well as an M.S. and Sc.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He applied this knowledge to research and the publication of over 150 technical papers and 20 patents throughout 36 years as an IBM scientist, manager, and recipient of numerous honors for his contributions to innovative scientific technology.

Through three years at the helm of the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Dr. Chaudhari persevered over many challenges while making tremendous progress in advanced energy research and technology. His tenacity and firm resolve have proven to be among BNL's most invaluable assets. I have witnessed his leadership and determination first-hand, particularly as the lab moved forward with break-through research projects such as the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider and the National Synchrotron Light Source-II (NSLS-II).

It was my pleasure to work closely with Dr. Chaudhari and my colleagues in New York's congressional delegation to help BNL advance its mission. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I extend my gratitude and congratulations to Dr. Chaudhari for a brilliant

career along with best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors. His vision and passion for scientific discovery will always be remembered, and his outstanding advocacy and leadership will be missed.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING THE CARIBBEAN UNDER GLOBALIZATION

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the challenges facing Caribbean countries, and their leadership and to acknowledge the vital roles they play in the global community. As an example of the richness of the thinking in the region on the challenges faced by small states in their transition to the global economy, I enter in the RECORD a speech delivered by His Excellency Michael King, Ambassador of Barbados to the United States of America and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States. Comments made by Ambassador King were part of his address to the annual general meeting of the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA), a membership organization dedicated to the preservation of Caribbean cultural and natural resources, held Friday, February 3, 2006.

Currently, the Caribbean region is undergoing a transformation, but changes could come with a steep price. Countries such as Jamaica and Barbados have seen a boom in real estate, primarily for local housing development and further growth will necessarily be contingent on the greater exploitation of natural resources. In Trinidad, the lucrative oil windfall may open opportunities for industrialization which will not only use scarce resources but will bring up concerns regarding safe disposal of waste byproducts and health ramifications in nearby communities. Natural disasters also pose a challenge as the Caribbean and the United States observed with the destruction of Grenada in 2004 by Hurricane Ivan. All governments must boost their preparedness in order to prevent devastation to families, homes and businesses.

In his remarks, Ambassador King explains that because of the CCA's unique mission, they are in a position to outreach to members who can influence change. "Having gone through a period of dormancy, the organization must act quickly not just to confirm its relevance but to provide the mechanism whereby it can become the catalyst for a resurgence of the environmental movement in the Caribbean," Ambassador King said in his remarks. The Ambassador suggests continued collaboration between CCA and organizations dedicated to promoting agriculture and tourism in order to boost CCA's efficiency. He also recommends CCA becoming a vehicle for interventions related to community-based educational programs and alliances with fledging non-governmental organizations working in the field.

Mr. Speaker, again please join me in acknowledging the merit of Ambassador King's remarks regarding the challenges facing the Caribbean in this era of globalization and what can be done to protect and preserve the Caribbean's cultural resources and environment.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANK EGGER

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank Egger of Fairfax, CA, who recently completed 10 terms—40 years—on the Fairfax City Council, including seven stints as mayor. The longest continuously serving city council member in the State, Frank's tenure was marked by his environmental activism and his passion for his town.

A San Francisco native, Frank lived in Santa Rosa for several years where he met his wife, Ronita Sundin, while modeling at a fashion show at the Flamingo Hotel. The couple moved to Fairfax in 1959 to raise their daughter Lori, who now has two children of her own. Frank left college to support his family and spent 44 years driving a bread truck for Sara Lee. He became active in North Bay labor issues, fighting for the rights of blue-collar workers, and eventually served as president of Teamsters Local No. 484.

In the 1960s Frank began his life's calling as an activist in both State and local issues when he perceived the environmental threats facing California and when a graceful Victorian bank in his hometown was replaced by a modern building.

Frank cofounded Friends of the Eel River, preventing the building of the Dos Rios Dam and is still fighting water diversions that could harm that stream's fisheries. He has had long working relationships with environmental pioneers including David Brower, Todd Steiner, Marty Griffin, and the late Peter Behr—with whom he developed the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, signed into law by Governor Reagan. He also served as one of the State's first coastal commissioners, spearheaded a State antinuclear initiative, and is a member of the statewide Environmental Health Legislative Working Group Pesticide Committee.

Locally, Frank was active in many key groups including the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority, GGNRA Board of Control, Marin County Congestion Management Agency, Marin Telecommunications Agency, and many others over his 40-year tenure. He has also been a fixture at meetings dealing with water issues in both Marin and Sonoma counties.

However, he will be most remembered for his leadership in preserving Fairfax's small-town character through his role in slowing its development and safeguarding its environment and the wages of its workforce. He was instrumental in the creation of the 500-acre Elliot Nature Preserve, enactment of strict antipesticide ordinances and a high living-wage law, and protection of the historic 23-acre Marin Town and Country Club from large-scale development.

In the cauldron of local politics, all would agree that Frank acted out of conviction for his town, for the environment, and for the well being of workers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have worked with Frank Egger, a brave and caring activist, whose years of service are an inspiration to all of us who believe in fighting for our values and speaking out for progressive causes. I know he will continue this fight, and I intend to be by his side.

HONORING GERALD R. BENNETT,  
MAYOR OF PALOS HILLS, IL,  
25TH CELEBRATION IN PUBLIC  
SERVICE

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Gerald R. Bennett of Palos Hills, IL. Mayor Bennett has given 25 years of public service to the Palos Hills community.

As a native of Chicago's southwest side, Mayor Bennett attended Brother Rice High School. He then continued his education at Lewis University of Joliet and graduated from the University of Illinois—Chicago.

Mayor Bennett began his public service in 1979 by serving as alderman from the Second Ward of Palos Hills. Upon the completion of his term he was elected as mayor of Palos Hills in 1981, a position he has continued to serve for the past 25 years.

As mayor, Mr. Bennett has transformed the city of Palos Hills into a progressive community which seeks to unite all of Chicago's southwest suburban towns. Because of his exemplary leadership, Mayor Bennett has served as founder and president of the Southwest Conference of Mayors for the past 23 years. He is also the chairman of the Board of Southwest Central Dispatch, an intergovernmental police and fire 911 service.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the many achievements of Mayor Gerald R. Bennett. It is my honor to acknowledge Mayor Bennett for his outstanding leadership and commitment to public service, in the city of Palos Hills and the Third Congressional District of Illinois.

HONORING JAMES "BUTCH"  
LANGHORN

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize James "Butch" Langhorn, an American patriot and good friend, for a lifetime dedicated to serving and defending our nation and the First Congressional District of New York in particular.

Since I was elected to Congress, it has been my honor and privilege having Butch working alongside me in my Long Island office. Butch was recently appointed Special Assistant to the Sheriff of Suffolk County. Although I will miss Butch tremendously, this important and high-ranking position is a well-deserved opportunity to continue his impressive career on Long Island.

Indeed, Butch is a consummate professional whose diligence and commitment constitute a shining example of public service. His tireless efforts and steadfast dedication have been invaluable assets to our constituent service operation, and I am confident that they will prove equally beneficial to the Sheriff, his office and his jurisdiction.

Time and again, Butch has risen above and beyond the call of duty, going the extra mile to provide the best service possible to our

constituents, particularly veterans, many of whom know Butch personally and respect his impeccable record and integrity. I have often said that Butch is the best veteran's staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives. If there is someone better, then I want to meet that person.

As a young man, Butch attended Riverhead High School on Long Island before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He served four years on active duty, including a tour in Vietnam. Shortly after his return, Butch joined the Air National Guard as a technician and was attached to the 106th Air Rescue Wing located at Gabreski Air Force Base on eastern Long Island. Butch was awarded multiple decorations and reached the senior rank of Chief Master Sergeant for his countless achievements, particularly for excellence in managing the base's personnel and finances.

Throughout his military service, Butch was always keenly aware and interested in Long Island's political environment. He was elected to and remains the current Democratic Town Leader of the Town of Riverhead.

Butch's dedication to his community complements his military record and civilian occupation. He has coached Little League baseball and Pop Warner football, and was awarded the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Award for the active and positive role that he has played for his church and in his community.

Butch currently resides in Riverhead with his wife, Linda. They have two children, Kelli and Michael; and four grandchildren, Katherine, Kameron, Kyler-Ann, and Danielle.

On behalf of my staff and New York's First Congressional District, I thank James "Butch" Langhorn for over four decades of public service, through which a common thread runs—his genuine commitment to his fellow veterans and Long Islanders. I wish him continued success, good health, and the best of luck in the future. Butch will be missed but always remembered with the highest degree of fondness, respect and gratitude.

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS  
AMERICAN HEART MONTH

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge February as American Heart Month. Heart disease is an increasing issue in today's society. The risk of this detrimental disease can be prevented, if only we stop to recognize the warning signs.

Heart disease, strokes and other cardiovascular diseases are the leading causes of death in the United States. In 2003, collectively these diseases killed 910,600 of our citizens. Moreover, heart disease is the number one killer of women in America. Statistics show that more than 70 million Americans currently suffer from some form of cardiovascular disease. It is critical that we take action now to reduce the number of people who fall victim to these ailments.

As a member of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition, I feel it is my duty to raise awareness of the seriousness of cardiovascular disease. The coalition is comprised of

several members of the House and the Senate. Together, we act as a resource center on heart and stroke issues such as biomedical research; quality and availability of care; health promotion and disease prevention. We also work to advance public policy aimed at fighting cardiovascular diseases. I believe in the importance of knowing the warning signs of this condition. More knowledge about this disease increases the chance of survival for our fellow countrymen.

Several things can be done to maintain a healthy heart. The first step is to be screened for heart disease, which includes having cholesterol and blood pressure checked. Next, it is important to start a conversation with health care providers about personal risks of heart disease. Most often, this includes a discussion of the family's history of stroke. Many doctors have advised that quitting smoking, losing weight and becoming more active through even moderate exercise greatly decreases the risk of cardiovascular disease. These are just a few things we can do to help reduce the risk of heart disease. The American Heart Association's website is a great resource for helpful facts, statistics, and warning signs of these impending conditions. I believe it is crucial to heed these warnings.

Mr. Speaker, the heart is truly a vital organ pumping blood throughout our bodies every day. I ask that you will join me in promoting heart healthy programs. Together, we will ensure Americans keep their hearts healthy.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF TEXAS WESTERN'S 1966  
NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

SPEECH OF

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of diversity in sports and civil rights in America first pioneered by Texas Western's 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship victory. On its 40th anniversary, I join my colleagues in recognizing the lasting impact this title game has etched into the history of American culture.

The Texas Western 1966 NCAA Championship triumph over the University of Kentucky is to this day acknowledged as the turning point for not only college basketball but American sports in general.

When no other schools in the Southeastern Conference or the former Southwestern Conference would award them athletic scholarships, African Americans had been recruited by and playing for Texas Western since the 1950s.

The university's most controversial move, however, came when the 1966 Miners were the first team in NCAA basketball to have an all-black starting lineup. Winning the title game was perhaps not as a great a feat for Coach Don Haskins as was placing five all-black starters against five all-white starters in 1966.

