

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING HAZEL HARVEY PEACE

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize Hazel Harvey Peace for her commitment to the people and City of Fort Worth, Texas. Mrs. Peace is a pillar of her community through various volunteer works and a career as a devout educator.

As a Fort Worth native, Mrs. Peace began her profession as a teacher at I.M. Terrell High School. During her tenure as a teacher, she partook in several duties including service as a Counselor, Dean of Girls, and as a Vice Principal. She was a strict advocate of literacy and reading to young children which is among Mrs. Peace's many other charitable works.

For Mrs. Peace's continued efforts, she was honored in 2004 with the presentation of a professorship in Children's Library Science. In addition, Mrs. Peace was also the first African American woman to be named to a professorship at a 4-year Texas State-funded institution.

She has touched the lives of so many and which we are truly thankful. It is the servant leadership of Mrs. Peace, and those like her, which truly makes our Nation great. Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mrs. Hazel Harvey Peace.

### TRIBUTE TO HOWARD W. "HODDY" HANNA III

#### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 2006 recipient of the National American Heritage Award, Howard W. "Hoddy" Hanna III, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The National American Heritage Award is given by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The ADL is the nation's preeminent human rights organization. The organization was founded in 1913 and is dedicated in purpose and in program to defending democratic ideals, safeguarding civil rights and combating anti-Semitism, prejudice, discrimination and bigotry of all kinds. The National American Heritage Award is presented to an individual or company whose leadership and character is demonstrated both in work and in deed. It recognizes individuals who embody what is best in America—justice, freedom equality and fellowship.

Mr. Hanna will be presented with the National American Heritage Award on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at a dinner in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in con-

gratulating Howard W. Hanna III, the 2006 recipient of the National American Heritage Award. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a determined individual like Howard W. Hanna.

### RECOGNIZING MS. ARLENE KAPLAN

#### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, Arlene Kaplan, a resident of Randolph, Massachusetts, was elected president of the National Ladies Auxiliary, Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America on August 19, 2005 in San Diego, California, during the organization's 77th Annual National Convention.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Ms. Kaplan was the eldest of the late Sally and Larry Tattlebaum's four children. After graduating from high school, she attended Hickox School for Business Skills and Quincy College for Business Courses. At age 19, she married Sumner "Sunny" Kaplan, a Navy veteran of World War II. Together, they raised three children, and are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren.

Once her children were in school, Ms. Kaplan began working for the Esselte Pendaflex Corporation, a Fortune 500 company. When her husband was elected JWV Department of Massachusetts Commander, Ms. Kaplan played a vital role in reorganizing Auxiliary 302, and served as president for its first 2 crucial years. She continues to be active in her auxiliary today.

She has served the JWV Department of Massachusetts in various capacities over the years, including as its president from 1996 to 1997. She has been a member of the JWV National Ladies Auxiliary Advisory Board and has chaired several of the organization's committees. Arlene and Sunny Kaplan have been members of Temple Beth Am in Randolph for more than 50 years.

### COMMEMORATING NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

#### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, which occurred on February 7, 2006. In its sixth year of observation, the event promotes the mobilization of the black community in an effort to educate and increase community awareness and participation about HIV/AIDS.

The event was created in February 2001 by the Community Capacity Building Coalition, a

group of national non-profit organizations whose mission is to assist in creating HIV/AIDS prevention capacity building among community organizations in the black community. The coalition was funded and formulated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention.

The annual event emphasizes the importance of testing, education, and awareness through a unified community construct. Additionally, the day is used to remember all those who are infected as well as those who have lost their battle with the disease since its onset in the United States in 1981.

Mr. Speaker, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a powerful combating mechanism. However, based on the current state of the disease in the African-American community as revealed by the following startling statistics and research, much more work needs to be done to halt the spread of this devastating disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

Although African-Americans comprise only 13 percent of the population, they account for 49 percent of all new AIDS cases in the nation. This is an alarming increase from the startling account of 25 percent of AIDS cases in 1985.

Results from a large study of African-American homosexual and bisexual men in five studies found 46 percent of the men to be HIV positive and 67 percent of them unaware of their status.

African-American women account for 67 percent of all newly diagnosed female AIDS cases.

Although African-American youth comprise only 15 percent of U.S. teenagers, they accounted for 66 percent of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2003. A similar picture is found among African-American children.

Over a third of African Americans with HIV diagnoses (39 percent) were tested for HIV late in their illness and subsequently diagnosed with AIDS within one year of testing positive.

Additionally, in a report recently released by the Maryland AIDS Administration, the Baltimore-Towson metropolitan area, which houses my district in its entirety, is classified as having "the fifth highest AIDS case report rate of any major metropolitan area in the United States (32.8 cases per 100,000) . . . 2.2 times higher than the national average of 15.0 cases per 100,000." Within these reported cases, 89 percent are African-Americans, 62 percent are male and 65 percent are between the ages of 30–49.

These statistics are mind boggling. However, one thing remains consistent and clear. If not mitigated, the disease will continue to wreak devastation. HIV/AIDS is a pandemic that belongs to each and everyone of us and we must address it societally and holistically.

In his 2006 State of the Union address, President Bush did in fact acknowledge and address the state of HIV/AIDS in the African-American community. Specifically, he stated

• 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.

that, “[a] hopeful society acts boldly to fight diseases like HIV/AIDS, which can be prevented, and treated, and defeated . . . We will . . . lead a nationwide effort, working closely with African American churches and faith-based groups, to deliver rapid HIV tests to millions, end the stigma of AIDS, and come closer to the day when there are no new infections in America.”

Although a very promising and audacious statement, action speaks louder than words. With that said, I encourage this Congress post haste to reauthorize and fully fund the Ryan White CARE Act—and to strengthen it to ensure accountability and equitable access to treatment, prevention, and medical care for all affected. I urge this Administration to work in full concert of accomplishing this critical goal.

I conclude with the words of the late and great first lady of the Civil Rights Movement, Coretta Scott King, who stated that “AIDS is a global crisis, a national crisis, a local crisis and a human crisis . . . No matter where you live, AIDS is one of the most deadly killers of African Americans. And I think anyone who sincerely cares about the future of Black America had better be speaking out, calling for preventive measures and increased funding for research and treatment.”

TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS STATE  
SENATOR JERRY BOOKOUT

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to one of my great friends, Mr. Jerry Bookout of Jonesboro, who is one of Arkansas' greatest public servants. With more than 40 years of work in the Arkansas General Assembly, Bookout has pioneered countless reforms in education, retirement, and especially health care.

As a military veteran, elected official, and community volunteer, Bookout has devoted his entire life to public service. He worked to elevate Arkansas State College to university status, strengthened the State's retirement system, and established the first doctoral and physical therapy programs at Arkansas State University.

Although Bookout has championed many issues during his lifetime, he has worked particularly hard to improve the quality of health care in Arkansas. From chair of the American Cancer Society, to a leader in Arkansas' General Assembly, Bookout has shaped health policy for many years. His achievements earned him several distinguished positions as chair of the Senate Public Health/Senate Health Services Committee, the Senate Health Insurance and Prescription Drugs Committee, and vice-chair of the Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee.

Bookout and his wife, the former Loretta Langford, have one son, Paul, who serves in the Arkansas House of Representatives and a daughter, Jill Rogers. He and his wife also have three grandchildren, Morgan and P.J. Bookout and Rachel Rogers.

On February 25, 2006, our community will gather at the American Cancer Society's 1st Annual Daffodil Ball to honor Jerry Bookout for his remarkable contributions to health care in

Arkansas. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in congratulating him on this occasion and thanking him for over half a century of dedicated service, as a great friend, and a great American.

ANDREA COREY SHOWING GREAT  
PROMISE IN RANGEL FELLOW  
PROGRAM

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform you of the achievements of Andrea Corey, a young lady whose aspirations and goals are contributing to her success as an international affairs scholar.

Andrea's record is cause for great pride to the International Affairs Diversity Fellow Program, which is identifying and preparing qualified minority applicants for the Foreign Service. Having obtained an International Affairs' masters through hard work and perseverance with a current 3.6 GPA, she is also a concerned citizen who will certainly change the way American diplomacy is practiced.

She is an example of what the program has achieved with Federal funding, awarding deserving minority students with grants to cover their tuition, books and fees.

Andrea Corey has already experienced the reality of the Foreign Service, having worked with Foreign-Service diplomats at the United States Embassy in the Dominican Republic and writing talking points for speeches by the United States Ambassador.

She plans on working with political economic issues at the U.S. Embassy in the Bahamas this summer, while expanding her knowledge and professional experience.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL CASIMIR  
PULASKI

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor I recognize General Casimir Pulaski, a living legend who became known as the “Father of the American Cavalry” after leaving his native land Poland to defend this great country during the Revolutionary War.

A bold and dedicated soldier, Pulaski defined his selfless loyalty in a letter to George Washington in which he stated, “I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it.”

In February of 1778, with Washington's endorsement, Pulaski submitted his plan to Congress and with their authorization he formed the Independent Corps later known as the Pulaski Legion.

During the siege of Savannah in 1779, General Pulaski paid the ultimate sacrifice and was mortally wounded; leaving a legacy of heroism that continues to inspire people around the world.

In 1910, by an order of Congress, a statue of Gen. Pulaski was erected at Pennsylvania Avenue and 13th Street in Washington, DC, paying tribute to this great hero.

My hometown of Buffalo, New York, is one of a handful of communities which have also recognized Pulaski's contributions with a statue. Monuments can also be found in Hartford, Connecticut; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Savannah, Georgia; and Czestochowa and Warka Poland.

On Friday, March 3, 2006, I will have the privilege to join community leaders and friends from the western New York General Pulaski Association in celebrating the legacy of General Pulaski in a wreath laying tradition at the Pulaski statue which first began in the 1930s.

Mr. Speaker, we in western New York have the great privilege of having a strong and vibrant Polish American community. Thank you for allowing me to recognize the contributions of General Pulaski, a man who has served as a patriot to not one, but two great nations.

FIRST NATIONAL STUDY OF DAY  
LABORERS EXPOSES ABUSE, IN-  
JURIES, H.R. 4437 WOULD MAKE  
MATTERS WORSE

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, they pay taxes, raise children, attend church, and participate in community activities and institutions. Yet, when America's day laborers go to work, they have experiences that would shock any other upstanding community member: police harassment, violence at the hands of employers, withheld wages and conditions so dangerous that is not unusual for them to be sidelined for more than a month with work-related injuries or to work for weeks on end in pain. In Illinois and in other States in the Midwest, day laborers work under more dangerous conditions, are more likely to suffer labor abuse, and are also more likely to suffer police harassment compared to workers in other regions.

This is the vivid portrait painted by the first nationwide study of America's 117,600 day laborers. The result of research by social scientists from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and New York's New School University, “On the Corner: Day Labor in the United States,” presents findings from a survey of 264 hiring sites in 143 municipalities in 20 U.S. States and the District of Columbia.

“The goal was to document a population that, though quite visible on the corners of U.S. cities, is poorly understood by the public and by policy makers,” said Nik Theodore, an assistant professor in the Urban Planning and Policy Program at UIC, and one of the study's three lead authors. “We hope to inform policy debates so that decisionmakers can devise thoughtful and effective strategies for resolving many of the problems that day laborers face.”

According to the national study's findings, worker centers give a voice and power to people who often lack both. They are gateway organizations that meet immigrant workers where they are and provide them with a wealth of information and training. In all too many cases, these centers are the only “port in the storm” for low-wage immigrant workers seeking to understand U.S. labor and immigration laws, file back wage claims, and organize

against recalcitrant employers. The Latino Union of Chicago runs the only worker center for day laborers in the Midwest, located in the Albany Park neighborhood of Chicago.

If the Border Protection, Anti-Terrorism and Illegal Immigration Act (H.R. 4437) is enacted, this comprehensive community approach would come to an end. It would destroy the very institutions in our communities that have developed real solutions. Day labor centers (and the private individuals, churches and government agencies that work with them) could face thousands or even millions of dollars in fines if they assist in the process of connecting day laborers to employers. The trust that day labor centers have built with communities would be eroded as the centers become responsible for verifying workers' immigration status. Volunteers and staff of worker centers would be turned into criminals and work center property could be seized. Good work, such as providing ESL classes and job skills training or leadership development, would be equated with alien smuggling.

H.R. 4437 and bills with similar provisions don't just jeopardize the lives of some immigrants, they are attacks on all our communities. As a first-generation American and as a Congresswoman who is honored to represent one of the most richly diverse districts in the country, I believe Washington must act now on immigration reform that keeps the American dream alive—not roll back the good work that day labor centers do every day across the Nation.

I urge my colleagues to look at the national study released by UIC and UCLA, which I hope is the first of many, to help us understand the problems day laborers and immigrants face in our country.

ON THE CORNER: DAY LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES

(By Abel Valenzuela, Jr., Nik Theodore, Edwin Meléndez, and Ana Luz Gonzalez)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report profiles, for the first time, the national phenomenon of day labor in the United States. Men and women looking for employment in open-air markets by the side of the road, at busy intersections, in front of home improvement stores and in other public spaces are ubiquitous in cities across the nation. The circumstances that give rise to this labor market are complex and poorly understood. In this report, we analyze data from the National Day Labor Survey, the first systematic and scientific study of the day-labor sector and its workforce in the United States.

This portrait of day labor in the United States is based on a national survey of 2,660 day laborers. These workers were randomly selected at 264 hiring sites in 139 municipalities in 20 States and the District of Columbia. The sheer number of these sites, combined with their presence in every region in the country, reflects the enormous breadth of this labor market niche.

Our findings reveal that the day-labor market is rife with violations of workers' rights. Day laborers are regularly denied payment for their work, many are subjected to demonstrably hazardous job sites, and most endure insults and abuses by employers. The growth of day-labor hiring sites combined with rising levels of workers' rights violations is a national trend that warrants attention from policy makers at all levels of government.

In some cities, the rise of day labor has been accompanied by community tensions, in part because of inaccurate and unsubstan-

tiated portrayals of these workers. The aim of this study is to provide sound empirical data on the day-labor phenomenon that can inform public discussions and provide the basis for thoughtful policy approaches to this complex issue.

10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA FOR THE SAGEMONT SCHOOL

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Sagemont School on the occasion of their 10th anniversary celebration.

The Sagemont School is an educational establishment in my district that provides a nurturing and stimulating learning environment that inspires each student to think critically, reach his or her maximum potential and grow into a valuable citizen of our global community.

The Sagemont School's academic program is a rigorous college-prep curriculum that includes a variety of Honors and AP courses. Sagemont is second to none when it comes to integrating state-of-the-art technology, Internet use and even additional coursework at their "virtual school" education partner, University of Miami Online High School. Sagemont also meets the needs of students with specific learning disabilities through its Mountain Peak Academy, a program that mainstreams with the school's regular program.

The Sagemont School operates two campuses in Weston, in addition to its Virtual School known as The University of Miami Online High School. The Sagemont Lower School serves students in pre-K through grade 5; the Sagemont Upper School serves grades 6 through 12. The faculty and staff at Sagemont are dedicated to parent-teacher relationships in a high-tech learning environment. With multiple computers in the classroom and an average class size of 17 students, children are learning the skills they will need to be successful both in school and later in life.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to acknowledge the achievements of The Sagemont School over the past decade. It is my sincere belief that the Sagemont School will continue to instill in each of their students the joy of learning, personal growth, and a sense of personal and community responsibility for many years to come.

HONORING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Peace Corps, and the wonderful volunteers who enable this great institution to provide invaluable humanitarian service throughout the world.

Forty-five years ago this week, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to "promote world peace and friendship." That message has never been more important than

it is today. At a time when America's image abroad needs all the help that it can get, the Peace Corps provides us with the magnificent opportunity to demonstrate to the world that we are not only a nation of great prosperity, but great generosity as well; not only a nation of incredible might, but tremendous compassion.

Since 1961, more than 182,000 volunteers have served in 138 countries. Peace Corps volunteers serve as community leaders, business advisors, ecological conservationists, information technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators, agricultural workers, and school teachers. President Kennedy said of these fine women and men:

"For every young American who participates in the Peace Corps—who works in a foreign land—will know that he or she is sharing in the great common task of bringing to man that decent way of life which is the foundation of freedom and a condition of peace."

Today there are nearly 8,000 volunteers serving in 75 different countries. I would especially like to recognize the eight current volunteers from New Jersey's Ninth district: Julie Castner, Lucia Chan, Adam Kaufman, Suzanne Lee, Joseph Maggio, Reuben Man, Domenick Piccinich, and Troy Wolfe. You have made me and the people of New Jersey very proud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commending the thousands of Americans who serve and have served as Peace Corps volunteers. They are a great credit to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF TREAT PHYSICIANS FAIRLY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Treat Physicians Fairly Act, legislation providing tax credits to physicians to compensate for the costs of providing uncompensated care. This legislation helps compensate medical professionals for the costs imposed on them by federal laws forcing doctors to provide uncompensated medical care. The legislation also provides a tax deduction for hospitals that incur costs related to providing uncompensated care.

Under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) physicians who work in emergency rooms are required to provide care, regardless of a person's ability to pay, to anyone who comes into an emergency room. Hospitals are also required by law to bear the full costs of providing free care to anyone who seeks emergency care. Thus, EMTALA forces medical professionals and hospitals to bear the entire cost of caring for the indigent. According to the June 2/9, 2003 edition of AM News, emergency physicians lose an average of \$138,000 in revenue per year because of EMTALA. EMTALA also forces physicians and hospitals to follow costly rules and regulations. Physicians can be fined \$50,000 for technical EMTALA violations!

The professional skills with which one's earns a living are property. Therefore, the clear language of the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment prevents Congress from

mandating that physicians and hospitals bear the entire costs of providing health care to any group.

