

the U.S. Army War College where he graduated in June 2001 with a Master of Strategic Studies. The War College has honed to an even keener edge, Colonel Taitano's strategic planning and leadership skills in preparation for assuming positions as a general officer.

Despite already serving his country in the Viet Nam Conflict, for which he received numerous awards and commendations, Dr. Taitano did not shy away from the call to again serve his country in battle. In 2005, Colonel Taitano again responded to the call of duty with service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, fighting alongside our country's soldiers and attending to their medical needs as a Medical Corp Officer with the 199th Troop Medical Clinic of the 256 Brigade Combat Team of the Louisiana Army National Guard. Upon his retirement, many of our island people will look on John Ray Taitano's distinguished career with justified pride. Many of those who call him DOCTOR will be relieved at his retirement from the Guard; and many in the Guard will be saddened that a fellow soldier who championed their health causes has chosen to retire. But in the minds of all of these will always abide that knowledge that John Ray Taitano will forever be an outstanding doctor of medicine and always an untiring and unwavering patriot, soldier and defender of the American way of life. May God Bless Dr. Taitano as we all wish him the best upon retirement with a heartfelt, Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MESSIAH FESTIVAL IN LINDSBORG, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 125th Messiah Festival in Lindsborg, Kansas. This April, the community of Lindsborg will celebrate Holy Week by performing Handel's "The Messiah." This musical interpretation of the Easter story has been enjoyed in Lindsborg since the late 1800s when local immigrant pioneers first gathered together to perform this historic piece.

Many pioneers settling in the Smoky Valley on the plains of Kansas journeyed far from their homes in Sweden. They sought a better way of life and the choice to practice a religion free from the will of Sweden's state church. These pioneers thrived in their newly adopted Kansas home. They adjusted to a new American way of life, but the citizens of Lindsborg never lost sight of the culture and values that formed their Swedish heritage.

One tradition that has sustained the life of this community through the years is the annual Messiah Festival. In 1881, Reverend Carl Swenson, the founder of Bethany College in Lindsborg, and his wife, Alma, organized the Bethany Oratorio Society in the parsonage of Bethany Lutheran Church. Alma taught the music and English words of "The Messiah" to 40 parishioners. After a winter and spring of instruction, Bethany Lutheran Church began a storied tradition as host to this community celebration marking Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday with beautiful music.

The enterprising spirit and strong Swedish heritage of the early pioneers who began the

Messiah Festival has since led to great cultural and educational additions to the State of Kansas. As the Messiah Festival tradition has grown, so has the town of Lindsborg, and Bethany College. This liberal arts institution has expanded to offer baccalaureate degrees in over thirty fields to an enrollment of 600 full and part-time students from 19 states and 12 countries. The Lindsborg community continues to honor its foundation of cultural expression by hosting art and music festivals and offering unique arts, crafts and import gift shops.

It is with great pleasure that I represent this Kansas community in Congress. Lindsborg demonstrates how collaboration, a rich cultural heritage, and appreciation for beautiful music celebrating the Lord can create a tradition worthy of 125 years of repeating.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Lindsborg community for their 125th Anniversary Messiah Festival and for their many contributions to the State of Kansas.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY HOFFMAN

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent of mine, Jerry Hoffman of West Point, Virginia. Born in Ironwood, Michigan, Jerry graduated from Michigan State University. In 1964, he entered the United States Air Force to serve his country. As a Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AOSI), he was responsible for global counterintelligence operations. Upon retiring from the Air Force in 1984, Jerry continued to serve his country while working for the Central Intelligence Agency. In 1989, he cofounded the private security training company, International Training Inc. (ITI), in West Point, Virginia and served as its president and chief executive officer until 2001. At that time, Jerry was appointed as the president and chief executive officer of ArmorGroup North America, and in 2002 assumed this role at ArmorGroup International.

Jerry is married to Katharine Kropp and has two children, Scott, a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, and Tabitha, who owns a Medical Transcription Business. Jerry and Katharine are very active in various charities and organizations throughout Virginia, most notably the American Cancer Society.