Haskins' daring insight combined with the players' undeniable athletic talent produced a game that would rupture the social structure of college sports and forever change the face of American sports.

The Miners' 72–65 victory over the Wildcats proved to be more than just an athletic anomaly. It became the social breakthrough that would invite the irrepressible talent and skill diversity has to offer to college athletics.

With cultural implications well beyond its sporting ones, this championship win has come to symbolize the glory that could be obtained by athletes—regardless of their heritage—who are bold enough to travel down the road of recognition, integration, and acceptance.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Texas Western's 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship as we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the team's revolutionary civil rights success.

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TRIBUTE TO MR. FRED ANDERSON

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and public service of Mr. Fred Anderson of Loveland, Colorado. Mr. Anderson, a fifth generation Coloradoan, has devoted his life to public service and the people of Colorado.

In 1966 Mr. Anderson began his dutiful service in the State Senate. During his 16 year tenure as a State Senator, he chaired the Natural Resources Committee and the Legislative Audit Committee. He also served as president of the Senate from 1974 to 1982. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Anderson was responsible for Colorado becoming the first state to set up an actuarially sound pension program for public employees. Moreover, Mr. Anderson was instrumental in the recodification of Colorado Water Law. The expertise Mr. Anderson brought to this lengthy process was an invaluable asset to the people of Colorado.

Mr. Anderson's reputation as an effective leader and skilled legislator earned him national recognition. He served as president of the National Conference of State Legislators and also received a Presidential Appointment to the Advisory Commission for Inter-Governmental Relations.

Mr. Anderson's service to his community has not been limited to the political realm. He has unselfishly given of himself as a member of countless civic and philanthropic organizations. Mr. Anderson has served on the Governing Board of Lutheran Hospital and Homes Society and as chair of the United Way. He has also been actively involved in the Rotary Club, Farm Bureau, and Colorado Cattle Feeders.

Perhaps most importantly however, Mr. Anderson is a family man of tremendous character. He and his wife Anne have been married for over fifty-two years. He is the proud father of three sons and a daughter as well as a proud grandfather of seven.

INTRODUCING THE PULMONARY AND CARDIAC REHABILITATION ACT OF 2006

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, COPD, is the number four killer in the United States, and it is the only condition in the top ten where deaths are increasing annually. Analysts predict it will move into the number three position within the next decade. But through pulmonary rehabilitation, doctors and health care providers are saving lives. This treatment is covered by Medicare, but confusion in the regulation denies many people the opportunity for this life-saving and life-extending treatment.

As far back as 1981, the Health Care Financing Administration, now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, recognized the importance of pulmonary rehabilitation and readily acknowledged it was a covered service under Medicare. But in the past 25 years, the Medicare program has not published a policy for coverage of pulmonary rehabilitation services, letting local Medicare contractors decide how best to cover the service. So in some parts of the United States, Medicare beneficiaries have no access to pulmonary rehabilitation because local Medicare contractors have no defined policy for coverage.

So, today I introduce the Pulmonary and Cardiac Rehabilitation Act of 2006, a companion bill to S. 1440 introduced by Senators MIKE CRAPO and BLANCHE LINCOLN. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague JOHN LEWIS as a cosponsor of this reform legislation. This legislation clarifies Medicare language to establish a specific benefit category for pulmonary rehabilitation services.

Organizations such as the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Thoracic Society, the National Association for Medical Direction of Respiratory Care, the American Association of Respiratory Care and the American Hospital Association have all signaled their support for this reform.

Heart disease, along with other cardiovascular diseases, is the number one killer in the United States. So in addition to establishing a specific benefit category for pulmonary rehabilitation, this legislation would do the same for cardiac rehabilitation services. I commend CMS for taking action on cardiac rehabilitation and proposing a National Coverage Decision in December 2005. This bill would give legislative certainty and clarity to that action.

Because CMS agrees that cardiac rehabilitation is an important covered service, there is no cost associated with these provisions of the bill. The costs associated with the pulmonary rehabilitation section are currently being scored by the Congressional Budget Office and are expected to be minimal.

My mother recently experienced firsthand the benefits of these rehabilitation services at South Central Regional Medical Center in my hometown of Laurel, Mississippi. I hope this legislation will provide others around the country with the same health care opportunities that have so benefited my mother. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELIZABETHTOWN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to honor the First Baptist Church of Elizabethtown, Illinois, as it celebrates its bicentennial anniversary on July 9, 2006. Since its founding in 1806, the Elizabethtown Baptist Church has been preaching the gospel in the community, and has served as a symbol of faith and endurance.

The church was founded by Stephen Stilley, William Jones, and others as God led them to begin a Baptist work in the Illinoisan territory. The first meeting of the church took place—as many of the New Testament churches did—in a small home. It was built in a safe place for the worshippers near Griffith Cave. This proved to be of the utmost importance when the building was burned by the Indians, at first. In 1877, the church purchased land from the Drumms family and built the current church from bricks made at the local kiln. Today the congregation has made extensive repairs in an effort to preserve the old church for future generations.

The challenge of the church is to keep the sacred word of God and faithfulness of the people. For 200 years, God has protected and preserved his people's church through the threat of fire, flood, and other natural and man-made disasters as living testimony of His Divine Grace. As the celebrations go on, all visitors are always welcome. My family and I have been graciously invited to attend the celebration of their bicentennial anniversary.

My prayer is that God will continue to bless this historic and remarkable congregation and they would remain a positive influence for the future of the Elizabethtown community of Illinois.

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HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to join Chairman MEL WATT and the entire Congressional Black Caucus in recognizing the importance of Black History Month. While Black History Month always provides us with an important opportunity to reflect on the vital accomplishments and contributions of African Americans, it has taken on a special meaning this year with the recent passing of both Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King.

Although they have passed on, Mrs. King and Mrs. Parks continue to inspire us to work towards the noble goal of equality for all. These two women were among a group of brave pioneers who led one of the greatest movements of our time—the Civil Rights Movement. I have great respect for all those who risked beatings and arrests, and were even willing to make the ultimate sacrifice—their lives—to stand up for a cause that is right and just.

My close friend and colleague, Representative JOHN LEWIS, stands among us as a giant of the Civil Rights Movement. During the legendary march that Representative LEWIS led to Selma, Alabama, more than 40 years ago, countless peaceful, law-abiding Americans were beaten and arrested. This day came to be called "Bloody Sunday," and it helped spur a nation to action to fight against the evils of discrimination and racism.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the great honor and privilege to accompany Representative LEWIS and other civil rights leaders to Selma several times to commemorate the events of that fateful day by marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Each time, we are reminded of the impact that one single day can have on the course of history, and we celebrate those with the courage and determination to face down the worst so that all Americans might enjoy the freedom and equality that this nation stands for.

These pilgrimages to Selma vividly illustrate for us how far we have come in the quest for civil rights for all, yet also serve as a reminder that we must never be complacent in thinking that the battle is won.

The plight of those who are denied civil rights is a struggle that is far from over, and we must remain ever mindful of those whose rights are in danger of being denied. In the coming year, several provisions of the Voting Rights Act are scheduled for reauthorization. It is our duty to ensure that the march toward civil rights for all continues forward, rather than stalling or going backward.

The VRA is crucial in guaranteeing that the rights of all Americans remain protected, and, as such, should command broad, bipartisan support. It is a fitting tribute to Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, and to all those who have participated in the Civil Rights Movement in ways large and small, to renew the very Act that codified their long struggle for enfranchisement into law.

Our nation is deeply indebted to these men and women of courage and integrity. Their legacy will live on for generations.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY BRADLEY,  
THE 2006 IVAN D. LIVI AVIATION  
EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

**HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jerry Bradley, who has been named the Ivan D. Livi Aviation Educator of the Year by the Aviation Technician Education Council. The Aviation Technician Education Council is an organization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) founded to further the standing of FAA approved schools. This award recognizes outstanding achievement of an aviation maintenance technology instructor.

As a general aviation pilot and member of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Aviation, I am greatly impressed by the work Mr. Bradley, his colleagues and his students perform on a daily basis. The Aviation Technologies Program, which Mr. Bradley chairs, provides students in the Des Moines area with a unique opportunity to gain valuable skills and lessons, which they

can carry forward throughout their careers. I commend Mr. Bradley for leading a program, which continues to be a model of success for schools in Iowa and throughout the United States.

Again, congratulations to Mr. Jerry Bradley for earning the Ivan D. Livi Aviation Educator of the Year Award. This honors his work, the Des Moines Public Schools Aviation Technologies Program, and his students.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP  
MICHAEL LUNSFORD

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that Michael R. Lunsford, a constituent of mine from Taunton, Massachusetts, recently celebrated the first anniversary of being elevated to the position of Bishop within the International Fellowship of Reformed Episcopal Churches, previously known as the International Fellowship of Reformed Episcopal, Pentecostal Churches of the Syro-Atiochan Rite.

While this marks an important milestone for Bishop Lunsford and for the members of his congregation, I believe it is also important for the broader community to be aware of the many ways in which he has contributed to improving the lives of Taunton residents, and improving the quality of life in the greater Taunton area. Indeed, he offers an excellent example of the way in which clerics contribute to their communities simultaneously on two levels: as spiritual leaders for the members of their particular houses of worship or faiths, but also as participants in important community efforts to address social concerns that go beyond the doors of their own houses of worship. It is from that perspective that I would like to acknowledge the valuable services Bishop Lunsford has performed—and continues to perform—for Taunton and its environs, and also overseas (obviously, in this case, the term "community" has a much more expansive meaning than we sometimes give it).

Bishop Lunsford moved to Taunton in 1983 with his wife, when he took on the position of pastor at the Crossroads Christian Center. He has been active in area religious and civic affairs since that time. From its inception in 1987, he has been an advisor to Barnabas Ministries, an international missionary organization that has provided encouragement and training to thousands of pastors in more than 27 developing countries throughout the world. He was also the founder of two local human service programs: Eagles Nest, an after school program established in 1998 that focuses on tutoring, reading programs and other youth services; and The Lord Cares Food Program, which began in 1993 and provides nutrition assistance to needy families by means of donations and volunteer work. He was also the founder in 2001 of Crossroads International, a multi-racial ministry headquartered in Taunton, with branches in New Bedford, Massachusetts, Providence, Rhode Island and Port Limon, Costa Rica. Crossroads International works on promoting business development, youth empowerment and anti-drug initiatives, among other efforts.

Bishop Lunsford is also on the board of Youth Challenge International, an anti-drug abuse organization, and is a member of numerous local human service and community boards, including Taunton Cares, Pro Home, Taunton Emergency Task Force, Community Counseling, Greater Taunton Clergy, and the Department of Mental Health.

Because his work is very much in the American tradition of combining spiritual and community leadership, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael R. Lunsford on his many contributions to Taunton, his elevation to the position of Bishop and his ongoing commitment to helping less fortunate people around the world.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE GILMORE

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you my pride in Steve Gilmore, a member of my staff who is leaving our service to assume new responsibilities as the Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the Chamber of Medford/Jackson County.