Ironically, the perceived need to force doctors to provide medical care is itself the result of prior government interventions into the health care market. When I began practicing medicine, it was common for doctors to provide uncompensated care as a matter of charity. However, laws and regulations inflating the cost of medical services and imposing unreasonable liability standards on medical professionals even when they were acting in a volunteer capacity made offering free care cost prohibitive. At the same time, the increasing health care costs associated with the government-facilitated overreliance on third party payments priced more and more people out of the health care market. Thus, the government responded to problems created by its interventions by imposing the EMTALA mandate on physicians, in effect making health care professionals scapegoats for the harmful consequences of government health care policies.

EMTALA could actually decrease the care available for low-income Americans at emergency rooms. This is because EMTALA discourages physicians from offering any emergency care. Many physicians in my district have told me that they are considering curtailing their practices, in part because of the costs associated with the EMTALA mandates. Many other physicians are even counseling younger people against entering the medical profession because of the way the Federal Government treats medical professionals. The tax credits created in the Treat Physicians Fairly Act will help mitigate some of the burden government policies place on physicians.

The Treat Physicians Fairly Act does not remove any of EMTALA's mandates; it simply provides that physicians can receive a tax credit for the costs of providing uncompensated care. This is a small step toward restoring fairness to physicians. Furthermore, by providing some compensation in the form of tax credits, the Treat Physicians Fairly Act helps remove the disincentives to remaining active in the medical profession built into the current EMTALA law. I hope my colleagues will take the first step toward removing the unconstitutional burden of providing uncompensated care by cosponsoring the Treat Physicians Fairly Act.

**WOODROW WILSON PRESIDENTIAL  
LIBRARY AUTHORIZATION ACT**

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library Authorization Act.

As a statesman, scholar, and President, Woodrow Wilson faced economic crisis, democratic decay, and a world war. Presidential historians agree that World War I, and President Wilson's leadership, radically altered the role of diplomacy as a tool of foreign policy—a policy that established a new path for America's role in promoting democracies throughout the world. So too did Wilson's high-minded ideals craft a legacy that shaped the powers and responsibilities of the Executive Branch in times of war.

As a professor and president of Princeton University, Wilson created a more selective and accountable system for higher education. By instituting curriculum reform, Wilson revolutionized the roles of teachers and students and quickly made Princeton one of the most renowned universities in the world. Due to Wilson's legacy at Princeton, I am pleased to have the support of current President Shirley Tilghman as we seek to establish a Presidential library and museum at Wilson's birthplace in Virginia.

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson went before a joint session of Congress to seek a Declaration of War against Germany, for "The world must be safe for democracy." Eighty-eight years later, we continue to champion that right of mankind.

In order to increase the awareness and understanding of the life, principles and accomplishments of the 28th President of the United States, I ask that you join me in co-sponsoring legislation that will enable the construction of a Presidential Library and Museum dedicated to Woodrow Wilson at his birthplace in Staunton, Virginia.

Specifically, this legislation will make grants from the National Archives for the establishment of a Presidential Library to provide educational and interpretive services to honor the life of Woodrow Wilson. To ensure that a public-private partnership exists, my legislation also mandates that no grant shall be available for the establishment of this library until a private entity has raised at least twice the amount to be allocated by the Congress. Finally, once the library is complete, this legislation states that the Federal government shall have no role or responsibility for the operation of the library.

In studying the life and times of the 28th President, we see how Woodrow Wilson affected and continues to influence how the United States responds to national and international crises. I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation that would establish the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in Staunton, Virginia.

**HONORING JUSTICE SANDRA DAY  
O'CONNOR**

SPEECH OF

**HON. DEBORAH PRYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and character of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

It is fitting that this resolution comes before us during the month of March, the month set aside to celebrate the pioneering women who helped shape our country and extend the promise of equal opportunity for all.

Sandra Day O'Connor was one of those pioneers, a trailblazer for women in the legal field and the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court of the United States.

She went to law school at a time when women made up a tiny fraction of law students in this country, and a tiny fraction of practicing attorneys.

She graduated from Stanford University Law School in two years instead of the normal three, and third in a class of 102, but strug-

gled to find a job, as few firms were willing to hire a woman.

Undeterred, she accepted a position as a deputy county attorney for San Mateo County in California, her first foray into public service, which would ultimately come to occupy most of her career.

Among other roles, she went on to serve as the first female State senate majority leader in the United States and as a justice on the Arizona Court of Appeals.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan recognized her achievements by appointing O'Connor to the Supreme Court, the first woman in American history to be so honored.

Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago, when Sandra Day O'Connor graduated from law school, only 4 percent of law students were women. Today, thanks to Justice O'Connor and other courageous women like her, approximately half of all law students are women.

There are many things I could say in her praise, but it seems to me that that is the most eloquent testimony of her achievements.

**PASTOR AND CHAPLAIN KENNETH  
WELLS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS  
OF SERVICE**

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenneth Wells as he celebrates 25 years as the pastor for Northview Baptist Church in Lewisville. Pastor Kenneth Wells is undoubtedly the pride of the Northview Baptist community because of his unrelenting outreach to preach joy to so many.

Pastor Kenneth Wells has been enriching the lives of Lewisville community since the first Sunday at Northview Baptist Church in 1981. In addition to his church duties as Pastor, Kenneth Wells is an active member of the greater Lewisville community. He serves as chaplain for the city of Lewisville police and fire departments. He created this ministry over 25 years ago with other area pastors. Pastor Kenneth Wells, along with his wife Teresa, remain committed to serving their community and their church.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Pastor Kenneth Wells in recognition of his devotion and selflessness to those around him.

**TRIBUTE TO THE NEW CASTLE  
BUILDERS CHAPTER OF THE  
ORDER OF DEMOLAY**

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the New Castle Builders Chapter of the Order of DeMolay for its 87th anniversary.

The New Castle Builders Chapter #39095 Order of DeMolay serves the New Castle and Lawrence County area with additional chapters in Butler, Erie, Greensburg and Pittsburgh.

The Order of DeMolay is a character-building and leadership development organization for young men between the ages of 12 and 21. The organization aims to better sons which will in turn mean better men to be better citizens and leaders in the future.

The New Castle Builders Chapter of the Order of DeMolay hold its annual meeting on Wednesday February 22, 2006, and celebrate its 87th anniversary.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the New Castle Builders Chapter of the Order of DeMolay for its 87th anniversary. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute an organization such as the Order of DeMolay.

RECOGNIZING MR. DAVID L.  
MAGIDSON

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, on August 19, 2005, David L. Magidson was elected to a 1-year term as National Commander of Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, during the organization's 101st Annual National Convention in San Diego, California.

Mr. Magidson's military service began when he joined the U.S. Army in 1968. He graduated as a 2nd lieutenant from Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He also served as the Operations Officer for the Miami Field Office of the 111th Military Intelligence Group. His active duty service ended in 1971.

Mr. Magidson has held numerous positions in Post 243, including Post Commander. Additionally, he has served as Judge Advocate for the JWV Department of Florida, and as the organization's National Judge Advocate since 2001.

Mr. Magidson also serves his Jewish heritage, and is currently a member of the Commission on Social Action of the Union for Reform Judaism. In 2000, he completed a 2-year term as president of Temple Judea in Coral Gables, Florida.

Although a native of New York City, Magidson was raised in the Washington, DC, area, the son of a Department of Defense civilian who headed the Claims Division for the U.S. Marine Corps. He earned his undergraduate degree in Spanish at Franklin and Marshall College, and went on to earn a Master's degree in Latin American History from the University of Florida.

Upon his release from military service, he attended the University of Miami Law School on the G.I. Bill, and received a law degree. He also studied international law at the Escuela Libre de Derecho in Mexico City. A family man, Mr. Magidson has been happily married to his wife, Carol, for 35 years, and they have two adult children, Ben and Rebecca.

PORT SECURITY AND THE SALE  
OF FIRMS OPERATING TERMINALS  
AT U.S. PORTS

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about port security and the sale of firms operating terminals at U.S. ports. The proposed sale of the P&O firm—which manages terminal operations at major East Coast ports, including the Port of Baltimore—to a company controlled by the government of Dubai has made many aware for the first time that major seaports in the U.S. are operated by firms controlled by foreign interests, including foreign governments.

We have long known that we have not closed gaps in physical security at our ports. Only approximately 5 percent of the nearly 9 million containers coming into our nation are physically inspected.

These gaps exist in part because we have simply not prioritized port security. Since 9/11, more than \$20 billion in federal funding has been directed to aviation security while just over \$630 million has been directed to port security.

However, the proposed sale of P&O now makes us aware that not only have we overlooked physical security, we have failed to develop the systems necessary to manage the unique security issues that the increasingly global nature of port management raises.

Most U.S. ports are owned by public or quasi-public authorities. These authorities frequently lease their terminal spaces to operating companies. P&O is one such operating company—and a quick review of U.S. port facilities reveals that like P&O, many terminal operating companies active in the United States are either foreign-owned or are subsidiaries of foreign entities.

In some case, these firms not only manage ports around the world, they also run the shipping lines that travel between these ports.

These kinds of relationships may be very good for business, but our government is not comprehensively assessing what threats these relationships could pose to our national security.

The Coast Guard analyzed the P&O deal because this deal was subjected to the scrutiny of the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States.

Under normal circumstances, no federal entity comprehensively assesses terminal operating agreements for their security implications.

Each U.S. port is responsible for developing a facility security plan, which the Coast Guard approves. Amazingly, the Coast Guard does not regularly review terminal operating agreements as part of its assessment of a port's security plan.

I believe that Congress should, at the very least, examine whether the Coast Guard should be required to review terminal operating arrangements as part of their review of port facility security plans.

In the absence of such assessments, we do not really know whether firms managing our ports have ownership or business relations that could create a security threat.

Our transportation networks are truly global and all aspects of transportation businesses have significant foreign involvement. If our government has yet to take stock of these

complex business arrangements and of the threats they pose to our transportation security, what other gaps exist and what incidents more threatening than a proposed sale will reveal them?

Finally, Mr. Speaker, while we have been conducting a national dialogue over recent weeks about the extent of foreign involvement that should be allowed in the operation of our ports, ports are just one of the many pieces of sensitive infrastructure in this nation which have not been adequately secured.

As we continue to examine our national security policies, we must examine whether our current laws on foreign ownership and operating arrangements pertaining to our nation's infrastructure are in the best interests of our national security. The American people will understand that the protection of our nation should not be subject to the seemingly relentless advancement of trade at all costs.!

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TRIBUTE TO FREDDIE BRYANT

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise here today to commemorate a remarkable man, Mr. Freddie Bryant, on ninety years of endurance, patience, and strength of character. His selfless acts have touched so many, especially his twelve children, who thrived under his guidance and cherish the wonderful memories of growing up in Freddie's home.

Freddie has been a hard worker his entire life. He took on family responsibilities at the age of seven when his father moved to Hughes, Arkansas, and continues to plant a garden and raise livestock to this day. Although he only has a seventh grade education, he has an equivalent of a Ph.D. degree in agriculture, teaching, leadership, business, counseling, and theology.

According to Freddie's family—he does it all. He continues to sow and reap his land where he built the house, barn, and pasture from trees he cut down himself. Freddie always has a way to make a situation work. He would walk for miles with his old horse Pearl and a cotton sack on his back to feed his twelve children. When his eldest child wanted to attend college, he took a job at the granary in Helena, Arkansas, until he could send every one of his kids to college. To this day, whenever he meets a stranger, he always says "let me tell you about my children."

His children remember his ambition and sacrifice with such admiration. They remember the smells of childhood that bring them back so fondly to the shack in Lexa, Arkansas. Many events happened in this home that helped them grow into notable members of society. Throughout it all, it was in the arms of a loving father that guided them in the right direction.

Freddie Bryant has been married to the former Josephine Dunlap of Lexa, Arkansas, for 67 years. Josephine is a valiant woman, whose determination to raise her family goes unmatched.

On March 11, 2006 the community will meet to honor and celebrate the 90th birthday of

this simple yet great man who only refers to himself as "Fanny's Boy." I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in wishing Freddie many more years of happiness, and thanking him for his service as a great father and great American.

CONGRATULATIONS ON SENATE  
PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION CRE-  
ATING CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to Rep. BARBARA LEE of California for her leadership in championing legislation that would designate a national Caribbean-American Heritage month.

I am looking forward to the signing of this legislation by the President and to having the first celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month later this year. We as a nation will enthusiastically participate in this celebration in recognition and gratitude for the contributions made by our Caribbean-American communities. We have been richly blessed by this immigrant community who have followed and achieved their American dream through hard work and devotion to self-improvement.

As you know Mr. Speaker, the United States Senate earlier this month unanimously approved the legislation, H. Con. Res. 51, introduced by Rep. LEE last year. Last summer, the bill was approved by the House of Representatives and had 81 co-sponsors and support from more than 40 non-governmental organizations working on Caribbean-American issues. As the most senior Democratic woman on the House International Relations Committee, and a member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, Rep. LEE has worked to strengthen U.S.-Caribbean relations and wanted to raise awareness about the role that Caribbean people and their descendants have played in the United States by introducing the bill.

As an original co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 51, I am ecstatic that the lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in the House and the Senate lent their support to such a worthy bill. The Caribbean people have been a blessing both to the 15th Congressional District of New York and the country. There have been many influential Caribbean-Americans in U.S. history who have changed the fabric of this fine nation. Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American Congresswoman and first African-American woman candidate for President, had familial roots in Barbados. The parents of Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State, were Jamaican. In the area of the arts, Celia Cruz, the world-renowned queen of Salsa music, was Cuban, while the parents of Sidney Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the Academy Award for best actor in a leading role, hailed from the Bahamas.

It is undeniable that great patriots of the United States have cultural roots in the beautiful countries of the Caribbean. Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating Rep. LEE on her hard work to advance this legislation and lawmakers in both the House of Representatives and the Senate on passing H.

Con. Res. 51. I also hope you will join me in urging the President to designate the month of June for annual national recognition of Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE "BLUE & GOLD" WITH  
CUB SCOUT PACK 60

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I recognize the young men from Cub Scout Pack 60 from Buffalo, New York as they celebrate the traditions and contributions of the Boy Scouts of America on this the 76th anniversary of Cub Scouting.

Since 1910 Cub Scouts have embraced their motto "Do Your Best" and promoted the values of: citizenship, compassion, cooperation, courage, faith, health, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect, and responsibility among its membership.

Today we have more than 885,000 Cub Scouts across America, learning valuable life lessons through the scouting program, who will be the next generation of leaders.

On Sunday, March 5, 2006 Pack 60 will celebrate the Anniversary of Scouting with a "Blue & Gold" dinner; blue representing truth, spirituality, steadfast loyalty and the sky above and gold which stands for warm sunlight, good cheer and happiness.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to recognize Cub Scout Pack 60 whose members have learned at a very young age the importance of teamwork and giving back to one's community. We should be proud knowing they are this Nation's future.

H.R. 4682, THE HONEST LEADERSHIP  
AND OPEN GOVERNMENT  
ACT: DEMOCRATS LEAD THE NA-  
TION ON LOBBYING REFORM

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, our country was established as a government 'of the people, by the people, and for the people.' The Republican majority has turned it into a government of, by, and for a few of the people. We need to address the Republican culture of corruption and lead the charge to restore honor and dignity to the House of Representatives. America can do better. The American public deserves better.

Mr. Abramoff and his associates have clearly broken the law. It takes two to tango. I believe Republican Members of Congress who put America up for sale should also be held accountable for their corrupt dealings and "pay for play" politics that put special interests first at the expense of the priorities of the American people.

Americans pay when lobbyists are granted special access in the legislative process and democratic procedures are abandoned on the floor of the House. Americans pay for the cost

of corruption in many ways: a prescription drug bill that puts the greed of pharmaceutical companies ahead of the need of senior citizens for affordable prescription drugs; energy legislation that gives tax breaks and subsidies to oil companies while Americans pay record prices at the pump and for home-heating; and a waiver of liability so that vaccine manufacturers can profit while Americans can be hurt.

To end this culture of corruption and restore integrity and openness to the House, Democratic Leader PELOSI and my Democratic colleagues have introduced the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act that will eliminate the K Street Project that trades legislative access for Republican-only employment, stop the revolving door between government and lobbyists, end the "dead of night" special interest provisions, prohibit cronyism in key appointments, and eliminate contracting abuses like those benefiting Halliburton. I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to enact and vigorously enforce needed reforms.

I am, however, concerned with the proposal to ban all privately-funded congressional travel without making a distinction between social or recreational trips and educational travel. Travel that includes lobbyists funding lawmakers to go to luxurious resorts for golf trips is abuse of House rules, and I believe we need to put an end to it.

But fact-finding trips on the other hand are an important way to educate members of Congress about issues. Banning them would make it harder for Members to get real-world understanding of matters that arise on Capitol Hill. I want to make sure that nonprofit organizations, whether they undertake no lobbying or devote a very small percentage of their budgets to lobbying, are not precluded from taking members on these trips because of this bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue.

The intention of our Founding Fathers was for Congress to be a marketplace of ideas. Democrats are leading the effort to once again put power where it belongs—in the hands of the American people. I look forward to enacting real reform that addresses serious ethical abuses, increases the transparency and openness of government, and enforces the rules and laws already on the books.

RECOGNIZING MR. RONALD L.  
BOOK

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 25, 2006, Ronald L. Book was awarded the Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award, which recognizes outstanding individuals who have exhibited humanitarian concerns and whose efforts bring together people of all races, religions and ethnic backgrounds.

Mr. Book serves as a member of the University Outreach Development Council at Florida International University and is Board Member Emeritus of the Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital & Foundation. He is chairman of the Dade County Homeless Trust and its executive committee and serves as outside advisor

to the Broward Community Partnership on the Homeless.

He is also an active participant in South Florida's business community. Mr. Book is a trustee and Council of 100 members of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and was the Director and Special Counsel for former Florida Governor, Bob Graham's Cabinet.