Jerry has co-authored two novels, receiving the Edgar Allan Poe special award by the Mystery Writers Association of America in addition to a special research award presented by the United States Air Force Command and Staff College for a study of worldwide international and transnational terrorist groups.

I wish to extend to Jerry Hoffman my sincerest congratulations on his retirement. Both in and out of uniform, he has made a significant contribution to our country, and I am pleased to recognize this special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL GOODMAN,
CARE AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Goodman, upon receiving the Commonwealth Academy Recognition for Educators (CARE) Award.

The CARE award honors outstanding educators who work to enhance the lives of their students. This year's honorees are recognized for their unrelenting work to enhance the lives of the students they serve. This award is presented by Commonwealth Academy, located in Alexandria, Virginia, and honors those committed to diverse learning throughout the nation. Michael Goodman, an Instructional Technology Coordinator at Kenmore Middle School in Arlington, Virginia, is honored for his work with assisting teachers and students with using technology to learn at Kenmore.

Mr. Goodman has been teaching for over ten years and has won numerous awards for his technology instruction. Because of his vision, many classrooms at Kenmore are "technology rich"—meaning the teacher uses a SMART board and other equipment to tailor instruction to engage and challenge all students. Without Mr. Goodman's exceptional and effort, the teachers would not be able to use the technology to reach students. He has been involved in numerous technology activities and programs. As an organizer of "An Adventure of the American Mind" Library of Congress program at Kenmore, his enthusiasm helped to motivate 54 teachers from Kenmore to complete the entire workshop series last year, and resulted in Kenmore Middle School receiving \$30,000 dollars in technical equipment from the program. Mr. Goodman says of his approach to teaching, "My job as Instructional Technology Coordinator allows me to work with teachers and students bringing in the unique advantages that technology offers to create and simulate activities based on [multiple] intelligences."

Mr. Goodman received his B.S. in Technology Education from Virginia Tech and his master's in Instructional Technology from Towson University. He and his wife, Dedra, have three young sons, Harrison, Xavier, and Remington.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Michael Goodman and congratulating him on this distinguished achievement.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND
OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to say that I will be voting against H.R. 609. In this age of rising global competitiveness, graduating from college has never been more important for America's students. However, as

the importance of obtaining higher education is rising, so is college tuition and the amount of debt that students must borrow to earn a college degree. Since 2002, the cost of college has increased over 40 percent, with North Dakota's largest schools increasing their tuition by double digits in the past two academic years. In addition, last year 9.7 million students received federal education loans, with the typical student borrowing \$15,500 to finance a bachelor's degree.

In this climate, the bill before the House today does not adequately address the problem of college accessibility. First, the bill does not reverse the changes made in the budget reconciliation bill passed earlier this year, which included the largest cuts to the student aid program ever. The reconciliation bill increased interest rates for new loans to students and parents and imposed new consolidation fees on borrowers, making the repayment of loans more difficult. Second, although H.R. 609 does include some improvements to aid programs, these changes are not adequate to address the problems outlined above. For example, although H.R. 609 increases the maximum Pell grant award, the award was only increased \$200—not enough to meet the increasing costs of college tuition. Unfortunately, H.R. 609 does not do enough for students and parents facing college costs and I am hopeful that this bill can be improved as it progresses through the legislative process.

RECOGNIZING DELL ROVANSEK AS
THE RECIPIENT OF THE CARE
AWARD

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dell Rovansek of Fairfax, Virginia, upon receiving the Commonwealth Academy Recognition for Educators (CARE) Award.

The CARE award presented by Commonwealth Academy of Alexandria, Virginia honors outstanding educators who work to enhance the lives of their students. This year's honorees are recognized for their unrelenting work to enhance the lives of the students they serve. Dell Rovansek, a second grade teacher at Bonnie Brae Elementary School in Fairfax, Virginia, is honored for her work in promoting academic achievement for all in the spirit of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Ms. Rovansek has been teaching for twenty-one years, and has extensive experience working with special needs students. She is originally from Wadley, Alabama, and received her B.S. in Education from Auburn University and her master's in Education from George Mason University.