A little over 7 years ago, I had the good fortune to invite Steve Gilmore to join my staff in my district office in Medford, OR. When Steve became a member of our team, he was a recent college graduate with incredible enthusiasm, a passion for the operations of government, and an intense interest in the history of our great Nation. He was highly motivated with a deep and unselfish desire to help others. Those are among the many qualities that have enabled Steve to serve the constituents of the Second Congressional District with such effectiveness.

Steve, a former student body president at Eastern Oregon University, brought significant leadership skills to his duties throughout his 7 year career with the U.S. House of Representatives. His fellow workers and my constituents sought his counsel because he had the ability to weigh large quantities of diverse information and arrive at commonsense solutions to complex problems.

Steve has approached any and all tasks presented to him with enthusiasm, good cheer, and a quiet determination to get positive results. He leaves with a file overflowing with notes and cards of sincere appreciation from Oregonians he assisted. As all of my colleagues know, people seeking our assistance are often frustrated, distraught, and discouraged. Steve has been particularly good at helping those people to have confidence that we can work through their difficulties to make the system more responsive to their needs.

Always a gentleman, Steve's innate kindness has always been reflected in his interactions with his fellow staff members and those I represent. Steve has taken very seriously our commitment to be compassionate and responsive in fulfilling our mission to assist our constituents through difficulties they confront with our government.

I appointed Steve as my special projects coordinator and my director of constituent services because I knew I could count on him to wholeheartedly tackle special issues and cases that arise in a vast territory like Oregon's Second Congressional District. I'm confident that Steve will do an outstanding job of

productively growing the involvement the Chamber of Medford/Jackson County in the political process.

I am sorry to see Steve leave, but am pleased that he has been offered this great new opportunity. I thank him deeply for his exemplary service. Mr. Speaker, I know that you and my colleagues join me in wishing Steve and his lovely wife, Mindy, the best of success in this new avenue of service.

FREMONT EDUCATION FOUNDATION HONORS CHERYL COOK-KALLIO AND SANDI PANTAGES FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two extraordinary women who were honored by the Fremont Education Foundation in Fremont, California on February 24, 2006 at the Foundation's Annual Excellence in Education Gala. The 2006 honorees, Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Sandi Pantages have provided exemplary contributions to the Fremont Unified School District. Ms. Cook-Kallio is the Excellence in Education Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) Honoree. Ms. Pantages is the Excellence in Education Community Honoree.

Ms. Cook-Kallio is an instructor at Irvington High School in Fremont, California and has been an educator with FUSD since 1979. She has coached and led her "We the People" team of students to win the California State "We The People" Competition. Her students placed fourth in the National "We The People" Competition in 2005. She is popular with her students and has received numerous professional honors, grants and fellowships for her teaching, mentorship, and excellence in the areas of Social Studies, United States History and Government. She is an exemplary mentor, motivator and respected educator.

Ms. Pantages has served as a member of the Fremont Education Foundation Board of Directors since 1992. She has provided immeasurable support to Fremont's students and has contributed greatly to the Fremont community through her 32-year association and employment with Alameda County Library. She developed the Alameda County Library Foundation and served as Manager of the Fremont Main Library and Fremont Libraries prior to her retirement in 2001. She has received numerous awards and recognition from the city of Fremont, Alameda County Library Foundation and was named Alameda County's Outstanding Manager of the Year-General Government in 1999.

Both Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Sandi Pantages have distinguished themselves in their careers and contributions to their community. I congratulate them for the well deserved honor they received from the Fremont Education Foundation.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVEMENT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise today to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement. On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to correct the historical injustices of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin by reuniting the area with Armenia. Six days later, one million people demonstrated in Yerevan's Opera Square. Unfortunately, the central Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership violently reacted to this peaceful and legal request by engaging in full military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh.

In 1991, the people of Nagorno Karabakh voted overwhelmingly to establish an independent republic. However, Azerbaijan continued to perpetrate horrific crimes against Nagorno Karabakh including indiscriminate bombing and artillery attacks. Since 1994, a cease-fire, which has held through today, was reached with help from Russian and European mediators.

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a court system, an independent foreign policy, and a commitment to educating its citizens. Just last year, Nagorno Karabakh held its fourth parliamentary elections which were declared to be free and transparent by election observers. I will continue to join with my colleagues in supporting assistance to Nagorno Karabakh, which has a vital role in achieving a peaceful and stable South Caucasus region. I commend the people of Nagorno Karabakh for courageously defending their right to live freely on their ancestral land. On this anniversary, I reiterate my unwavering support to Nagorno Karabakh's freedom, democracy, and economic development.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to other business, I missed three votes on February 28, 2006. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 14, commemorating the lifetime innovations of Thomas Edison; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 15, celebrating the 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 NCAA basketball championship; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 16, to authorize the President to award a gold medal, on behalf of Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen.

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the United States Peace Corps and its more than 7,800 volunteers serving abroad as they celebrate the 45th anniversary of this respected organization. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, impressing upon thousands of young people the need for public service and urging them to become not simply citizens of the U.S., but to become global citizens in pursuit of peace and friendship.

The Peace Corps has carried on that mission. By serving two years overseas, volunteers work cooperatively with local communities, providing expertise and assistance, and empowering people in developing countries. Their service continues President Kennedy's hopes for the Peace Corps to change the lives of countless individuals, families, and communities worldwide.

Today, I would also like to share the story of a volunteer from my district—a young woman from Santa Fe, New Mexico who was committed to the mission of the Peace Corps.

Tessa Marie Horan graduated from the College of Santa Fe in December 2003 and began a career focused on educating children. She was accepted to the Peace Corps in November 2005, and after nine weeks of training, was dispatched to work in Tonga to teach in the Community Education project. The education project is focused on building life skills for Tongan students, and Tessa, who was looking forward to getting to work, had already established a connection with the village youth.

Unfortunately, Tessa's life was cut tragically short this January when she was attacked by a shark in the waters off Tu'anuku. In what had become an afternoon ritual, she was playing outdoors with the village children when they decided to take a swim to cool off.

In the days before her death, Tessa's friends and family recall her saying that she was thoroughly enjoying her experience in Tonga and looking forward to the official start of the teaching program. Tessa was just 24-years old and often quoted Gandhi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Those words are very fitting to describe the character of Tessa and the thousands of other Peace Corps volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations again to the Peace Corps on its 45th anniversary, and a personal, thank you to all former and current Peace Corps volunteers from New Mexico. Your selfless dedication and service serves as an example of the American spirit.

IN MEMORY OF NORMAN MIRANDA

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 2006, the citizens of East Providence and the state of Rhode Island lost

one of the beloved leaders of all time. A father, husband, grandfather and dear friend, Norman Miranda was a lifelong resident of East Providence. He was the city's longest serving elected and appointed official; 13 years as a councilman and 18 years with the Zoning Board of Review. Thirty-one years as a public servant, Norman was always passionate about the issues facing his community.

He was the loving father of Loriann and Norman Jr. and a loving husband to Shirley for 46 years. If you were to meet the two, you could easily sense their marriage was one built on love and faith. They worked together as a team to raise a beautiful family that will now carry on his legacy.

Norman's years of dedicated service to his community, speak volumes about his compassion for those in need and his ability to connect with others. He loved Ward 2 like it was an extension of his family and those who lived there loved him back. They knew he could be trusted for he represented the things that mattered most, family and faith.

I had the honor of knowing Norman and his family. I remember when I first ran for Congress he offered me his support and that meant I could count on all of East Providence. I can still see him proudly marching along the many parade routes in the city, smiling and waving at the crowd—most he knew by name. It's an image we all can hold onto, a man who left his mark by symbolizing all that is good and decent. He will be forever missed.

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HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE PEACE CORPS

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Peace Corps. I would like to thank the over 7,800 volunteers who currently serve overseas for their important work with this organization.

We are in a time when the Peace Corps mission is more vital than ever, and the organization is at a 30-year high in the number of volunteers in the field. The Peace Corps is currently in 69 posts and serving 75 countries across the globe.

I salute the outstanding individuals who serve and have served in the Peace Corps, specifically the sworn-in volunteers whose hometowns are in Texas District 24: Bonnie Barron, Amanda Bass, Christopher Bass, Scott Bennett, Eric Brooke, Jaime Bruner, Susan English, David Fox, Mary Kah, Geoffrey Keogh, Carolyn McGee, Roanne Perry, and Aubrey Weers.

I am proud to represent these men and women who empower people in developing nations and promote the Peace Corps mission of peace and friendship. These volunteers are making major strides to improve the lives of people and communities around the world.

I wish the Peace Corps and its volunteers continued success and perseverance. We are grateful for their contributions to society and dedication to providing assistance where it is needed. May the Peace Corps continue its legacy of service, both at home and abroad.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHARD  
M. DEVOS ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to a native son and community pillar of my hometown, Grand Rapids, MI, Mr. Richard M. DeVos, on the occasion of his 80th birthday on March 4.

Rich has played a leading role in making Grand Rapids a wonderful and vibrant place to live. Rather than keeping the fortune that he and his business partner and lifelong friend, the late Jay VanAndel, built after creating and growing their business, Amway Corporation, Rich and Jay and their families found countless ways to reinvest the fruits of their success back into their community. Just a few of the notable examples are the development of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, which was the linchpin in the redevelopment of downtown Grand Rapids in the early 1980s, and a donation which led to the construction of DeVos Performance Hall, a world-class performing arts center which is the home of the Grand Rapids Symphony, Opera Grand Rapids and Broadway-class plays and musicals. The hall also is part of the larger DeVos Place Convention Center.

That Rich DeVos is still with us today is nothing short of a miracle. In 1997, he survived a unique heart transplant surgery in which he received the heart of a lung transplant patient, who in turn received a combination heart-lung transplant from the victim of an auto accident. As a result of his experience, Rich now serves as chairman of the speakers' bureau for the United Network for Organ Sharing and has even testified before Congress urging support to make organ donation easier. He and his wife, Helen, also provided funding for the DeVos Children's Hospital, the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, the DeVos Communications Center at Calvin College, the DeVos Center of Grand Valley State University and the Richard and Helen DeVos Fieldhouse at Hope College in Holland, MI.

Today, Rich DeVos is the same vibrant person who was a cheerleader at Grand Rapids Christian High School and who inspired thousands of people to open their own businesses with the help of Amway. Rich has continued his inspirational ways as an author, including "Hope from My Heart: 10 Lessons for Life" and "Compassionate Capitalism." Rich is also the owner of the National Basketball Association's Orlando Magic. DeVos and VanAndel's business, now known as Alticor, continues to be a major employer in West Michigan and throughout the world, with the reins of the business handed over to their children.

Throughout his life and career, Rich DeVos has been guided by his faith in God. This has manifested itself not only in his dedication to his church, but also in the way that he does business, how he works with and cares for his employees, and his involvement in his community. Rich truly is a person who understands the Gospel admonition, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required." (Luke 12:48).

It is my very special pleasure to wish Rich DeVos a very happy 80th birthday and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.

HONORING RICHARD M. DEVOS, SR.  
UPON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. PETER HOEKSTRA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard M. DeVos, Sr. upon the occasion of his 80th birthday on March 4, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Richard DeVos and his wife, Helen, have been a blessing not only to the Grand Rapids area, but to communities throughout the United States.