Mr. Book earned a Juris Doctorate at Tulane University and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science at Florida International University. He currently practices in Aventura and Tallahassee. Of all his accomplishments, Ron and his wife, Pat, are most proud of their children, Lauren (20), Samantha (18) and Chase (13).

For his exemplary and inspirational work, reflecting the goals and aspirations of the ADL, I congratulate Ronald L. Book on this distinguished honor.

RECOGNITION OF 2006 WINTER  
OLYMPIC ATHLETES

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize all of the Olympic athletes who competed last month at the Winter Games in Turin, Italy. The Olympic Games have always sought to bring people together in peace to respect universal moral principles. They give the finest athletes in the world the chance to compete with pride and honor. I am proud that three of my constituents from East Rutherford, New Jersey, in my Ninth Congressional District, competed among the world's best at the 2006 Winter Olympics. Brian Gionta, Scott Gomez, and Brian Rafalski were all members of the Men's United States Olympic Ice Hockey Team.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to especially honor these three young men who have distinguished themselves in the sport of ice hockey, and proudly represented the United States at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUNLIGHT  
RULE

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously said, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant." In order to shine sunlight on the practices of the House of Representatives, and thus restore public trust and integrity to this institution, I am introducing the sunlight rule, which amends House rules to ensure that Members have adequate time to study a bill before being asked to vote on it. One of the chief causes of increasing public cynicism regarding Congress is the way major pieces of legislation are brought to the floor without Members having an opportunity to read the bills. This is particularly a problem with the Appropriations conference reports, which are often rushed to the floor of the

House in late-night sessions at the end of the year. For example, just this past December, the House voted on the Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Appropriations Conference Report at approximately 4 a.m.—just 4 hours after the report was filed. Yet, the report contained language dealing with avian flu, including controversial language regarding immunity liability for vaccine manufacturers, that was added in the House-Senate conference on the bill. Considering legislation on important issues in this manner is a dereliction of our duty as the people's elected representatives.

My proposed rule requires that no piece of legislation, including conference reports, can be brought before the House of Representatives unless it has been available to Members and staff in both print and electronic version for at least 10 days. My bill also requires that a manager's amendment that makes substantive changes to a bill be available in both printed and electronic forms at least 72 hours before being voted on. While manager's amendments are usually reserved for technical changes, oftentimes manager's amendments contain substantive additions to or subtractions from bills. Members should be made aware of such changes before being asked to vote on a bill.

The sunlight rule provides the people the opportunity to be involved in enforcing the rule by allowing a citizen to move for censure of any House Member who votes for a bill brought to the floor in violation of this act. The sunlight rule can never be waived by the Committee on Rules or House leadership. If an attempt is made to bring a bill to the floor in violation of this rule, any member could raise a point of order requiring the bill to be immediately pulled from the House calendar until it can be brought to the floor in a manner consistent with this rule.

Mr. Speaker, the practice of rushing bills to the floor before individual Members have had a chance to study the bills is one of the major factors contributing to public distrust of Congress. Voting on bills before Members have had time to study them makes a mockery of representative government and cheats the voters who sent us here to make informed decisions on public policy. Adopting the sunlight rule is one of, if not the, most important changes to the House rules this Congress could make to restore public trust in, and help preserve the integrity of, this institution. I hope my colleagues will support this change to the House rules.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INNOVATION  
AND COMPETITIVENESS  
ACT

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Innovation and Competitiveness Act.

The Framers of our system of government realized that innovation was essential to the success of the United States. They embodied this strong belief in Article I Section 8 of our Constitution, which lays the framework for our nation's copyright and patent laws. The Framers realized that American innovation was so

important that it merited specific reference and protection in our founding document.

Today, America is the world leader in innovation. However, to ensure that America remains the world leader, we must again take a hard look at our policies to make sure that they still encourage inventors to create and businesses to grow and expand.

Every business and individual must weigh the advantages and the hurdles when making the decisions about whether to bring an idea to the market, expand services to other geographical areas and the like. In addition to market factors, unfortunately, today there are additional hurdles to innovation and growth—excessive litigation, as well as taxation, red tape and regulation imposed by governments.

The Innovation and Competitiveness Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation to get Congress engaged in the business of promoting innovation in America by creating additional incentives for private individuals and businesses to create and rollout new products and services so that America will remain the world leader in innovation. Government sometimes is the problem—not the answer to the problem—so the Innovation and Competitiveness Act also addresses government-imposed hurdles to innovation by clearing the way for inventors and businesses to do what they do best—create and compete.

Specifically, this legislation will promote research and development by permanently extending the R&D tax credit. Companies know best how to spend their money on research and development, not government bureaucracies.

In addition, excessive red tape and confusing rules regarding tax liability are currently stifling businesses from moving across State lines. Increasingly, States are taxing businesses outside their borders for the right to do business within the State even when those out-of-State businesses have minimal contacts with the taxing jurisdictions. Given this environment, some businesses have made the decision that it is not worth expanding to other jurisdictions because of the ambiguity about when they must pay these taxes and the fear of aggressive taxation and the resulting litigation and compliance costs. The Innovation and Competitiveness Act contains provisions to set clear, bright line rules for when out-of-State businesses would be obliged to pay taxes to a jurisdiction. This bill creates a physical presence test such that States could only collect business activity taxes from businesses with employees or property in the taxing State. This will create the clarity necessary for businesses to grow beyond State lines, and offer new and exciting products and services to consumers.

In addition, excessive litigation hampers investment and innovation. With that in mind, this legislation cracks down on frivolous lawsuits by strengthening sanctions against attorneys who file truly frivolous actions.

Furthermore, rising health care costs are one of the most difficult challenges facing individuals, businesses and manufacturing today. The Innovation and Competitiveness Act contains provisions that will allow individuals to purchase health insurance that best suits their needs and budgets, while also promoting competition in health care. In addition, our bill encourages the use of health information technology, which will improve health quality and

reduce errors by leveraging cutting edge technology to make medical records available almost instantaneously to doctors when they are needed so that they can best treat patients. Technology can help reduce paperwork and administrative burdens and thus help doctors provide the best and fastest care possible to their patients.

Finally, as we have heard, by 2010, more than 90 percent of all scientists and engineers could be living in Asia. This is a major challenge to our competitive leadership, but America must keep pace. To address this issue, the Innovation and Competitiveness Act includes provisions that will provide incentives for teachers to specialize in math, science, and other technical fields—and to remain in the classroom to educate our youth in these fields. In addition, this legislation provides incentives for students to receive degrees in technical fields with financial aid and scholarships.

The Innovation and Competitiveness Act will get Congress into the business of protecting America's place as the world leader in innovation and competitiveness, and I urge the Members of the House to support the initiatives in this important legislation.

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HONORING THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DEBORAH PRYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship based in Silver Spring, Maryland on its 20th anniversary.

For the past two decades, NCCS has worked tirelessly to advocate for quality cancer care for all Americans and to empower cancer survivors. By stressing its commitment to evidence-based advocacy, NCCS has worked with policy makers to evaluate and recommend changes in how the nation researches, regulates, finances and delivers quality cancer care.

In addition, NCCS has provided cancer survivors and their loved ones access to credible and accurate information on many important survivorship issues, especially the critical role of advocating for oneself.

I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in honoring the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, whose leadership has provided an invaluable service to this country's more than ten million cancer survivors and the millions more affected by this devastating disease. I wish them all best in the future.

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RECOGNIZING ROSS HAYNES JR. FOR HIS ENDLESS COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ross Haynes Jr., from Fort Worth, Texas, in the heart of the 26th Congressional

District of Texas, for his dedicated service to the community.

Ross Haynes Jr. makes helping his community a high priority in his life. He has dedicated time to assisting others in the community, specifically, its youth. From sports to education on life, Ross Haynes Jr. has made a difference in our lives.

From his own humble beginnings, Mr. Haynes has amassed great wealth in the form of friendship and encouragement in which he has inspired throughout his community. He has been involved with the lives of a great deal of Fort Worth's underprivileged youths through the Fort Worth Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Haynes effortlessly educates kids about the positive things to aspire for in life.

In addition, he has fulfilled his dream to open his own business along with his wife, Delessa. This alone is a phenomenal achievement for one to accomplish. Mr. Haynes serves as a most honorable role model for many by continuing to strive for one's own personal goal.

I am proud to represent Ross Haynes Jr.—a man who has given so much back to his community. Mr. Haynes's advice, council and support to the community, whether directly or indirectly, over the years, are certainly something for which to be thankful. I am grateful to represent such a wonderful citizen like Mr. Haynes.

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TRIBUTE TO THE CRISIS SHELTER OF LAWRENCE COUNTY

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate The Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

In September of 1981 the Lawrence County Crisis Shelter opened its doors to women and children who have suffered domestic abuse. Over the past 25 years the Shelter has grown to provide free services to men, women and children that are victims/survivors of sexual assault and domestic abuse.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Crisis Shelter. To kick off the celebration, the shelter will be holding its annual auction, which is scheduled to be held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral on Saturday, February 25th at 6 p.m. The funds raised at the auction help support many services offered by the shelter, including the 24-hour hotline, prevention education in schools, intervention training, and the emergency shelter.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 25th anniversary of The Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as The Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County.

HONORING THE SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN UPON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LOIS CAPP**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden board of trustees, staff and volunteers as they celebrate the 80th anniversary of the garden. The botanic garden provides many different services to the Santa Barbara community, including conservation, education and research.

As an active member of the Center for Plant Conservation, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is the only organization actively developing and maintaining a conservation collection of rare and endangered species in the central coast region. Through cooperation with private and public resource management agencies, seeds and living plants are collected in the wild to represent genetic and geographic variation. These conservation efforts are critical to ensuring that the areas of vast beauty and great significance are preserved so that our future generations may enjoy and learn from them.

The Botanic Garden has a comprehensive education program that includes programs for school groups, various certificate programs and excursions to such regions as Anacapa Island and Lake Cachuma. Their education program aims to increase our understanding of the role of plants in the natural world. Currently, the Botanic Garden co-sponsors programs with the Los Padres National Forest, University of California Cooperative Extension and the Gevirtz Research Center in the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara. They also have a relationship with our local schools that ensures that our children learn the importance of preserving our natural treasures and allows teachers an opportunity to help students learn in an outdoor classroom environment.

Research at the Botanic Garden began in the late 1920s and has continued to be innovative and to contribute to our understanding of the natural world. Beginning in the 1960s, Dr. Ralph Philbrick (Garden Director from 1974 to 1987) expanded the Garden's floristic research of the Channel Islands. For over 40 years, Garden surveys and inventories have significantly expanded our knowledge of these remarkable offshore terrains. As a result, the Garden's herbarium includes over 30,000 specimens of the Channel Islands' vascular plants and lichens, which are consulted by researchers throughout the world. This research on the Channel Islands is of particular importance because of its status as a National Park which possesses many native plants and animals.

I am so pleased to be able to recognize all of the hard work of the trustees, staff and volunteers as a part of this 80th Anniversary celebration. I am privileged to work and live in a community that is so physically beautiful and blessed with so many dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to maintain the many things that make this area so special. Congratulations and happy anniversary!

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF  
NATHANIEL COLE ZARRELLI

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Leslie and Mike Zarrelli of Silver Spring, Maryland, on the birth of their new baby son. Nathaniel Cole was born on February 9, 2006, at 10:46 a.m., weighing 7 pounds and 4 ounces. Nathaniel has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing.

RECOGNIZING AN ARTICLE BY  
RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN, SPIRITUAL  
LEADER OF CONGREGATION BETH  
CHAVERIM IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article written by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The article by Rabbi Zoberman reads as follows:

I was in Israel on a mission of the ARZA (Association of the Reform Zionists of America) Rabbinical Council during the recent Palestinian elections to its legislative Council. The unexpected, stunning victory of Hamas winning 74 out of a total of 132 seats though only 44 percent of the cast votes, remains a source for analysis and a cause of concern.

The embarrassing defeat of ruling Fatah whose leader Mahmud Abbas continues to serve as a Palestinian Authority President, was primarily due to the long frustration and mounting anger caused by years of Fatah's inept management and outright corruption. Hamas cleverly ran on a Change and Reform list having already succeeded in establishing an infra-structure of supportive economic and social services to a deprived population. However, the victory took Hamas too by surprise saddling it with critical choices and decisions. Is it ready through to transform its very identity from a terrorist organization to one recognizing the State of Israel and negotiating peace with, is yet to be seen.

Essential financial support from Israel, the United States and the European Union depend on it. Hamas may likely choose a middle course of not repudiating its very nature while abstaining from military action to allow it to consolidate power, becoming in time even a greater threat to the Jewish state. A nightmarish scenario would be a hostile Hamas state bordering on Israel with an extreme Muslim agenda and heavily influenced by Iran who is also behind the Hizballah in Southern Lebanon. That would pause unacceptable risks to the entire Middle East and beyond.

Our group was most warmly greeted by the new American Ambassador to Israel, Dr. Richard Jones, who reiterated President Bush's policy of fighting terrorism and non-support for a Palestinian Authority deviating from the Road Map. We also had the opportunity to meet at the historic King David

Hotel with Laura King, Jerusalem Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles Times, who covered the Palestinian elections and conveyed her sense of not being surprised by the outcome.

Our memorable day visit to Jordan's fascinating Petra via the Yitzhak Rabin border crossing at Israel's most southern city of Eilat, was a reminder to appreciate anew the Israel-Jordan peace treaty of 1994. In addition to the natural wonders and rich history of the 1800 year old Nabatean city of Petra carved in Biblical red rock, the past interconnectedness of the entire region through fruitful commerce and cultural exchange should inspire once again its revitalization for benefit of all.

With hospitalized Ariel Sharon's unchanged medical condition, Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's resolve has weathered the evacuation of the illegal outpost of West Bank's Amona in spite of the accompanied violence. Surely it is the first of the post-Gaza disengagement challenges that will test the emerging new leadership and the vibrant Israeli democracy, even as was revealed for the first time by the Israeli Institute for Economic and Social Research the high financial cost of 14 billion dollars investment in the territories since 1967. The centrist Kadima ("Forward") party created by Sharon and now headed by Olmert continues with only a small drop in its strong showing in the polls toward the March 28 elections. However, the unpredictable nature of erupting Middle East events forestalls the assurity of the elections' outcome at this time. The elections will nonetheless reflect the Israeli voters verdict on Sharon's legacy of sacrificing the vision of a greater Israel for the more realistic one of a smaller Israel yet a Jewish and democratic one; an Israeli society in a far better position to tackle its demanding and urgent agenda of socio-economic dilemmas and gaps that will ultimately determine Israel's character and moral fiber so crucial for its survival.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED  
PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF  
ITS 97TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), as they celebrate the 97th anniversary of their inception. The Delaware chapter of the NAACP was founded in Wilmington, Delaware in 1909, only 1 year after the initiation of the national office. The Wilmington branch of the NAACP distinguished itself locally in the equal pay battle for teachers in Delaware. The positive impact that the Wilmington branch had on our community inspired the development of other branches around the state, including lower Sussex, Milford, Central Delaware, and Newark.

I would personally like to thank the past and present leaders of the NAACP in Delaware for their continued dedication to bring about peaceful movements for change. This illustrious organization's success can be attributed to leaders such as Reverend Maurice Moyer, Alice Dunbar Nelson, Louise L. Redding, Sam-

uel Dawson, Gary Hammond, Littleton Mitchell, and Charles Brittingham. They are each heroes both locally and nationally.

These remarkable trailblazers have led the battle for equality in the state of Delaware. They worked to pass the local elective "one-person, one vote," fought for suitable living quarters for migrant laborers, worked for fair public accommodations throughout the state, and made extensive advancements in educational equity.

The perseverance demonstrated by members of the NAACP reflects the strength of this exceptional organization. Over the past 97 years, the national organization has provided communities around the United States with strong and passionate leaders who have fought for social change. I congratulate them on the successes of the past 97 years, and I look forward to many more years of continued achievements in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE 2006 CENTRAL  
INDIANA BUSINESS HALL  
OF FAME LAUREATES

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to personally congratulate Dick Johnson and Fred Klipsch, two individuals inducted into the Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame last week. These business and civic leaders are being recognized with this high honor for achieving success and contributing to the Indiana business community.

Dick Johnson exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit that has made Indiana great. He graduated from Indiana University and started a petroleum distribution company in 1957 with a \$10,000 loan co-signed by his father. In the beginning, wife Ruth and children Rick and Jenny helped out by preparing all invoices for mailing. Johnson Oil Company grew to be one of the largest independent gas distributors in the country with 200 Bigfoot stores employing 1,500 people.

Dick went on to build multiple companies from scratch, starting with very little capital to build a significant enterprise. A generous philanthropist, he and Ruth have given over \$1 million to his alma mater alone.

I am proud to say that Dick has roots in my own hometown of Columbus, where he has never stopped giving back to the community. He has received numerous awards, including Columbus Community Service Award, 1997; IU Annual Distinguished Entrepreneur Award, 1994; and Columbus Small Business Person of the Year, 1988.

Another hometown hero, Fred Klipsch is the model of the successful American businessman. From humble blue-collar beginnings to the blue suits of the boardroom, he made the transition without losing the ethics and values with which he was raised.

Along the way, Fred acquired and managed several companies. Perhaps the most well-known firm is the one that bears his name: loudspeaker manufacturer Klipsch and Associates.

Managing multi-million-dollar companies didn't keep Klipsch from volunteering his services. He has been very active at Purdue University and just retired from a term as president of the Educational Choice Charitable

Trust, an organization that gives scholarships to inner-city children to attend private schools.

Fred has also worked hard to reposition the state Republican Party and is still Republican National Committeeman for the State of Indiana.

Once again, my congratulations to 2006 Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame Laureates Dick Johnson and Fred Klipsch.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR  
H.R. 4843, VETERANS' COMPENSA-  
TION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUST-  
MENT ACT OF 2006

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am proud to introduce H.R. 4843, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006.

