

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.