He has positively impacted West Michigan through numerous civic and philanthropic contributions since cofounding the Amway Corporation in 1959 with lifelong friend and business partner, the late Jay Van Andel. He has helped to create the DeVos Children's Hospital, the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Services, the DeVos Communications Center at Calvin College, the DeVos Campus of Grand Valley State University, the DeVos Place convention center and the Richard and Helen DeVos Fieldhouse at Hope College.

Mr. DeVos has enhanced the quality of life in Grand Rapids through such generous support for educational, health and cultural initiatives.

Mr. DeVos's contributions are not limited to West Michigan, Mr. Speaker. He has contributed to numerous organizations in Central Florida as well, including the DeVos Sport Business Management Foundation Program at the University of Central Florida and the Orlando Magic Youth Foundation.

He has also touched hundreds of thousands of lives through his inspirational speeches and three books, "Believe!," "Compassionate Capitalism" and "Hope from My Heart."

Mr. Speaker, perhaps most importantly, Mr. DeVos has achieved so much in his life based upon a strong work ethic and an unyielding devotion to faith and family, ideals that we hold in the highest regard in our West Michigan community.

I wish Mr. DeVos all the best as he celebrates such a significant milestone with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this 28th day of February in 2006, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the contributions and achievements of Mr. DeVos, and may God continue to bless him in the years ahead as he has so benefited the lives of those around him.

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IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD  
M. DEVOS, SR.

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a civic and business leader of Michigan, Mr. Richard M. DeVos, Sr., who will celebrate his 80th birthday this year.

Mr. DeVos cofounded the Amway Corporation, one of the most successful direct selling companies in the world. His efforts have enabled over 3 million people to own independent businesses.

Yet Mr. DeVos's work stretches beyond the realm of business; both he and his wife are

actively involved in philanthropy and charitable work. Their generosity has helped countless individuals both in their hometown of Grand Rapids and across Michigan. Institutions such as the DeVos Children's Hospital, the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, and the DeVos Campus of Grand Valley State University bear witness to their commitment to give back to the community.

Richard DeVos has also written three books that have inspired innovative and entrepreneurial spirits in younger generations. After undergoing a heart transplant in 1997, Mr. DeVos became the chairman of the Speakers Bureau for United Network for Organ Sharing and has worked diligently to deliver his message of perseverance and hope.

Today I rise to thank Richard M. DeVos, Sr. for his lifetime of service and dedication to our community, to congratulate him on his many accomplishments, and to wish him a happy and healthy birthday.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO A MICHIGAN  
LEADER, RICHARD DEVOS

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**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Richard DeVos, a Michigan citizen who exemplifies the American spirit of entrepreneurship and community leadership.

As Richard DeVos celebrates his 80th birthday, we reflect on his many achievements as the co-founder of Amway Corp. with his lifelong friend and business partner, the late Jay Van Andel, as well as his many selfless contributions to his state, community, and fellow citizens.

The author of three books, "Believe!," "Compassionate Capitalism," and "Hope From My Heart: Ten Lessons for Life," Richard also is a public speaker with an international following. After receiving a heart transplant in 1997, he took on the additional responsibility of serving as chairman for the Speakers Bureau for United Network for Organ Sharing.

Richard has owned several professional sports franchises, including the Orlando Magic of the National Basketball Association.

Richard and his wife, Helen, support many hospitals, colleges and universities, arts organizations and Christian causes in their hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and also numerous organizations in their adopted community in Central Florida.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Richard and his wife Helen have raised four children and have 16 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Richard DeVos as, on his 80th birthday, we acknowledge his life-long vision, compassion, and commitment to the American people and his home state of Michigan. Richard DeVos is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

COMMENDING THE PEACE CORPS  
ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
ITS INCEPTION

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend and congratulate the Peace Corps, and its many volunteers, on the 45th Anniversary of its inception. During a 1960 visit to the University of Michigan, then-Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students to not only better themselves academically, but to serve the call of duty and help promote and facilitate peace throughout the globe.

As a result of this proclamation, the Peace Corps was established with the noble goal in mind of promoting peace and friendship between the United States and other countries around the world. If President Kennedy were alive today, he would no doubt look upon the Peace Corps with great pride and admiration for what it has evolved in to: a vessel which fosters an in-depth understanding between Americans and the indigenous peoples of the countries in which they serve, helping the rest of us to better understand a plethora of different customs, traditions and ways of life.

Since its founding 45 years ago, more than 182,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have been invited by 138 host countries to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities. Whether empowering seemingly helpless people to take control of their own lives, assisting with AIDS relief in poverty-stricken countries, developing greater business opportunities, expanding agriculture development, or—most recently—coming to the rescue of their own countrymen whose entire lives were uprooted by the devastating destruction of Hurricane Katrina, these volunteers provide a faithful service to this great Nation, and they should be proud of their achievement. And we are certainly proud of each and every volunteer and what they represent. In fact, from my own district in Indiana, there are currently 20 volunteers who are giving their time to this country, away from their families, to help strangers make a better life for themselves, and I would personally like to thank my fellow Hoosiers for their commitment.

As we all know, the Peace Corps has made life better for millions of people worldwide, and has enriched the lives of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have devoted their time, energy and passion into answering the Peace Corps' call to duty. I would respectfully encourage my fellow colleagues to congratulate, commend, and encourage the continued advancement and success of the Peace Corps and all that its volunteers represent.

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REMEMBER INTERNMENT OF  
AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, on February 19, 1942, President

Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 authorizing the Secretary of War to define military areas in which "the right of any person to enter, remain in or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions" are deemed "necessary or desirable."

By the spring of 1942, California, Oregon, Washington, and Arizona were designated as military areas.

In May of 1942, Santa Clara Valley Japanese Americans were ordered to "close their affairs promptly, and make their own arrangements for disposal of personal and real property."

Official government fliers were posted around California, Arizona and Washington instructing families to report to various assembly centers with just the bare necessities, leaving behind their homes, their lives, and most personal belongings.

Because permanent camps were not yet built, large community gathering places, such as the Tanforan Racetrack in San Mateo County in Northern California and the Santa Anita Racetrack in Southern California became home to Japanese internees for several months before being moved.

San Francisco Bay Area Japanese Americans were forced to live in horse stables at the Tanforan Racetrack until a permanent camp was built for them.

Eleven thousand Japanese Americans and aliens were evacuated from their homes and incarcerated throughout the duration of the war.

Three thousand of those interned were Japanese Americans from Santa Clara Valley.

By the fall of 1942, most internees were transported to camps far away from home, to internment camps in Arizona, Northern and Central California, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and even as far away as Arkansas.

Most remained in internment camps until the end of the war—3 long years later.

The horror for Japanese Americans did not end upon their return to Santa Clara County in 1945 at the end of the war. Upon release, approximately 7,000 Japanese Americans moved to Santa Clara Valley.

Most had no shelter, food, money, much less a job.

Some returned to find their homes looted and destroyed.

The San Jose Buddhist Church offered what it could—shelter and hot meals for most families.

In Santa Clara County, the family of Bob Peckham (later to become Federal District Court Judge Bob Peckham) took title to the property of Japanese-American neighbors and was able to preserve property and return it at the end of the internment, so people in our area in some cases were saved the loss of their homes and businesses.

All of this happened before I was born.

But I remember very well learning about it even before it was added to the history textbooks.

My mother was a young woman in 1942. My dad was in the army and she was building airplanes at Douglas Aircraft for the war effort.

She told me about driving past the Tanforan Racetrack and how ashamed and guilty she felt. There were people locked up at the race track—living in horse stables—who she knew had done nothing wrong. People who had been her neighbors had been rounded up suddenly and taken away.

My mother told me how helpless she felt. She knew what her government was doing was wrong but she didn't know how to change it. She felt powerless but also felt guilty and ashamed because of what the United States government had done.

She was a life long Democrat and cast her first Presidential vote for FDR . . . but she never agreed with what he did to her neighbors.

There was no apology, no financial support, no help from the Federal Government until many years later.

Finally, on February 19, 1976 President Gerald Ford formally rescinded Executive Order 9066.

And, at long last, on July 21, 1980 Congress adopted legislation establishing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) to investigate the claim that the incarceration of Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens during World War II was justified by military necessity.

On August 10, 1988 the Civil Liberties Act was signed into law, authorizing payments of \$20,000 to each person that suffered from internment and established the Office of Redress to identify, locate, and pay these individuals, 82,219 were paid.

By then my neighbors and my parents neighbors who had been unjustly incarcerated—Ed Kawazoe, Jimi Yamaichi, Ted and Raiko, and many others—received at long last an apology. Some lived long enough to receive the compensation provided for in the law.

These efforts were celebrated in the community of Japanese Americans. But they were also celebrated in the broader community because Americans who were not incarcerated, like my mother, felt the shame and the guilt.

And while an apology could not undo the injustice and the compensation did not fully cover the loss, it helped that our country admitted the mistake and tried to make amends.

On March 4, 2004 H. Res. 56, introduced by Congressman MIKE HONDA, passed the House by a unanimous vote of 404–0. The resolution supports the goals of the Japanese, German, and Italian American communities in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance on the day FDR signed the infamous Executive Order 9066—February 19, 1942. It also seeks to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the restriction, exclusion, and internment of individuals and families during World War II.

Today, I support Mr. HONDA's resolution to recognize February 19th as the Day of Remembrance. It is the least we can do—spend one day per year reflecting on the horrors of internment, remember those who suffered, and work to find ways never to repeat that terrible page in history.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 16 I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

### BUSH ONCE AGAIN SKIRTING LAW IMPACTING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

### HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Congress should not allow the United Arab Emirates port deal to go through. It must be stopped, and House Republicans should grow a backbone and finally stand up to the president in the name of national security.

This deal shows once again the lengths the Bush administration will go to bend the laws to their advantage. The administration failed to conduct a 45-day investigation that is legally required. This, in itself, should be enough to stop this deal.

The national security implications are simply too important to ignore. And, unfortunately, House Republicans have neglected our vulnerable ports since 9/11. Over the past four years, House Republicans have opposed and defeated Democratic efforts to increase funding for port security. Right now, only six percent of cargo coming into the U.S. is being checked, producing a large hole in our homeland security. Democrats have tried to increase port security funding on this House floor FOUR TIMES over the last four years, and House Republicans defeated our efforts every time.

It's time Republicans make port security a priority.

### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND WORK OF MS. MARY JO AVERY, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of a community and labor leader in the 4th Congressional District. Ms. Mary Jo Avery, long-time member and officer of Local 4603 of the Communications Workers of America, has dedicated her life to public service. I salute her for her achievements as she retires from SBC-Ameritech after 32 years of service.

Within the labor movement, Ms. Avery worked tirelessly to advance women's leadership and to advocate for solutions to the unique difficulties women workers often face. An award-winning union leader, she also played a pivotal role in developing the Wisconsin Women's Network into a vibrant and powerful organization. She helped mentor, develop, support and advance women leaders, not only within the labor movement but in the broader community. Herself a devoted parent—mother of four, grandmother of 9, and great-grandmother of 5—she argued for establishing policies and practices that would facilitate workers' efforts to maintain a work/family balance. CWA's leadership on this issue no doubt drew many lessons from Ms. Avery's own personal experience.