The Subcommittee's Ranking Member, SHELLEY BERKLEY, as well as full Committee Chairman STEVE BUYER and Ranking Member LANE EVANS, join me as original cosponsors of the bill.

H.R. 4843 would provide a cost-of-living adjustment to veterans' benefits effective December 1, 2006. This would affect more than 2.9 million service-connected veterans and survivors of service-connected veterans.

The VA Committee periodically reviews the service-connected disability and dependency and indemnity programs to ensure that the benefits provide reasonable and adequate compensation for disabled veterans and their families. Based on this review, Congress acts annually to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in veterans' compensation and survivor benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has provided increases in these rates for every fiscal year since 1976. The Administration's fiscal year 2007 budget submission includes funding for a projected 2.6 percent increase.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

THANKING JUANITA CONKLING  
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in April 2006, I rise to thank Mrs. Juanita Conkling for over 40 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Juanita began her career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). After a year of service with the FBI, Juanita joined the U.S. House of Representatives on May 1, 1965, and has worked for the House Sergeant at Arms and the Chief Administrative Officer as the Payroll/Benefits Administrator in the Office of Members' Services. In this position, she has provided payroll and benefits guidance and counsel to countless Members of Congress and their families. Over the past 40 years,

Juanita has assured that the Members of Congress were paid accurately and on time each month. Additionally, she has provided current and former Members of Congress with advice and counsel about their ongoing options relative to their compensation and benefits.

Juanita has been instrumental in assisting both new and departing Members of Congress—orienting new Members about their pay and benefits issues as well as counseling departing Members about their options for continuation of benefit programs. During her 40 years working for the House, Juanita's career has given her the opportunity to have many long-lasting relationships with current and former Members of Congress, their families and congressional staffs.

On behalf of the former and current Members and the House community, I extend congratulations to Juanita for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the Members and the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Juanita many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO RITA J. BOARD

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rita J. Board, Governmental Liaison for the Internal Revenue Service. Ms. Board's career extends over a 30 year period in Parkersburg, West Virginia, serving not only the taxpayers of the Second Congressional District of West Virginia but the entire State of West Virginia. The positions she held include Taxpayer Service Specialist, Taxpayer Education Coordinator, Management Analyst in the Taxpayer Advocate Service and most recently Governmental Liaison. Ms. Board has received numerous awards in recognition and appreciation of her superior effort, dedication, and personal contribution to accomplishing the goals of the Internal Revenue Service as Congress intended.

It is impossible to estimate the enormous number of lives positively impacted by Ms. Board—small business individuals, volunteers, low income families, educational institutions, and exempt organizations.

Ms. Board played a large part in establishing an extremely successful Taxpayer Advocate Office in West Virginia that aims to work cooperatively with Congressional Offices. Ms. Board also successfully led in the establishment of an excellent relationship between the State of West Virginia and the IRS. I commend her for these contributions to the West Virginia public.

Ms. Board's family is service-oriented. Her husband, Gerald, is a retired police officer. Her daughter, Leslie, and her son, Matthew, are currently serving the public as police officers. Ms. Board has been a role model to everyone she meets.

I urge my colleagues to join me, as Rita J. Board retires from the Internal Revenue Service, in celebrating her tremendous achievements during her career and in her personal life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on March 1, 2005, I missed roll call vote #17, honoring the contributions of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. I was unavoidably detained chairing a subcommittee hearing on the state of interoperable communications. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NA-  
TIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED  
PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF  
ITS 97TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an organization that has been more than a guiding force but, in fact, a leader in advancing civil rights for nearly a century. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People continues its mission to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights for all people. As the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the nation, the men and women working for the NAACP have sought to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through their use of legal and moral persuasion.

The NAACP won one of the nation's greatest legal victories; that was the 1954 Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. The NAACP was also a prominent power that lobbied for the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act were also achievements of this longstanding organization. In 2005, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People launched the Disaster Relief Fund to help Hurricane Katrina survivors in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, and Alabama rebuild their lives.

The NAACP was built and grew from the collective courage of thousands of people and continues to inspire the high standard of full equality to ever younger generations. As grandfather of all civil rights organizations, it has been persistent in its commitment to non-violence, even in the face of overt and violent racial hostility. Today, on the 9th anniversary of the NAACP, it is important to celebrate how these men and women advanced their mission through reliance upon the press, the petition, the ballot, and the courts. Their premise has been that people of all races, nationalities and faiths, men and women, are created equal. All Americans must continue to uphold these standards of morality and justice.

I congratulate the NAACP and look forward to celebrating their centennial in 3 years.

RECOGNIZING THE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS FROM OREGON'S 3RD DISTRICT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy once stated that "Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures." As we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps, the truth of that statement is confirmed every day by the outstanding group of men and women promoting international understanding and progress across the globe.

During this National Peace Corps Week, I want to honor the service and commitment of the Peace Corps Volunteers from Oregon's 3rd Congressional district and express my pride in my fellow Oregonians who have chosen to devote years of their lives in service to others.

In particular, I want to recognize the current Peace Corps Volunteers whose service began in the past year: Ethan Choi (Bulgaria), Katie Conlon (Mali), Nancy Davis (Mexico), Rebecca Inman (Madagascar), Michael Lemmo (Ecuador), Cara McCarthy (Madagascar), Chris Pexton (Namibia), Jonathan Ruff (Costa Rica), Patrick Schmidt (Namibia), Candace Watson (Swaziland), Delores Watts (Malawi), Kimberly Wells (Malawi), and Malia Wetcher (Mozambique).

Their work to empower people and communities in developing countries is a crucial contribution to creating a safe and prosperous world, building bridges between America and the world, and establishing a better future for people everywhere.

CONGRATULATING MR. JIMMY FAULKNER, SR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise this week to honor a great man, as well as a true friend, Mr. Jimmy Faulkner, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Few people have enjoyed a more wonderful life than "Mr. Jimmy."

As an Air Force pilot, young Jimmy Faulkner answered his nation's call to serve and serve he did, always with distinction, valor and honor.

Upon completing his service in the Air Force, Jimmy Faulkner set out to blaze a trail of success in the world of business, spanning 42 years as the owner and publisher of a chain of south Alabama newspapers, as well as serving as president of seven radio stations. At the same time, he continued to find a way to serve his community, state and nation, first by being elected the youngest mayor in America in 1941, when he was elected mayor of his beloved Bay Minette.

Years later, Mr. Jimmy would go on to serve Baldwin, Monroe and Escambia Counties by

becoming one of Alabama's most respected and influential state senators. Twice he also ran for governor of Alabama.

Still later, Mr. Jimmy's entrepreneurial talents would give him the confidence to start Loyal American Life Insurance Company. And during most of the past 50 years, he has also been associated with Volkert & Associates, one of the top engineering, architectural, planning and environmental firms in the United States.

One of Jimmy Faulkner's passions has been his lifelong dedication to improving education. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Alabama Christian College in Montgomery, which was renamed Faulkner University in his honor, and Chairman of the Advisory Board for James H. Faulkner State Community College in Bay Minette. Mr. Jimmy holds seven honorary doctorate degrees in law and humane letters, and he has served on several commissions that worked to improve Alabama's secondary education system.

Jimmy Faulkner was named the North Baldwin Chamber of Commerce "Person of the Century" in 2000. In 2003, he was awarded the Alabama Press Association's "Lifetime Achievement Award" and received the Volkert Chairman's Award in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, there has been no other individual more important to south Alabama or to the life of his local community than James H. "Jimmy" Faulkner, Sr. He is an outstanding example of the quality individuals who have devoted their lives to public service, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating him on reaching this milestone. I know Mr. Jimmy's colleagues, his family and his many friends join with me in praising his significant accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the First Congressional District and the entire state of Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO THE 415TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION FROM KALAMAZOO, MI.

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion from Kalamazoo, MI who have bravely served our Nation overseas in Iraq. This Sunday, March 5th, the entire Battalion will be honored for its distinguished service in Iraq, receiving the prestigious Meritorious Unit Commendation that is bestowed upon battalions that are particularly meritorious and exceptional in their services against an armed enemy during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition to the Battalion's group recognition, 100 members of the unit will also be personally awarded the Combat Action Badge, which provides special recognition to Soldiers who personally engage the enemy, or are engaged by the enemy during combat operations.

I am so proud of the 415th Battalion because they represent all of the many and diverse jobs that our troops have set out to accomplish in Iraq. For example, this Battalion has administered over 1000 reconstruction

projects, implemented and managed 43 separate school reconstruction projects, provided medical screening to Iraqi citizens, even helped forge a relationship between Harvard University's medical school and Iraq's Tikrit University of Medicine.

The work of these men and women represents the positive progress that is actually going on in Iraq. The stories and accomplishments of the 415th Battalion are the ones that should truly be grabbing the headlines back home. Once again, I would like to congratulate the 415th Battalion for their much-deserved recognition and thank them on behalf of all the folks in Southwest Michigan for their great service. We are safer as a nation for your service—you make us all proud.

PUERTO RICO DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2006

**HON. LUIS FORTUÑO**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, today, Puerto Ricans celebrate the 89th Anniversary of being granted United States citizenship by an Act of Congress. It is on this historic occasion that I, as Puerto Rico's sole representative in Congress, am proudly introducing on their behalf the Puerto Rico Democracy Act of 2006.

Since 1917, we have cherished that citizenship, and the principles of freedom and democracy for which our Nation stands. Hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have fought valiantly in all wars since then to defend those principles that we so strongly value, with 50 of our own making the ultimate sacrifice in our Nation's current War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill I am introducing today honors the life and sacrifice of these heroes . . . heroes who have left their loved ones behind to defend our democratic values even as they themselves are unable to vote for their Commander in Chief.

After 108 years of being a territory of the United States, Puerto Rico's status dilemma remains unresolved. Over the years, many in Congress have expressed their willingness to respect the right of self-determination for the U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico yet, during that time, there has never been a federally sanctioned self-determination process.

On December 22, 2005 the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status issued a comprehensive and balanced report providing options for the Island's future status and relationship with the United States. This Task Force, created by Executive Orders from President Clinton and President Bush, clearly outlines in its report a process to address Puerto Rico's century old status dilemma.

The bill that I am introducing today simply implements the recommendations of the Task Force Report in order to preserve the guiding principles found in that report, which avoid prejudice towards a particular status option, and develops alternatives that are compatible with the U.S. Constitution and basic policies of the United States.

Some will argue that Puerto Rico's status should be determined by a select few, however, I sustain that, after 108 years of waiting, the four million U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico deserve nothing less than a direct and meaningful vote. The Puerto Rico Democracy Act of

2006 guarantees that the terms and conditions of Puerto Rico's future be developed jointly and democratically by the people of Puerto Rico and the Congress and not by the whims of an elite few.

In supporting this legislation, Congress would finally sanction a real opportunity for the people of Puerto Rico to exercise their right of self-determination with a process that would allow for a direct vote from the people. The first plebiscite, which would be held during the 110th Congress, but no later than December 31, 2007, would allow the people of Puerto Rico to elect whether to remain a U.S. territory, or to pursue a path toward a constitutionally viable permanent non-territorial status. It would not be until a second plebiscite during the 111th Congress that specific non-territorial status options would be defined, should the voters decide they want to opt for a permanent, non-territorial status.

Congress has a date with history. As a territory, Puerto Rico is subject to Congressional authority under the Constitution's Territorial Clause. After 89 years as U.S. citizens, we deserve the opportunity to provide the people of Puerto Rico with a process where, through their direct vote, they can choose the status of their choice. Congress must assume its constitutional responsibility and act now; otherwise the efforts of the Presidential Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status, established by President Clinton and President Bush, would have been in vain.

I wish to thank my many colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, who have agreed to become original co-sponsors of this bill, validating the recommendations made by the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status to commence a democratic process under which the people of Puerto Rico will be able to exercise their inherent right to self-determination. The four million U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico deserve no less.

#### TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL GWATNEY

### HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor I rise today to recognize the great achievement of Russell Gwatney, a noted and respected business leader in the great state of Tennessee and the nation at-large. Russell Gwatney, president for Gwatney Chevrolet, Chevrolet-Isuzu was recently named a finalist for the 2006 Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award.

The Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award is the automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted award for car dealers. The award recipients are among the nation's most successful auto dealers. Criteria for the award include recipients' demonstration of a long-standing commitment to effective community service. As a finalist, Mr. Gwatney is one of 66 automobile dealers from more than 19,500 nominees nationwide nominated for the annual award—now in its 37th year.

An Arkansas native, Mr. Gwatney grew up in the car business. His father became a Chevrolet dealer when Russell Gwatney was just 6 years old. Mr. Gwatney started selling cars in 1973 after an illness caused him to

leave the University of Arkansas during his junior year. After completing undergraduate studies in 1976, Mr. Gwatney returned to the dealership in sales management, where he later became general manager in 1979 and co-dealer in 1984.

In addition to his business successes, Mr. Gwatney and his dealership have supported a wide range of organizations and philanthropic efforts in the community. As well, he has served as chairman for the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank and also member to the executive committee of the Memphis Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Gwatney was nominated for the annual Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award by Robert V. Weaver, president of Tennessee Automotive Association. Mr. Gwatney lives in Germantown, Tennessee with his wife Elizabeth. They have three children, including their two sons John and David who have joined the family business.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and commending Russell Gwatney and for this great achievement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, due to unavoidable circumstances in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" to H.R. 1096—Act Commemorating the LITE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison; "yea" to H. Res. 668—Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship and recognizing the groundbreaking impact of the title game victory on diversity in sports and civil rights in America and "yea" to H.R. 1259, to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DR. WILLIAM L. LESTER

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to Dr. William L. Lester, the longtime Provost at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama, who passed away on February 6, 2006.

Dr. Lester was dedicated to academics. He first arrived in Tuskegee University in 1968 to work as a mathematics instructor, and later left in 1970 to pursue his doctorate at Southern Methodist University. He returned to Tuskegee in 1974 to head the Mathematics Department, and later served as Assistant Provost in the Academic Affairs office. He became Tuskegee's Provost in 1984.

Dr. Lester was truly a model citizen, both for the university community and his family. His

tireless work on behalf of Tuskegee helped make the institution the world-renowned university it is today. He will be sorely missed. His memory lives on through his wife, Virda, and their children.

I am privileged to have the opportunity to honor the late Dr. William L. Lester today, and appreciate the House's attention to the life and legacy of this important Alabamian.

#### TRIBUTE TO DEREK PARRA, CHAMPION SPEEDSKATER FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE WINTER OLYMPICS AND IN ADVANCE OF HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, Americans have watched with great pride as our athletes have taken part in the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino. The greatness of the Olympics comes from the spirit of friendly international competition, and we are inspired by our athletes as they strive for excellence and represent our country with honor. During the Games, not only have we seen amazing athletic accomplishments—but also we have learned about the lives of the athletes away from the arena, as they dedicated themselves to their training and preparation, made sacrifices, overcame challenges, celebrated victories, and sometimes suffered through defeat.

Among the many stars of America's Olympic team, one shines particularly bright to the people of my District and to me personally: speedskater Derek Parra.

Derek grew up on the west side of San Bernardino, California with his father Gilbert and his brother. He attended Roosevelt Elementary and Eisenhower High School in Rialto. In fact my son, Joe Baca, Jr., went to school with him, and I attended church with Derek's father, Gilbert Parra, at St. Catherine's in Rialto.

Southern California's Inland Empire is wonderful place for children to grow up and to get involved in sports, but with the sunny climate, it is hardly a winter sports haven. So not surprisingly, Derek grew up roller skating not ice skating. He first learned to skate at the Stardust Roller Rink in Highland, where he was an inline skater. Derek first set foot on ice when he was 17 years old and was 26 when he switched from inline skating to ice skating in 1996 to pursue his Olympic dreams.

Derek was determined, focused and relentless in this pursuit. Even among his fellow athletes in a demanding sport, he was respected for the work ethic that made him an Olympic hero.

Four years ago, I rose to honor Derek after his amazing performance at the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City. At those Games, he won a gold medal in the 1,500-meter race and a silver medal in the 5,000-meter race, breaking the previous world records for both distances.

Derek Parra was the first Mexican American to ever participate in the Winter Olympics, let alone win a medal. Derek also carried proudly the flag of the United States in the opening ceremonies at Salt Lake.

Since those exciting days four years ago, a lot has changed in Derek's life. He made great

sacrifices in his personal life to continue his Olympic dreams. He moved away from loved ones in Florida to continue his training in Utah. While some athletes are able to concentrate solely on their sport, Derek has continued to work part-time in order to pay the bills. And he has experienced the breakup of his marriage. Additionally, Derek is now 35, which is young for most of us but old for a champion skater.

Yet, through all the challenges both on and off the ice, Derek earned a spot on the 2006 Olympic team and the opportunity to again represent the United States. He skated in two events: the team pursuit competition and the 1,500-meter race, in which he had set a world record on his way to gold 4 years ago. This time, however, he did not match his success in the 2002 Games—no medals, no world records.

Instead, Derek skated for the joy of competition and the thrill of representing his country on the world stage one more time. He skated for his daughter, Mia Elizabeth, who turned 4 years old in December, with the hope that she will remember watching him race against the world's best. He skated because he loves to skate and because he is proud to be an American athlete.

Having accomplished his goals, Derek is ready to retire next month, following a competition in the Netherlands. Quietly, a world away from his glorious achievements of 2002, he will hang up his skates and end his competitive career.

But Derek Parra will not be forgotten. His story will continue to inspire young people, those who dream of Olympic gold and more generally those who have big ambitions despite long odds against them. He has broken down barriers in his striving for greatness—and he has done it all with determination and dignity.

