

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