Also a noted civil rights activist, Ms. Avery connected the labor movement to local and

national civil rights struggles. She received the National A. Philip Randolph Rosina Tucker Award for civil rights leadership and the Black Women's Network's Outstanding Achievement Award. Since 1995, she has served as President of the Milwaukee Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and was previously appointed to the City of Milwaukee's Civil Rights Commission.

I have known Ms. Avery for over 20 years. She has been an important ally in the struggle to realize ideals we both share, and has been a personal source of inspiration and support. In all she does, Mary Jo works to ensure that the promise of America is extended to those often left out—women, people of color, and other vulnerable communities. I commend her for these accomplishments, thank her for her groundbreaking leadership, and wish her a long and enjoyable retirement.

### ON THE OCCASION OF THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES PEACE CORPS

### HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, it was exactly 45 years ago today, on March 1, 1961, that President John F. Kennedy signed the Executive Order establishing the Peace Corps under its first Director, Sargent Shriver. Five months later, in that distant summer of 1961, the inaugural group of volunteers prepared to leave for the African country of Ghana. These first Peace Corps volunteers "boarded a chartered Pan American propeller driven plane for the 17-hour flight to Accra." This was the beginning of not only a life-shaping experience for these 56 pioneers but also the commencement of the entire Peace Corps saga which we are honoring today. These fellow citizens had responded to the clarion call contained in President Kennedy's inaugural address, which had challenged all Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Since that first summer, over 170,000 volunteers have answered the late President's call, serving in over 137 countries. These are our diplomats of the highways and byways. They bring the smiling face of American optimism, the famous American can-do spirit, and the American dedication to democratic values to the far corners of the globe. Their "offices" are found in dirt-floor village classrooms, at rural health clinics, on Third World farms, in development projects in some of the world's worst urban slums, and at orphanages for the abandoned children of the world. Their rewards are found in the shy smiles of students, the grateful laughter of children, and the hearty handshakes of senior citizens who have finally found their longed-for American friend. The price these volunteers are willing to pay for their unique experience of service often includes sweat and toil, loneliness and frustration, but also the hearty laughter of welcomes and the sad tears of fond farewells. They are the unsung heroes of America's continued engagement with the peoples of the developing world. At a time when anti-Americanism has become the fashion in certain quarters overseas, Peace Corps volunteers have served

their country in a manner which promotes international understanding and which makes all Americans proud.

And so I join the Peace Corps Director, Gaddi H. Vasquez, and his dedicated staff at both Peace Corps Headquarters and in the field, in honoring those over eight thousand volunteers, currently serving in 71 countries around the world, as well as those who served in the past. The present volunteers, at a time of increased security concerns in many overseas locales, deserve special recognition for their decision to leave family and friends, home and hearth, and their comfortable, secure lives behind in pursuit of the Peace Corps mission of "world peace and friendship."

Former volunteers often use the linguistic and cultural skills they acquired in Peace Corps service later in their professional lives. They sometimes find themselves continuing to work with distinction in the fields of government and international affairs. Their ranks include current Members of the House and Senate as well as Congressional staff. In this regard, these "RPCVs," as returned volunteers are called, continue to make a contribution, providing windows of understanding regarding diverse cultures of which most Americans have only a scant knowledge. Every year around this March 1st anniversary date, returned volunteers visit classrooms and community centers around the United States to carry their message of international friendship and understanding. At a time of heightened sensitivity to the need for greater cultural understanding of peoples from different traditions, the insights of former Peace Corps volunteers constitute a too little recognized national treasure.

There is one endeavor related to the Peace Corps put forward during my tenure as Chairman of the International Relations Committee of which I am particularly proud. This is the legislative effort undertaken by myself and my good friend from across the aisle, TOM LANTOS, to see that there was sufficient funding to achieve President Bush's goal of increasing the size of Peace Corps. This undertaking was one concrete means for addressing the new challenges to international mutual understanding found in our post-September 11th world. Let us all hope that the Peace Corps continues to grow as one response to these challenges. Money spent on the Peace Corps is money well spent.

And so, today, I send greetings to those serving around the world who have asked for little in return while asking what they, themselves, could do for their country. Whether this message finds you on some Caribbean isle, high in the Andes mountains, along a river in western Africa, in a sub-Saharan village, in a classroom in eastern Europe, on the steppes of Mongolia, in a river town in China, in a crowded urban center in Bangladesh, or far away in the South Pacific, I send you salutations on your anniversary date. Thank you for your service as America's Goodwill Ambassadors along the world's highways and byways. May you achieve every professional and personal success and may the Peace Corps flourish for the next 45 years.

CONGRATULATING THE PALM HARBOR UNIVERSITY BOYS AND GIRLS VARSITY TEAMS FOR WINNING THE FLORIDA STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Palm Harbor University High School boys and girls varsity soccer teams. Both teams were recently crowned 2006 Florida State Soccer Champions (Class 5A).

The Palm Harbor University Hurricanes boys' team (26-4) shut out defending champion, Auburndale, 3-0 to claim the state title. The girls' team (20-1) also left their competition scoreless, as they triumphed over Bloomingdale High School 2-0 to win the Class 5A finals.

This was the second state championship for the Palm Harbor University boys (2002, 2006) and the third title for the girls team (1999, 2000, and 2006). Palm Harbor University made history with the 2006 championships, marking only the second time in Florida where a public school won boys and girls soccer titles in the same year.

For the benefit of my colleagues, following my remarks I will include reports from the St. Petersburg Times about the championship efforts of these two teams.

Congratulations to Coach Mike Mannino and Coach John Planamente for their leadership, dedication and the positive examples they set. In addition, Principal Harry Brown and his administration, Athletic Director Bob Heintz, the faculty and staff, the parents, the students, the alumni and the fans should all be applauded for their community spirit and faithful support. Most importantly, I would like to commend those outstanding student athletes who exemplified the meaning of sportsmanship, hard work and competitive spirit. All around, a job well done! You have made us all proud and we look forward to supporting Palm Harbor University boys and girls soccer teams next year.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Feb. 10, 2006]

#### PALM HARBOR CLAIMS THIRD STATE CROWN (By Keith Nebuhr)

FORT LAUDERDALE.—One day after stunning the Nation's top-ranked team, Palm Harbor U. claimed an even bigger victory.

And this one comes with a ring.

Behind solid play on both ends, the Hurricanes defeated Bloomingdale 2-0 in the Class 5A final at Lockhart Stadium on Thursday night to complete 2 days in South Florida the players aren't soon to forget. Annie Stalzer's goal in the 48th minute gave PHU the lead. Kelly Brinkman added a score in the 78th minute that iced it.

When the game ended, PHU players raced toward the sideline to celebrate with fans. After accepting the gold medals and the championship trophy, they took a team picture. Many then called friends and relatives on their cell phones to give them the news.

"We've been play so well" Stalzer said. "This is the perfect season! We couldn't ask for anything better."

The title is the third for PHU (20-1), which also earned championships in 1999 and 2000.

The Hurricanes lost to Fort Lauderdale St. Thomas Aquinas 3-0 in last season's final, but this time, the Hurricanes weren't to be denied. Since the start of its district tournament (a span of seven games), PHU outscored opponents 24-2. And it beat Aquinas 2-1 in the semifinals.

"The experience of being here helped," Hurricanes coach John Planamente said. "Every year, we've taken another step."

Bloomingdale (24-2-1), going for its second title, had allowed 10 goals all season before Thursday. Only once had an opponent scored more than one. In the playoffs, just one of the Bulls' previous opponents found the net.

"They played a great game," Bloomingdale coach Sue Peet said of PHU.

PHU outshot Bloomingdale 16-4 (the Bulls had two shots in the first 75 minutes) and made sure it had two or three defenders around star midfielder Marissa Kazbour at all times.

PHU was equally solid on offense. But though the Hurricanes constantly pressured Bloomingdale's defense, they couldn't break a scoreless tie until Stalzer's goal, which bounced off one defender and over the head of goalkeeper Cristina Coca.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Feb. 17, 2006]

#### PHU MAKES HISTORY IN VICTORY (By Brandon Wright)

FORT LAUDERDALE—Nate Wysk dropped flat on his back, extending his arms to the sky. Nick Eby ran full speed by midfield and slid across the moist grass. Eugene Starikov was scooped up by booster club vice president Doug Eby, who carried the diminutive striker like a baby. And of course, coach Mike Mannino got the customary Gatorade bath.

Palm Harbor University (26-4) scored a pair of goals in a three-minute span of the first half to complete a torrid run through the final four with a 3-0 win against defending champion Auburndale for the 5A state crown.

The Hurricanes became the sixth school ever, and second public school, to win both boys and girls soccer titles in the same year.

The PHU girls beat Bloomingdale 2-0 last week. It was the second boys championship in school history, the first coming in 2002.

"We put our whole hearts into winning state and we fulfilled our goal," Starikov said. "We won a state championship, baby!"

"I was very nervous coming in," said Eby, who scored PHU's first goal. "But we deserve this, we worked so hard every day at practice."

PHU rolled through the final four games, outscoring opponents 8-0. The Hurricanes also put an end to Auburndale's 22-game win streak.

"To come in and give up no goals at this level of play and score eight goals grand total is awesome," Mannino said.

Much like the semifinal where PHU scored four goals in an 11-minute stretch, the Hurricanes struck quickly against Auburndale (24-2). Eby and Thomas Harrington scored three minutes apart right at the end of the first half, seizing momentum just before the break.

"Every team in the playoffs has been strong, but we took over with those two goals right before half," Eby said.

Both teams had quality chances in the first half before PHU broke through. Ishmail Kamara's shot from point-blank range was smothered by Auburndale goalkeeper Derek Miller and Brent Hileman just got fingers to Kyle Sample's attempt, ricocheting the ball against the crossbar before it was cleared.

But it was Eby, who came into the game with just two goals, who got the only strike

PHU would need in the 35th minute. Josh Roberts played a cross in from the right flank that Starikov and Miller both went up for. Starikov just got a piece of the ball and it deflected right to a waiting Eby.

"I'd barely scored all year and to get the first goal of the state championship is just crazy," Eby said. "This feels amazing."

Harrington put PHU up 2-0 in the 38th minute with his sixth strike of the season. Kamara got his head on a strong throw in from Max Venker, sending it toward the middle of the box. The ball fell into a scramble of legs and squirted free right to Harrington, who was running full speed from midfield and the senior defender squarely drilled it into upper left corner.

"The ball kind of fumbled out while I was running up," Harrington said. "And it was just right there."

Hileman was brilliant in goal, making eight saves. The senior got tremendous help from fullbacks Nate Wysk, Levi Curnutte, Jamison Sweat and Harrington, shutting out an offense that featured 49-goal scorer Pascal Milien.

"Can't end a season any better than two goose eggs," Hileman said.

And what PHU win would be complete without a strike from Starikov? The junior transfer from California banged home his 43rd goal of the season in the 70th minute.

"Eugene wouldn't let the game end without getting one," Mannino said. "He wanted to be the last straw that broke their back and he did it."