Thank you, Derek, for allowing us to share in your dreams for so long. With great appreciation and admiration I repeat what I said 4 years ago: San Bernardino is proud of you. Mexican Americans are proud of you. All Americans are proud of you. You are our hero. God bless you.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOREST INSECTS RESPONSE ENHANCEMENT AND SUPPORT ACT (ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIRES ACT)

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I today am introducing a bill to help protect Rocky Mountain communities from the increased risks of severe wildfire caused by large-scale infestations of bark beetles and other insects in our forests.

Entitled the Rocky Mountain Forest Insects Response Enhancement and Support—or Rocky Mountain FIRES—Act, the bill will provide the Forest Service and Interior Department with more tools and resources to respond to this serious problem.

In Colorado and other Rocky Mountain states, the risk of severe wildfires is very real. Partly, this is because of drought. But there are other contributing factors. One is that for

many years, the federal government's policy emphasized fire suppression, even though fire is an inescapable part of the ecology of western forests like those in Colorado. Today, in many parts of the forests there is an accumulation of underbrush and thick stands of small diameter trees that is greater than would be the case if there had been more, smaller fires over the years. They provide the extra fuel that can turn a small fire into an intense inferno. The problem has been made worse by our growing population and increasing development in the places where communities meet the forests—the so-called “urban interface.” And when you add the effects of widespread infestations of insects, you have a recipe for even worse to come.

I have put a priority on reducing the wildfire risks to our communities since I was elected to Congress. In 2000, with my colleague, Representative HEFLEY, I introduced legislation to facilitate reducing the buildup of fuel in the parts of Colorado that the Forest Service, working with state and local partners, identified at greatest risk of fire—the so-called “red zones.”

Concepts from that legislation were included in the National Fire Plan developed by the Clinton Administration and were also incorporated into the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. As a Member of the Resources Committee, I had worked to develop the version of that legislation that the committee approved in 2002, and while I could not support the different version initially passed by the House in 2003, I voted for the revised version developed in conference with the Senate later that year—the version that President Bush signed into law.

Since 2003 welcome progress has been made—in Colorado, at least—in developing community wildfire protection plans and focusing fuel-reduction projects in the priority “red zone” areas, two important aspects of the new law.

But at the same time nature has continued to add to the buildup of fuel in the form of both new growth and dead and dying mature trees.

This has resulted from a variety of reasons, including the fact that dense stands of even-aged trees (one result of decades of fire suppression and reduced logging) are stressed by the competition for nutrients. This stress, which has been intensified by the effects of the drought that has plagued the west for nearly a decade, makes these stands less able to resist insects.

Many species of bark beetles, such as the mountain pine beetle, are native to our forests. These insects fly to a tree—typically one that may be weakened by age, disease or lack of water and nutrients—where they burrow through the bark. If the tree is healthy, it can defend itself through the production of sap to repel and expel the invading insect. If the insect is successful, it lays its eggs in the woody material below the bark. Once the eggs hatch, they feed on the tree's fiber and disrupt the flow of water and nutrients from the tree's roots to its needles and branches. In addition, the insects bring in fungi and other invaders that further damage the tree. If enough insects are able to penetrate the tree and lay eggs, the tree dies. The offspring then mature and leave the tree flying to the next tree and the cycle begins anew.

These insects and the cycles they engender are a natural component of forest ecosystems.

They help to balance tree densities and set the stage for fires and thereby the generation of new tree growth. When forests are healthy and there are adequate supplies of water, the effects of insects are relatively low-scale and isolated. But under the right conditions—such as during drought conditions or when there are dense stands of even aged trees—the insects can cause large-scale tree mortality, turning whole mountainsides and valleys rust red.

That is what has been happening in many mountainous areas in Colorado. For example, in the Fraser and upper Colorado River Valleys north of the Winter Park Ski area, the insect epidemic has decimated wide swaths of forests. Most alarmingly, areas around populated communities in these valleys from Winter Park all the way up to the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park are living with acres of dead trees, turned rust red by the insects and creating intense concern of a catastrophic wildfire that could race through these landscapes and communities.

To learn more, last year I convened a meeting in Winter Park, in Grand County, that was attended by more than 200 people, including local elected officials, homeowners, timber industry representatives, Forest Service officials, ski area employees, and other Coloradans. They offered observations on the extent of this problem and proffered suggestions on ways to better respond to it.

Based on that meeting and other conversations, draft legislation was developed that Representative SALAZAR and I circulated widely so we could obtain further comments and suggestions. The bill we are introducing today reflects much of what we heard from Coloradans and others interested in this subject.

Our goal is not to eradicate insects in our forests—nor should it be, because insects are a natural part of forest ecosystems. Instead, our intention is to make it possible for there to be more rapid responses to the insect epidemic in those areas where such responses are needed in order to protect communities from increased wildfire dangers.

The bill would add a new section to the Healthy Forests Act to specifically address insect epidemics like those now visible in the Fraser and upper Colorado River Valleys. It would apply to the entire Rocky Mountain west. It would authorize the Forest Service to identify as “insect emergency areas” Federal lands that have already been slated for fuel-reduction work in community wildfire protection plans and that have so many insect-killed trees that there is an urgent need for work to reduce the fire-related risks to human life and property or municipal water supplies. The Forest Service could make such a determination on its own initiative or in response to a request from any State agency or any political subdivision (such as a county, city, or other local government) of a State. If the Forest Service receives such a request, it must make a decision in response within 90 days. A designation must be made by a Regional Forester or higher-ranking official of the Forest Service.

In these emergency areas, the Forest Service or Interior Department would be authorized to remove dead or dying trees on an expedited basis, including use of a “categorical exclusion” from normal review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Although categorical exclusions from NEPA are controversial, I believe they are appropriate for these emergency situations. And because recent lawsuits have led to some confusion about the relationship of Forest Service categorical exclusions and the Appeals Reform Act, the bill would exempt such categorically-excluded projects in insect emergency areas from the Appeals Reform Act. This would make it clear that the projects categorically excluded in an insect emergency situation would not need to go through additional steps in order to enhance the rapid use of such categorically excluded projects.

As the focus of the bill is on the potential fire threats to communities from insect-killed trees and the encouragement of treatment projects in the "community wildfire protection plan" areas, the bill also includes provisions to help communities establish such plans.

Toward that end, the bill includes language to make clear that development of protection plans qualifies for assistance under the Federal Fire Protection and Control Act. And, more importantly, the bill provides that annually for the next five years \$5 million will be diverted from the federal government's share of royalties for onshore federal oil and gas resources and made available to help Rocky Mountain communities develop their protection plans.

At the meeting in Winter Park last fall, I also heard concerns from private landowners who are doing what they can to reduce fuel loads, cut down insect-killed trees, and otherwise mitigate the fire risks on their lands.

Because some of them would like to be able to do similar work on adjacent National Forest lands, the bill makes clear that the Forest Service can award them stewardship contract or enter into agreements authorizing them to do that carry out fuel-reduction work on those lands, subject to terms and conditions set by the Forest Service. Those arrangements could provide for reimbursement by the government for their work, and the bill specifies that if their work is not reimbursed, it will be treated as a donation to the government for income-tax purposes, meaning it is deductible from income tax by people who itemize their deductions.

The bill would also encourage the Forest Service to establish "central collection points" where trees and other vegetative material could be deposited and made available for further uses as fuel or products.

Also at the Winter Park meeting, I heard that there are some barriers to the private sector in doing the treatment work on Forest Service land. So, the bill would allow the Forest Service to extend the length of time for stewardship contracts for thinning work in insect-emergency areas by as much as an additional 5 years beyond the current 10 year limit.

This could help attract more entities willing to do the needed treatment work in these emergency areas, as could another part of the bill that would allow people carrying out fuel-reduction projects in insect-emergency areas to exclude up to \$10,000 (\$20,000 for joint returns) from the amount of their income subject to federal income tax.

Finally, as trees removed to reduce fuel loads or respond to an insect emergency may have some value as a fuel, the bill would authorize the Forest Service to make grants to owners or operators of facilities that convert the removed trees and other vegetative material into energy.

Although we cannot and should not eradicate insects from our forests, we can and we should strive to help reduce the increased wildfire risks to communities that result from their increased infestations. The purpose of this bill is to provide some additional tools and resources that will enable relevant federal agencies, local communities, and residents of the Rocky Mountain region to better respond to this problem. For the benefit of our colleague, I am attaching a short outline of the bill's provisions.

The bill has 8 sections, as follows:

Section One—provides a short title and table of contents. The short title is "Rocky Mountain Forest Insects Response Enhancement and Support (or Rocky Mountain FIRES) Act."

Section Two—sets forth finding regarding the need for the legislation, and states the bill's purpose, which is to facilitate a swifter response by the Forest Service and Interior Department to reduce the increased risk of severe wildfires to communities in the Rocky Mountain regions caused by the effects of widespread infestations of bark beetles and other insects.

Section Three—amends the Healthy Forests Restoration Act to: Add definitions of terms; Require that in the Rocky Mountain region at least 70% of the funds allocated for hazardous fuel reduction projects be used for projects in the wildland-urban interface and lands near municipal water supplies or their tributaries that have been identified for treatment in a community wildfire protection plan; Provide for designation of insect-emergency areas by the Forest Service; Specify the effect of designation of insect-emergency areas; Specifically authorize the Forest Service to relocate or reassign personnel to respond to an insect emergency; Clarify the relationship of this part of the bill and the Appeals Reform Act; (The bill defines "Rocky Mountain region" as Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.)

Section Four—amends Healthy Forests Restoration Act to authorize help to communities preparing or revising wildfire protection plans, and provides for annual diversion (for five years) of \$5 million from federal share of royalties from onshore federal oil and gas developments to fund this assistance.

Section Five—amends Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to clarify that development of community wildfire protection plans qualifies for assistance under that Act.

Section Six—amends biomass-grant provision of Healthy Forests Restoration Act to allow grants to facilities using biomass for wood-based products or other commercial purposes (in addition to uses now specified in the Act); to require that priority go to grants to people using biomass removed from insect-emergency areas; to increase authorization to \$10 million annually through 2010 (instead of \$5 million annually through 2008); and to provide for establishment of central collection points for material removed from forest lands as part of hazardous-fuel reduction projects.

Section Seven—amends the Healthy Forests Restoration Act to specifically authorize Forest Service and Interior Department to award stewardship contracts to owners of lands contiguous to Federal lands (or enter into agreements with such landowners) so the

landowners can do fuel-reduction work on the Federal lands and either be reimbursed for such work or authorized to treat value of such work as a donation to the United States for purposes of federal income taxes.

Section Eight—amends Internal Revenue Code to exclude from taxable income up to \$10,000 (\$20,000 for joint return) received from the Federal government as compensation for work done in the Rocky Mountain Region as part of an authorized hazardous-fuel reduction project or a silvicultural assessment done under section 404 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING GENERAL  
LANCE W. LORD

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the long and distinguished career of General Lance W. Lord. General Lord is retiring after serving in our nation's Air Force with distinction for over 37 years.

General Lord received a Bachelor of Science in education from Otterbein College in Ohio, where he entered the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program. He earned a Master's degree in industrial management from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. He also attended the Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base.

After entering the Air Force in 1969, General Lord served four years of Minuteman II ICBM alert duty. He was the Director of the Ground-Launched Cruise Missile Program Management Office in West Germany and he was the Commander of two ICBM wings in Wyoming and North Dakota. At Vandenberg Air Force Base in California he commanded a space wing responsible for satellite launch and ballistic missile test launch operations. He led Air Force Education as the Commander of Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base and was the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff for the Headquarters U.S. Air Force. Since 2002, General Lord has been the Commander of the Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, where he has been responsible for the development, acquisition, and operation of the Air Force's space and missile systems.

General Lord has earned numerous decorations and badges for his outstanding efforts in the military. These decorations and badges include a Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, a Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, an Air Force Commendation Medal, an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with oak leaf cluster, an Air Force Organizational Excellence with two oak leaf clusters, a Combat Readiness Medal, and a National Defense Service Medal with two bronze stars. He also has received many honors, including the Secretary of the Air Force Leadership Award from Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, the General Jimmy Doolittle Fellow Award from the Air Force Association, and the Space Champion Award from the National Defense Industrial Association.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to General

Lance W. Lord for his exceptional service to the United States and will wish him and his family all the best in the days ahead.

A BILL TO RATIFY A CONVEYANCE  
OF THE JICARILLA APACHE RES-  
ERVATION TO RIO ARRIBA COUN-  
TY, STATE OF NEW MEXICO

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to the county of Rio Arriba, New Mexico. This legislation will bring resolution to a long-standing dispute between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County.

The dispute, which has been ongoing for nearly two decades, is over the ownership of a road on a parcel of land formerly referred to as Theis Ranch. The Jicarilla Nation purchased Theis Ranch in 1985 and, in March 1988, the Nation subsequently conveyed a trust deed for Theis Ranch to the United States. The Theis Ranch property then, by proclamation of the Secretary of the Interior, became part of the Jicarilla Reservation in September 1988.

A lawsuit was filed in October of 1987 and the District Court was asked to determine the ownership status of the disputed road. In the original lawsuit, Rio Arriba County sought to establish that the county acquired the disputed road by prescription and, therefore, the county was the road's rightful owner. However, the Jicarilla Nation contended that the Nation owned the road because the road was, and continues to be, within the boundaries of the expanded 1988 Jicarilla Reservation. On December 10, 2001, the District Court found in favor of the Jicarilla and determined that the disputed road traversed the Jicarilla Reservation in several locations. Rio Arriba County appealed the December 2001 District Court decision and the appeal is currently pending before the Court of Appeals of the State of New Mexico. In a separate yet relevant matter, Rio Arriba County appealed a February 2003 decision by the Southwest Bureau of the United States Department of the Interior to acquire a tract of land referred to as the Boyd Ranch in trust for the Jicarilla Nation. Rio Arriba's appeal of this determination is currently pending before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals.

In an effort to settle the road dispute, the Jicarilla Nation and Rio Arriba County entered into mediation. The parties successfully reached a settlement that was subsequently executed by both the Jicarilla Nation, on May 3, 2003, and Rio Arriba County, on May 15, 2003. Representatives of the Secretary of the Interior approved the settlement on June 18, 2003. The settlement agreement, which would be implemented by this legislation, provided that the Jicarilla Nation would transfer, more or less, 70.5 acres of land located with the expanded 1988 Jicarilla reservation to Rio Arriba County. In exchange for the Jicarilla Nation's land conveyance, Rio Arriba County agreed to permanently abandon any and all claims to the disputed road. The settlement also provides that the terms of the agreement do not take effect until all parties complete their re-

spective promises in the agreement and the United States, pursuant to federal law, approves of the conveyance of this particular Jicarilla trust land to Rio Arriba County.

Both parties and the Secretary of the Interior have fully preformed the terms agreed to within the settlement agreement. All that stands between the parties to this dispute and long overdo resolution is Congressional approval. Consequently, the legislation will adjust the Jicarilla Reservation border in order to account for the transfer. At the same time, this legislation upholds Congress' trust responsibility to the Jicarilla Nation by placing restrictive covenants on the trust land transferred to the County. In other words, this legislation recognizes that the transferred land is immediately adjacent to the remainder of the Jicarilla Nation. As a result of the transferred land's proximity to the reservation, certain uses of the transferred land would have a detrimental effect on the remaining reservation. Therefore, this legislation allows the County to use the land only for "governmental purposes" and specifically prohibits the County from using the land for prisons, jails, or other incarcerated persons, and other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to expedite passage of this very important legislation. Both the Nation and the County have waited years for this agreement to be implemented. Congress must now do their part to provide long overdo resolution.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALDEANE  
COMITO RIES

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Aldeane Comito Ries, who served as a teacher and principal in the Clark County School District for 38 years. She will be recognized at the formal dedication of Aldeane Comito Ries Elementary School, which was named in her honor.

Raised in Des Moines, Iowa, Aldeane graduated from Roosevelt High School and then attended the University of Iowa. She went on to earn an undergraduate degree in elementary education, with a minor in Italian. She subsequently earned a master's degree in elementary education and is certified in counseling, administration, secondary education and vocational education.

Aldeane began her distinguished teaching career in 1962 at J.E. Manch Elementary School in Las Vegas. After teaching elementary school for 5 years at both Manch and Ruth Fye Elementary Schools, she moved to Farside Middle School where she taught for a year. In 1968, she was appointed as the Dean of Students at Garside and K.O. Knudson Middle Schools. After 2 years as a middle school administrator, she moved to Valley High School where she served as the Dean of Students. Following her time at Valley High School, Aldeane spent 6 years as the Dean at Chaparral High School. In 1981, she was appointed as the Assistant Principal at Chaparral and held that position for 9 years. In 1990, she was appointed to her first principalship at Valley High School. In 1993, she was the first woman to be selected to open a new metro-

politan high school when she was appointed as principal of Silverado. She served there until her retirement. Since retirement, Aldeane has remained active in education by mentoring new principals. Additionally, she touches the lives of the students at Ries Elementary School by volunteering to participate in the Clark County Reads Program.

Throughout her thirty-eight years in the Clark County School District, regardless of her position, Aldeane held fast to the belief that schools should always act in the best interest of their students. Her "students first" philosophy won the hearts of the students and staff with whom she served. Her steadfast commitment to her students and the courage with which she advocated for them serve as an outstanding example for all educators.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mrs. Aldeane Comito Ries today on the floor of the House.

COLUMN BY THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House a recent column by Thomas L. Friedman, which offers acute insights into the Dubai Ports World controversy. Mr. Friedman removes politics from the debate and presents a clear and concise evaluation of the issue.

I strongly recommend Mr. Friedman's column to my colleagues.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 24, 2006]

WAR OF THE WORLDS

(By Thomas L. Friedman)

Since 9/11, whenever the Bush team has found itself in political trouble, it has played the national security card against Democrats. It has worked so well that Karl Rove, in a recent speech to the Republican National Committee, made it a campaign theme for 2006.