Ms. Rovansek has been teaching in the Fairfax County Public Schools for the past fifteen years, and she calls teaching her "calling." She says, "I have the opportunity to directly impact children's lives, hopefully in a very positive way. Even at my level, early childhood education, I feel a great obligation to prepare children for future challenges, academic and social. I want children to walk into my classroom and feel safe and happy."

Ms. Rovansek has traveled extensively as the wife of an Army officer. She calls living in

Hawaii and Korea "great adventures." She and her husband have a daughter, Kelly, and a son, Joey.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Dell Rovansek and congratulating her on this distinguished achievement.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND
OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I would be remiss if I did not make clear to the Chairman and to the Ranking Democrat on the Committee my very real concern about the Committee's failure to address an obvious shortcoming in this bill resulting from the creation of the Academic Competitiveness Grants and the SMART Grants in the Omnibus Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171). Namely, while we have offered low-income, language minority, and "first-generation" college students an attractive reward—significant grant aid to help pay for college—especially for those who major in the STEM areas and in foreign language—we have not provided a means for many of them to qualify for such grants.

Two things must be done to ensure that we build a pipeline for these students to qualify for these important new additions to our Federal Student Aid arsenal if we are to pave the way for access and educational opportunity for all of our students. First, we must help prepare low-income, language minority, and "first-generation" students to be successful in the eighteen core courses that the extent research tells us will help ensure academic success in college. Second, we must work to be sure that those courses—Algebra I and II, Plane Geometry, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, World History, Geography, Economics, Government, English, and Foreign Language—are all well-taught in every high school in America.

In many urban and rural high schools, academically rigorous college preparatory courses are simply not taught, and our students and the Nation suffer as a result. This week, the Center for Education Policy released the results of a recent survey under the No Child Left Behind Act. The Center for Education Policy survey not only found that teachers are "teaching to the test," but that non-reading and math course work is being short-changed or eliminated to ensure that poor performing students achieve the NCLB performance levels. This means that history and science are not being taught so kids can perform well on reading and math tests. Clearly this will achieve one goal, but it will sacrifice these students' future preparedness for post-secondary academic success.

We can do better and we must. I want to work with my colleague Representative FATTAH, with you Mr. Chairman and with my friend from California Mr. MILLER to fashion a solution that will work.

IN HONOR OF KATHLEEN'S
KITCHEN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Kathleen's Kitchen, located in the heart of Cleveland's Westside neighborhood, as they are closing their doors on April 1, following a twenty-four year run of great food, great service, laughter and lively conversation.

The restaurant, located in Kamm's Corners, is owned by sisters Kathleen Verrell, Cindi Condol and Micki Speck. The sisters took over the business when their mother, founder Kathleen Finnerty, passed away. Mrs. Finnerty opened Kathleen's Kitchen in 1982, and her kind heart and generous nature was continued on through her daughters, whose collective goodwill consistently extended out into the neighborhood, as they offered hot meals or coffee to those in need.

Kathleen's Kitchen's warm and inviting atmosphere evolved from a corner diner into a favorite gathering place for residents, families, business owners, and people in all lines of work, from plumbers to presidents. President Bill Clinton visited Kathleen's Kitchen several times during his presidency. Though customers came from differing backgrounds, everyone was connected by a common quest—a familiar place to relax, enjoy a great meal, connect with others and capture the viewpoints of the day's events.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of the owners, staff and customers of Kathleen's Kitchen, whose energy, warmth and friendship served as a daily reflection of real life in America. Although Kathleen's Kitchen will be missed by countless people, including myself, our wonderful time spent there will remain in our memories forever.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE L. BROWN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend and an exemplary American, George Brown, who passed away Friday, March 31, 2006. George made history in his lifetime, as a civil rights trailblazer and a political leader who made a career of serving his community and his country.

Born in Lawrence, Kansas on July 1, 1926, George excelled educationally, and in World War II served his country as a member of the famous Tuskegee Airmen. Following the war, he went off to college at a time when only the GI Bill made it possible for African Americans to do so in the face of racial discrimination and economic hardships. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1950. In the 1960's, as a reporter for the Denver Post, he was part of that cadre of journalists who chronicled the heroic struggles of African Americans and their supporters in the civil rights movement. The tumult of that era helped forge his deep social consciousness.