#### ASSURED FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for assured funding for the veterans' health care. For too long, funding for the critical services needed by our veterans has been subject to the political whims of Congress and the Administration and budgetary schemes intended to hide inefficiencies and misplaced priorities. With a new generation of veterans returning home from their duty overseas, we must ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs has the resources necessary to honor the promises we have made to our veterans.

Last year, the Administration admitted that it had underestimated the number of servicemen and women requiring medical treatment upon return from their missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Within one week, the Administration begrudgingly reported that the Department of Veterans Affairs was \$1 billion short of being able to fulfill its obligations to veterans for Fiscal Year 2005, and would be \$2.6 billion short of fulfilling its obligations for Fiscal Year 2006 without Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bills.

Efforts to fully restore funding were initially stymied by denial and vain attempts to save face by those who had condemned attempts to provide adequate funding to the VA during the traditional appropriations process. What should have been a quick fix to an embarrassing problem turned into a drawn out negotiation battle between those who argued that the VA needed only the barest minimum sum of money to carry out its mission and those

who demanded additional funding to guarantee veterans' health care would not be interrupted. Once again, veterans' healthcare was left in limbo while the Congressional Leadership played politics.

In the face of growing public outrage, the funding shortfall was eventually restored. But, it appears that we have learned nothing from the preventable incident. Yet again, veterans' health care will be subject to the lengthy, political appropriations process and the Administration's request again shortchanges veterans.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans dutifully and courageously honored their commitment to our Nation. Now, it is our turn to keep our promises. American veterans deserve better than to have their healthcare in constant jeopardy. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting assured funding for veterans healthcare so that those who have served will always have the care they need when they need it. We can, and must, do better for our nation's veterans. With the most sincere gratitude for all that American veterans have done to protect our freedom.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this first day of National Kidney Month to recognize the efforts of numerous dedicated individuals, many in this body, who work not only to increase awareness about the devastating effects of kidney disease, but who also look for ways to eradicate this debilitating disease once and for all.

Today, more than 400,000 Americans are living with the wretched pain and horrible inconvenience of kidney failure, leaving them dependent upon life-saving dialysis three to four times each week. Twenty million more have Chronic Kidney Disease, where patients experience a gradual deterioration of kidney function, the end result of which is kidney failure.

The leading causes of these diseases are diabetes and high blood pressure, which disproportionately affect African Americans and Latinos. Diabetes occurs at twice the rate in the African American community as it does in white Americans. As of 2002, two million Latino adults had been diagnosed with diabetes. High blood pressure is also more prevalent in these communities. In fact, one in three African American adults are affected by high blood pressure. According to the American Heart Association, the prevalence of hypertension in African Americans in the United States is among the highest in the world.

Both Chronic Kidney Disease and kidney failure disproportionately affect African Americans and Latinos. African Americans make up about 13 percent of the U.S. population but comprise 32 percent of patients treated for kidney failure, giving them a kidney failure rate that is 4.2 times greater than that of white Americans. Among patients with diabetes, Latinos are between 4.5 and 6.6 times more likely to develop kidney disease than non-Hispanic white Americans.

Given that early kidney disease has no symptoms, most people do not realize that

they are in danger of kidney failure. Therefore, it is critically important for all of us, whether it be members of Congress, health organizations or our extended families, to do our best to increase awareness of the dangers of kidney disease and encourage our family members, our friends and our neighbors who have high blood pressure and diabetes to ask their doctors to run simple blood and urine tests that can detect potential problems.

The good news is that once diagnosed, patients can receive high quality care. Individuals with kidney disease who are able to obtain treatment early experience a higher quality of life and are able to maintain more of their day-to-day activities, including keeping their jobs. This is a situation to which an ounce of prevention results in a gallon of future savings, both in quality of life and in hard dollars for individuals and for the government.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the goals set forth in observance of National Kidney Month, for we must continue to raise awareness about this important issue and to show support for Americans living with kidney disease. But, I am concerned that in an environment in which our budgetary priorities include cutting funding for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease to the tune of \$20 million in fiscal year 2006 and '07, we are not doing enough to thwart the increase in kidney failure and the conditions from which it results. We cannot ignore the human suffering and financial consequences of kidney failure. Our failure to make this disease a major legislative priority will cost us greatly in the future.

#### BUCK O'NEILL SHOULD BE ADMITTED TO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was sorely disappointed recently to learn that the Baseball Hall of Fame failed to vote to induct John Jordan "Buck" O'Neill into its ranks.

Born the grandson of slaves, Buck joined the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro League in 1938. He remained in Kansas City with the Monarchs for 17 spectacular years, 10 as a player and 7 as manager. During this time he was named an all-star three times as a player, served 2 years with the United States Navy, and led the Monarchs to four league titles as a manager, all the while facing the harshness of separation and discrimination in a country that was still segregated. In 1962, Buck broke an important barrier, by being named the first African-American coach in the Major Leagues by the Chicago Cubs. After 33 years with the Cubs, Buck returned home in 1988 to scout for the Kansas City Royals. He currently serves as chairman of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, a continuing demonstration of his love for the game of baseball and for his commitment to the essential role that the Negro Leagues played in the integration of both American sport and American society.

During his time in Kansas City, Buck has taught the citizens of the Kansas City metropolitan region about the importance of determination and resolve in the face of hostility, in

addition to showing us the importance of family, friendship, happiness and history. Buck taught us about baseball. But more importantly, Buck taught us about life. He is a wonderful role model, and I thank him for his contributions to the Kansas City metropolitan region and to our United States of America. As Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor Kay Barnes was quoted as saying in this morning's Kansas City Star, "I'm terribly disappointed. I think it was a mistake that he has not been chosen. However, we all love him in Kansas City, and I believe that all around the country people recognize the contribution he has made to baseball in general and to the Negro Baseball League history."

Buck O'Neill, you will always be a charter member of the Kansas City Hall of Fame.

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AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO  
AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD  
MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE AIR-  
MEN

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1259, a resolution to honor the Tuskegee Airmen. I would also like to express my appreciation for their heroism and bravery. These men deserve the Nation's highest honor for their courage and patriotism.

In July 1941, 13 young Americans began military flight training at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, AL. Five of those 13 young men completed training and received their Army Air Corps silver pilot wings, becoming our Nation's first African-American military fighter pilots. They would later be known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Between 1941 and 1946, 1992 pilots graduated at Tuskegee Army Air Field, with 450 of those serving during World War II in either the famed 99th Fighter Squadron or the 332nd Fighter Group. Both units, heralded for their bravery and tenacity, received more than one Presidential Unit Citation for exemplary tactical air support and aerial combat. The group also felt the price of war, losing 150 pilots while in training or on combat flights.

It has been said that the Tuskegee Airmen faced two wars—one against a military force overseas and the other against racism and bigotry at home and abroad. Yet, in the face of these challenges, they accepted their country's call to service and fought heroically in great battles for freedom.

I am honored to represent 3 of these courageous individuals: Mr. O. Oliver Goodall of Altadena, CA; Mr. Andrew Jack Simon of South Pasadena, CA; and Mr. LeRoy Criss of Pasadena, CA. They received their training and joined the ranks of Tuskegee Airmen in 1942 and 1943. Today, I honor Mr. Goodall, Mr. Simon, Mr. Criss, and all other Tuskegee Airmen who served our country with valor and distinction.

HONORING THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES,  
FRANK MCKENNA

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the outgoing Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Frank McKenna. After a successful tenure in office, the Ambassador is returning home to New Brunswick.

Due to his commitment to solving problems and his indefatigable energy, Ambassador McKenna has presided over a number of important achievements during his time in Washington. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ambassador McKenna in the last year on issues important to both our countries. We have agreed that the longest undefended border in the world must remain strong and secure, but not become a barrier to travelers, businesses, and border communities in both of our great nations.

Mr. Speaker, Canada is our Nation's largest trading partner, with some \$1.2 billion worth of goods and services crossing the border between our two countries each day. Ambassador McKenna and I have worked together to strengthen this relationship, and to advocate for commonsense solutions that both improve border security while also facilitating trade and travel.

Indeed, through his successful careers in public life, law, business, and in diplomacy, Ambassador McKenna has understood the depth and breadth of relations between Canadians and Americans. He has employed his experience, tact and plain-spoken pragmatism to ensure that the occasional difference in priorities of our two governments does not get in the way of this friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ambassador McKenna for his friendship, and his service to Canada and the U.S. I wish him well on his future endeavors, and hope that we will get together again soon over a meal of fried chicken and rice pudding.

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CONGRATULATING MY FRIEND  
RAUL VARGAS ON HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM OVER 30 YEARS OF  
SERVICE TO OUR NATION'S  
LATINO STUDENTS

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor an old friend and fellow educator, Mr. Raul Vargas, on the occasion of his retirement. For over three decades, Raul has guided young men and women in realizing their academic goals through his pioneering efforts in higher education accessibility for Latino students in southern California and across the country.

Born in Lordsburg, New Mexico, Raul moved with his family to Miami, Arizona after his father's death. It was in this small mining town that I first met Raul, and can recall many fond memories growing up with Raul and his siblings, Felipa, Alfredo, Alfonso, Elvia, and

Elisa. At Miami High I learned of Raul's ability as a basketball player and a student.

During the summer of 1964, I was again reacquainted with Raul at Arizona State University. We decided to become roommates and moved in with Leo Gutierrez and Bob Venegas to Contempo West, a.k.a., sin city. It was during this time that I assisted Raul with his study habits and he assisted me with my social life. During this time he met a young lady from Wickenburg, Arizona who would later become his wife. We remained roommates until December 1965 when I left to marry Verma.

In 1972, Raul accepted a position at the University of Southern California (USC) as Executive Director of the Office for Mexican American Programs, marking the beginning of over thirty years as a leading administrator as part of the USC family. It was there that Raul and eight other USC alumni founded the USC Mexican American Alumni Association (MAAA) in 1974. The MAAA was established to be a vehicle of support for higher Latino enrollment at USC, providing tuition assistance to undergraduate, graduate, medical, dental, and law school students. The overwhelming success of the program under Raul's leadership, is evident not only in its more than 5800 scholarships awarded totaling \$11.1 million, but also in its program being replicated in institutes of higher learning across the country, including ASU.

When ASU joined the PAC-10, the ASU Hispanic Alumni began a rivalry with USC's MAAA. We commissioned a "menudo pot" that would go to the winning alumni association after the ASU/USC football game. As the ASU Hispanics learned of the USC MAAA program, they invited Raul to meet with Dr. Russell Nelson, the ASU President, to assist in organizing a Hispanic scholarship program similar to USC MAAA. With Dr. Nelson's agreement, the Los Diablos, an ASU Hispanic scholarship program, was born. To date, the ASU Los Diablos Scholarship continues to assist Latino students at ASU. After seeing the USC Hispanic Convocation organized by USC MAAA during a visit to USC, the ASU Hispanic students also organized a similar Hispanic Convocation honoring ASU Hispanic graduates.