He said America today faces "a ruthless enemy" and therefore needs "a commander in chief and a Congress who understand the nature of the threat and the gravity of the moment America finds itself in. President Bush and the Republican Party do. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for many Democrats."

Mr. Rove added: "Republicans have a post-9/11 worldview, and many Democrats have a pre-9/11 worldview. That doesn't make them unpatriotic—not at all. But it does make them wrong—deeply and profoundly and consistently wrong."

I particularly like the line "that doesn't make them unpatriotic," when that was exactly the political slur Mr. Rove was trying to implant.

So I understand why Democrats were eager to turn the soft-on-terrorism card back on President Bush when it was revealed that P&O, the navigation company based in London—which has been managing the ports of New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia—had been bought by Dubai Ports World, a company owned by the Dubai monarchy in the United Arab Emirates, an Arab Gulf state, and that the Bush team had approved the Dubai takeover of the U.S. port operations.

I also understand why many Republicans are now running away from the administration. They know that if they don't distance

themselves from Mr. Bush, some Democrats are going to play this very evocative, very visual "giving away our ports to the Arabs" card against them in the coming elections. Yes, you reap what you sow.

But while I have zero sympathy for the political mess in which the president now finds himself, I will not join this feeding frenzy. On the pure merits of this case, the president is right. The port deal should go ahead. Congress should focus on the NSA wiretapping.

Not this.

As a country, we must not go down this road of global ethnic profiling—looking for Arabs under our beds the way we once looked for commies. If we do—if America, the world's beacon of pluralism and tolerance, goes down that road—we will take the rest of the world with us. We will sow the wind and we will reap the whirlwind.

If there were a real security issue here, I'd join the critics. But the security argument is bogus and, I would add, borderline racist. Many U.S. ports are run today by foreign companies, but the U.S. Coast Guard still controls all aspects of port security, entry and exits; the U.S. Customs Service is still in charge of inspecting the containers; and U.S. longshoremen still handle the cargos.

The port operator simply oversees the coming and going of ships, making sure they are properly loaded and offloaded in the most cost-effective manner. As my colleague David E. Sanger reported: "Among the many problems at American ports, said Stephen E. Flynn, a retired Coast Guard commander who is an expert on port security at the Council on Foreign Relations, 'who owns the management contract ranks near the very bottom.'"

What ranks much higher for me is the terrible trend emerging in the world today: Sunnis attacking Shiite mosques in Iraq, and vice versa. Danish caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, and violent Muslim protests, including Muslims killing Christians in Nigeria and then Christians killing Muslims. And today's Washington Post story about how some overzealous, security-obsessed U.S. consul in India has created a huge diplomatic flap—on the eve of Mr. Bush's first visit to India—by denying one of India's most respected scientists a visa to America on the grounds that his knowledge of chemistry might be a threat. The U.S. embassy in New Delhi has apologized.

My point is simple: the world is drifting dangerously toward a widespread religious and sectarian cleavage—the likes of which we have not seen for a long, long time. The only country with the power to stem this toxic trend is America.

People across the world still look to our example of pluralism, which is like no other. If we go Dark Ages, if we go down the road of pitchfork-wielding xenophobes, then the whole world will go Dark Ages.

There is a poison loose today, and America—America at its best—is the only antidote. That's why it is critical that we stand by our principles of free trade and welcome the world to do business in our land, as long as there is no security threat. If we start exporting fear instead of hope, we are going to import everyone else's fears right back. That is not a world you want for your kids.

ON THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
PEACE CORPS

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as a former Peace Corps Volunteer, I am honored to for-

mally recognize the agency on the 45th Anniversary of its inception and to help kick-off National Peace Corps Week. This week begins a year long celebration of Peace Corps' 45th Anniversary with events taking place across the country and throughout the world.

During National Peace Corps Week, we salute the men and women of this nation who selflessly have served abroad as Peace Corps Volunteers, as well as those current Volunteers who continue to carry out the Peace Corps mission: empowering people in developing countries through their grassroots development efforts.

Seventeen constituents of the 15th Congressional District of California are currently serving in the Peace Corps. These honorable constituents serve in almost every continent. The countries being served include Peru, Armenia, Georgia, Namibia, Benin, Bolivia, Ukraine, Moldova, Mali, Namibia, Ghana, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Thailand, and Guinea.

I am encouraged by the growth in the number of Peace Corps Volunteers and posts over the years. 7,810 Volunteers are currently in 69 posts serving 75 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific Islands. As Chair of the Congressional Ethiopia and Ethiopian American Caucus, I am particularly interested in the efforts of the Peace Corps to re-instate its post in Ethiopia. I am in total support of the expansion of this worthy organization.

I fondly remember my time as a volunteer in El Salvador where I built schools and health clinics. The experience meant much to me personally and professionally, sparking a lifelong desire to serve in the public sector. I returned with a passion for teaching, and quickly put my skills, including fluency in Spanish, to use in Santa Clara County schools. Most importantly, I returned to the United States with a deeper understanding of humanity and a personal commitment to speak on behalf of the marginalized and powerless.

With that said, allow me to call your attention to the President's FY07 request for Peace Corps at \$337 million. Though this is a modest increase from the FY 06 enacted level of \$318.8 million, it will allow the Peace Corps to expand into two more countries. In addition, it will also optimize the number of Volunteers and staff in existing countries, strengthen and expand recruiting efforts, and maximize safety and security training and compliance efforts. I encourage my colleagues in the Foreign Operations Subcommittee to fulfill the President's request.

This week, I honor the Peace Corps and its brave Volunteers for their service to our nation and to the international community. Volunteers are providing expertise and development assistance to countries around the world, finding common ways to address global challenges, and forming bonds with people throughout the world. They make service a cultural necessity. They set a universal standard for how we are to embrace the realities of an ever-shrinking world.

The Peace Corps mission is more vital than ever, and I hope that each one of you will join me in thanking the Volunteers and the Peace Corps for their hard work in pursuit of an altruistic mission.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL  
PEACE CORPS WEEK

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Peace Corps Week, which runs from February 27th through March 5th.

Forty-five years ago, John F. Kennedy challenged the people of the United States to serve their country: to travel to places they never dreamed they'd visit, to help people they never thought they'd meet, and to do this from the bottom of their hearts. The men and women of the Peace Corps answered and have continued to answer that call, volunteering two years out of their lives to the lives of others.

With 7,810 current volunteers, the Peace Corps has enlisted more than 182,000 men and woman and served in 138 countries to improve the lives of the less fortunate. They've been teachers and mentors to countless children. They've helped farmers grow crops, worked with small businesses to market products, and helped teach new health care practices. They've helped schools develop computer skills, and educated entire communities about the threat of HIV/AIDS.

The United States was founded on the principle that human beings, regardless of race, creed, or sex possess certain inalienable rights: the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Peace Corps volunteers are the ambassadors of these rights.

In the past half-century world events have brought many challenges to Peace Corps volunteers. Yet they have always been able to adapt, responding to those in need regardless of the situation. Volunteers meet all challenges head on with innovation, determination, and compassion. For their altruism, Peace Corps volunteers deserve to be recognized for their work toward peace.

To date, the 6th District has produced over 350 Peace Corps volunteers, including the following 27 current volunteers: Troy A. Agron, who is working in Azerbaijan; Sarah W. Bartfeld, Albania; Carol A. Batz, Tonga; Zachary Burt, Morocco; Lilian Chan, Eastern Caribbean; Rustin P. Crandall, Guyana; Catherine A. Cvengros, Armenia; Ashley E. Fine, Benin; Amil A. Gehrke, Georgia; Levi Hanzel-Sello, Moldova; Sharon Kaiser, Eastern Caribbean; Connor J. Kamada, Senegal; Jenna Kay, Uganda; Paul H. Kingsbury, Panama; Anna F. Kuhn, Tanzania; Ana Alecia Lyman, Mozambique; Julia C. Miller, Burkina Faso; Priya N. Mishra, Moldova; Jonathan G. Morris, Ukraine; Lanthy Nguyen, Macedonia; Nickolette D. Patrick, Ukraine; Alyson L. Peel, Swaziland; Shaydra A. Pflaum-Scott, Macedonia; Uriah S. Reisman, Panama; Christopher Shutt, Bulgaria; Elicia F. Smith, Kenya; and Eric J. Tawney, Vanuatu.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating National Peace Corps Week and honoring the brave and selfless volunteers who have sacrificed years of their lives to make our world a better place.

HONORING SERLIN'S CAFÉ ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th anniversary of Serlin's Café, located in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Tucked along Payne Avenue on St. Paul's East Side, Serlin's Café is more than just a restaurant that serves incredible food. It is a neighborhood gathering place for many residents of St. Paul's East Side. Serlin's is a St. Paul landmark.

Serlin's Café first opened its doors for business on February 1, 1946—less than a year after the end of World War II. When Irv Serlin passed away in 1994, his legacy continued. His step sons, Al and Gary Halvorsen, along with their mother Doris Serlin-Johnson now own the restaurant. They continue the same great tradition of great food and outstanding service. The Halvorsens make meat loaf like how you remembered it whiling growing up, and the very best pies from scratch. The staff knows their customers by name. Serlin's unbeatable service and friendly atmosphere has made local residents—myself included—come back time and time again to Serlin's Café.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Serlin's Café for its 60 years of East Side hospitality. I commend the Halvorsens for continuing their great service and remaining committed to the residents of St. Paul.

HONORING JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM KOLBE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, the legacy of Sandra Day O'Connor will last long after her distinguished service on the Supreme Court.

Not only does she have the distinction of being the first woman to serve on the court, but for more than twenty years she has helped to shape the legal landscape of this country with her thoughtful, carefully crafted decisions and her votes which have put her firmly in the center of American jurisprudence—exactly where the American people find themselves.

I have a special affection for Sandra Day O'Connor because we share so much in our background. We both grew up on a cattle ranch in southern Arizona. We both attended Stanford University. We both served in the Arizona Senate. When she served on the bench in Arizona and I served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, we both toiled through a two year process of reforming the criminal code in our state.

Wherever and however our paths have crossed, I always admired her achievements, her wit and her wisdom.

On a personal level, I have known Justice O'Connor and her husband for many years and have admired their wonderful relationship and their family. I know they look forward to

getting reconnected and I wish John and Sandra all the happiness possible in the remaining years they share together.

BELLEVUE COMPANY, PACCAR, RECEIVED NATION'S HIGHEST HONOR FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of PACCAR, Inc., a Bellevue, Washington company that recently received the National Medal of Technology from the President of the United States. Today PACCAR celebrates the National Medal of Technology and last year PACCAR celebrated its 100th year. It's not often a company can top the kind of year that 2005 was for PACCAR, but somehow they've managed to, and in only two months.

I was proud to witness our President bestow the highest honor in technology and innovation upon PACCAR, "For [their] pioneering efforts and industry leadership in the development and commercialization of aerodynamic, lightweight trucks that have dramatically reduced fuel consumption and increased the productivity of U.S. freight transportation."

Washington's eighth Congressional District is home to many companies that are industry leaders, and I am so pleased to see one recognized at this level. PACCAR makes me proud, the State of Washington proud and the United States of America proud. As it has moved forward in its quest to increase productivity and reduce fuel consumption, PACCAR has embodied the spirit of innovation that has put America on the forefront of science and technology for most of the previous century.

Before the introduction of the Kenworth T600 model in 1985, the term "aerodynamic truck" would be considered an oxymoron. Today the legacy and influence of the T600 is apparent in the design of virtually every make of truck on the highway. The benefit to the truck buyer, the consumer, the economy, and the environment has been a dramatic reduction in fuel consumption, reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, improved highway safety through reductions in splash and spray, and lower cost of delivery for the goods that help fuel our Nation's economy.

While much of the industry pondered the feasibility of ever breaking the 10-mile-per-gallon barrier with a heavy-duty truck, Kenworth and Peterbilt both achieved that goal with their most aerodynamic and fuel-efficient tractor-trailer combinations in real-world, cross-country tests. Achieving significant improvements in fuel economy was not without market risk and required changing what a heavy-duty "conventional" truck was supposed to look like. Initial misgivings about what some perceived as radical styling departures, were soon muted as customers realized the economic benefits of the new designs.

In the last 5 years alone, PACCAR has been widely praised. PACCAR was named one of the Top 50 Companies by Business Week magazine in 1999, 2000 and 2004 and Industry Week magazine named it one of the Top 50 Manufacturing Companies in the

U.S.A. in 2005. The Wall Street Journal listed it on its Shareholder Return Honor Roll in both 2003 and 2004. PACCAR was designated the #1 International Company by the Stevie Awards in 2003 and #1 in Enterprise Management by Computerworld in 2004.

I wish PACCAR well as they begin their next hundred years of innovation and invention. PACCAR is a company that knows what it takes to succeed, and also to make this world better. I am honored to stand here today commending their achievements, and I am eager to see what they do next. Congratulations to everyone on the PACCAR team. This medal is an acknowledgment of all that you have done and worked for and a belief that your best work is yet to come.

REMEMBERING CALVIN RICHIE OF FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia and me to remember Calvin L. "Boots" Richie, a farmer and activist deeply committed to agriculture and his fellow farmers in Fauquier County, Virginia, who passed away on February 26.

Selected by the Fauquier Times-Democrat as "Citizen of the Year" in 1994, Boots will be remembered for his countless accomplishments, including co-founding People Helping People of Fauquier County, Inc., a local charity offering immediate help to residents of Fauquier struggling against natural disaster, illness, or sudden financial hardship.

We insert for the RECORD a Fauquier Times-Democrat obituary from February 28. A Fauquier native, Boots will be deeply missed by the people of the county, and at home by his family.

[From the Fauquier Times-Democrat, Feb. 28, 2006]

"BOOTS" SUCCUMBS TO CANCER; SOUTHERN FAUQUIER FARMER WAS OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE FOR AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION

Calvin L. "Boots" Ritchie, of Bealeton, one of Fauquier County's leading citizens for the past two decades and an active force behind a home-grown charitable organization, died at home on Feb. 27 after a long and valiant fight against cancer. He was 78.

A native son of Fauquier, Mr. Ritchie was born June 17, 1927 at Inglewood Farm, where he died.

He earned his unique nickname as a child, when he did his chores around the farm "wearing an adult-sized pair of gumboots that reached to his hips," recalled his sister, Hazel Bell, in a 1994 interview. "He was about 5 or 6 years old, and the name stuck."

He spent his entire life working in agriculture, first on the family farm and later, while engaged in custom farming. In the mid-1970s, he founded the Fauquier Grain Company.

Mr. Ritchie came to the general public's attention in 1978, when he was involved in the American Agriculture Movement.

The AAM sought 100 percent parity for farm products, and made their point by staging a memorable "Tractorcade" demonstration that passed through Fauquier into Washington, D.C.

"Our main agricultural export is grain, which is priced lower now than it was five

years ago," wrote Mr. Ritchie in a 1979 column in the Democrat. "No other industry could stay in business under these circumstances, and farmers cannot be expected to, either."

In later years, Mr. Ritchie became a driving force behind Fauquier County's purchase of development rights program.

However, it was a different crisis, far from Fauquier, that put Mr. Ritchie on a new path that would make a lasting difference for hundreds of people.

In the wake of the disaster in South Carolina caused by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Mr. Ritchie and several of his friends founded People Helping People of Fauquier County, Inc., a nonprofit corporation for the sole purpose of helping people struggling against natural disasters, illness or sudden financial hardship.

#### EDUCATION ADVOCATE

In the early 1990s—after a school bond referendum held to provide funding for a second high school failed—Mr. Ritchie became active in yet another arena.

Determined to see a second high school in southern Fauquier, Mr. Ritchie persistently lobbied the School Board and pushed for the needed school bond referendum. When Liberty High School at Bealeton opened in 1994—without the funding for a football stadium—he was at the forefront of the campaign, soliciting donations and selling raffle tickets to raise the money to get the stadium built.

After Mr. Ritchie and his friends on the Principal's Advisory Committee at Liberty raised \$100,000 for the stadium lights, the Board of Supervisors, then under the late Dave Mangum (Lee District), came up with the remaining \$250,000 to build it.

Due to Mr. Ritchie's efforts and his growing, positive influence in Fauquier County, he was recognized as the Fauquier Times-Democrat's Citizen of the Year for 1994.

His influence continued throughout his final years, and he often spoke out on issues that were important to him. A frequent contributor to the Democrat's opinion pages, Mr. Ritchie's last letter was published here on Jan. 25, 2006.

In it, he urged the Board of Supervisors to consider giving tax money to parents who wished to opt-out of the public schools and send their children to private or Christian schools.

"The movement would be so great that I doubt that we would have to build any more new public schools," he said. "The good news is that everyone wins."

Mr. Ritchie was a longtime, active member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church near Morrisville, where he served on the Building and Grounds Committee, as well as videographer for worship services.

According to his family, one of the highlights of Boots' life was being chosen to carry the Olympic Torch.

Mr. Ritchie is survived by his wife, Gail R. Ritchie; his sons, and Glenn C. Ritchie, all of Bealeton; and his daughters, Jennifer R. Krick of Bealeton and Helen R. Ritchie of Strasburg.

Also surviving are his step-sons, Edward C. Lynskey of Annandale and William E. Lynskey of Midland; and his stepdaughters, Linda L. Ashby and Karen L. Hughes, both of Bealeton; and his sisters, Hazel R. Bell of Drayden, Md., Jennalee R. McNally, Marie R. Lee and Peggy R. Dahany, all of Fredericksburg; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilbur Early Ritchie and Ethel Barker Ritchie; a son, Jeff A. Ritchie; and his brothers, C. Hunter Ritchie, Claude Ritchie, and Charles Dwight Ritchie.

Funeral services and interment will be private. A public memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m. at the Liberty High School auditorium.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, P.O. Box 1095, Warrenton VA 20188; People Helping People, PO Box 3108, Warrenton VA 20188; or to Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 12714 Elk Run Road, Midland VA 22728.

### THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOREST INSECT RESPONSE ENHANCEMENT AND SUPPORT ACT (ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIRES ACT)

#### HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure after working with my friend and colleague, Representative MARK UDALL, that today we will introduce legislation to assist and help protect Rocky Mountain communities. Over the past couple of years, our state has experienced horrific wildfires caused by the ongoing insect epidemic in our forests. It is time to action in order to reduce the risks and protect both life and property.

The Rocky Mountain Forest Insects Response Enhancement and Support Act, or Rocky Mountain FIRES Act, will provide the Forest Service, Interior Department and local communities with a better ability to respond to this serious and growing problem of beetle infestation.

While the various species of bark beetle are native to our forests, these insects create poor forest health conditions and are destroying our forests. A healthy tree can normally defend itself through the production of sap that creates a retardant against the insect, but current drought conditions and density of forests have impacted the production of these natural defenses and the overall health of the forests.

In my district, I am concerned that deteriorating forest health places many mountain communities at greater risk of fire. Our legislation will allow these communities to treat increased fuel risks caused by unhealthy trees and dense forest stands. In fact, we took great care to address the concerns of local communities and have crafted a bill that incorporated the input of diverse constituencies across Colorado.

Finally, I would like to stress that our goal is to provide helpful tools in the treatment of forests areas while still having the proper sideboards in place to protect the environment. We understand the insects play a role in the forest ecosystem and the goal is not eliminate them, but to allow communities and the forest service to respond quicker to catastrophically impacted areas.

This is good legislation that is needed to help protect and preserve Colorado's mountain communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTOPHER HOUSE OF CHICAGO

#### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution congratulating Christopher House of Chicago on the occasion of its centennial celebration.

I believe Christopher House is a successful and absolutely essential organization for the livelihood and well being of the great city of Chicago. Let me explain why.

In 1906, the First Presbyterian Church of Evanston founded Christopher House as a settlement house on Chicago's North Side. Over the course of a century, it has grown in response to the needs of new immigrants and others in our community.

Today, Christopher House is a seven-site resource center that helps families overcome the consequences of poverty, enabling them to thrive. Through early childhood and youth development, parent enrichment, literacy, counseling, pregnant and parenting teen support, and the meeting of basic human needs, Christopher House is a catalyst in a family's journey towards stability, resiliency and self-sufficiency.

Christopher House is a premier human service organization that provides assistance to all in need without regard to race, creed, religion or national origin.

Shortly before his death, Cesar Chavez said, "You are never strong enough that you don't need help." I think he was speaking to all of us.

Obviously, we are all touched by the 100 years of work of Christopher House. We see the lives Christopher House changes—the children who receive Head Start, the people who benefit from English as a Second Language classes, the families who are enlightened by literacy classes—and we are pleased that we can help in some small way.

So we volunteer. Or we write a check. Or we attend a fundraiser or a rally or make a donation. Or support legislation and federal funding. All of which are critically important, and we extend our gratitude to all of those who have given time, money and resources to help Christopher House.

But here is an important part of what I believe Cesar Chavez meant when he said, "You are never strong enough that you don't need help."

Christopher House does more than serve 3,500 children and their families in need. It does more than help teen moms who have nowhere else to turn. It does more than help children who would have few options for summer camps and tutoring programs. It does more than help kids by providing comprehensive early childhood education to families across our neediest neighborhoods.

Christopher House helps us. Christopher House helps all of us—whether we are a CEO or a partner in a law firm or a member of Congress. Because of the work that the organization's staff does every day, the lives of all of us are enriched and improved—not just the families who receive direct service.

Because Cesar Chavez was right—none of us are ever strong enough that we don't need help.

Perhaps we don't need a literacy class. But we all benefit from an educated and capable work force.

Perhaps we don't need to put our own children in Head Start. But we need to know that every child with a desire to learn and grow and reach toward their dreams has a place to go and people to help them.

Perhaps—if we're lucky—many of us will go through our lives and never have a desperate need for emergency services—for food and shelter and for clothing.

But we need to be part of a community where every person in need has somewhere to go, someone to turn to, someone who cares.

And perhaps, if we are fortunate, few of us will have a need for the day-to-day, make-or-break help that Christopher House routinely provides. But that doesn't mean we don't rely on Christopher House.

Because it comes down to this—all of us rely on Christopher House to answer this important question: Who can we count on? Who is there for us? Who cares enough to do the hardest work for the people who need help the most?

Every day, the people who devote their lives as staff and volunteers and donors to Christopher House answer those questions through their actions.

We can count on Christopher House. Christopher House is there for us. And Christopher House has been doing this vital work for 100 years, and with our support should continue for many more.

Christopher House's history means a lot to me—because it has always served precisely the population that I work with every day as a member of Congress. When it started a century ago as part of the settlement house movement, Christopher House focused closely on the population that has always been the sustaining life of our city—the immigrant community.

Today, Christopher House still serves our immigrant population—now largely Latino. It is a population whose steady influx breathes oxygen into Chicago's lungs and reimagines our city every generation.

From the time it opened, Christopher House has been there for all of us, because its leaders have understood that treating the newest Americans well means that all of us are treated better.

So, Mr. Speaker, with this resolution, we recognize Christopher House for its century of contributions to Chicago.

To the "House with a Heart," I say from the bottom of my heart—thank you very much. Thank you for enriching and improving the lives of Chicagoans for the last 100 years and we look forward to many more years of your services.

FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ DANIEL  
FERRER GARCÍA AND LUIS  
ENRIQUE FERRER GARCÍA

### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about José Daniel Ferrer García and his brother

er Luis Enrique Ferrer García, both political prisoners in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. José Daniel Ferrer García is the regional coordinator for the Christian Liberation Movement and his brother Mr. Luis Enrique Ferrer García is also active in the same movement. They are peaceful pro-democracy activists who believe in the cause of freedom for the people of Cuba. Because of their steadfast belief in human liberty, and their constant work to bring freedom to an island enslaved by the nightmare that is the Castro regime, these courageous brothers have been a constant target of the dictatorship.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. José Daniel Ferrer García has been harassed and detained numerous times for his pro-democracy activism. In January 2002, he was forced from a bus and beaten by the tyrant's thugs because of his activities and ideals. Amnesty International reports that Mr. Luis Enrique Ferrer García, in December 1999, was sentenced to 6 months of "restricted freedom." In March 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, both brothers were arrested. Subsequently, in two sham trials, Mr. José Daniel Ferrer García was sentenced to 25 years in the totalitarian gulag and Mr. Luis Enrique Ferrer García was sentenced to 28 years in the gulag.

While confined in the inhuman horror of Castro's gulag, both brothers have been the constant target of abuse. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004:

"On January 1, José Daniel Ferrer García reported serving 45 days in a punishment cell for protesting the suspension of correspondence and the delivery of food and medical supplies from his family. He did not receive food or water during the first 3 days of his confinement and slept on a cement floor. Authorities confiscated his Bible and prohibited any contact with other prisoners."

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Luis Enrique Ferrer García was transferred to a punishment cell for having bravely refused to militarily salute a warden of the gulag. The Department of State Country Report describes the true horrors of a punishment cell: "Prisoners sometimes were held in 'punishment cells,' which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi-dark conditions, no available water, and a hole for a toilet." This is in addition to the grotesque depravity of the gulag that also includes beatings, isolation, denial of medical treatment to detainees, and multiple forms of abuse.

These two brothers are brilliant examples of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, these two brothers are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Luis Enrique Ferrer García, José Daniel Ferrer García and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

## TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks Texas Independence Day. 170 years ago today, the Texas Declaration of Independence was ratified by the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Just as American patriots declared their independence from the tyrannical British Empire's military domination and established the first true democracy in the modern age, Texas declared its independence from Mexico to restore their political rights.

After July 4th, 1776, democracy became a common goal for all people of the New World, but one that we would have to fight for.

Texas declared its independence after many peaceful years as a part of a Mexican federal republic because Texans lost their political rights when Mexico became dominated by military dictatorships.

In 1824, a military dictatorship took over in Mexico that abolished the Mexican constitution. Facing an even more oppressive regime than the British Empire, the Texas Declaration of Independence states that Texas's government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

The Texas Declaration of Independence was also fully justified because this military dictatorship had ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people of Texas—Anglos and Tejanos.

The new military dictatorship refused to provide for trial by jury, freedom of religion, or public education for their citizens.

When Texans and Tejanos peacefully protested the undemocratic changes to Mexico's government, they were imprisoned unjustly.

Failure to provide these basic rights violates the sacred contract between a government and the people, and Texans did what we still do today—stand up for our rights by declaring our independence to the world.

In response, the Mexican army marched to Texas to wage a war on the land and the people, enforcing the decrees of a military dictatorship through brute force and without any democratic legitimacy.

The struggle for Texan independence was a political struggle, not an ethnic conflict. In fact, many Texas Hispanics considered themselves Tejanos—not Mexicans—and Tejanos from all walks of life served bravely in the Texas War for Independence and sacrificed greatly.

Tejanos were in Texas before Mexico became a nation, and Tejanos cherished the freedom to run their own affairs democratically just as dearly as Anglos. When the Mexican government failed, it failed all Texans and Tejanos equally.

For example, two Tejanos who distinguished themselves in the Texas War for Independence were Captain Juan Seguin and Lorenzo de Zavala, a future Republic of Texas Vice President. The historical records are full of many other patriotic Tejanos as well.

As future President Sam Houston and other delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, Mexican General Santa Ana's army besieged independence forces at the Alamo in San Antonio.

Four days after the signing, the Alamo fell with her commander Lt. Colonel William Barrett Travis, Tennessee Congressman David Crockett, and approximately 200 other Texan and Tejano defenders.

All these men were killed in action, a heroic sacrifice for Texan freedom. If this tragedy were not enough, weeks later Santa Anna's army massacred over 300 unarmed Texans at Goliad on March 27.

In a dramatic turnaround, Texans and Tejanos achieved their independence several weeks later on April 21, 1836. Roughly 900 Texans and Tejanos of the Texan army overpowered a much larger Mexican army in a surprise attack at the Battle of San Jacinto.

That battle is memorialized along the San Jacinto River with the San Jacinto Monument in Baytown, Texas in my district. The monument is larger than the Washington Monument here in D.C.

Today is an important day for Texas identity, and patriotic Texans are observing this occasion with great pride at the monument in Baytown today. If it were not for our voting schedule here in Congress, I would be at home with them for this event.

We give thanks to the many Texans from all backgrounds who sacrificed for the freedom we now enjoy. God bless Texas and God bless America.

CONGRESS MUST REMAIN CONCERNED WITH THE POST-WAR LIVES AND TRAUMAS OF AMERICA'S SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM IRAQ

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues the personal and really tragic story of one soldier's struggle to cope after returning from the war in Iraq. The San Francisco Chronicle recently reported on the life of Blake Miller, whom some Americans came to know through the media as the "Marlboro Man" of Iraq for his efforts in the battle of Fallujah, one of the most intense battles of the Iraq War since the invasion itself.

As the war continues to rage on and the country continues to debate how to bring it to an end, it is important to stop and look at the consequences of the war on our soldiers. America's soldiers have done everything asked of them. They and their families have endured great hardship, and many, too many in my opinion, have paid the ultimate sacrifice in this war.

I believe that we must not neglect the full experience of the soldiers and their families from this war, the trauma and stress that have severe consequences on their post-war lives. Blake Miller, a.k.a. the Marlboro Man, now suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder from his experiences in Iraq, and specifically, his involvement in the siege on Fallujah. He is really struggling, according to this news account that I am enclosing for all of my colleagues to read. As the article describes, he and those who fought with him, will forever be tormented by their experiences in Iraq.

Sadly, but not unexpectedly, Blake Miller and his family are not alone. According to an

article in the Washington Post on March 1, 2006, soldiers returning from Iraq consistently reported more psychic distress than those returning from other conflicts. More than one in three soldiers and Marines who served in Iraq have sought help for mental health problems, according to Army experts.

Mr. Speaker, the President and Congress have chosen to send America's soldiers into battle in Iraq. That was not a decision that I supported because I believed then, as I do now, that the evidence of a real threat to America did not exist. But whether one supported this decision or not, every member of Congress and the President have an obligation to be concerned with the well-being of our troops both in battle and afterward. I hope that Blake Miller's story will help convey to this Congress the human suffering that this war is likely to cause for many years to come and help us to think long and hard about the consequences of the decisions we make in Congress—before we make them.

We honor Blake Miller's sacrifice and service to our country by making sure he and his family have every resource available to help them recover from this trauma and to regain a sense of normalcy in their lives and that they are not denied any needed service because of a lack of funding from this Congress or this President for medical care for veterans.

REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" QUATTRIN

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Richard "Dick" Quattrin, of Whiting, Indiana. On Sunday, February 26, 2006, Dick passed away while in Washington, D.C. As he so often did, Dick made the trip to Washington to take part in a national meeting of the American Legion. Dick will be laid to rest on Saturday, February 4, 2006, at Saint Joseph Cemetery in Hammond, Indiana.

Dick Quattrin was born on August 18, 1932, to Angelo and Laura Quattrin. He was born and raised in the Pullman-Roseland neighborhoods of Chicago before relocating to Whiting, Indiana, which he called home for over fifty years. These fifty years were spent with his beloved wife, Dorothy, who survives him. Dick is also survived by his five daughters, Lydia (Greg) Beer, Karen (Ed) Erminger, Ruth (Wayne) Rodda, Marsha (John) Jerome, and Sharon Quattrin. Dick is also survived by his brothers Norman (Laurie) Quattrin and Ron (Sandy) Quattrin, his sister-in-law Rose (Bill) Tuskan, and his loving grandchildren, whom he truly cherished: Andrew, Jason, Jennifer, Daniel, Jeffrey, Megan, Laura, Allison, Emily, and Claire.

Dick's life of service to his community goes back to his days in the United States Army, where he obtained the rank of Sergeant. Dick felt tremendous pride for his country, and he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow Americans, as evidenced by his service during the Korean Conflict. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the

hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. Throughout his professional career, Dick continued to serve the community as a member of the fire department for the City of Hammond, Indiana.

Since his discharge from the United States Army, Dick has become most well known in the community for his commitment to veterans and his involvement with the American Legion and other veterans' organizations. Dick's dedication to the American Legion is evident in the many prestigious positions he held. Dick was a past commander of American Legion Post #80 in Whiting, where he remained a constant fixture until his passing. Dick was even named to the revered post of Commander of the Department of Indiana American Legion from 1997-1998. His efforts in this position allowed him to spread his compassion and his unwavering concern for veterans far beyond the borders of Northwest Indiana. Along the way, I am sure Dick crossed paths with many more veterans whose lives were touched, knowing that such a passionate individual was fighting for them. In addition to his service to the American Legion, Dick was also an active member of the 40/8, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Walter Kleiber Post 2724, the Knights of Columbus Council 1696, and the B.P.O.E. Whiting Lodge 68.

While Dick has dedicated considerable time and energy to veterans' rights, he has always made an extra effort to give back to the community. Dick, well known in Northwest Indiana for his talents as a singer, was a member of his church choir and the "Knight Sounds" of the Whiting Knights of Columbus. In addition, Dick was highly respected in the community in the area of athletics, having coached the Whiting Post #80 baseball team for the past 40 years. An accomplished athlete in his own right, Dick played professional baseball as a member of the Saint Louis Browns affiliated minor league ball club.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Richard "Dick" Quattrin for his outstanding devotion to Indiana's First Congressional District. His unselfish and lifelong dedication to veterans and the Northwest Indiana community is worthy of the highest commendation. Dick's selflessness was an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to have represented him in Congress.

RECOGNIZING 87TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF KOREAN PENINSULA

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 87th anniversary of the March 1st Movement for the liberation of the Korean peninsula from Japanese oppression. This was the day that Korea regained its independence and since then it has continued to become a major economic and cultural force on the world stage.

There is a flourishing and growing relationship between the United States and Korea. Korea is a major economic partner and our 7th largest trading partner. Whether in education, science, business, or the arts, Korea

has played and continues to play a vital role in shaping communities throughout New Jersey and the entire United States.

Several years ago, I had the distinct pleasure of traveling to Korea. While there I was able to meet with Korean government leaders, high-level U.S. military officials, and top Korean business executives. In addition, I shared a meal and conversed with troops from New Jersey's 5th Congressional District.

I was honored to take part in this informative diplomatic trip. The opportunity contributed to my understanding of what issues affect the economic, political, and military policies of Korea, and in turn, their impact on United States interests.

During the visit, I met with opposition party leader Chairman Choe, Korean cabinet members and members of the Korean Chamber of Commerce. We discussed enhancing the visibility of the important United States-Korea relationship and addressed the tensions in the region surrounding the North Korean nuclear issue. In addition, I was taken by the U.S. Army, led by General Leon Porte, Chief in Command of the United States Forces in Korea, to the Joint Security Area on the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

Now more than ever there is a need to increase mutual understanding between the United States and Korea. The 2 countries have become increasingly important regional and global partners, as Korea has become a stronger advocate for democracy and a free-market economy. It is critical that the working relationship between the 2 countries flourish for years to come.

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR.  
LAWRENCE W. SCOTT

**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the life of a distinguished American, Dr. Lawrence "Bill" W. Scott, who passed away on December 20, 2005.

Throughout his illustrious life, Dr. Scott could claim many "firsts." In 1944, he was the first black student body president of Foshay Middle School. In 1947, he graduated with honors from Polytechnic High School, where he participated in track and field and also served as the first black student body president. In 1948, he attended the University of California at Berkeley and later became the student body "representative at large." After receiving his degree from Berkeley, in 1951, Dr. Scott was drafted into the U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he served for 2 years during the Korean War. He eventually attained the rank of Captain.