Mr. Speaker, it is with immense admiration and privilege that I ask my colleagues to join Raul's many friends and family in recognizing my dear friend in his lifetime of unwavering service to our nation's Latino students. We hope that Raul will enjoy this well-deserved retirement, to play golf and travel with his wife Marcia. He will also be able to spend more time with his son Cesar, daughter Tracey, and granddaughter Alexis. Raul, thank you and congratulations my friend!

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DEDICATION OF THE ST. PETERSBURG  
PARKWAY/WILLIAM C.  
CRAMER MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today the St. Petersburg Parkway/William C. Cramer Memorial Highway will be dedicated in St. Petersburg, Florida. Bill became a trusted friend to many

while serving in this House and today's celebration is a reflection of his service to the State of Florida.

The Honorable William C. Cramer served in the U.S. House of Representatives for sixteen years, from 1955 to 1971, representing the St. Petersburg/Tampa area. During his service in Congress, Bill Cramer became the ranking minority member of the House Public Works Committee and he co-authored the 1956 Interstate and Defense Highway Act. That Act was the catalyst for the nation's interstate highway system, setting the authorized mileage at 41,000 miles and establishing the highway trust fund to pay for construction of the system.

Those 41,000 miles, however, did not include an interstate link from Tampa around (I-75) and through St. Petersburg (I-275), down the west coast of Florida (I-75) to Alligator Alley and across to Miami. During his tenure in Congress, Cramer labored tirelessly to add this "missing link" to the interstate highway system, and he succeeded in that effort in his final term as a capstone to his congressional service. In the Howard-Cramer Amendment of 1968 and the 1968 Federal Aid Highway Act, Cramer was able to add the mileage needed to build Florida's missing interstate links, and he also secured final approval to construct those links from two successive administrations.

Former Congressman Cramer passed away in October of 2003. Late in April of 2004, the Florida Legislature enacted HB 9, and on May 13, 2004, the Governor signed that Act into law. HB 9 designated the portion of I-275 between the Howard Frankland Bridge and the Sunshine Skyway as the "St. Petersburg/William C. Cramer Parkway," upon approval of the affected local governments. In 2005, the Florida Legislature enacted, and the Governor signed into law, HB 385 that changed the designation to the "St. Petersburg Parkway/William C. Cramer Memorial Highway." This honor is an appropriate and well-deserved recognition of Bill Cramer's pivotal role as the ranking minority member of the House Public Works Committee in authorizing and securing the funding for not only I-275 through St. Petersburg, but also the other critical west coast sections of Florida's Interstate Highway system.

Bill Cramer came from humble beginnings, his family moving to St. Petersburg before he and his brother and sisters entered the public schools. He sold fruit on street corners and was an usher at the Florida Theatre as a youngster to raise money, and he graduated from St. Petersburg High School, serving as student council president. He went on to graduate from St. Petersburg Junior College, where he also served as class president. As did so many men and women, he left his hometown to serve his country as an officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Cramer then finished college, and after graduating from Harvard Law School he returned home to St. Petersburg to practice law. Almost immediately he jumped into public service, being appointed Pinellas County attorney before his election to the Florida Legislature and subsequently his election to the U.S. Congress. While in Congress, he dedicated his career to building the basic infrastructure of the county, the roads, harbors, airports and public buildings that are crucial to the growth of our nation's economy. In particular, he focused on

bringing the economic benefits of the interstate highway system to the Tampa-St. Petersburg and southwest Florida areas.

After retiring from his active law practice, Cramer returned to St. Petersburg College and the University of South Florida to teach courses in Government. He strove to instill in his young students his passion for service and his conviction that through hard work and perseverance everyone, no matter their circumstances, has a chance to help build a better and more promising future for their community, state and nation. Bill Cramer's was a life well lived, and there is no more fitting memorial for him that to have the highway he built for his hometown named in his honor.

What follows is a brief outline of how Bill Cramer led Congress and two administrations to authorize and fund Florida's interstate "missing links"

From his position as the ranking minority member of the House Public Works Committee and its Roads Subcommittee, Cramer worked for years to try and add the west coast Florida "missing links" to the interstate system. In introducing a bill early in 1967 to designate this route as an interstate, Cramer stated on the House Floor on January 16, 1967, that "this missing link is one of the most obvious inadequacies in the interstate system." He went on to note "it is essential that a new interstate highway be constructed so that interstate traffic presently terminating in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area can be funneled down the lower west coast to the Ft. Lauderdale-Miami area."

Although this specific designation bill was not enacted, Cramer persisted and he and Congressman James Howard (D-N.J.) introduced H.R. 13933 in November of 1967. This bill addressed the practical problem that almost no interstate mileage remained to be designated from the 41,000 miles originally authorized by the 1956 Interstate and Defense Highway Act. H.R. 13933, which became known as the Howard-Cramer Act, added 200 miles to the 41,000-mile interstate system, to be applied for by various states to fill in missing links and gaps. The law stipulated that priority consideration should be given to extension of routes that terminated in a municipality, a condition then existing in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area. The President signed the Howard-Cramer Act on January 2, 1968.

Cramer understood that the 200 new interstate miles in the Howard-Cramer Act would be aggressively pursued by states across the nation, and that additional mileage was needed to achieve his dream of completing Florida's missing links. The 1968 Federal Aid Highway bill provided the ideal opportunity to accomplish this goal.

As ranking minority member of the Committee, Cramer crafted this bill that reauthorized the interstate highway program, provided for beautification of the nation's highways and established new rights and benefits for those displaced by highway construction, among many other important milestones. Of central importance to Cramer was a further expansion of the authorized mileage in the interstate system to accommodate construction of Florida's missing links. The House-Senate Conference Committee approved adding an additional 1,500 miles to the interstate system. His leadership ensured that both the House Public Works Committee Report (H. Rept. 1584) and the Conference Committee Report (Conf.

Rept. 1799) specifically identified the Tampa/St. Petersburg to Miami missing link as the type of route that should be approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation from this new mileage. President Johnson signed the 1968 Federal Aid Highway Act into law late in the summer of that year.

Bill Cramer managed the floor debate on the 1968 Federal Aid Highway bill, which was the capstone of his service on the Public Works Committee. During the July 3, 1968 debate on the bill, one of his colleagues, Congressman Don Clausen, remarked:

"I believe, in all sincerity, that the gentleman from Florida (CRAMER) is respected by members of the subcommittee as much or possibly more than any other Member on either side of the aisle. Certainly, no one has been a better student, become more knowledgeable, or demonstrated the ability to articulate our road and highway message to the Congress or the Nation, than the ranking Republican on the Public Works Committee—Bill Cramer. I am sure that future generations of Americans will come to appreciate the work he has done and the contributions he has made to our nation's road and highway system."

In fact, during debate on the bill, Speaker of the House, John McCormack, came down from his rostrum to personally congratulate Cramer and the Speaker was quoted as saying: "Bill, this has been one of the most statesmanlike presentations that I have observed since coming to the Congress."

From his position in Congress, Cramer continued thereafter to pursue the matter aggressively with the Secretary of Transportation, Alan Boyd, until Boyd approved the 252-mile missing link on December 13, 1968. The approved route ran through Pinellas County (St. Petersburg), over the Sunshine Skyway, a toll bridge, and Alligator Alley, a toll road across the Everglades, and on to Miami. Florida clearly received the lion's share of the additional 1,500 miles authorized, far more than any other state, in what the St. Petersburg Times characterized in its December 14, 1968 edition as a "legislative coup" for Cramer.

This 252-mile route, however, did not include mileage that Cramer had requested by-passing Tampa to the east and connecting with the interstate now approved through St. Petersburg and crossing the Sunshine Skyway. When Secretary of Transportation John Volpe took over under President Nixon (after January 20, 1969), Cramer asked for an additional 32 miles for a Tampa Bypass for I-75. It was subsequently approved as part of the additional interstate mileage provided for in the Howard-Cramer Act passed in January of 1968.

Construction on the entire 284-mile (I-75 and I-275 St. Petersburg bypass) project was completed many years ago and now serves the fast growing area of southwest Florida, connecting it with Miami and the nation's interstate highway system. Prior to 1967, the State of Florida, under Governor Claude Kirk's leadership, was promoting constructing the missing link as a toll road. Cramer, however, from his influential congressional position championed an interstate route that would be free to travelers, and he prevailed.

Cramer's leadership and tenacity in getting the approval—by Congress and two administrations—of Florida's 284-mile missing link is fully documented. Designation of a portion of this missing link, I-275 through his hometown

of St. Petersburg, as the St. Petersburg Parkway/William C. Cramer Memorial Highway has appropriately and justly recognized Cramer's life-long dedication to St. Petersburg and his outstanding leadership in helping to build the Nation's interstate highway system. In enacting HB 9 and HB 385, the Florida Legislature has acknowledged the pivotal role that Bill Cramer played in securing authorization and funding for Florida's interstate highway missing links that have been so vital to the economic well being of St. Petersburg and all of southwest Florida.

Cramer's congressional district included Pinellas County from 1955 to 1971, and it also included Hillsborough County from 1955 to 1963, prior to redistricting. He was devoted to the goal of including that area and the lower west coast of Florida as the first major addition to the nation's initial 41,000 mile interstate system. The Howard-Cramer Act and the 1968 Federal Aid Highway Act made this a possibility, and Cramer's persistence made it a reality.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL  
MARIO ATRIAN, JR.

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our Nation's young heroes, Lance Corporal Mario Atrian, Jr.

Lance Corporal Mario Atrian joined the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17 and served two tours of duty in Iraq. On April 9, 2004, during his second tour of duty, LCpl. Atrian was injured while bravely fighting to protect a friendly unit from an enemy ambush. Despite bleeding profusely from both his right and left arms, and his driver being killed, LCpl. Atrian continued to defend his comrades and relinquished his position to receive medical attention only after the enemy ambush had been broken and his fellow wounded Marines were away from enemy fire. Today, LCpl. Atrian will receive one of our Nation's highest awards, the Silver Star for his leadership, his loyalty, and his courage.

Lance Corporal Mario Atrian is from Los Angeles and is a resident of my district. Our community is blessed to have such a distinguished, brave, young man. I encourage him to continue to fight for that which he believes with such courage and dignity throughout the rest of his life.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the many Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions which have had such a tremendous impact and overall positive effect on African American life and history.

Established in an age when racial segregation and disenfranchisement plagued African

Americans, the rise of each of the black fraternities and sororities bore witness to the fact that despite hardships, African Americans refused to conform to a status of inferiority.

These organizations, some which have been in existence since the early 1900s, have cut across racial, national, physical and social barriers, in order to make a difference educationally, socially, economically, and politically. They have proven to be an effective channel for social change and a recognized force in the struggle for civil and human rights.

Serving more than just their immediate members, these black fraternities and sororities known as the "Divine Nine" joined with other civic associations such as the Urban League, the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, the Prince Hall Masons, the Eastern Stars, and so many others to provide service to the entire black community. It wasn't just the "church" that addressed the needs and answered the call of the black community, but it was these fraternal organizations that stepped up and took on that role as well.

Just who are the "Divine Nine"? They are Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Nine strong, they promote interaction through forums, meetings and other mediums in order to exchange information and engage in cooperative programming and initiatives through various activities.