After his discharge from the Army, Dr. Scott enrolled in the pre-med program at the University of California at Los Angeles. In 1957, the then new UCLA School of Medicine accepted Dr. Scott as its first African American medical student. Upon graduation, Dr. Scott interned at Harbor General Hospital, ultimately specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. He subsequently opened 2 women's clinics in Los Angeles.

At the age of 52 and after 14 years of medical practice, Dr. Scott returned to law school

and received his J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law in 1980. After passing the bar, he initially thought he would pursue missionary work; however, he worked as a forensic attorney and represented victims in malpractice suits.

Dr. Scott's achievements, honors, and awards are numerous. He was the first African American resident at Queen of Angeles Hospital in Los Angeles. At one time, he held the record for the most infants delivered at Cedars-Sinai Medical center. He also served on the Board of Governors of the UCLA Foundation in the mid 1980s.

His interest in people and his special affection for children were evident. He enjoyed sports and was an avid tennis player. He also loved music, from jazz to the classics. He will be remembered by many for his wonderful humor and his black book of jokes.

Dr. Scott is survived by his devoted wife of 8 years, Maria; his three children—Rebecca, Brian, and Onjale Scott; his sister, Darling Scott Herod; his brother, Paul Richard Scott; mother-in-law, Loretta Domer-Wilson; and other beloved family and friends.

Dr. Scott truly enjoyed this journey called life and lived it to its fullest.

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PEACE CORPS DAY

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Peace Corps Day, which was last Tuesday, February 28th.

In my travels to Africa, I have had the chance to meet with many Peace Corps volunteers. The commitment these men and women have shown is extremely impressive and is to be commended.

The work that Peace Corps volunteers have done to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic is invaluable. Volunteers have worked hard to carry out the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS relief, and are active in 9 of the 15 Emergency Plan countries.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen the valuable work the Peace Corps is doing in Africa, and throughout the world. It deserves our recognition and support. Under the leadership of Director Gaddi Vasquez, the Peace Corps is well poised to address the rapidly evolving challenges of the developing world.

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HONORING HENRY TRAVIS  
HOLMAN

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to an exemplary public servant and citizen from my congressional district. Henry Travis Holman recently retired from Mammoth Cave National Park, drawing to a close a remarkable 32 year career with the National Park Service in Kentucky.

Mr. Holman began his career with the National Park Service in 1971 as a cave guide.

Two years later, he was appointed as a Park Technician for the Interpretation and Visitor Services Division. He was later reassigned to the Ranger Division, becoming a fully commissioned law enforcement officer for the National Park Service. In 1999, Mr. Holman was installed as Management Assistant for the Office of the Superintendent at Mammoth Cave National Park. In that capacity he skillfully coordinated all park projects, managed environmental compliance requirements, and developed important long-range planning initiatives. For his efforts, he received the 2003 National Park Service Honor Award for Superior Service, recognizing his many accomplishments as a top administrator.

Henry Holman's three decades of service significantly enhanced park operations and community relations at Mammoth Cave. His vast knowledge, work ethic, and attention to detail exemplify true professionalism, a legacy that will long endure among his colleagues and members of the public.

It is my great privilege to recognize Henry Holman today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his leadership and service. His unique achievements and dedication to the National Park Service mission make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

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HAPPY 45TH ANNIVERSARY TO  
THE PEACE CORPS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, the week of February 27 to March 3 is Peace Corps week and on March 1st we celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps. Over the last 45 years Peace Corps has become one of our nation's premier international assistance programs that has focused on helping communities and individuals help themselves.

I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Medellin, Colombia in the mid-1960s and I can say definitively that it was a life changing experience. During my two years in Colombia, I learned that the most sustainable type of development was when locals were empowered to create their own development. I therefore worked on educating and assisting my Colombian colleagues, neighbors and friends on how to petition their local governments and make positive changes in their own lives.

In the years since I returned from Colombia thousands of Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers. Each of these volunteers has made a difference, large or small, in the lives of hundreds of people across the globe. Person-to-person relationships like those built by PCVs are key to greater understanding—greater American understanding of other cultures, and greater understanding of Americans by other cultures.

In this time of increasing tension between countries, now more than ever, we need programs like the Peace Corps. I urge my colleagues to support the President's FY 07 request for the Peace Corps at \$337 million. We need to robustly fund Peace Corps so that during the next 45 years, Peace Corps Volunteers can continue to make a positive difference in countries all over the world.

I wish the Peace Corps a very happy 45th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP WALTER  
EMILE BOGAN, SR.

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today with a heavy heart, as I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of a dear friend of mine, Bishop Walter Emile Bogan, Sr. Bishop Bogan passed away at his residence on Sunday, January 8, at the age of 57. I am deeply saddened by this great loss, for Bishop Bogan was an inspiring and positive force for Genesee County, the State, and Nation. He was a true friend, and I shall miss him greatly.

Born to the union of Norma L. Bogan-Burrell and the late William Bogan in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, Walter Bogan attended and graduated from Flint Community Schools, and later went on to schools such as Saints Academy College in Lexington, MS, Moody Bible College in Chicago, and Moorhouse College in Atlanta. He also attended Flint's C.S. Mott Community College, and the University of Michigan-Flint. On July 25, 1980, he answered the Lord's call and succeeded his grandfather and mentor, Rev. Theodore Harris, as Pastor of Harris Memorial Church of God in Christ.

Over the years, Rev. Bogan became more than just a Pastor, but a spiritual leader whose guidance, vision, and commitment to spreading the Word of God helped make the Flint area a better place in which to live. Pastor Bogan constantly and selflessly gave of himself, hosting Christmas parties for neighborhood children and providing gifts for them all. In recent years, he would offer college scholarships for several young members of his congregation, in hopes of granting them opportunities they otherwise may not have had the chance to take.

In 2000, Pastor Bogan became Bishop Bogan, as he was appointed Chief Servant and Presiding Bishop of the Great Lakes Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Michigan, Church of God In Christ. Bishop Bogan admirably balanced his new leadership duties with powerful sermons each Sunday, which for him was a labor of love.

Bishop Bogan leaves to cherish and carry on his legacy his beautiful and devoted wife of 35 years, Dianne, sons Walter and Eric, daughter-in-law Karleen, three grandchildren, and of course the many people whom he loved and loved him in return.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in offering condolences to the family of Bishop Bogan, and in thanking them for sharing him with our community. My message to his congregation is as follows:

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble in heart." [Matthew 11:29]

It takes a strong person to be meek, a strong person to be in charge of his passions and emotions.

Bishop Walter Emile Bogan was such a person. He was strong in his love of God. He was

strong in his love of the Church. He was strong in his love of family. He was strong in his pursuit of justice. He was strong in his effort to eliminate injustice. And all this deep strength, he exercised humbly, as an instrument of God's Holy Will.

Because of Bishop Bogan's strength, anchored in humility and meekness, this community is a better community. This Church is a stronger representation of the Mystical Body of Christ. All of us here in this Church are better people because of that strength of faith and action of Bishop Walter Bogan.

The greatest tribute we can render to Bishop Bogan is to emulate his love, his dedication, his humility, and his Christ-centered strength.

Bishop Bogan, as a triumphant member of the Communion of Saints, please ask Almighty God to shower His Blessings upon us that we might use our strength to carry out God's Holy Will.

CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACE NA-  
TIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR  
STUDY ACT

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor Study Act, a bill that would direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor in Alabama and Georgia.

The Historic Chattahoochee Compact was signed into law in 1978, and it established the Historic Chattahoochee Commission to promote historic preservation and tourism in the Chattahoochee Valley. Since this time, the Historic Chattahoochee Commission has been involved in a heritage tourism program in eighteen Alabama and Georgia counties along the lower Chattahoochee River. Because of their exemplary work, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has cited the Historic Chattahoochee Commission as a national model for heritage corridor development.

The designation of this corridor is the final piece in the commission's development plan. It would enable them to initiate new and innovative projects to invigorate the economies of the member counties since they would be eligible to receive funding for publications and marketing for tourism, historic preservation, environmental education, outdoor recreation, and small business development. In addition to aiding historic preservation, this effort will also enhance economic development in this region.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

HONORING COLONEL JAMES E.  
BEAN

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable soldier

and citizen from my congressional district. Colonel James E. Bean, a longtime resident of Bardstown, Kentucky, passed away peacefully January 4th at age 82. Colonel Bean was a local hero, remembered for his athletic achievements as a young man and military heroism as a fighter pilot, flying combat missions in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Colonel Bean was born in 1923 on a farm at Cox's Creek, KY. He graduated from Bardstown High School in 1942. A football and basketball All Star, Colonel Bean was especially remembered for being the signal caller on offense and fullback of the legendary unbeaten 1941 Bardstown High School football team. He matriculated to the University of Kentucky on a football scholarship later that fall but cut short his collegiate career soon thereafter to join the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was called to active duty in early 1943, assigned to Foster Field, Texas as an Advanced Flying School inspector. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in January, 1944 and assigned to the European Theater, where he flew 41 combat missions in Germany and France.

Upon his return to the United States, Colonel Bean completed numerous assignments testing and flying Air Force fighter aircraft. He was assigned to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada in 1960 to establish and operate the F-105 aircraft flight training program for all Air Force units. He later carried out assignments in Japan with the 8th Tactical Fighting Wing, completing several short tours in Southeast Asia, before returning to the United States to serve as an Air Force duty officer at the Pentagon. Colonel Bean volunteered and was assigned to the 388th Tactical Fighting Wing, Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, in October, 1967.

On January 3, 1968 while flying an F-105 combat mission over North Vietnam, his aircraft was shot down near Hanoi. Colonel Bean was captured by the North Vietnamese and held as a Prisoner of War until his release March 14, 1973.

James Bean retired from the United States Air Force as a Colonel in 1974. He returned to Kentucky, where he enjoyed a peaceful retirement with his wife until his death in January. He was a member of the Bardstown High School Hall of Fame, State President of Future Farmers of America, a Shriner, Mason, Kentucky Colonel, member of the American Legion, Kentucky Pork Producers, and communicant at the Bardstown Baptist Church.

James Bean's remarkable life is one of a true American hero. His distinguished service and unique sacrifice for his country represent the very best of what it means to be an American soldier. His achievements as a citizen, especially his unwavering dedication to his family and his community, are further marks of greatness worthy of our collective respect and appreciation. It is my great privilege to honor his memory today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives. May he rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLLEEN CROSBY FOR A LIFETIME OF ACTIVISM

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend one of my constituents, Ms. Colleen Crosby, of Santa Cruz, California who, on Sunday, March 5, will receive the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the International Women in Coffee Alliance (IWCA). I cannot imagine another person more deserving than Colleen to receive this award. Colleen is one of those rare individuals that has combined a deep compassion for others with the intelligence and drive to make a true difference in the world. Colleen has been a true leader in raising awareness of, and offering effective solutions to, the International Coffee Crisis—a crisis that affected 25 million people in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Colleen co-founded Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Company in 1978 and in 1979 became the first Roastmistress on California's Central Coast. In her travels to coffee producing countries in Central and South America and Africa she encountered abject poverty and an economic system that kept small coffee farmers in a vicious cycle of poverty. Being the "active activist," Colleen jumped headfirst into finding ways to help coffee farmers and cooperatives throughout the world. Colleen found that fair trade certification—a certification process that guarantees farmers a fair price for their coffee beans—was the most effective way of improving the lives of coffee farmers.

Colleen's record for helping coffee farmers and promoting fair trade coffee is extremely impressive. Colleen has worked with small farmers and cooperatives around the world and helped them gain better market access for their coffee, thus ensuring a better livelihood for themselves and their children. I asked Colleen to testify before the House International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere on the coffee crisis, where she educated Members of Congress on the importance of helping coffee farmers.

Besides the Lifetime Achievement Award from IWCA, Colleen has also received a variety of commendations, including a letter of "Special Thanks and Commendation" for "the extraordinary warmth and spirit on behalf of the people of Ethiopia," presented by His Excellency Teruheh Zenna, Acting Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations in October, 2005; being named Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year 2005; being presented with the Gold Medallion of Brotherhood by the small coffee farmers of Nicaragua's Prodecoop; and most recently, she is the recipient of the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Women in Coffee Alliance.

I congratulate Colleen on a lifetime of dedication to others. She truly has made the world a better place and it has been an absolute pleasure and honor to know her.

SILVIO BERLUSCONI'S APPEARANCE BEFORE CONGRESS

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD a letter that I delivered to your office today regarding an event that took place on the House floor yesterday.

MARCH 2, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House, Office of the Speaker, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. HASTERT, I am writing to express my dismay about yesterday's appearance of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of the Republic of Italy on the floor of the House of Representatives. I believe that Mr. Berlusconi's mode of address was unprecedented.

I came to the House floor expecting to hear significant words from the head of state of a major ally of our country. Instead, I had the feeling that perhaps I and the other Members in attendance were being used as extras in a campaign appearance for Mr. Berlusconi's difficult upcoming election. I can draw no other conclusion considering he addressed Congress in Italian without an interpreter, a language that I and most other Members do not speak. Though we were given the text to read, who in the Chamber was able to correlate the words delivered and lead the applause that burst forth from the audience? The address was not even broadcast by C-SPAN, presumably because it took place in a language in which most C-SPAN viewers are not fluent. My discomfort increased this morning when I read in the Financial Times that the appearance was broadcasted by stations owned by Mr. Berlusconi in Italy. This has raised concerns that the Prime Minister was improperly bending Italian equal-airtime regulations during election campaigns.

I would appreciate to hear your thoughts on this unusual use of the House Chamber, and whether it is expected to recur.

Sincerely,

JIM McDERMOTT,  
*Member of Congress.*

WELCOME HOME FORT KNOX 703RD EOD

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome home the 703rd Explosive Ordinance Disposal Detachment of Fort Knox, Kentucky, and pay public tribute to their courageous service during their six-month deployment in Iraq.

This was the second deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom for the 703rd. As most of us know, EOD units have one of the most dangerous jobs in Iraq. The 703rd worked with Army and Marine Brigades to recover and dispose of explosive devices throughout a large portion of northern Iraq. The entire unit returned safely home last week, reuniting with family and comrades at a 3 a.m. welcome home ceremony held at Fort Knox.

Tragically, two soldiers, Staff Sgt. Kimberly Voelz and Staff Sgt. Richard Ramey, paid the

ultimate sacrifice for freedom during the unit's first deployment to Iraq.

I would like to take this opportunity to honor these returning soldiers and the memory of those who have passed, all who have selflessly stood in harm's way as the guardians of our freedom and way of life. Their distinguished service epitomizes values—duty, honor, country—that make our Nation an example of freedom and prosperity for the rest of the world.

In the spirit of Fort Knox soldiers of generations past, their courage and sacrifice significantly contributed to a supreme level of safety and readiness during uncertain times. They were selfless in their sacrifice, taking time away from their families to keep others safe. For that they deserve the admiration and thanks of a grateful nation.

It is my great privilege to recognize the 703rd EOD today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for their generous service and unflinching duty to our great country. Welcome home!

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN ELIZABETH "BETH" SHIELDS

**HON. JIM DAVIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Kathryn Elizabeth "Beth" Shields who dedicated her life to improving opportunities for Hillsborough County's school children.

Beth spent 44 years in the Hillsborough County school system, working both as a teacher and administrator. A graduate of Hillsborough High School and the University of Tampa, with a Master's Degree from the University of South Florida, Beth launched her career as a math teacher at Memorial Junior High School, then at H.B. Plant High School.

Beth worked hard throughout her career, and as she rose through the school district's ranks, she paved the way for other women working in Hillsborough County schools. She served as dean and assistant principal at Robinson High School, principal of Coleman Junior High School and principal of H.B. Plant High School. Beth then served as district-wide assistant superintendent of personnel and assistant superintendent of instruction until she became the first female deputy superintendent in Hillsborough County schools.

During her tenure, Beth pushed for more rigorous curriculum and academic standards; she spearheaded a successful initiative to improve school attendance and helped smooth the transition when magnet schools were integrated into the school system. Beth will be remembered for her commitment to helping young people, her impressive work ethic and the many ways that she changed Hillsborough County School District for the better. Beth Shields Middle School in Ruskin stands witness to her lifetime of dedication.

At home, Beth was active in her church and in a number of community and charitable organizations, including the Southwest Florida Blood Bank, the United Way, the Tampa Coalition and the Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Abuse Advisory Council, SERVE and Athena.

On behalf of the Hillsborough County community and the countless young people she

worked for, I would like to thank Beth for all her work and extend my deepest sympathies to her family.

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ON THE AMENDMENT PROCESS  
FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R.  
2829—OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG  
CONTROL POLICY REAUTHORIZA-  
TION ACT OF 2005

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**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for one minute for the purpose of making an announcement.

The Committee on Rules may meet the week of March 6th to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 2829, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2005. The Committee on Government Reform filed its report with the House on November 18, 2005. The Committee on the Judiciary ordered the bill reported today and is expected

to file its report with the House tomorrow, March 3rd.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Rules Committee in room H-312 of the Capitol by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2006. Members should draft their amendments to the bill as reported by the Committee on the Judiciary, which should be available on the websites of the Committee on Rules, Government Reform, and the Judiciary by tomorrow, March 3rd.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

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HONORING MICHAEL R. SMITH

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**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give well deserved recognition to an

extraordinary law enforcement professional serving in my district. Officer Michael R. Smith, an honorable U.S. Army Veteran, is continuing his spirit of public service as a civilian police officer in Radcliff, Kentucky. Radcliff is home to the legendary Fort Knox military installation.

Officer Smith's actions, on duty and off, demonstrate a genuine concern and personal involvement in protecting safety and improving quality of life in his community. His abiding friendship with many of Radcliff's elderly citizens and attention to their needs is especially noteworthy.

I would like to publicly thank Officer Smith, on behalf of his colleagues and the citizens of Radcliff, for the example he sets in performing his job far beyond the call of duty. His sense of public service and altruistic spirit personify the term "Peace Officer."