Other black social organizations also took the helm in addressing the concerns of the black community and like the fraternal organizations, represent the aspirations of many African Americans. They are The Links, Jack and Jill, 100 Black Men, and Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

We look to and thank all of these organizations for striving to improve the quality of life within our communities, and enhance educational and economic opportunities for all African Americans. Their leadership and steadfast commitment to the betterment of our young people and our communities, has been and continues to be a tremendous success and of great inspiration.

May all of these fine and outstanding organizations continue to carry on their good work knowing that they have the admiration and support of the U.S. Congress.

TRIBUTE TO LEROY RICHARDSON:  
A LIFE OF SERVICE

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our community's genuine unsung leaders, the late Leroy Richardson. His untimely passing on December 22, 2005 has truly left a deep void in our midst.

In many ways, this quiet but dignified leader represented the best and the noblest of our community. He was a man of strong faith who was known for his remarkable generosity. He was a dedicated member of the New Shiloh

Baptist Church, where he faithfully worshipped and served under the late Rev. Dr. Arthur Jackson, Jr. and under its current pastor, the Rev. D.L. Powell.

Known as a man of limitless passion and dedication to the well-being of his fellow men, Mr. Richardson was a leader who went out of his way to focus on the socioeconomic well-being of countless families that came to know of his caring and compassion. Aside from his interest in the funeral industry, he founded a very successful business known today as the Richardson-Jackson Removal Service, Inc.

He served for many years as President of the #3 Usher Ministry and he was also a member of the Trustee Ministry, Assistant Lead-Servant of the Couples Ministry and the Assistant Director of Operations for the New Shiloh Baptist Church. Though a highly private individual, he dedicated his life to the service of others. In so doing, he symbolized everything that is good and noble about the American spirit of idealism and optimism in serving his fellowmen. Our community truly feels the loss of a decent and caring man in the late Leroy Richardson, and I know my colleagues join with me in celebrating his life and his many good works on behalf of our community.

TRIBUTE TO G. SCOTT HUBBARD

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. G. Scott Hubbard, who recently stepped down as Director of NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California to become the Carl Sagan Chair for Study of Life in the Universe at the SETI Institute.

Mr. Hubbard began his career at NASA Ames Research Center in 1987, becoming Center Director in 2002. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Hubbard on many issues since he assumed the Directorship. He has been an invaluable public servant, guiding NASA Ames through difficult times and inspiring confidence throughout the organization. I'm proud of our work together on many of the new endeavors at NASA Ames, as well as the work to ensure the long-term future of NASA Ames and Moffett Federal Airfield. Mr. Hubbard has always been a thorough professional . . . responsive, efficient and effective.

NASA Ames Research Center is in the heart of Silicon Valley and has played a crucial role in Silicon Valley's success. Director Hubbard demonstrated an unparalleled ability to use NASA Ames' unique position in the high-end research and development community to forge groundbreaking public-private R&D collaborations. Under his leadership, NASA Ames successfully partnered with Silicon Graphics and Intel Corporation to develop the fastest operational supercomputer in the world, and created the Center for Nanotechnology to lead federal research in this revolutionary technology. Mr. Hubbard was integral to the creation of the NASA Ames Research Park, a world-class R&D and education campus with industry, universities and non-profits all taking part. Today, more than thirty small R&D companies and fourteen universities are on-site. Because of his tireless

efforts, high-technology giant Google will soon be adding a new state-of-the-art facility to the Research Park. Under Mr. Hubbard's tenure, NASA Ames established the University Affiliated Research Center with the University of California, which remains the largest R&D partnership ever developed by NASA in our nation.

Beyond his work as Director of NASA Ames, Mr. Hubbard has been a highly respected member of NASA and our country's academic community. He attended Vanderbilt University where he studied physics and astronomy. In 1974 at Lawrence Berkeley Lab, Mr. Hubbard co-developed a new radiation detection technology which is now incorporated in the Mars Odyssey Mission. In March 2000, he served at NASA headquarters as the first Mars Program Director and successfully restructured the entire Mars program in the wake of mission failures. Prior to his appointment as NASA Ames Center Director, he was Deputy Director for Research at NASA Ames. In 2003, he served as the sole NASA representative on the Columbia Accident Investigation Board which established the definitive physical cause of the loss of the Columbia. Director Hubbard has also been the NASA Ames Associate Director for Astrobiology and Space Research, the first director of NASA's Astrobiology Institute, and NASA's mission manager for Lunar Prospector. Director Hubbard is also credited with conceiving the Mars Pathfinder Mission. He recently accepted a visiting scholar appointment in the Electrical Engineering Department of Stanford University, underscoring the deep respect that Mr. Hubbard has earned in the academic community. At Stanford, Mr. Hubbard's research plans will focus on nanotechnology, biotechnology and information technology areas, as well as studying the emergence of the entrepreneurial space industry.

Time and again, Scott Hubbard has proven his commitment to NASA and our nation's space exploration endeavors. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest gratitude to him for his superb public service. He has served our country exceedingly well, and because he has, we honor him for his work and wish him well in his new position as the Carl Sagan Chair at the SETI Institute.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this 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, March 2, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 6

2:30 p.m.  
Finance  
International Trade Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine The U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement. SD-215

MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program. SD-106

Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the goal of energy independence. SD-366

Environment and Public Works  
Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. SD-628

Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Randall L. Tobias, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. SD-419

Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine defective products relating to criminal penalties ensuring corporate accountability. SD-226

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine veterans' preference in the Federal government, focusing on the implementation of veterans' preference in the hiring of employees, including an evaluation of the laws designed to protect and promote the employment of veterans, the impact of workforce flexibilities on veterans, and how veterans' redress mechanisms work. SD-342

10 a.m.  
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the current oversight and operation of credit rating agencies. SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine rural telecom. SD-562

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine the response of community-based organizations to the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes. SD-430

Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. SH-216

2:15 p.m.  
Foreign Relations  
Business meeting to consider Protocol Amending the Convention Between the

Government of the United States of America and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Paris on August 31, 1994 (Treaty Doc.109-04), Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Bangladesh for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income signed at Dhaka on September 26, 2004 with an exchange of notes enclosed (Treaty Doc.109-05), Protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States of America and the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Estates, Inheritances, and Gifts signed at Washington on November 24, 1978 (Treaty Doc.109-07), and Protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Sweden for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income signed at Washington on September 30, 2005 (Treaty Doc.109-08).

S-116, Capitol

2:45 p.m.  
Armed Services  
Strategic Forces Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the nuclear weapons and defense environmental cleanup activities of the Department of Energy in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years nuclear security program. SR-232A

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To resume hearings to examine Hurricane Katrina, focusing on recommendations for reform. SD-342

10 a.m.  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SD-366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Business meeting to consider S. 1955, to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans and through modernization of the health insurance marketplace, S. 1902, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize funding for the establishment of a program on children and the media within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the role and impact of electronic media in the development of children, and the nominations of Mitchell C. Clark, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of Education, Jean B. Elshtain, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities, Edwin G. Foulke, Jr., of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, Allen C. Guelzo, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities, Arlene Holen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, George Perdue, of

- Georgia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, Anne-Imelda Radice, of Vermont, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Craig T. Ramey, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences, Sarah M. Singleton, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation, Richard Stickler, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, Kent D. Talbert, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Education, Horace A. Thompson, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, and certain nominations in the Public Health Service.
- SD-430
- Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs International Trade and Finance Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine export-import bank reauthorization.
- SD-538
- 2:30 p.m.
- Armed Services
- To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense quadrennial defense review; to be followed by a closed session in SR-222.
- SH-216
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
- Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine Crime Victims Fund rescission.
- SD-342
- MARCH 9
- 9:30 a.m.
- Environment and Public Works
- Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
- To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- SD-628
- Armed Services
- To resume hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program.
- SD-106
- 10 a.m.
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- To hold hearings to examine aviation security and the Transportation Security Administration.
- SD-562
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for the Small Business Administration, and related measures.
- SR-428A
- Veterans' Affairs
- To hold hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Blinded Veterans of America, The Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Jewish War Veterans.
- SH-216
- 10:30 a.m.
- Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- To hold hearings to examine the United States Department of Agriculture's management and oversight of the Packers and Stockyards Act.
- SR-328A
- MARCH 10
- 9:30 a.m.
- Armed Services
- Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine the roles and missions of the Department of Defense regarding homeland defense and support to civil authorities in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program.
- SR-222
- MARCH 13
- 3 p.m.
- Armed Services
- To hold a closed briefing on an update from the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.
- SR-222
- MARCH 14
- 9:30 a.m.
- Armed Services
- To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program.
- SH-216
- 10 a.m.
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- To hold hearings to examine wireless issues spectrum reform.
- SD-106
- 2:30 p.m.
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- To hold hearings to examine Wall Street perspective on telecom.
- SD-106
- MARCH 15
- 10:30 a.m.
- Appropriations
- Legislative Branch Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the the Secretary of the Senate, Architect of the Capitol, and the Capitol Visitor Center.
- SD-138
- 2:30 p.m.
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- To hold hearings to examine innovation and competitiveness legislation.
- SD-562
- MARCH 16
- 9:30 a.m.
- Armed Services
- To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program; to be followed by a closed session in SH-219.
- SH-216
- 10 a.m.
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine impacts on aviation regarding volcanic hazards.
- SD-562
- Veterans' Affairs
- To hold hearings to examine the homeless programs administered by the VA.
- SR-418
- MARCH 28
- 10 a.m.
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Aviation Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration budget and the long term viability of the Aviation Trust Fund.
- SD-562
- 2:30 p.m.
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- National Ocean Policy Study Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine offshore aquaculture.
- SD-562
- MARCH 29
- 10 a.m.
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine the importance of basic research to United States' competitiveness.
- SD-562
- MARCH 30
- 10 a.m.
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee
- To hold an oversight hearing to examine National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System.
- SD-562
- Veterans' Affairs
- To hold hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, the AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.
- SD-106
- APRIL 4
- 10 a.m.
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Aviation Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration funding options.
- SD-562
- APRIL 5
- 10:30 a.m.
- Appropriations
- Legislative Branch Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Sergeant at Arms and U.S. Capitol Police Board.
- SD-138
- 3 p.m.
- Armed Services
- Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine improving contractor incentives in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007.
- SR-222
- APRIL 26
- 10 a.m.
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee
- To hold hearings to examine fostering innovation in math and science education.
- Room to be announced
- 10:30 a.m.
- Appropriations
- Legislative Branch Subcommittee
- To resume hearings to examine the progress of construction on the Capitol Visitor Center.
- SD-138

MAY 3

10:30 a.m.  
 Appropriations  
 Legislative Branch Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Government Printing Office, Congressional Budget Office, and Office of Compliance.

SD-138

MAY 17

10 a.m.  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine accelerating the adoption of health information technology.

Room to be announced

MAY 24

10:30 a.m.  
 Appropriations  
 Legislative Branch Subcommittee  
 To resume hearings to examine the progress of construction on the Capitol Visitor Center.

SD-138

JUNE 14

10 a.m.  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine alternative energy technologies.

Room to be announced